

THE MUCH BALLYHOOD BUDGET  
ACT OF 1995

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, in a number of nationwide publications the Republican National Committee ran the following ad:

The Republican National Committee will present a cashier's check for \$1 million to the first American who can prove the following statement is false: In November of 1995, the U.S. House and Senate passed a balanced budget bill.

On December 14, the Congressional Budget Office sent my office this letter, and the last line of it says it all: "CBO's baseline projection for the general fund deficit for the fiscal year 1996 is likely to be \$270 billion." That includes \$100 billion that will be stolen from trust funds like the Social Security trust fund.

So the much ballyhooed Balanced Budget Act, so-called, of 1995 really should have been stamped like this: "Certified \$270 billion deficit by the Congressional Budget Office."

Mr. Barbour, I am on the way to your headquarters. Break out your checkbook, make the check out to the University of Southern Mississippi development fund.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV. Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken later in the day.

UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION  
IN EXPO '98 IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 91) expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should participate in Expo '98 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 91

Whereas there was international concern expressed at the Rio Conference of 1992 about conservation of the seas;

Whereas 1998 has been declared the "International Year of the Ocean" by the United Nations in an effort to alert the world to the need for improving the physical and cultural assets offered by the world's oceans;

Whereas the theme of Expo '98 is "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future";

Whereas Expo '98 has a fundamental aim of alerting political, economic, and public opinion to the growing importance of the world's oceans;

Whereas Portugal has established a vast network of relationships through ocean exploration;

Whereas Portugal's history is rich with examples of the courage and exploits of Portuguese explorers;

Whereas Portugal and the United States have a relationship based on mutual respect, and a sharing of interests ideals, particularly the deeply held commitment to democratic values;

Whereas today over 2,000,000 Americans can trace their ancestry to Portugal; and

Whereas the United States and Portugal agreed in the 1995 Agreement on Cooperation and Defense that in 1998 the 2 countries would consider and develop appropriate means of commemorating the upcoming quinquennial anniversary of the historic voyage of discovery by Vasco da Gama: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That the United States should fully participate in Expo '98 in Lisbon, Portugal, and encourage the private sector to support this worthwhile undertaking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] will be recognized for 20 minutes, and the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that the United States should participate in Expo '98, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal. The theme of the exposition will be "The Oceans: A Heritage for the Future."

It will commemorate both the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's historic voyage of discovery over the sea route to India and the International Year of the Ocean in 1998. I hope that all my colleagues will agree that the world's oceans represent an important physical and cultural asset for mankind.

Portugal's history has been shaped by its maritime legacy, as has our own. I should add that in calling for the United States' participation in Expo '98, this resolution makes clear that the private sector should provide the means for our participation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HAMILTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I believe events such as Lisbon Expo '98 provide an important forum for cultural and economic exchange between the people of Portugal and the United States. Portugal is a close friend, ally, and trading partner. Two million Portuguese immigrants have made great contributions to this country.

Mr. Speaker, I also support the theme of Lisbon Expo '98. I believe that more attention needs to be focused on protecting the health of our oceans. I register a single concern. Given the current Federal budget, I believe strongly that funding for U.S. participation in Expo '98 should come exclusively from the private sector. Therefore, I am pleased to learn that the

President is considering the appointment of a coordinator to raise private funds for U.S. participation in this exhibit.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the resolution to my colleagues and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. KENNEDY] who is a chief sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 91.

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. POMBO, my fellow chair of the newly formed House Portuguese-American Caucus for his leadership on this issue.

I want to thank Chairman GILMAN for cosponsoring this resolution and for bringing this bill to the floor so that we could act on it before the end of the year.

As well, I want to thank Mr. HAMILTON for his support, and all of the other cosponsors for their support of this important resolution.

At this time I also want to thank my colleague from Rhode Island, Senator PELL, who introduced an identical resolution which has passed in the Senate.

The theme for Expo '98 will be "The Oceans, A Heritage for the Future." This exposition will celebrate the riches of the oceans and focus the world's attention on the pressing need to protect and preserve this resource.

Expo '98 presents a unique opportunity for the nations of the world to assess the current status of our knowledge of the oceans—how they can be used, what dangers they face, how they can be protected, and how we can work toward the sustainable development of this resource.

The United States has a special interest in Expo '98 because of our preeminent position as a leader in the development of environmental technologies.

Expo '98 offers the chance for the United States to demonstrate and capitalize on our leadership in the field of environmental protection and environmental technologies.

With this resolution, the House will be sending a clear message that participation in this expo is important to our national priorities—economic, environmental, and international.

With this resolution, we will be sending a clear message that Congress believes our participation should be the result of a cooperative effort between government and the private sector.

By showing our commitment, we will be able to earn commitments from United States businesses with interests in Portugal and the environment.

The United States belongs at Expo '98. We care deeply about the focus of the exposition and it is also important for us to show our commitment to one of our closest European allies—Portugal.

Expo '98 presents Portugal the opportunity to showcase its recent economic