

the other side to talk about a very important individual back in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge an outstanding educator and leader within Central Kentucky, a man who has dedicated his life not only to improving education, but making sure students strive to do the very best they possibly can. He is a principal who has touched and improved the lives of so many throughout his years of dedicated service to our community.

Recently, the Kentucky Education Commissioner recognized this outstanding principal, Mr. Virgil Covington, as being one of 172 selected to receive the National Educators Award from the Milken Foundation. Next summer, Mr. Covington will join other recipients in California for a week-long conference, but today he receives praises and congratulations from the school system, community, parents and children that he has strived so hard to serve over the years.

It is obvious that he has worked to produce positive change, while making sure that no one is left behind within his middle school.

Today I join my community in recognizing an outstanding principal who has made a significant contribution to the education of our children. I find it most fitting that he receive this prestigious award.

BUDGET DEAL IS A DO-NOTHING BILL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Republican budget deal is a do-nothing bill, nothing for Social Security, nothing for Medicare. It hurts every family. The Republican budget bill does nothing to extend the life of Social Security, even by one single day. It fails to provide one penny for Medicare prescription drug benefits. The only thing it does do is hurt every family, every American family, every family, in a very real way.

When it comes to Social Security and Medicare, the Republican budget deal is not right, it is not fair, it is not just; it is dead wrong.

ELIMINATE GOVERNMENT WASTE TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, this is what it is all about today. We are making a choice: Government waste, or Social Security. This is what it is all about.

My friends on the other side of the aisle for 30 years raided the Social Security trust fund and ran up massive deficits. We are putting a stop to that practice, because we want to stop the raid on Social Security, and we think it is about time.

Let me ask this question: Is there anyone who honestly believes that there is not 1 percent waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Government? Folks back home in the south side of Chicago and the south suburbs believe there is a lot more than just 1 percent of the Federal Government budget going to waste.

We think it is time to eliminate it. That is what it is all about today. We are going to vote today to cut government waste in order to protect the Social Security trust fund.

Now, there is an alternative. As you know, the Bill Clinton Democratic budget calls for a \$238 billion tax increase as an alternative to cutting government waste.

Let us stop the raid on Social Security. Let us cut government waste. We have that opportunity today.

BUDGET GIMMICKS AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICA'S HEALTH

(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 say to my colleague from Illinois, if you are interested in government waste, cut out the boondoggles in your bills, including in the districts of your leadership. These bills do nothing for Social Security, they do nothing for Medicare, and they will hurt every family.

They also engage in budgeting by deceit. They say they have not raided Social Security, but they have, by \$17 billion. Now they are engaging in deceit by delay.

Here is the headline in the Post: "Hill negotiators," that means Republicans, "agree to delay part of NIH research budget." Here is what NIH says: "These delays would hurt or could seriously hamper research efforts. To accommodate this delay, NIH would have to delay funding of over 8,000 new research grants until the final days of FY 2000, research for cancer, research for heart disease, research on diabetes."

Republican budget gimmicks at the expense of America's health.

JOIN BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I think we should all be pleased that President Clinton has finally come around to the Republican view that we should not spend a penny of Social Security on other programs. Since the President had initially wanted to spend billions of Social Security surplus on some of his big government programs, I think this is real progress.

However, I am concerned that instead of helping us cut spending to reach that goal, the President wants to increase excise taxes on working Amer-

icans. Mr. Speaker, the American people are taxed enough. It is through their hard work that the budget is now balanced. We have a budget surplus. There is no reason for us to raise taxes one penny on lower and middle income Americans to pay for bigger government. That would be wrong.

So I urge my Democrat colleagues to drop their plan to raise taxes on working Americans and join us in a bipartisan effort to save Social Security.

BUDGET GIMMICKS TO HURT ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today we see the full budget from the Republicans. We can see the USS Mississippi, that the Navy does not want, sailing into the harbor, and we say we want to cut government waste. The Navy does not want that ship.

What we really have, and the gentleman from Michigan raised it, are gimmicks in this budget that are going to hurt every single American. This does nothing for Medicare, it does nothing for Social Security. What it says to the National Institutes of Health is, we are going to give you more, but we are not going to give you one single penny of that money until next year on the 28th of September.

Now, for the average American, imagine if your boss said I am going to give you a big increase in your pay, but you do not get any of it until next year on the 28th of September. How would you live while you waited for that to happen?

Anybody who is worried about a member of their family who has diabetes, HIV, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, if you are waiting for the National Institutes of Health to come up with a way to help those people, these guys have said, wait for a year. Hold your breath.

This is a bad bill.

REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF THE ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN YEREVAN, ARMENIA

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great heaviness in my heart. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargissian, Armenian Speaker Karen Demirchian, and the six other Armenian government officials gunned down yesterday in cold blood in the Capital City of Yerevan.

I first met the late prime minister last month when I visited Yerevan. We had a candid and penetrating conversation. He was so cordial that he later asked me to cancel my evening schedule to join him for dinner.