

against which no one can dissent and that there is no room for discussion. I have never experienced that before, because you cannot do legislation that way.

So what the President is saying is that the agreement that was reached, and I think this is very, very important, the agreement that was reached on the balanced budget over the 7-year period, and, by the way, Mr. Speaker, parenthetically, this is closer to 8 or 9 years because we are halfway through this spending, not halfway through but by the time we get this budget reconciliation finished we will be halfway through the year.

So I submit to you, as I bring my remarks to a close, Mr. Speaker, my point would be this, that the proposal that the President has put forward is, and he is acting in good faith on that proposal because that proposal said that we would try to deal with 7 years, and as I indicated, it will be 8 years or longer, in effect, because we are already months into the fiscal year without an agreement, in the 1996 fiscal year without an agreement, and using the Congressional Budget Office figures or whatever they turn out to be, these are all guesstimates, and as I have already indicated, the Congressional Budget Office, at least when you ask them the right question, does not give you an answer which is not true; they have indicated that we are going off budget to balance this so-called budget, going into the Social Security funds.

It says we have to protect Medicare. We have to protect Medicaid. We have to protect our children. We have to protect those who grow our food.

Now, minus protecting these elements, Mr. Speaker, our health, the health of our people, the health of our elderly, the welfare of our elderly, the health and welfare of our children, education, nutrition, and those who grow our food, agriculture, and unless we protect those things, we are not going to have this balanced budget despite anybody's best effort at it.

So I submit to you that the President is acting in good faith. The President has a proposal on the table. The President understands negotiations. He has been a Governor. He has worked with legislatures before. He understands the executive-legislative relationship and the Governor, that is to say, Governor Clinton, who is now President Clinton, will be prepared, along with members of the Democratic Party, to take our proposal to protect people while at the same time reducing the deficit and try to structure from that a compromise which will lead to eventually a balanced budget.

I have no objection to the phrase. I have an objection to the illusion that it is going to be implemented in 7 years.

So I want to conclude, Mr. Speaker, at this stage by saying once again that I will be on this floor up to and through the time of the conclusion of the budget negotiations so that at least there

will be one voice on this floor and speaking out from this body, someone like my colleagues who are sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, taking as that obligation to speak the truth on the budget, something which is as fundamental as anything that there is that we do. All money measures come from the House of Representatives. We are the people's House, elected by the people. It is our responsibility and obligation to say that we are working with an honest budget, with honest numbers, and that if we are not and there is a continuation of this proposition that somehow the budget is being balanced by mortgaging the Social Security trust fund, that I speak out against it, and others speak out against it.

So I believe, by the time these negotiations are concluded, President Clinton will have put forward a series of proposals based on the proposition that there is give and take in every legislative activity and that if the Speaker is refusing to negotiate by simply setting down an immutable standard from which he will not deviate, that the American people will make their judgment known on election day in 1996 as to the efficacy of the Speaker's policy.

I believe that if we deal with the situation honestly, we can bring the deficit down, that eventually the budget can be brought into balance, we can salvage the Social Security trust fund rather than ravage that trust fund, and see to it that Medicare and Medicaid, the welfare of our children and the people who grow our food are protected and that we have a budget that we can honestly put forward to the American people as being in their best interests.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of illness in the family.

Mr. TUCKER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCROMBIE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GEJDENSON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BRYANT of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MONTGOMERY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CLAY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. LOWEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DIAZ-BALART) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes each day, today and December 7 and 8.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, for 5 minutes, December 7.

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARTINI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes each day, December 7 and 8.

Mr. LONGLEY, for 5 minutes each day, today and December 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, December 7.

Mr. FUNDERBURK, for 5 minutes, December 7.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes each day, today and December 7.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DELAY, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. MFUME.

Mr. MONTGOMERY.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Mr. CLEMENT.

Mr. STUDDS.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Mr. REED.

Mr. EVANS.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. TORRES.

Mr. KANJORSKI in two instances.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DIAZ-BALART) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. FOWLER.

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ.

Mr. SHAW.

Mr. STUMP.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG.

Mr. CLINGER.

Mr. MARTINI.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. CRANE in two instances.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. BECERRA.

Mr. SOLOMON.

Mr. GEJDENSON.

Mr. BISHOP.

Mr. GOODLATTE.

Mrs. MORELLA.

Mr. STUPAK.

Mr. CLINGER.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.