

be in support of a budget reconciliation package that is part of a broken budget process in need of serious reform? And why would we support a budget reconciliation process that is part of an overtly partisan failed strategy, a strategy that will fail the House majority leadership and would fail the American people if Blue Dogs did not stand firmly against it.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand firmly against it as well and vote "no" on the budget reconciliation bill.

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT A GOOD FIRST STEP FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, earlier today, my good friend RAHM EMANUEL, a Democrat from Illinois, said, "Tomorrow the House will vote on America's future, with an \$8 trillion national debt and with a Congress that spent \$60 billion in 6 days without a thought as to how we were going to pay for it." I could not agree more.

The gentleman from Illinois went on to say, "Where else could we cut food stamps and Medicaid?" and he answered, "With a Republican Congress" and a lament.

And I would ask, where else but in Washington, DC could a deficit reduction act that actually increases entitlements by 6.3 percent, instead of the planned 6.4 percent, be called a cut? The budget cuts we will pass tomorrow, let me say again, will still increase spending in Medicaid student loans and aid to dependent families. As a conservative, as some of my Blue Dog colleagues have said, I do not think this deficit reduction act goes nearly far enough to do right by those children and grandchildren that we raise. But it is a good first step. It is a modest start in the direction of putting our fiscal house in order. I urge my Republican and Democrat colleagues of goodwill to support it.

□ 1030

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the Federal budget is about priorities. And with this budget, Republicans have their priorities all wrong. As an example, The Washington Post reports that young people from rural America are shouldering a disproportionate burden of the war in Iraq. Why? Rural Americans are increasingly willing to risk dying in this Iraqi quagmire to improve their chances of paying for college and getting a decent paying job.

More than 44 percent of military recruits now come from rural areas. Only

14 percent come from American cities. Also, many military recruits are financially strapped. Nearly 50 percent of them come from lower-middle-class to poor households. In 2004, nearly two-thirds of Army recruits came from counties in which median household income is below the U.S. median.

Why do I tell you this? Because the response of this Republican-led Congress is to impose \$14.5 billion in deeper budget cuts in student aid. How does that add up?

REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES DEMAND SACRIFICE OF THE MANY, PROVIDE ENRICHMENT OF THE FEW

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, the Republican budget bill is not a document of our Nation's priorities. The Republicans are not listening to the needs of average Americans who want a fair budget and lower deficits.

Here are 10 quick reasons why this mean-spirited bill should be defeated this week. First, it takes from the poor and middle class to make the rich richer. Second, it includes the largest cuts in student loans in history. Third, it provides a \$24 billion windfall to delinquent dads. Fourth, it destroys the pristine Arctic refuge and endangers our coastline.

Fifth, it worsens America's health status by cutting Medicaid by \$12 billion. Sixth, it cuts safety-net funding for our most vulnerable children. Seventh, it takes school lunches away from 40,000 kids who desperately need the nutritional content that those lunches provide. Eighth, it fails to adequately fund vital support services for workers. Ninth, it adds insult to injury for farmers in the form of commodity cuts. And tenth, despite all these cuts, it still swells the deficit. And I stress, it still swells the deficit.

FISCAL FANTASY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I was listening to some of this hysteria and rhetoric from the Democrat Party, and I wonder sometimes if they actually believe what their speech writers apparently give them. Obviously, they do not read it before they start giving the speech because they know food stamps are going up \$250 million. It is not a cut. Medicaid is going up \$66 billion. That is not a cut. Medicaid goes up 7 percent instead of 7.3 percent. That is what you need to be saying; we think it should be going up more than you guys, but admit, as we all know, Medicaid is going up 7 percent, \$66 billion.

Yet in Washington, D.C., just like Disney World, there is a lot of fantasy around us. And the fantasy is that if

you do not get the increase that you want, you can go out and have the New York Times and Washington Post say, yes, he is right, that is a cut because they are not going up 7.3 percent, they are going up 7 percent. We have a plan to reform government and create savings. Yesterday, the Democrat Party announced they would have no agenda for 2005. Well, surprise, surprise. It is only November. But when is the Democrat Party going to announce its alternative? I will ask that question. I hope somebody will answer.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, a rose by any other name smells just as sweet. And dung by any other name stinks just as much. A stinking bill that cuts spending for Medicaid, food stamps, student loans, foster care, child support, school lunches, and senior care by \$54 billion and then cuts revenue taxes for folks earning \$300,000 or more by \$70 billion still leaves a stinking deficit of \$16 billion. Add \$7.1 billion for the cost of the President's flu initiative and \$200 billion for gulf coast reconstruction and that grows to \$223 billion.

This Republican reconciliation package is misnamed. It is actually a sham. Republicans have rejected the Blue Dog 12-point plan to cut deficit spending and now want to fool the American people. Madam Speaker, you can dress up a pig and call it a lady, but it is still a stinking pig. You can dress up a sham and call it deficit reduction; but it still says oink, oink, still stinks and is still a lie.

REPUBLICAN CUTS TO FOOD STAMPS

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Republican cuts to food stamps under this reconciliation budget, an incredible total loss of \$844 million, \$844 million that comes directly from people in this country who are struggling to feed themselves and their families; \$844 million from people who can least afford such a drastic cut. And once again, immigrant families are being treated particularly inhumanely by this Republican plan.

