

emergencies, and the use of slick accounting principles.

The Republicans are \$17.1 billion into the Social Security trust fund, according to the Congressional Budget Office. We violated the budget caps by over \$30 billion, and the Republican leadership has failed to get the spending bills to the White House and here we are 5 weeks into the fiscal year.

We are operating on supplemental resolutions. It is a disgrace to this body.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read some excerpts from a letter from Mr. George Halvorson who heads up one of the largest health groups in the Twin Cities of the State of Minnesota. He took out an ad recently and the headline is, "Who buys prescription drugs at ten cents on the dollar?"

Let me read this, please, and this is a quote. "The cost of prescription drugs varies to an amazing degree between countries. If you have a stomach ulcer and your doctor says you need to be on prilosec, you would probably pay about \$99.95 for a 30-day supply in the Twin Cities. But if you were vacationing in Canada and decided to fill your prescription there, you would pay only \$50.88. Or even better, if you were looking for a little warmer weather south of the border in Mexico, that same day 30-day supply would cost you only \$17.50. That is for the same dose, made by the same manufacturer.

□ 1030

"When the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) was passed by Congress to allow free trade between us and our neighboring countries, HealthPartners decided to follow the lead of Minnesota Senior Federation and buy our drugs in Canada", but the FDA is standing between them. Today I am going to introduce legislation to respond to this problem.

THE BLUE DOG BUDGET FITS

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

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, today, 35 days into the fiscal year, we have not finished but only half of our appropriations bills up to this point.

The majority leadership up to this point has been fairly innovative and clever at trying to maneuver around the balanced budget agreement caps and making sure they are not spending Social Security surplus money. But I tell my colleagues today that they failed miserably. Even their own appointed CBO director says that they have broken the caps and spent \$17 billion of Social Security money.

Truly it is time that we be honest and straightforward with the people of America. The Blue Dogs in the spring of last year introduced a budget proposal that fit then, and it fits now. It says take 50 percent of the surplus over 5 years, pay down the debt, use those savings to shore up Social Security, take 25 percent in a targeted tax cut, whether it is a State, marriage penalty, or capital gains, take the other 25 percent for priority spending on veterans or education or defense.

Let us stop playing games with the American people. Follow the blueprint of the Blue Dogs. It saves Social Security; and most of all, it is responsible and honest.

ONLY HALF A NOTCH IN AMERICA'S BELT WILL SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, some time ago, the Democrats sent a letter to the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, and it had some bogus ground rules; and what they got back said that we were spending Social Security under these bogus ground rules.

Their whole purpose for doing that is so that they can spend more money. They have shown the programs and they have talked about the programs that they want to spend the extra money on. Well, rest in peace, liberal big government. We are not going to do it.

In fact, we have got a letter from the Congressional Budget Officer that says, if we do not spend more than \$592.1 billion on domestic discretionary spending, we will not spend any Social Security surplus. Along with that, we have put in a 1 percent across-the-board cut, which is like taking a half a notch in this belt, just tightening up just a half a notch. That is all we would have to do, and we passed that; and, in fact, we are not going to spend the Social Security surplus. That is the fact of the matter. The Congressional Budget Office confirmed that in a letter.

Now, if we are going to do what they are recommending, we would have to take four notches up in this belt. Now, America knows we could do that four notches and protect Social Security, but yet the liberals have failed to offer any program reduction.

DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE; PASS THE BLUE DOG BUDGET

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I do not come down here and do 1-minute very often most of the time, I think most of the people that listen to these agree, that it is hurling insults back and forth across this table here, and that is not very constructive.

But what I did want to come down this morning to say is that the Blue Dogs offered a budget last April. We are in a mess. We are into November. There is still no agreements in sight. There is a blame game going on here about who wants to spend Social Security money. That is not very constructive.

We ought to stop that, stop the blame game, and get into the Blue Dog budget or something similar and do something constructive for the country for a change. That is what we were sent here for. That is what I hope we can do in the future for the people that we represent and for our kids and grandkids.

BLUE DOGS SHOULD JOIN WITH CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICANS ON 1-CENT SAVINGS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, let me follow, then, in the spirit of bipartisanship offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), I welcome that candid exchange, and I think one way we can really get started is for the Blue Dogs to join with the conservative majority in a pledge to realize savings of 1 cent of every dollar spent.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHN) says, let us save money. We agree. Join with us. But, see, the problem is within the minority caucus, sadly my friends in the Blue Dog Coalition are a minority within that minority.

So I would invite my friends, moderate conservatives on the other side of the aisle, to join with this working majority for a center right coalition to realize savings.

All we are talking about is 1 cent on every discretionary dollar. That is easily done. It saves the Social Security money for Social Security. Let us do that in the spirit of bipartisanship. To my friends in the Blue Dog Caucus, I extend my hand in that bipartisan fashion.

HONESTY IN BUDGET NUMBERS

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

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is time for responsible budgeting in this country. It is time to pay the country's debt. It is time to take Social Security completely off budget. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of bragging from the other side of the aisle about stopping the raid on Social Security. The only problem is that the facts just do not back up the bragging.

