

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, not since Neil Armstrong walked on the Moon and Mod Squad was on our television screens in the houses of America, the New York Mets were on their way back to one of the best come-back stories in baseball history, have we had a balanced budget or surplus in the budget.

But it is true, this year we are on our way to a budget surplus. So how does Washington react? The President goes out and breaks last year's budget agreement and calls for \$56 billion in new spending. And there you go, status quo in Washington.

Why do we have this balanced budget to begin with? Well, a couple things. Number one, we have slowed down the growth of government spending. Number two, we have a robust economy. And number three, sadly to say, we have put the Social Security surplus in with general revenues.

I believe, as do most Republican Members of Congress, if you want to put Social Security first and protect and preserve it, not just for the current generation of retirees, but for future generations, that you must separate the Social Security surplus and take it off budget and put it in a true trust fund with a fire wall from general revenue. I believe that is the number one thing this Congress should be doing.

U.S. SHOULD LEARN HOW TO DISPOSE OF NUCLEAR WASTE

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my personal welcome to the distinguished members of the House of Commons, the Parliament of Canada. They are members of the Canadian Parliament Committee on International Relations and Trade.

They have expressed an interest to discuss with our colleagues the important issues of nuclear nonproliferation and its impact, not only to our Nation, to the region, and to the world for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, with approximately a \$34 billion budget for the production and safeguard for our own nuclear arsenal, Mr. Speaker, we do not even know what to do with the billions of dollars expended on what to do with nuclear waste.

Why is Nevada made the only State to carry such a tremendous burden? We have developed the technology on perfecting the nuclear trigger, Mr. Speaker, but we do not even know how to control nuclear waste. What a travesty, Mr. Speaker. We need to look a little closer into this important issue.

SUPPORT BESTEA

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2400, the Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act or BESTEA. The House will consider BESTEA on Wednesday, and I urge my colleagues to support this violation legislation.

BESTEA provides \$217 billion in contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund over the next 6 years. This amount represents a 43 percent increase in funding over the 6 years of ISTE. Further, this legislation was off the Transportation Trust Fund and ends the assault on the fund to mask the deficit and fund other domestic priorities.

A few of my colleagues have expressed concern over funding levels in BESTEA, and I would like to address this for a moment. Mr. Speaker, BESTEA keeps our commitment to the American people to spend gas tax revenue solely for transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I am a budget hawk who came here to balance the budget. BESTEA ends the Washington charade of masking the deficit with money that should have been spent on the Nation's transportation. I look forward to the overwhelming passage of BESTEA Wednesday and urge my colleagues to support it.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, certainly the American people have a great deal of cynicism and outright apathy some days about the United States Congress because of the way that they handle campaign finance reform and other kinds of activities, sometimes late at night, sometimes at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, and sometimes not at all.

Tonight, I think we have the worst of all possible worlds. The Republican leadership has put an important issue to the American people, campaign finance reform, on the Suspension Calendar. Many Members are coming back home. They will not even be able to be involved in the debate. It requires two-thirds vote for passage on the Suspension Calendar. That is an unbelievably high hurdle or obstacle to overcome for any bill, let alone campaign finance. So we have got more and more cynicism, more and more distrust of our system here in Washington, D.C.

Let us debate this bill in the middle of the day so the American people can pay attention and decide which way they think legitimate campaign finance reform needs to go.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just to point out to the House what we have been doing this year when we have been here, both the House and the Senate when they began looking into campaign filings of the White House.

This House subpoenaed 587 subpoenas. They deposed 114 people. They held 13 days of public hearings. They had 33 witnesses. The House gave them \$5 million. On the Senate side figures are about the same, only the Senate gave them \$3.5 million.

□ 1415

In addition to what the House gave the committee they have now appropriated another \$1.8 million, and what have we gotten for it? Nothing but a sham.

These bills that come before my colleagues tonight are bills that require a two-thirds vote. Most of the Members of Congress are not even here for the debate. This is not campaign finance reform, this is a travesty on democracy.

CYNICISM IN THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I began my political career after I left the University of Hawaii, was teaching at Leeward Community College, had little or nothing in the way of fiscal resources. We had the backing of young people, ran a grass roots campaign in 1974 when we had campaign expenditure limits. No matter how wealthy one was, and I was up against candidates who had great wealth available to them, we could not spend any more than the amount that was allocated.

We will not have an opportunity today to even debate whether we can get democracy back to the ordinary person. That is why we have such cynicism in the electorate today. And the approach today, and I ask my Republican colleagues to take this into account, I do not want to make this a partisan issue; but if we put this bill forward today with the two-thirds requirement when the membership is not even here, it will add to the cynicism of the American people that prevents young people from being able to run for office or even consider it.

Please do not move forward with this bill today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, 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.