

data while consuming less than 1% of the federal budget.

That's why members of the full House Appropriations Committee should restore NASA's funding when they take up the agency's budget on Friday. Democrats on the committee are expected to support restoration, but Republican members might need persuading. You can encourage them by calling the numbers below.

To take Action: Reps. Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands); Ron Packard (R-Oceanside); and Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-San Diego).

□ 1500

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE 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 Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may give my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET SURPLUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of weeks we have seen a vigorous debate here in the House and in the other body. I think it is one that resonates across the country. That is, what to do with the projected \$3 trillion budget surplus.

There are those who want to argue that the path to prosperity really begins and ends here in Washington, that bigger government and higher taxes and taking away control from our everyday lives is the way to go.

There are those who feel that the path to prosperity is paved across every street across our great Nation; that rewarding people to go out and work hard, and to allow hard-working Americans to keep more of what they earn, that is the direction we believe is

the right way to go; to strengthen personal freedom, to strengthen individual liberty, and to allow economic growth to create more jobs and to put more people to work.

Mr. Speaker, this is a debate that is just beginning, but one I think every hard-working American taxpayer needs to take note of.

As a reference, I cite a statement that was given about 36 years ago from then President John Kennedy. These were his remarks.

The most direct and significant kind of Federal action in aiding economic growth is to make possible an increase in private consumption and investment demand—to cut the fetters which hold back private spending. In the past, this could be done in part by the increased use of credit and monetary tools, but our balance of payment situation today places limits on our use of those tools for expansion.

It could also be done by increasing Federal expenditures more rapidly than necessary, but such a course would soon demoralize both the government and the economy. If government is to retain the confidence of the people, it must not spend a penny more than can be justified on grounds of national need and spent with maximum efficiency.

The final and best means of strengthening demand among consumers and business is to reduce the burden on private income and the deterrents to private initiative which are imposed by our present tax system. This administration pledged itself last summer to an across-the-board, top-to-bottom cut in personal and corporate income taxes to be enacted and become effective in 1963.

Madam Speaker, President John Kennedy then, like Ronald Reagan several years ago, recognized what it meant to invest and truly believe in the spirit of the American people. This American spirit to produce, to invest, to create, and to give back is what this Nation is truly all about.

Currently we engage, as I say, in this debate, and although it is 36 years later, the core principles still remain the same. On one side are those who do not believe in the American spirit or the American people. According to this view, bigger government, higher taxes, and more government control is the answer and the salvation.

The alternative view, however, places trust and wisdom in the American people. Our views seem to strengthen personal freedom and reward individuals for the efforts they are willing to undertake. We wish to promote economic growth by reducing the tax burden on hard-working Americans and essentially telling the American people, we believe in you, we trust you, and we want you to keep more of your hard-earned money in your pockets, so you are allowed to spend that on your families, on your education, on your vacation, on your car, making that mortgage payment, buying the new washing machine.

Because ultimately it is not about, well, we are going to destroy this program or destroy that program. No, it is about reminding folks what is important: to protect and strengthen social security and Medicare, to strengthen our national defense, and so many

other vital programs that are critical to our Nation.

But when we are confronted with a projected \$3 trillion budget surplus generated by the American people, who are working hard every single day, I do not believe, nor do I think it is unfair, but in fact I think it is not right unless we give a portion of that money back to the people who earned it.

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

(Mr. TANNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my 5 minutes at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

THE MEANING OF COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATISM: CUTTING FUNDING FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I believe I have discovered the meaning of compassionate conservatism, at least as defined by the congressional Republicans. It is conservative to cut funding for the critical needs of our Nation's veterans, and it is compassionate to use that money for pork projects for congressional people in exchange for their votes.

At least that is the definition implied by the VA-HUD-Independent Agencies appropriations bill which was crafted by the Republican majority in its subcommittee earlier this week.

As the Washington Post reported yesterday, this pending bill is chock full of pork, 215 provisions funding a host of projects and activities that have little or nothing to do with veterans or housing, or the other concerns that this bill is supposed to address.

Madam Speaker, the gentleman just before me spoke of returning the surplus to people. What we are doing here is returning that surplus in pork projects to the majority Congress-people.

As one who has joined our veterans throughout the Nation in advocating for the past many months for additional funding in the veterans budget, I am frustrated, appalled, shocked, and angry at this turn of events.

Our veterans must wait for months to see a doctor, but we fund the pork project of a machine aimed at growing