

to spend this pot of money. If the choice is between giving the money back to the people who earned it or spending it, the Democrats will spend it. Republicans will not spend it. They want to give it back to the people who earned it. It is their money in the first place.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO PAY OFF THE DEBT

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the last Speaker would say that if the money from the so-called surplus is left in Washington that Americans should not trust us because "we" would spend it. The last I heard, the Republicans were the "we". The Republicans are in the majority.

If the Republicans are so fractionalized, if they are so disorganized that basically they are saying we should take the surplus and get it out of here as quick as we can and stop us before we hurt the Nation any further, then I understand the argument.

But if it is that no matter what economist we might listen to, no matter what American we might talk to, the whole idea of the surplus is that the President says that we are close to \$4 trillion, we now have the ability to pay off some of that debt, and we should do that. And that is what we are talking about on our side.

BIPARTISAN WORKING GROUP TO TAKE COMPREHENSIVE LOOK INTO YOUTH VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I am not a fan of these 1-minute speeches. Usually I do not do this. As we can all see, it devolves sometimes into a partisan food fight.

I come today to praise a bipartisan approach to the number one domestic issue, in my opinion, and that is youth violence. At the initiative of the Speaker of the House, working with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, they have appointed a bipartisan working group, 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats, co-chaired by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), and I am the vice chairman of this group.

For the next 2 months we will look in a bipartisan way at a comprehensive approach to youth violence. Guns, school security, breakdown of the family, influence of the mass media, a comprehensive approach to do what we can in the Congress to address this critical issue in a bipartisan way.

We need more approaches like this one where we can work together, because we are all serving the same people.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS BY ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES PRODUCE RESULTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the suspect for the heinous railroad killings has been caught. Resendez-Ramirez turned himself in to the INS installation in El Paso.

Let me applaud the collaboration of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with Don Clark leading the effort in Houston, Texas, along with U.S. Marshal Contreras, the Texas Rangers, and, of course, the INS. Collaboration among law enforcement agencies is extremely important.

It is extremely important to recognize that while this alleged perpetrator and killer will probably be indicted for murder, he is not representative of the hard-working, taxpaying immigrants who live in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to acknowledge the importance of collaboration between our law enforcement entities and to encourage the continuation of such collaboration which will, hopefully, correct the initial problem that allowed this gentleman, this person, to get away after crossing the border. We must fight illegal immigration but we must recognize the value of those hard-working immigrants.

I want to applaud again the collaborative work of our law enforcement agencies for a job well done.

FAIRNESS IN TAX CODE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AS WELL AS TAX CUTS

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues, I want to insist that as we look towards tax changes and towards the budget, we set first and foremost the priority of paying down the debt and of protecting Social Security and Medicare.

But, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to address tax cuts, there is one which we should address first and foremost, and that has to do with restoring fairness to the tax code. Currently, a small number of States subsidize the rest of the Federal Government. Those States in which we have sales tax but no income tax pay higher taxes than those in other States with an income tax. The reason is that those with sales taxes are not allowed to deduct their sales tax from their Federal income tax returns. Some of the States include Washington State, my own, Tennessee, Nevada, Texas, and Florida.

Mr. Speaker, hard-working men and women and their families deserve the same tax break in those States as in the rest of the country. And if we are going to make changes to the tax code,

let us begin by restoring fairness, by allowing a simple change to the code and allowing people to deduct either their State income tax or the amount they pay in State sales tax from their Federal tax return.

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS DIFFER IN CORE BELIEFS

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, today we are hearing the debate as to what we are going to do with the projected taxpayers' surplus. As Americans follow this debate, I think they should just be concerned with where we are going in our core principles.

In the way I view it, we have one side that agrees with personal freedom and the other side that wants more government control; one that says lower taxes, another that says we need higher taxes; limited government versus big government; economic growth versus bureaucratic growth here in Washington; more jobs across America or more red tape that will only stifle growth, stifle inhibition, stifle creativity and decrease the number of jobs.

So as we debate the taxpayers' surplus that the Americans have generated each and every day, let us remind ourselves of what the core principles are: Do we believe in the American people; do we believe in the American spirit; do we believe in economic growth? Or do we believe that total faith on how to spend the taxpayers' money should be made here in Washington?

WE SHOULD CONTINUE DOWN THE PATH OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am glad I am coming right after that last 1-minute. It is pure nonsense.

This \$864 billion bill that was reported out of the Committee on Ways and Means last night is fiscally irresponsible. It sacrifices the future of Social Security and also of Medicare on the altar of that kind of political hype from the Republicans.

Let me read from a Republican, his comment, the gentleman from Delaware. "I am not exactly sure in all of this," and I quote, "how Medicare is going to be solved. And there is no consideration for debt retirement; virtually no consideration for emergency spending. This is all very problematical. The size of it creates some real problems." And then he goes on to say that it is a political statement.

It is indeed a political statement. It gambles with the future of Social Security and it gambles with the future of Medicare. Look, that is not conservatism, it is fiscal radicalism. We need