

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, I ask my Republican colleagues to read your lips. Balance the budget before you cut \$245 billion in taxes, before you cut \$270 billion in Medicare, before you cut educational funding.

Let us work bipartisanly on a balanced budget, but not by cutting Medicare and Medicaid, not by cutting and raising premium costs for seniors and limiting seniors' ability to choose their own physician. We can work bipartisanly on a balanced budget but not by cutting Medicare and education.

Read your own lips. Balance the budget without cutting \$245 billion in taxes.

#### WHAT A BALANCED BUDGET WILL MEAN

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are moving forward with the first balanced budget in a generation. Our Balanced Budget Act will provide the American family with budget bonuses for their own check-book.

A balanced budget means that interest rates will drop, allowing families to save thousands on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans. A balanced budget means an additional \$32.1 billion in real disposable income over the next 7 years. A balanced budget means an additional \$88.2 billion in capital investment over the next 7 years. And a balanced budget means a stronger economy and more job opportunities for all.

With all the benefits a balanced budget will bring to the American people, I do not understand why the Clinton Democrats support maintaining the status quo. Balance the budget now. Our children's generation depends on it.

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#### ARE REPUBLICANS SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET?

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Republicans are serious when they talk about balancing a budget. What we are really talking about today and will be talking about later today, rather, is that \$32 billion for low-income working families will be wiped completely out on their taxes, and also student loans will be just cut drastically because of what the Republicans will bring to this House floor today.

The \$270 billion out of the Medicare Program, these are drastic cuts that are going to be made today by the Re-

publicans just to give the wealthy and the rich of this country a \$245 billion tax cut.

We think that is wrong. We ought to seriously be about the business of the American people today and not try to fool the American people with this balanced budget talk.

#### THOSE STUBBORN FACTS

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, facts are stubborn things.

Bill Clinton was elected with a minority of voters, 43 percent, fewer votes than Michael Dukakis got when he lost to George Bush in a rout.

Bill Clinton had his policies overwhelmingly rejected nationwide 2 years later when both the House and Senate went Republican for the first time in 40 years.

Bill Clinton has been rejected by over 150 elected officials, elected with a minority of 150 of voters, officials, including six Members of Congress who have left his own party since he has taken office.

Bill Clinton has said publicly in a variety of occasions that he would balance the Federal budget in 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 years.

Bill Clinton, in his first State of the Union Address, pointedly chided House Republicans by saying he would force truth in budgeting by using CBO scoring numbers.

Now he would have us and the people of this country believe and trust him and believe that he represents what the people of America want.

Absolutely amazing.

#### A SORRY SPECTACLE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, my constituents who are Federal employees are watching more C-SPAN now than ever, and they are being treated to a sorry spectacle, a bunch of opinionated stuffed shirts sitting around bickering while they are getting paid, while peoples' lives are being disrupted, and while Federal employees are losing their paychecks. Yes, I am in that group.

But it is a sorry spectacle. My colleagues on the right like to say we ought to run this place like a business. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, no globally competitively business treats its employees this way. We have broken faith with Federal employees. We have jeopardized their families and undermined their confidence in their employer. That is us.

We have also lost a lot. We have lost their loyalty and willingness to go the extra yard.

We ought to put Federal workers back to work. We ought to pay essen-

tial employees on time. We ought to pay all employees retroactively.

On this budget, I will make a deal with my Republican colleagues. I signed on the other night to a 7-year balanced budget. You get rid of the tax break for the rich, and we can work this thing out. But as long as Republicans want to pay off their rich friends, we cannot have a balanced budget.

#### ALL WE ASK

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 1,262 days ago, President Bill Clinton promised a 5-year plan to balance the budget. Two unbalanced budgets later, the President still has presented no balanced budget plan.

Today, much of the Federal Government is shut down because the President will not keep his promise. He has closed the Government because he opposes any plan to balance the budget over 7 years.

We do not ask the President to adopt our Balanced Budget Act of 1995. We do not ask the President to accept our proposal to save Medicare from bankruptcy. We do not ask the President to support our plan to make regulations more cost-effective.

We do not ask the President to approve our plan to return some of his huge tax increase to the American families who earned the money in the first place. We do not ask the President to adopt a single provision of our balanced budget plan.

All we ask is that the President kept his word. We ask the President to commit to balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. That is all. And that is not too much to ask for the American people.

#### REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider the Republican conference report of the reconciliation bill, not the conference report but the Republican conference report. I say that purposely to say that the Democratic conferees have had very little input in what now will be presented to the House.

Yes, this is a time we should discuss our values and our priorities. I say the Republicans should understand we will reject this.

Why? Not because we are fiscally irresponsible, but because we are compassionate, because we are responsible to all America, not just a few in America. We understand what it means to have senior citizens not to have health care.

