

budget we have now in place, 3 to 4 percentage points less than we were spending just 15 years ago.

Now, why is that significant for Social Security? In order to pay for the long-run cost of Social Security, once the ratio of those working to those retired drops to about 2.2 to 1, we will need to shift resources out of our GDP into the Social Security program, because we have lowered spending. We will need to shift about 2.7 percent maximum of our total economy in order to fund the peak demands of the Social Security system after the baby-boomers fully retire.

Because we have adjusted spending, we have laid the basis, the foundation, for making that adjustment in the future, another way that we position ourselves to finally stand up to this problem, address the problem, rise to the opportunity, and it will be a shame if we blow this opportunity and do something else before we have saved and made Social Security solvent for the long run, because it is bedrock for 40 million Americans, and it will be bedrock for millions more before our work is done.

Mr. POMEROY. Reclaiming my time, and I want to direct a question to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), particularly given his expertise on the Committee on Appropriations, the other side maintains that their 1 percent across-the-board cut takes no spending out of the Social Security Trust Fund. Now, the Congressional Budget Office has said that is not true. In fact, it shows that they are into the Social Security Trust Fund to the tune of \$17 billion.

It says if they wanted to actually get that money down so it was not in the Social Security Trust Fund, rather than a 1 percent cut, it would be almost a 5 percent cut, and that is across the board.

Now, that would include wiping out the pay raise that we gave the men and women in our military. It would include wiping out the important additions we have made in veterans health, so that this Nation can continue its health commitment to its veterans.

If you take the Defense Department and you take veterans health off the table, you say well, we cannot cut that 4.8 percent, take that off the table, then you are talking almost an 11 percent, 10.8 percent across the board, in order to get Congress out of the Social Security surplus.

Would the gentleman on the Committee on Appropriations have any opinions in terms of whether or not this would be any way to run a country?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly right. We can look back and say how much better it would have been, how much better off we all would be, had we had a realistic budget resolution 8 months ago, had we agreed not to engage in this budget gimmickry and this budget gamesmanship and had simply met our obligations.

Other speakers have said tonight there was the potential there, and I hope there still is, for considerable bipartisan agreement. We, after all, in 1997 came together on a Balanced Budget Act, and both parties are largely agreed or at least profess agreement that we ought to be using the Social Security surplus to buy down debt and to ensure the future of Social Security.

But what we have now at the end of this session is a confusing and convoluted process. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) has referred to this directed scoring. All in the world that means is the Congress tells people who are supposed to be neutral, fair scorekeepers, tells them how to cook the books. Surely that is not what this budget process had in mind, the architects of this process.

Then all this emergency spending that is not really emergencies, and then this 1 percent across-the-board cut, which is out there I suppose for show, but, as the gentleman says, does not even come close to doing what the Republican majority has said that they intend to do.

So I do not know quite how we are going to resolve this congressional session; but I do know that we need to come together, we need to be honest with one another and with the American people, and we need heretofore to abide by the rules of the budget process and never again go through this kind of deceptive and convoluted end-of-session budget game.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would like to see us start as we push toward conclusion by at least being honest with the American people. Maybe they will agree with our side; maybe they will agree with that side, but we owe it to the people we are here to represent to at least be square with them, tell it like it is, and that is why I believe these budget gimmicks, two sets of books, emergency funding declarations, claiming you have not spent Social Security when you have spent Social Security, does such a terrible injustice to our efforts to try and resolve the differences and end this session.

Clearly, it is in nobody's interest to be lurching along from continuing resolution to continuing resolution. I think as we do that, we even raise the prospects of another Federal shutdown, something one of the speakers from the majority alleged tonight was not all that bad a result. Well, I surely would hope we would not go there and we would end this on budget numbers.

As we conclude this special order, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina for any concluding remarks he might have.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for calling this special order.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the gentleman bringing his expertise to the floor. It is a late hour here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I thank both gen-

tleman so much for the contributions each has made.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2389, COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNDING REVITALIZATION ACT OF 1999

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules (during the special order of Mr. POMEROY), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-437) on the resolution (H. Res. 352) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2389) to restore stability and predictability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management for use by the counties for the benefit of public schools, roads, and other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules (during the special order of Mr. POMEROY), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-438) on the resolution (H. Res. 353) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3194, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules (during the special order of Mr. POMEROY), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-439) on the resolution (H. Res. 354) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3194) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 900, FINANCIAL SERVICES MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules (during the special order of Mr. POMEROY), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-440) on the resolution (H. Res. 355) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the Senate bill (S. 900) to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes, which