

Mr. Speaker, clearly that was rejected by the Members of this Congress today. Members today who voted no voted no and said, "President Clinton, it is really time to finally balance the budget. The American people are waiting and watching."

No more Washington, D.C. gimmicks. No more political games. No more divisive grandstanding. Let's do the right thing. Let's balance the budget. Let's put our government back to work.

The vote was unanimous. Republicans and Democrats voted "no" and sent a bipartisan message to President Clinton that we are moving forward to balance the budget and it's about time that he joined us.

The American people are waiting and watching.

STRENGTHENING, PRESERVING, AND PROTECTING MEDICARE

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 wanted to continue this dialog and discussion that we are having which the American people on Medicare, and I need to first begin with the 1995 April 3 trustees' report which said at the present financing schedule the Medicare Program is sufficient to insure the payment of benefits for only 7 years. It will be out of money in—it will be bankrupt in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Republican Congress has taken the steps to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare.

Now we are going this by ourselves. The Democrat Party, the President, has done absolutely nothing in this process to strengthen, preserve, and protect Medicare, but they are doing all kinds of things to scare the American people, saying, "Cut, cut, Cut."

Mr. Speaker, in response to that the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Haley Barbour, put out this ad and challenge to the Democrats. It said, "If you can prove that we are cutting Medicare, come get a check for \$1 million."

Now what I would think with over 200 Democrats in the House, that they would have been lining up because all we have heard, Mr. Speaker, for 6 months is Republicans are cutting Medicare, and yet somehow, when there is a million dollars in it, suddenly there is silence, and I have never known Democrats to be overwhelmingly statesmanlike, so I assume, when it comes time to put money where their mouth is, that they are not interested in really participating because, Mr. Speaker, they know that the truth is that Medicare spending is going from \$8,816 per person to \$7,100, and with that kind of truth, then they do not want to come get their million-dollar check.

Now the gentleman from Pennsylvania who has just helped keep these charts on the floor has also studied

this very carefully with me. I know he is on top of Medicare, but also on the budget as well.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Congressman KINGSTON, I appreciate the opportunity for you to yield to me. The fact is that Medicare spending under the Republican proposal will go from \$4,800 a year to at least \$7,100 a year. This big increase is going to make sure that Medicare is going to be there for all seniors. The fact is the proposal also does some other important things. The American public should also know, and our colleagues, that we are going to reduce the cost of paperwork involved with Medicare from 12 percent to like 3 percent or less with electronic billing. We also, the medical education, the indirect and direct costs, instead of being part of Medicare will have its own separate item so that those funds will again go to seniors' health care. I think it is also important to note the options they have, the Medisave accounts and the managed care. All will make sure that Medicare goes up double the rate of inflation.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. Medicare is essentially 1964 Blue Cross plan, and I would not want my mama to be driving around in a 1964 Ford Falcon. I want her to have all the technology, and those options that you are talking about, she wants traditional Medicare, she can have it, but if she wants all the other options, she can.

Now you know what is interesting is that we had to have a trustees' report on Medicare to tell us it is going bankrupt. As Members of Congress, we should have known that already, but there is one thing that we do not need the trustees' report on, and that is the fact that the U.S. Government is going bankrupt.

We have a debt right now of \$4.9 trillion which we are passing on to our children today, just because the Democrats and many others in Washington are acting like, well, this does not affect me. In some of the major newspapers in the country; I think the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Washington Times, maybe the L.A. Times; the CEO's of many of the Fortune 500 companies in America took out an ad urging Congress, urging the President, to balance the budget within 7 years.

Now a lot of the colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been bad mouthing these people. Let me tell you who they are bad mouthing, I heard one of the speakers earlier tonight say how horrible these folks were. We are talking IBM, Ford Motor Co., Circuit City, Toys "R" Us, and, as I sat here and listened to what we used to call parlor pinks—parlor pinks, as you know, were Socialists. They are not quite Communists, but they do not like—they are collectivists. They do not like people making a profit—bad mouth all these companies, and these are companies that have products in every one of our households around

America, but, more importantly than that, the jobs.

