

number of years is simply nothing but a baby sitting job or a baby sitting activity. How egregiously wrong that perspective is.

In my district, in the city of Houston, we will lose some 6,000 summer jobs. Across this Nation, we will lose millions of dollars that have helped young people be directed away from activities that would cause criminal results to more constructive activities that have exposed them to career activities.

There have been accusations, for example, that the monies have been misused. I am not sure of the extensiveness of any hearings that have suggested that cities that have been, and quasi-public agencies that have been in partnership with the business communities throughout this Nation have not effectively utilized youth summer program monies.

We have been able to hire 6,000 youths in my community. All of them have managed to be exposed to unique experiences. Whether it was with NASA and the space station, whether it was with city government, or whether it was with one of our major energy companies in the community, they have learned independence, self-sufficiency, self-esteem.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I had a young person who worked in my office when I was a local elected official who did real work, by the way, this young intern, who, when she got the offer to be an intern under the summer jobs program, called with excitement but yet sadness and said, I cannot accept, because I do not have the proper clothes and I would be embarrassed to show up. I said to that young person, if you have to wear a paper bag, come to this office to know what you can do, how you can be challenged and what the opportunities are for you in the future.

The Budget Reconciliation Act must give to the American people hope. It must give to them a direction. It must give to them focus. What we have now is an ill-spirited and misdirected opportunity.

So I would ask, as the process continues, that we begin to look at where this country wants to go in the 21st century. Do we want to turn back the clock on environment with respect to clear water, clean air, and would you believe, food safety inspections? How outrageous when we have come so far that now we would deny citizens the adequacy of food safety inspections.

We have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to fairly strike a chord of reason in the Budget Reconciliation Act process. I will participate. I ask my colleagues to participate.

**BALANCED BUDGET  
ELIMINATING AND  
PROGRAMS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to address the House today on the budget and on the process of balancing the budget.

I have listened to a number of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle today and in the weeks past on the budget, and I really think that maybe an honest step would be for them to say that we do not want to balance the budget, just get it over with. Because what we are hearing is, well, not here and not there, and do not do this, and do not do that.

Federal jobs programs, for example. Mr. Speaker, as you know, we have 163 different Federal jobs training programs. Is it possible that some of those could be trimmed back, some could be consolidated, and perhaps, oh, do not say it too loudly around Washington, but maybe some could be eliminated? Is that not what the American people actually want?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I would be happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his perspective.

The gentleman from Georgia mentioned several job training programs. I would only raise an inquiry for what I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle trying to do and what I would hope that we could do together, and that is to turn this country around to a level of self-sufficiency. Part of that comes from our youth. If I can just separate out your comments to focus on the summer jobs program that have been effective in our communities, because, in fact, they have been a partnership between the public and the private sector.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, one of the things that is very important to remember is that the AmeriCorps Program, which the gentlewoman has been discussing, for example, is \$26,000 per child. Well, I would say to my colleague, we can produce a heck of a lot of great opportunities for kids at that rate.

The problem, as the gentlewoman knows, is that if we want to do something for kids, we have to reduce the deficit. We cannot pass them our bankrupt legacy, the \$200 billion debt that we have year after year, the \$4.9 trillion that is eating away at these things.

Now, the gentlewoman and I know that when we were kids, an old trick used to be to go to the corner drugstore and charge a Coca Cola or an ice cream to your dad's account down there. Well, at the end of the month your father would find out, well, you charged something to me, and I am going to make you pay that back.

Well, now what is happening is we parents are going down and we are charging things for our kids to pay, but these are 4- and 5- and 6-year-old children who for years and years are going to be paying.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield? I thank the gentleman for his thoughts.

Mr. Speaker, I will be very quick on this point. If we have analyzed the \$26,000 on AmeriCorps, we have not yet juxtaposed or compared that against the investment or resources that they provide to the community which balances off, because they are giving labor for free, in essence, and the summer jobs exposes children to opportunity.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is important, but out of 163 job training programs I would challenge the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] to say, let us cut these. We are in agreement that maybe we need 100 job training programs, or maybe we need 2, or maybe we need 50. Where I think the Democrat Party is being somewhat disingenuous is you all are saying, let us cut the budget and let us balance it, but not here, not now, not in my area.

These are good programs. I would say to my colleague that, in each case, many of them are good programs, yet we are still in debt. So why do we not try to take the good ones that are good and consolidate them together and reduce it and, most importantly, cut out the Washington bureaucrats who are the middle people who are sucking up so much of the money that should go?

I want to make one more point. Mr. Speaker, it is already November, almost December. We keep hearing, balance the budget, but not here, not now. We want to work in a bipartisan fashion. To my knowledge, the only serious plan that has come from you all has been on the Blue Tick Hounds or the Hound Dog Democrats or whatever you call them, and I know that the gentleman from Mississippi has been a part of that. That is a great counter-punch to the debate, and I applaud it. But it is still a minority group within the Democrat Party.

We do not have a serious Democrat proposal to balance the budget yet. So as long as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to say, not here, not now; I would say, get in the arena with us. I mean, it is difficult to balance the budget. If it was not, we would have had one in the last 25 years.

Let me yield to the gentleman from Mississippi. If we can get more time, I will continue this debate, because the lady from Texas has been a very positive person in this debate process.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think there is more that we can do, the gentleman from Georgia, and I appreciate it. I think we have tried to meet on different issues. I wish that the budget now before us was not so strident.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

**REQUEST TO EXTEND SPECIAL  
ORDER TIME**

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I have a unanimous-consent request. I would like to extend the gentleman's time by 3 minutes so that he