

fought for this country, the veterans in this country, and close some of their hospitals. Not just take kids' summer jobs, for crying out loud, and taking away a little drug-free schools and communities program that benefits communities and schools. Not snatching milk from babies in the food stamp program and then give it to a big millionaire or a big corporation and then hold a press conference and say we balanced the budget. I think that is the biggest problem. Those are some of the problems that we have with balancing the budget.

If the gentleman wishes me to yield, I will be happy to yield, but I wanted to make those comments.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank the gentleman once again for yielding.

I would go so far as to say that when we look and compare the Republican method of balancing the budget, they plan to balance the budget in 7 years with deep cuts in Medicare and Medicaid, four times greater than any health cuts in history, deep cuts in education, a rollback obviously in environmental protection, and a tax increase on working families.

The President's balanced budget approach is much different. He balances the budget in 7 years while protecting Medicare, Medicaid, education and the environment and targeting tax relief to the middle class without any new tax increase on working families.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. The issue here is about direction. Are we going to balance the budget on the backs of people who are poor and who are defenseless and cannot come and participate in this august body or part of this conversation? Who is asking and who is being asked to forgo what? Students are being asked to forgo interest rates on loans. Seniors are being asked to forgo Medicare.

There are 41 million Americans who have no form of health care at all and are not part of any debate. There are 19 million people who are working part-time jobs and they are being asked to forgo full-time work. There are 8 million homeless people, roughly 8 million homeless people who are being asked to forgo housing. There are youth who are being asked to forgo education. Our cities are being asked to forgo development while we balance this budget.

In my district, if I may take a moment of personal privilege, the cities of Harvey and Phoenix and Posen and Robbins and Dixmoor are being asked to forgo debt forgiveness while we can forgive the debt of Mexico. We can forgive the debt of the Soviet Union and former Eastern Bloc countries, but we cannot forgive the debt of townships in our own districts and in our own country.

There is nothing wrong with balancing the budget. We agreed that that should happen. The only issue is what direction that balanced budget should take.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from

Chicago. I want to thank him for his time tonight. Again, I welcome the gentleman to this august body. I enjoyed participating in this colloquy with the gentleman and want to thank him once again.

Let me just conclude by saying, we, as Members of this Congress, and as well as the executive branch of Government, we should, we must sit down and talk about balancing this budget and get this train moving again. Let me tell my colleagues, it is almost like a driver of a bus and a mechanic, a bus just breaking down on the side of the highway. And you have got a bunch of people on the bus. And the mechanic and the driver get into a big fight about what to do to get the bus moving again. The people on the bus do not really care about the differences between the driver and the mechanic. They just want to get to their next destination.

The American people really want to get to the next destination. We as grown men and women in this Congress, we must sit down and get this Government moving and open and balance the budget. But we must come to grips with the fact that we will not and we should not do it on the backs of the most defenseless people in this country, the elderly, the poor, and the young. And those people who are in the middle, who are trying to make a living, who are trying to do better, who are benefiting from the earned income tax credit. I would hope and pray that this Congress, this institution with all of its great wisdom, with its infinite wisdom would come to the conclusion that yes, we need to open our Government up. Yes, we need to move our Government forward. Yes, we need to balance our budget, and need to do it in a fair and equitable way.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, on December 15, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for December 15, after 3 p.m., for personal business.

Mr. STOKES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for December 15, for official business in the district.

Mr. TOWNS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for December 15, for official business in the district.

By unanimous consent, on December 15, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for December 15, for official business.

Mr. LIGHTFOOT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for December 15, for a family emergency.

Mr. GUNDERSON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for December 15 after 1 p.m., for personal reasons.

By unanimous consent, on December 15, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for December 15 after 5 p.m., for official business.

Mr. EDWARDS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, for the birth of his son.

By unanimous consent, on December 15, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of a death in the family.

Ms. MOLINARI (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, for medical reasons.

Mrs. FOWLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, for 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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POSHARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OLVER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. SHADEGG, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOKE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BEREUTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DORNAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1332. An act to clarify the application of certain Federal criminal laws to territories, possessions, and commonwealths, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1747. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to permanently extend and clarify malpractice coverage for health centers, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1977. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2099. An act making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 2336. An act to amend the Doug Barnard, Jr. 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Games Commemorative Coin Act, and for other purposes.