Where do these parlor pinks think jobs come from if not employers?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman would yield, I appreciate, Congressman KINGSTON, your bringing this topic forward because frankly most Americans want to see a balanced budget, a balanced budget, and these companies, and their executives, and their employees all agree that we balance the budget, we are going to be able to reduce the costs of car payments, mortgage costs, college expenses, health care costs. We have been spending almost the same size as the Defense Department just on our Nation's debt, and 25 years or 26 years of overspending have gotten us \$4.9 trillion in debt.

Mr. KINGSTON. Well, have you ever thought about this, Mr. FOX? What if the children could vote? All we hear from here is oh, the children, the children. What if those children who are going to be paying \$150,000 in interest on the national debt over a 75-year period of time on top of their Federal, on top of their State, on top of their local taxes, what if those 5 year olds that we are so, that they are allegedly so concerned now about out there on the playground, what if they could vote?

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Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Obviously, they would also want a balanced budget.

Mr. KINGSTON. Obviously they would say, wait a minute, mom and dad. You mean to say all of that stuff that you are charging, I have to pay for? Maybe we do not need all of those Federal spending programs after all. Maybe all those bureaucrats in Washington should go home.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the fact is that the vote today was very historic. The Clinton budget, which would give us nothing but more deficit, more spending, more tax increases, which would create less jobs, was in fact defeated 412 to zero. Republicans and Democrats together said that was not the answer.

ZERO VOTES ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] to join me in this special order.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me start out by asking a question, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the gentleman said. The President had a balanced budget plan, is that correct?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Yes.

Mr. KINGSTON. He introduced it in Congress?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Correct.

Mr. KINGSTON. We voted on it, right?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. That is correct.

Mr. KINGSTON. So it obviously got over 200 votes on the Democrat side, who rejected the Republican vote?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. It did not get any votes from either side.

Mr. KINGSTON. The gentleman from Michigan, DAVID BONIOR, the gentleman from Missouri, DICK GEPHARDT, the leaders of the minority, voted against President Clinton's plan?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. No Democrat or Republican voted for it, or independent.

Mr. KINGSTON. The President of the United States, who has been bad mouthing Republicans in Congress assiduously for a year, has now introduced a budget that got zero Democrat votes? I find that bizarre, even for Washington.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Let me tell you why. It was bipartisan in its rejection because that budget would put us in the red by \$265 billion. There is a better answer. It is having a budget that balances, just like counties do, States, school boards, families. We need to make sure that this government is, like the rest of those outside of Washington, outside the beltway, balancing our budget, spending money where government can make a difference, but not duplicating what is happening in the States or in the private sector.

Mr. KINGSTON. You, sir, have been in office 12 months now. You have a balanced budget. Your freshman class has supported a balanced budget. The President has had a 2-year jump, actually a 3-year jump on you. Remember, on June 4, 1992, he said on "Larry King Live," he would have a balanced budget in 4 years. He has been in office 3 years. You have been in office in your freshman class 1 year. Are you saying to me that the President has yet to submit a balanced budget?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Yes, that is true. There have been four attempts. Each one has been over budget, in the red, in the deficit, and will not help us get out of the problem. What we need to do is make sure that the American people realize that what we need is a bipartisan budget in the Republican House and in the Republican Senate that will in fact balance, give people a chance to have the American dream, and not be overtaxed, overspent, and overregulated.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me ask you this, because the Democrats keep talking about, of course, they want a balanced budget. Surely they have submitted a balanced budget; is that right?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. That is correct.

Mr. KINGSTON. They have?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. There has been a budget.

Mr. KINGSTON. It is a balanced budget?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. It does not include the tax reforms for families.

Mr. KINGSTON. Is that the official budget or is that the rump caucus, the blue tick budget?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. That is correct, it is the latter.

