

use of Federal money and we do not have a budget plan. It is very difficult to say to the United Nations why it must have fiscal discipline when we fail to observe the elemental part of fiscal discipline and budget discipline in this body.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in calling on the leadership of this institution to forthwith appoint conferees so that they may meet with the Senate, reconcile whatever differences exist between the two initial resolutions, one passed on one side of the building, the other on the other, and bring to this body a budget resolution for final action.

□ 1830

**TRIBUTE TO YOSEPH GETACHEW,
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE
BLIND EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Yoseph Getachew who will be honored on October 20, 1998, by the National Industries for the Blind as the 1998 Peter J. Salmon National Service Employee of the Year.

At age 22, Mr. Getachew developed a massive, fast-growing brain tumor that cost him most of his vision. When hospitals in his homeland of Ethiopia were not able to perform the necessary surgery and when he lacked financial resources to have surgery elsewhere, Dr. John Jane at the University of Virginia offered to perform surgery without charge.

Following recovery from surgery, Mr. Getachew was hired by the Virginia Industries for the Blind, where he uses a computer adapted to use speech software. Mr. Getachew is independent and self-sufficient. He has expressed appreciation to Dr. John Jane and the Department for the Visually Handicapped for their compassion, support and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Getachew.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man of courage and fortitude, Yoseph Getachew. On October 20, 1998, in St. Louis, Missouri, National Industries for the Blind will honor Mr. Getachew as the 1998 Peter J. Salmon National Service Employee of the Year.

At the age of 22, Yoseph, then an engineering student in his homeland of Ethiopia developed a massive, fast growing brain tumor. Local hospitals were unable to perform the necessary surgery and Yoseph was forced to begin a desperate search for a capable neurosurgeon. Mr. Getachew lacked the financial resources needed to fund such treatment, but after writing to physicians and hospitals in both the United States and Great Britain, he finally received word from Dr. John Jane at the University of Virginia Medical Center who offered to perform the operation for free.

Yoseph's condition was very grave by the time he arrived in the United States; the tumor had deprived him of most of his vision and left him deaf in one ear and a few days before the operation Mr. Getachew slipped into a coma. Dr. Jane's procedure removed the tumor and saved Yoseph's life, but as he recovered, Yoseph found himself in a daunting situation. Mr. Getachew was alone in America, lacking money, friends and family, and he was blind.

A social worker for the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped approached Yoseph during his convalescence and arranged for a temporary home and rehabilitation training. Through the department, Mr. Getachew learned orientation and mobility, vocational and daily living skills, how to read Braille and use a specially adapted computer. Dr. Jane also stepped in with much needed financial support while he got back on his feet.

In 1995 Mr. Getachew applied for and was hired by Virginia Industries for the Blind who had just acquired a service contract with the General Services Administration in Springfield, Virginia. In his job, Yoseph uses a computer adapted to use special speech software which enables him to process orders from government customers over the phone.

Mr. Getachew has made a new life for himself here in the United States and has no plans to return to Ethiopia. "The awareness level and support of people with disabilities is very high and the technology and specialized training has enabled me to become independent and self-sufficient." Yoseph takes great pains to recognize those who supported him along the way. "Dr. John Jane and the Department for the Visually Handicapped. . . . Their compassion, support and generosity helped me beyond all my expectations. . . . I love America".

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Getachew on the receipt of this award. His courage and determination are an example to us all.

**REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING
POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CON-
FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3616
THE STROM THURMOND NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999**

Mr. McINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-740) on the resolution (H. Res. 549) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 3616) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

**REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING
POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CON-
FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4112,
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPRO-
PRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR
1999, AND AGAINST CONSIDER-
ATION OF SUCH CONFERENCE
REPORT**

Mr. McINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 105-741) on the resolution (H. Res. 550) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4112) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE SURPLUS AND TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about a very current issue in Washington, D.C. I spent the weekend back in Wisconsin, and back in Wisconsin it seemed like when I turned on the news almost the only thing I heard about was the Clinton situation.

I would like all of my colleagues to know that we are paying attention, and there is a lot more going on out here in Washington, D.C., right now than just the Clinton situation. As a matter of fact, we are at a point where we are going to next month, the first of October, report to the American people the amount of our first surplus since 1969.

What is going on out here right now, it is almost like a feeding frenzy where, since we are seeing this surplus, some people want to use the surplus for tax cuts, some people want to use it for spending reductions, some people say it is Social Security.

What I would like to dedicate this hour to this evening is talking about what the surplus really is, where it comes from; how we can cut taxes and how we have cut taxes in the past; in 1997 we had the first tax cut in 16 years, how did we get that done; what is different between the discussion today and last year, and how all these things fit together.

I want to start by going way back in history to just help us all remember what has happened in our country and how we got into the financial problems that were staring us in the face, the fact that we have not had a balanced budget, a situation where our government spent less money than they had in their checkbook, that has not happened since 1969.

I think before we go on in this, the fact that we are having some debates in this community about what to do with budget surpluses, we first need to put this into perspective and understand that having a surplus is a good thing. It is the first time since 1969 that that has happened. In deciding whether we are going to put it all aside for Social Security or cutting taxes or repaying debt, this is a discussion that could not have even been thought about for the last 30 years. So first I think we should give some credit to the people that took over in 1995 and led us to control spending, which we are