

So when you hear the endless parade of speakers from the other side come down here, listen but bear in mind one thing. The question is, who are you going to trust? Are you going to trust the people who 3 years ago took control of the Congress and said that we would balance the budget and did it, who said that they would reform welfare and did it, who said that they would cut taxes and did it, who said that they would save Medicare and did it, who said that they would reform the IRS and did it, and who are now saying that we will save Social Security by taking the surplus, 90 percent of it, \$1.4 trillion, and walling it off to save Social Security? Or are you going to believe the folks on the other side who for 40 years did not put a penny into the Social Security trust fund?

That is the question I think the American people have to ask themselves because it really is a matter of who are you going to trust? I would submit to the American people that we have an opportunity, with the tax relief bill that we are going to be voting on next week, to wall off 90 percent of the surplus, \$1.4 trillion, over the course of the next several years, to save Social Security, take the balance, 10 percent, about \$80 billion, and bring tax relief to middle income Americans, to families, by addressing the marriage tax penalty and taking steps to begin to eliminate that; by creating a small, safe exclusion in the Tax Code that allows people to put money aside and not pay taxes on it and by helping hard working farmers and ranchers across this country, in my State of South Dakota, who are trying to make a living, and feel the heavy hand, the heavy burden of government through taxes and regulation, because the 10 percent of the surplus that will be used for tax relief in this package is going to address a number of important issues for farmers and ranchers in my State of South Dakota.

The first is the death tax. It is going to make it easier to pass on the family farm or the ranch or the small business on to the next generation so when people die they do not have to visit the IRS at the same time they visit the undertaker. That is an important change. It makes permanent income averaging, because farming and ranching is a very volatile business and this allows them to spread out over time their tax liability. It also allows for deductibility of health insurance premiums for self-employed people. Farmers and ranchers do not get to deduct important tax change.

It also allows for a loss carry-back provision in which farmers can go back to their five most profitable years and, if they have experienced losses currently, taking their current losses against those profits and receive a refund from the Internal Revenue Service.

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Important cash relief and tax relief and cash flow assistance to agriculture,

where they desperately need it today. But we are going to hear again the parade of our friends from the other side, and they are our friends, but the fact of the matter is they are going to use the same old well-worn arguments to say that the Republicans want to give tax cuts to their rich friends, raid Social Security to give tax cuts to their rich friends.

Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues one thing for certain. The farmers and ranchers in South Dakota are not rich. They are hard-working people who deserve a break, and we have an opportunity to do something that is meaningful to help them back on their feet and recover and back on to better times.

I hope that the American people, and I want to put them on notice today, because they are going to hear it time after time after time again. This is the same argument that we have heard before. They are going to go after and try to scare older Americans.

I say to America, do not believe it. We have a commitment to save Social Security. We have proven in the past that we keep our promises with welfare reform, with the balanced budget, with tax relief, with Medicare and IRS reform.

Who is America going to trust and who are they going to believe is going to save Social Security for the future of America? That is the question that the American people have to answer. I hope as we have this debate in the ensuing days, that people are keenly aware of the arguments that are going to be made. But Americans should look at the record and ask themselves who they are going to trust.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILBRAY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Ms. SANCHEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PEASE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of medical reasons.

#### 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. THUNE) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LANTOS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILBRAY, for 5 minutes, today.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THUNE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. SAXTON.

Mr. KING.

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. FORBES.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

Mr. KIND.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. CRAMER.

Mr. FARR of California.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. JOHN.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. THUNE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. POMEROY.

#### SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

Bills and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1770. An act to evaluate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1998. An act to authorize an interpretive center and related visitor facilities within the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. Con. Res. 103. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists on Tibet and on United States policy with regard to Tibet; to the Committee on International Relations

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker: