

exports, that we are doing the right thing by passing this agreement. If we pass an amendment to it, it will kill it, and so I hope very much that we will move ahead and do the right thing here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### JUST DO IT

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon and evening we have discussed a budget resolution in our goals to eventually achieve a balanced budget. It makes me think, after listening to much of the discussion of what we should do, of the Nike running shoe ad that says, "Just do it".

We hear a lot of rhetoric about the fact that we should cut down on some of the wasteful spending. I say just do it. We hear a lot of discussion about let us lower some of those overwhelming taxes that we have imposed on the American working people. I say let us just do it. We have heard a lot of talk about how we change welfare, how we admit that welfare programs have been unsuccessful for the last 40 years and they need changing because we have taken the spirit away from people by giving them something for nothing. In changing the welfare program, I say just do it.

It is like the Nike ad on just doing it. It is not easy, it is going to be tough, but we have to just clench up our fists, we have to tighten up our stomachs and tighten up our dedication and just do it.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHABOT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### THE TAX TRAP

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, when I am back in Michigan in our 7th Congressional District, around Battle Creek and Jackson and Hillsdale and Adrian, not a day goes by but a young mother or a young father comes up to me and says, you know, we are working very hard and we can hardly get by. We are both working now. Or sometimes it is a young mother, all by herself trying to support her kids, and they say why is it so difficult now when my mom and dad, when I was growing up, only one of them worked and we still ended up with enough money to go on vacations, to have good food, and to have good housing?

You know what I have concluded, Mr. Speaker, a large part of today's problem is? The tax trap. Back in the 1950's and the 1960's the taxes only took a small part of our earnings, but today taxes take almost 50 percent of what we earn. Taxes at the local, State and national level take 41 percent of what we earn. And then, if we earn more money and work harder, and we get into those higher tax brackets, in addition to the 15 percent that goes into FICA, we can go as high as 39 percent on our income tax.

I call it the tax trap because people may remember that old song that says the more you study, the more you learn; the more you learn, the more you forget; the more you forget, the less you know; so why study? It is sort of true on taxes. The harder you work and the more you earn, the higher your taxes are and the more you have to pay the Federal Government to spend the money that you worked so hard to earn.

I wonder if people know that today we spend more on food and clothing and shelter. The taxes that we pay to the government is more than we spend on food and clothing and shelter. I wonder if people know that there is about 70 percent of the hard-working American people that pay more in the FICA taxes, that 15 percent that is tacked on to our wages, than they do in the Federal income tax.

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Let us look at the FICA taxes a minute. Most of that, 12.4 percent, goes to pay Social Security taxes. How many of the people under 40 today think that Social Security is going to be around when they are ready to retire?

We have got some real problems with Social Security. Back in the early 1980's and 1982, they appointed the Greenspan Commission because at that time they published reports that the unfunded liability of Social Security was 1.82 percent of payroll. In other words, taxes would have to be raised that much more to cover the unfunded liability of Social Security.

Guess what it is today. Today the unfunded liability of Social Security is 2.17 percent. So when we hear people say, "Don't worry about Social Security because it is going to have enough money until the year 2029," what happened is the actuaries just recently came and said it is not going to be 2030, but it is going to be 2029, but the fact is that is only if somehow Government pays back all the money that it has been taking out of the Social Security surpluses.

Since we changed the Social Security taxes in 1983, and at that time the estimate was that they would be solvent for 65 years, well, guess what one of the former commissioners, Dorcas Hardy, said a couple of weeks ago? She estimated that sometime during the year 2005 there would be less money coming in for Social Security than was required for the payout.

There is no trust fund. There is no reserve. The Federal Government has taken every cent of the surplus every year, written out an IOU, and spent that money for general fund spending, expanding Government spending, expanding programs, taking more of Americans' individual decisionmaking away from them and putting it in this Chamber and over in the Senate Chamber and having Government make the decisions that they used to decide.

So when that young mother and young father come to me and say, "What are your suggestions, what are we going to do," my suggestion is to slow down on the borrowing and eventually balance this budget. Slow down on those taxes. Let people keep some of that hard-earned money in their own pockets and decide how to spend that money, rather than sending it to this kind of Chamber to let Government decide how to spend your hard-earned dollar.

Somewhat, Mr. Speaker, we have got to have a tax system where the people that work hard and try and save, end up better off than those that do not. That is the goal of our budget resolution, and our budget projection for the future of saying cut spending, do it now, do not put it off and let us get to a balanced budget. Let us quit borrowing and taking the future away from our kids.