

Cable News Network also, and I think as an American people, we should expect attacks on American soil through acts of terror from the minute that that vote is taken, and we should be prepared for that as a Nation. The only way to be prepared for that as a Nation is to have the Guard and Reserve called up.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members are reminded that their remarks in debate should be addressed to the Chair. It is not in order to direct remarks directly to the President of the United States.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I want to continue on the general thesis of the concern that many of us have on this side of the aisle, that we seemingly have forgotten about budgets and balanced budgets and we seem to not be willing to talk about the deficits that are now occurring. That is very alarming.

As you know, last year this body passed a budget, an economic game plan. There seems to be a great reluctance to change that plan, which means that we are now willingly going to be endorsing deficits as far as the eye can see.

We on this side on the Blue Dog Caucus have repeatedly offered to work in a bipartisan way with our friends on the other side of the aisle and with the administration to come up with a new budget plan. But there seems to be no desire whatsoever to do so.

We now are very concerned, because at the end of this month the few remaining budget rules that have worked fairly good over the most recent period of time when we did achieve a balanced budget, pay-go, simply saying if you are going to increase spending you have got to find some cut somewhere else, expire. If you are going to cut taxes, you have got to find somewhere else to pay for it. It has worked pretty good, when the spirit of this body was behind it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there seems to be no willingness of the leadership of this House to pass these budget enforcement rules so that they might at least be enforced, and some would say so they can be ignored, which is basically what we have been doing in this body all year. The rules we have, we ignore them and we pass a rule over the objection of the minority.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget makes a very compelling argument that we should stop blaming the other body for what they are not doing and just us do our job. It would seem that it would make a lot

more sense to all of us in this body if we passed all 13 appropriation bills. Then we would have something to be concerned about, whether the Senate does or does not pass a budget.

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But we seemingly are not going to be able to pass the 13 appropriation bills, but some of us seem perfectly willing to find somebody to blame. I was reminded a long time ago when you are pointing the finger of blame at someone else, there are always three pointing back at you; and we need to be reminded and we are going to take to the floor quite often over the next several days and remind everyone of the multitude of budget votes, lockbox votes that we voted in this body almost unanimously that no one was going to touch the Social Security surplus. We are. And as far as the eye can see, we are going to be doing it again.

Running up debt, we increased our Nation's debt by \$450 billion in a vote last year. We are going to have to do it again early next year because, as the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) pointed out, our public debt outstanding has now gone to \$6.210 trillion. That is an increase of \$440 billion, and I said increase because seemingly when you read the press and you read the rhetoric of what we are attempting to be told that it is not that bad, it is that bad. It is a serious problem, and it goes far beyond the war on terrorism.

CBO says the impact of September 11 represents only about 11 percent of the total deterioration of the surplus since last year, and now we are being told that we are going to possibly be in another war, that the estimated cost now ranges somewhere between 100 and \$200 billion. We should spend some time, instead of doing what we seem to be doing here this week, very few votes of substance, very few discussions, no bills being proposed to put the pay-go rules and putting some budget discipline back into our budget, no one talking about a budget, no one talking about a new budget, which means that somebody ought to come on this floor and defend the budget that we are now under.

Come on this floor and honestly talk about the fact that we have borrowed in the last 12 months \$440 billion; \$440 billion that we have borrowed. We owe the Social Security trust fund \$1.3 trillion. We owe Medicare \$263 billion. We owe the military retirement fund \$164 billion. We owe the civil service retirement and disability fund \$535 billion, and we are increasing that. I do not think that is the kind of a budget confidence vote that the markets are looking at or that anyone is looking at today.

I would conclude my remarks by saying Congress and the President need to come up with a new budget and economic game plan to deal with the changes in our budgetary outlook and deal with the new circumstances facing this country. To do otherwise is fiscally irresponsible.

IMPLEMENTING A LONG-TERM BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on the themes that were developed by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

Mr. Speaker, we are less than 2 weeks away from the end of the fiscal year, and it is rapidly becoming very clear that the leadership of the House, this House of Representatives, has painted itself into a corner. How do we implement a responsible long-term budget plan? How do we extend the current budget enforcement rules that help control discretionary spending and require offsets for mandatory spending and new tax cuts? These budget enforcement rules are set to expire on October 1. How do we enact the 13 annual appropriations bills in regular order?

All of these questions must be answered by the House leadership if we are going to stem the flow of red ink and put the Federal budget back on the path to balance. Unfortunately, the only solution that the House leadership seems to have is to pretend that these deadlines do not exist. This is not a workable solution.

The Blue Dog Coalition has offered to work with the Republican leadership to develop bipartisan answers to these questions by establishing a viable long-term budget, extending the budget enforcement rules to control both the tax side and the spending side of the Federal budget, and to develop a road map to enact the appropriations bills in a fiscally responsible manner. We have offered in the past to work with the leadership, and we do that again this week.

First, Congress and the President need to make tough choices to address the changes in the budget outlook. The President has an obligation to lead in proposing a game plan to deal with the changed circumstances and to put the budget back on a path to balance without using the Social Security surplus. Right now under the President's budget, we will be borrowing from the Social Security trust fund until at least 2009. Given that the House of Representatives has voted seven times since I have been in this House in 5½ years to protect the Social Security trust fund by placing it in a lockbox, it is simply unacceptable to borrow the Social Security trust fund for the next 8 years to operate the general revenue side of the government. This is why we must sit down in a bipartisan manner and develop realistic tax and spending levels that will put us back on the glide path to a balanced budget.

Next, we must extend the budget caps which are set to expire, the provisions of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, which were adopted on a bipartisan basis expire, as I said earlier, on October 1. Unless we renew our budget