

A public opinion survey of 7,200 registered voters show that when Americans are given the truth, they overwhelmingly favor the Republican proposal to balance the budget in 7 years.

Eighty-six percent believe "The President and Congress should deal with the budget issue now" compared to 9 percent who feel the issue should be put off until after next year's election.

Seventy-one percent believe that the President and Congress should submit a 7-year balanced budget scored by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The Congress did this long ago.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress and the American people are eager to see the President's plan to balance the budget in 7 years. How else can we negotiate?

It's been 15 days since the President agreed to do this. The deadline is next Friday. Where's the President's 7 year balanced budget?

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BUDGET

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker, my friend from Maryland, said the American people want to know the truth about the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. I think they deserve it.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1995 will borrow \$296 billion for the next fiscal year budget. It will borrow \$118 billion from trust funds such as the Social Security trust fund that is supposed to be set aside to protect senior citizens Social Security payments in the future.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1995 will go on to borrow \$75 billion and give most of that money away in tax breaks for America's wealthiest 12 percent.

I am glad my friend from Maryland wants to know the truth, and I have just given it to him. I hope the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], and I hope all the Members of this body will correct the things that I just brought to our attention, because that is certainly not a balanced budget by anyone's scoring.

#### WAITING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention to this particular chart here. As of today, it has been 1,280 days since candidate Clinton promised a national audience on "Larry King Live," "I would present a 5-year plan if elected President to balance the budget." It has been 17 days, not 16, 17 days since the President promised in writing to sign a bill by the end of this year that balances the budget in 7 years using honest numbers.

We Republicans have done our job. We have sent the President a detailed

fair budget plan to do just that. However, the President says he does not like our plan. Well, if that is the case, where is his plan? Let him put his plan on the bargaining table. That is negotiating in good faith.

Let me repeat that. If the President does not like our plan to balance the budget, then he should produce his own plan to balance the budget, not this. His budget has deficits in the range of \$200 billion well into the next century. The American people are tired of all the cheap political talk coming out of the White House, the political posturing, the demagoguery. They want to see action. They want to see how the President proposes to balance the budget.

Mr. Speaker, it has been 17 days so far. We are still waiting for the President's balanced budget plan. How many more days will we have to wait until he keeps his promise and signs a budget?

#### USING HONEST NUMBERS

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, we have passed a budget that will be in balance in 7 years using honest numbers. Medicare spending will increase by 62 percent. Medicaid spending will increase by 43 percent. Student loan spending will increase by 48.5 percent. School lunch spending will increase by 37 percent. Mr. Speaker, we are \$5 trillion in debt. We are allowing programs to continue to grow. We are making a responsible effort to balance our budget for the sake of our children and grandchildren's future.

What do we have from the President and other liberal Democrats? Nothing. Distortions. Misrepresentations. We have a plan to balance the budget; all they have is talk.

Mr. Speaker, some people would rather talk about balancing the budget. Some people don't want to make the hard choices. Some people just don't want to balance the budget. Meanwhile, we are working to protect the future for our children, to give them a chance for the American dream. That is what we were elected to do.

#### HELP THE PRESIDENT KEEP HIS WORD

(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, perhaps the current budget negotiations should be terminated. They undermine the President's ability to keep his word to the American people.

In June 1992, then candidate Bill Clinton said he would balance the budget in 5 years. "I would present a 5-year plan to balance the budget," he pledged to the voters. That means he will have to balance the budget by 1997, 2 years from now.

Maybe Republican leaders should not be negotiating with the administration to balance the budget in 7 years. Let President Clinton keep his contract with the American people and show us how he would balance the budget in 2 years.

Of course, we'd have more confidence that the President meant what he said if he had any plan to balance the budget.

The Federal Government should not spend more than it collects, for two reasons: First, it will help the economy and the American people. Second, it will help President Clinton keep his word.

#### BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, Congress and the President are now in the midst of a great debate about balancing the budget. The President has at one time or another promised to implement many of the items contained in Congress' Balanced Budget Act that is now on his desk.

He said he wanted serious welfare reform. He said he wanted to balance the budget in 7 years. And he also said that he wanted to give tax relief to working, middle-class American families.

But yet he persists in saying that the Republicans only want to give tax breaks to the rich. This is pure fantasy.

This chart clearly shows that the vast overwhelming majority of our \$500 per-child tax credit goes to those making less than \$75,000. In fact, 89 percent of this tax break goes to the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, the President should end the scare tactics, sign the Balanced Budget Act, and give tax relief to working families.

#### PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, we should make sure that we reach agreement on the Interior bill, the environmental bill. The House has rejected this extremist measure and, now that the American people have spoken, that we want to have mining reform, that we want to stop logging in the Tongass, that we want to deal with our parks in a sensible way, that it makes sense to come back with a moderate bill that the President can sign. Many times the House has said to those that want to gut the environment, we do not want that. We want you to reach agreement on this issue.

We are making progress on this, but let us put this appropriation bill to bed. There are so many appropriations bills that have not been dealt with that are still in controversy, that at least