The \$200 billion taken away for Medicare will mean senior citizens will suffer. The large amount of moneys that will be cut from student loans will mean a lot of students will not have a future in America. This is wrong.

This budget is the wrong direction to go. The Republicans know it is wrong.

We must reject it because it is wrong for America.

**PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND ITS SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE**

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce and its subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to this request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

**AUTHORIZING CORRECTION IN CONFERENCE REPORT AND WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2491, SEVEN-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995**

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 272 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

**H. RES. 272**

*Resolved*, That the proceedings of the legislative day of November 15, 1995, by which the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996 was presented to the House and ordered printed, are hereby vacated, to the end that the managers on the part of the House may immediately present the conference report in the form actually ordered reported to the House as a product of the meeting and signatures of the committee of conference and actually to be presented in the Senate, in pertinent corrected part as depicted in section 3 of this resolution. The existing signatures of the committee of conference shall remain valid as authorizing the presentation of the conference report to the House in corrected form.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report presented to the House pursuant to the first section of this resolution. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The conference report shall be debatable for two hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget. After such debate the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to final adoption without intervening

motion except one motion to recommit, which may not contain instructions and on which the previous question shall be considered as ordered. After disposition of the conference report, no further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

SEC. 3. The correction described in section 2 of this resolution is to insert between subtitles J and L of title XII a subtitle K (as depicted in the table of contents) as follows:

“Subtitle K—Miscellaneous

**“SEC. 13101. FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY.**

“Section 6(f) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(f)) is amended by striking the third sentence and inserting the following: ‘The State agency shall, at its option, consider either all income and financial resources of the individual rendered ineligible to participate in the food stamp program under this subsection, or such income, less a pro rata share, and the financial resources of the ineligible individual, to determine the eligibility and the value of the allotment of the household of which such individual is a member.’”

**“SEC. 13102. REDUCTION IN BLOCK GRANTS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.**

“Section 2003(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b) is amended—

“(1) by striking ‘and’ at the end of paragraph (4); and

“(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

‘(5) \$2,800,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1990 through 1996; and

‘(6) \$2,240,000,000 for each fiscal year after fiscal year 1996.’”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Woodland Hills, CA [Mr. BEILENSON], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, due to a technical error committed during the filing of the conference report on H.R. 2491, this rule vacates the proceedings by which the conference report on H.R. 2491, the Seven-Year Balanced Budget Act, was filed. The rule authorizes the managers to immediately refile the report in the form actually signed and ordered reported, with the corrected part printed in section 3 of the rule. The rule further provides that the existing signatures of the conferees shall remain valid as authorizing the presentation of the conference report to the House in its corrected form.

The rule then provides for the consideration of the newly filed conference report to accompany H.R. 2491. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides for two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee.

The rule provides for one motion to recommit the conference report which may not contain instructions. Finally, the rule provides that following disposition of the conference report, no

further action on the bill is in order except by subsequent order of the House.

Mr. Speaker, this is it. We are beginning, over the next 3 hours, the debate on the most important change in decades.

Mr. Speaker, while democracy in action can be loud, most people in a free society are too busy living their lives to listen closely. To the casual observer, we can sound as irritating as static on a radio. However, the more the volume is turned up, the more people will notice that while Washington might sound like it always does, this is not business as usual. Instead, the majority in Congress is carrying out truly history change—actually balancing the budget for the first time in decades.

At the heart of our agenda for change are four fundamental goals that Americans from all regions and income groups recognize are vital to our future as a prosperous and secure nation.

One, we must balance the Federal budget as quickly as possible in order to stop the massive increase in debt that is mortgaging our children's future.

Two, we must reform the welfare system that is trapping honest families in a cycle of dependency and poverty.

Three, we must fundamentally improve the Medicare system so that we provide health care security to a generation of retirees by averting the system's bankruptcy and keeping it from destabilizing the Federal budget; and

Four, we must provide some tax relief that strengthens families and spurs private sector job creation and rising worker wages.

These are not partisan goals. They incorporate the basic aspirations of families throughout this great and massive Nation. That is why it was not just the new majority in Congress that was elected after calling for these changes. Back in 1992, the President called for a balanced budget, ending welfare as we know it, and providing a middle class tax cut. Now that he has the chance to work with a Congress that shares those same goals that he has outlined, he can follow through on his promises. We are going to give him that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, the Balanced Budget Act conference report accomplishes these four foundation pillars of the effort to change the Federal Government so that it serves America's families, rather than families serving the Federal Government.

This bill is not a flimsy outline of talking points that can be pawed off as a balanced budget. It is a specific plan, warts and all, that turns around three decades of deficit spending and balances the budget in 7 years. And it meets that goal using conservative forecasts of economic growth so that we do not see hundreds of billions in new debt 7 years from now and say to our children—“Oops, I guess we weren't as lucky as we had hoped we would be.”

This bill cuts taxes. I will not apologize for that. It cuts taxes less than the