The Republicans would like us to believe that the Congressional Budget Office has said that their budget would

protect the Social Security surplus. What they forget to mention is it is only true when the Republican leadership tells CBO to change their numbers. How convenient.

When the Republicans wave around the CBO certification that they are protecting Social Security, they conveniently forget to mention the footnote that says that the estimate includes, "reductions applied to CBO's estimates for congressional score-keeping purposes." In other words, the Republican leadership had to tell CBO to change their estimates to reduce the estimates of spending to make their numbers work. They use these estimates when they are convenient; but when they do not like it, they use other estimates. It is time for responsible budgeting.

TIGHTEN BELT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, let me say this to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN), the previous speaker, it is not about inside Washington accounting mumbo jumbo, it is about grandmother's retirement check, and I am going to do everything I can as a Republican to protect it.

Now, I do know this, that in January, the President of the United States said let us preserve only 60 percent of the Social Security surplus. The Republican position has been, let us preserve 100 percent. Let us balance the budget, not through spending Social Security on non-Social Security means, but let us do it by just good old-fashioned belt tightening.

Now, imagine some little roly-poly fat kid at the banquet table on his third piece of apple pie saying I want more. All we are saying is, look, we want you to slim it down, push back 1 cent on the dollar, tighten that belt just a little bit, about a half a notch. Then if you will do that, we do not have to get even close to Social Security money.

That is what the Republican Party is trying to get the Democrats to do. I hope that they will join us.

REMEMBER THAT SECOND AMENDMENT IS RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, let us go back to the founding of our Nation. Why were the British soldiers marching toward Lexington and Concord in the darkness of April 18, 1775? Because they had heard correctly that the colonists were stockpiling guns and ammunition.

The colonists had been trying to work out their problems with the king. But when the British moved to take away their guns, they went to war.

When the amendments were added to the Constitution, first amendment of course a priority, freedom of speech and freedom of religion. But what is the second amendment, the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. Let us remember that.

STOPPING THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. THUNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, being a leader means making some tough choices. This year we have an historic opportunity to lock away 100 percent of the Social Security surplus and put an end to the practice of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. It means we have to make a tough choice between Social Security and funding some other goals, like the President's desire to increase foreign aid spending by 30 percent.

The question is not whether we want to spend more on foreign aid or other government programs, the question is whether we want to spend more on these programs if it comes at the expense of Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have already made our choice. We have chosen to say no to more government spending and yes to stopping the raid on Social Security. The American people agree with us. They would rather protect Social Security and Medicare and cut spending across the board for all other programs than raid Social Security again.

There is only one question that has not been answered, Mr. Speaker, and that is: Where does the President stand and where do our friend's on the other side stand? Will they block this legislation and insist on more government spending or will they join us in a bipartisan effort to end the raid on Social Security once and for all. For the sake of our future, I hope they will choose the latter.

TELL THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, is there any reason or wonder that the American people are confused? I wish, prior to us being allowed to come here and talk to the American people, that we had to raise our hand and say, I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

All we have heard today and past days is the Republicans are spending Social Security monies. But actions speak louder than words. My friends on the other side of the aisle continue to vote no on appropriations bills. The President continues to veto appropriations bills. Why? Because we are not

spending enough money that has to come from Social Security Trust Fund.

Why do we not do what we say we are trying to do? Let us not spend the money which we do not want to spend. We use great words like let us invest. We are not appropriating enough resources. What they are saying is we are not spending enough Social Security money.

We are saying, let us not spend Social Security money. Let us keep our promise to the American people. Let us stop being disingenuous. When one hears people come before one and say something, watch what they do. When they accuse Republicans of spending Social Security money, watch how they vote.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 346, nays 65, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 563]

YEAS—346

Abercrombie	Bryant	Delahunt
Ackerman	Burton	DeLauro
Andrews	Buyer	DeLay
Archer	Callahan	DeMint
Armey	Calvert	Deutsch
Bachus	Camp	Diaz-Balart
Baker	Campbell	Dicks
Baldacci	Canady	Dingell
Baldwin	Cannon	Dixon
Ballenger	Capps	Doggett
Barr	Capuano	Dooley
Barrett (NE)	Cardin	Doolittle
Barrett (WI)	Carson	Dreier
Bartlett	Castle	Duncan
Barton	Chabot	Dunn
Bass	Chambliss	Edwards
Bateman	Clayton	Ehlers
Becerra	Clement	Ehrlich
Bentsen	Clyburn	Engel
Berkley	Coble	Eshoo
Berman	Coburn	Etheridge
Biggert	Collins	Everett
Billirakis	Combest	Ewing
Bishop	Condit	Farr
Blagojevich	Conyers	Fletcher
Bliley	Cook	Foley
Blumenauer	Cox	Forbes
Blunt	Coyne	Ford
Boehlert	Cramer	Fossella
Boehner	Crowley	Fowler
Bonilla	Cubin	Frank (MA)
Bonior	Cummings	Franks (NJ)
Bono	Cunningham	Frelinghuysen
Boswell	Danner	Frost
Boucher	Davis (IL)	Galleghy
Boyd	Davis (VA)	Ganske
Brady (TX)	Deal	Gejdenson
Brown (FL)	DeGette	Gekas