Mr. KINGSTON. That is not even the official budget of the Democratic Party.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. The official would be the Clinton budget, which was defeated today, 412 to zero.

Mr. KINGSTON. I find that appalling, just to think about that. That, I believe, is why they have taken a full page ad out. As you know, they are not asking anything, really, out of the blue, but they are saying, "Let us use CBO, Congressional Budget Office numbers, let us balance the budget in 7 years, let us have both parties and all parties come to the table," and the part in bold print is what is most important. "Without a balanced budget, the party is over, no matter which party you are in."

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. It is also important to point out that under the Republican proposal, which has a balanced budget, Medicare spending will increase 62 percent, from \$178 billion this year to almost \$290 billion by the year 2002. As well for Medicaid, that increase under the Republican budget will go from \$89 billion this year to \$127 billion by the year 2002, a 43 percent increase.

So the fact is the important programs that everyone wants, whether it be Medicaid, Medicare, earned income tax credit, education, child care, all those programs will be increased under the Republican budget, while still balancing the budget for the first time since 1969.

Mr. KINGSTON. I think it is ironic that rather than cutting the budget, rather than freezing the budget, we are actually debating increasing it \$3 trillion new dollars, as the Republican plan indicates, or \$4 trillion new dollars, as the President wants, and all we are debating is the growth.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. The key feature here is that we are eliminating the fraud and abuse and waste. In Medicare alone, there is \$30 billion in fraud, abuse and waste, in Medicaid it is \$14 billion, by governmental figures. The fact is that if we just eliminate the fraud and abuse, we will go a long way to make sure the true services go back to those who are needy, whether they be seniors, children, or those who are poor. We want to make sure we take care of people. We are compassionate, Republicans and Democrats together, working to make sure we have a balanced budget. I know we can achieve that.

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME AND REALLOCATION OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, because of the inclement weather, not nearly as

bad as that of Bosnia, I do not want our staff to stay much later. I ask unanimous consent to reduce my 60-minute special order to 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REAL SLEAZE IN THE NOT-SO-GAY NINETIES

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I said I would be procuring a cloisonne pin for the 1st Armored Division, Old Ironsides. It came in the mail today from one of the troopers of that division, and the package arrived later with about 10 of them. I will wear it for the entire year.

An interesting development in Bosnia over the weekend. I was not aware that the Mujaheddin from Afghanistan, from extremist elements in Egypt, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, from Pakistan, that they had an entire brigade there. One of the more well-known of their terrorists, Anwar Shaban, was executed over the weekend with four others, or killed in a fire-fight, we do not know which, by Croatian Bosnian troops.

If the remaining Mujaheddin, outside terrorists, we now have home-grown Bosnian terrorists of Islamic persuasion, but not faith, if they decide that this is because of the United States Dayton agreement pushing the confederation of Croatia and Bosnia internal governments to drive out all Mujaheddin volunteer fighters, then Americans will be targeted.

It has been snowing all day in Tuzla, but the fog is gone and our first C-17 Globemaster III arrived. I do not understand the agreement between the leadership of Congress and Clinton not to allow a single Congressman or Congresswoman on a codel for the rest of this month over the holidays, as I volunteered and deeply wanted to do, or anybody for the whole month of January to go from this Congress to that dangerous part of the world. I do not understand that. Harry Smith of the CBS Morning Show will be broadcasting from Tuzla tomorrow. Until today, there were more news people there than the less than 100 advanced military people on the ground.

In lieu of that special order tonight, Mr. Speaker, let me change subjects, one that our Speaker in the Chair has some knowledge about. Without mentioning any names, so as not to get in trouble with the parliamentarians, and knowing that I will not finish this but submitting it for the RECORD, let me tell everybody why we seem to be having a problem with people not living up to their word here.

I would call this Real Sleaze in the Not So Happy Nineties, taking into account that my dad was born in 1892 in