

terms of whether or not we are going to continue on this path. Are we going to balance the budget? Are we going to steal from Social Security? Are we going to raise taxes? In order to get what we think needs to be done in terms of balancing the budget without using Social Security, we really only have three choices. We can raise taxes, and of course the President was out today saying that we need to raise taxes. In fact, he is proposing a tax on cigarettes. Now, I am not a fan of cigarettes, I do not smoke cigarettes, I wish no one smoked cigarettes. But the truth of the matter is that when we raise taxes on cigarettes, it is a very regressive tax. We know who ends up paying those taxes. It generally is people who can least afford to pay additional taxes.

The second option is to steal from Social Security. We have said that is not acceptable. The Democrats here in Congress have said that is not acceptable, and the White House has said that that is not acceptable. But that really leaves us with only one choice and that is to cut spending. We think that the fairest thing would be to cut spending across the board, all departments throughout the Federal bureaucracy. Some people say, well, that cannot be done. We cannot make the Federal Government tighten its belt by one notch. Well, I think those of my colleagues who represent farm districts know that farmers are tightening their belts by not one notch, but by perhaps 10 or 15 notches. So asking the Federal bureaucracy to tighten its belt one notch we believe is fair, is responsible, it is doable, and I think anybody outside of the beltway would agree that there is more than enough fat in the Federal budget to tighten it one percent across the board to make certain that we balance the budget without raising taxes and without raiding the Social Security Trust Fund.

I also want to mention a couple of other things. The President is very quick to spend our money, whether it is in Kosovo or Bosnia or in other places around the world. A couple of days ago, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) told us that already his estimates were that the efforts in Bosnia and Kosovo have cost us nearly \$16 billion. Now, we did not budget for that. We have had to find other ways to pay for those special expenditures. But balancing the budget without raising taxes and without raiding the Social Security Trust Fund is going to become more and more difficult if the President continues to run a 911 service without the help from our allies.

I would remind all of my colleagues that when President Bush led us into the Gulf War, he got our allies to help pay for it. As a matter of fact, under some of the accounting that I have seen that actually, the net cost to the taxpayers in the United States of the Gulf War was virtually nothing.

So Madam Speaker, I just want to reiterate what great news this is, that for

the time, we have balanced the budget in fiscal year 1999 without using the Social Security Trust Fund, and I want to say that it is great news for all generations of Americans: for senior citizens, for baby boomers, and more importantly, for a brighter future for our kids. I hope we stay the course. Let us not raid the Social Security Trust Fund.

FORTY YEARS OF LIBERALISM LEAVES DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN SHAMBLES

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

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, the House today and this week and for the next number of days will be engaged in a very important debate. That debate is really a totally partisan debate. It is a debate about those who want liberal, big government programs and liberal programs for our government, and then on the other side, there are folks that think that we have too much power, too much spending, too many programs in Washington and that the policy of some 40 years did not, in many instances, work.

This afternoon we had a debate about a policy relating to the District of Columbia. The President has vetoed the District of Columbia appropriations measure. Within that measure and that bill are provisions which would allow liberalization of drug policy for the District of Columbia. That is one of the things that is holding that measure up. Again, a contrast between a liberal policy, wanting to spend more money, and also a liberal drug policy for the District of Columbia versus a conservative approach.

Now, let me tell my colleagues, the other side of the aisle and the liberals tried for 40 years to deal with the District of Columbia, and under the Constitution of the United States, the Congress is charged with that responsibility, and we take that very seriously. Now, when I came to Congress, as I said earlier this afternoon, in 1993, the District of Columbia, after 40 years of liberal Democrat rule, was in shambles. The Nation's Capital was a disgrace. The murder rate exceeded anywhere in the Nation. The schools had the highest per capita and per student expenditures and costs and some of the lowest performances. The hospitals were a joke.

In fact, there was an article in the Washington Post that I have cited a number of times that said you could dial 911 for an emergency for EMS and The Washington Post said you could dial for a pizza and get the pizza served quicker than you could get the EMS in the District. This is what they brought to the Nation's Capital, what should have been the gem of the Nation turned into despair. They had 60,000 employees, almost one in 10 people in the District of Columbia were employed in

this massive Federal bureaucracy created under again, liberal Democrat rule. The prisons, as I said, were in such bad shape that the new Republican majority has had to take over control of the prisons and basically disbanded Lorton. And again, deaths, and most of those deaths, drug-related in the District, were in the neighborhood of 500. They were killing them in scores.

Now, just in a few years, in less than five years, this new Republican majority has brought some of these programs under control. We have brought some meaningful reform. They had a job training program here I reported on in the District that spent millions and millions of dollars and not one person trained. We have gotten that program under control. The District was running a surplus, I believe it was two-thirds of a billion dollars; if we check the exact statistics, we will find it was in the hundreds of millions of dollars a year. This Republican Congress, in less than five years, has brought that budget under control. We had to institute a control board and policies to do that.

Now, we are engaged in the same debate about Social Security. Here are the folks that spent, for 40 years, Social Security, all the money in the trust fund, every penny in the trust fund, and on top of that added hundreds of billions of dollars of debt per year. They spent all of the money that should be in the trust fund. All that is in there now are certificates of indebtedness of the United States. And now they are telling us they want to fix it. They have the same liberal policies, liberal drug exchange policies.

I have cited before that Baltimore in 1996 had 39,000 drug addicts, a dramatic increase since they started that program. That is what they want here. And the latest statistics are it is close to 60,000, or one in eight of the population in Baltimore under this liberal policy of needle exchanges is now a drug addict in Baltimore. A disgrace. But they want to take their model and impose it on the District of Columbia.

I do not care if there are 1,000 vetoes by the President. This is our choice and this is our responsibility, and we should not let what happened in a liberal venue happen in our Nation's Capital.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GREEN of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal business.