And let me be clear. We are talking about denying assistance to legal permanent residents, immigrants who play by the rules, support our communities, and serve in our military; immigrants who sacrifice so much to come here; immigrants who are frequently among the most vocal supporters of America and the American Dream. Under the Republican plan, 70,000 legal immigrant households will be denied food stamps for an extra 5 years.

But if the argument for supporting humane treatment of our immigrant population does not sway you, consider that many of these legal immigrant families include children, kids who are American citizens, kids who will be denied food stamps for an extra 5 years. If you do not see this as unconscionable, I do not know what you see as unconscionable. If you do not think this is un-American, I do not believe there is anything that is un-American more than this.

WHAT RECONCILIATION MEANS

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

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, the Republican leadership has announced earlier that tomorrow we will vote on budget reconciliation. I wanted to understand better what reconciliation meant, so I went to Webster. And let me read to you what it means to reconcile: to restore to friendship or harmony; secondly, to make consistent or congruous; thirdly, to check a financial account against another for accuracy. That is Webster. The Republican budget reconciliation certainly does not restore friendship and harmony since they have been unwilling to include any Democrats, including our Blue Dog Coalition, in the discussion of this huge deficit problem. And it certainly does not make our financial accounts balance since it will increase our annual deficit by more than \$16 billion. Under this administration and Republican leadership in Congress, our national debt has shot through the \$8 trillion mark and continues to rise.

PAYGO PROPOSAL

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I think most folks back home want us to get along with each other in order to strengthen our Nation. Well, how can we best do that, especially at a time of contentious budget reconciliation? There is a simple proposal called PAYGO that is not theory; it has worked incredibly well. It worked from the year 1990 to the year 2002 when our friends on the other side of the aisle allowed it to expire.

How well did it work? Well, Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said it is the single most important thing we can do to right our fiscal ship. Pay-as-you-go means that if you want to spend more money, you have to find offsetting cuts somewhere before you can think about spending the new money. And it also means if you want to offer someone a tax cut, that is fine. Just figure out a way to pay for it. It is a simple and clear rule, and it guided our Nation into prosperity from 1990 to 2002.

Why can we not readopt that? It has proven to work and work well for all

Americans and to strengthen our Nation. The Blue Dog Coalition has been more consistent in its support for the PAYGO provisions than any other group in Congress. Support PAYGO.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I love coming down here and listening to these whiz bangs on the other side talk about their fiscal responsibility and all of this foolishness that they have put forth to the American people. It makes me want a dip of snuff. It is almost like they cannot add and subtract. I know they cannot multiply and divide. But the great mystery to me will always remain why in 5 years' time when they have increased the national debt by \$3 trillion and demonstrated beyond a shadow of a doubt that they have absolutely no interest in being responsible, they would come here, present a budget that increases the debt by tens of billions of dollars more and try to tell the American people this is what you need; this is what we are going to do for you. You are going to have to answer to your children and grandchildren. And I would love to be there when they walk up to you and say, Grandmother, Grandfather, why did you do this to us?

RECONCILIATION PLAN

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

Mr. MELANCON. Madam Speaker, I cannot vote for this reconciliation plan for one very simple reason: Now is not the time to be cutting taxes for the wealthy in our country when the people of the ravaged gulf coast region receive silence and burdensome loans. I join my fellow Blue Dogs in opposition to this plan. Do the math: \$54 billion in spending cuts minus \$70 billion in tax cuts equals a \$16 billion increase in the deficit. We give tax cuts to the rich and continue to run up the deficit, but continue to send loans to the people who need their government the most in the gulf coast region.

Our government must do just as President Bush said in Jackson Square, whatever it takes to rebuild. I agree with the President on rebuilding. But let me be clear. Cutting taxes for the wealthy while loaning money to the devastated communities along the gulf coast is the wrong course of action. Let us start sending real help to the people in need and stop sending millionaires refund checks.

STUDENT AID IN RECONCILIATION BILL

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

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, tomorrow's reconciliation bill is a reckless attack on students attending college. Basically, the bill burdens students from low- and middle-income families with 33 percent higher debt to pay for tax cuts that benefit almost exclusively those whose income is over \$200,000 a year. This bill cuts \$14 billion from student aid by increasing interest rates and taxes on loans and charging students new fees.

The cost of college is skyrocketing, and it already leaves the average student \$17,000 in debt. This bill would increase that debt by 33 percent. Many low- and middle-income students will no longer be able to afford college and their lifetime earning power will be reduced. Under the reconciliation bill, at least four students are going to start their careers burdened with added debt to pay for each millionaire's tax cut. And all this is being done so that the wealthiest 3 percent of Americans can have another huge tax cut.

REPUBLICAN RECONCILIATION BILL

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Republican reconciliation bill, pretending to finally bring a sense of fiscal responsibility to that side of the aisle, having increased our debt by 62 percent in 5 years, actually is bleeding middle-income families, kids who want to get a higher education, \$14 billion out of student loans.

Those youngsters in the elementary schools are eating too much. Cut student lunches for those kids. Foster care, the family values side, long-term care for seniors. Why are they cutting all that? So they can bleed the poor and the middle class in this country. And then as they create this giant sea of red ink, they will float the yachts of the wealthy on it by giving them \$70 billion in tax breaks, actually increasing the deficit, having already stuck it to the middle class and struggling families.

They are going to increase the deficit in order to finance tax cuts for people who earn over \$300,000 a year so their yachts can be a little bigger and float a little higher. They should be ashamed of what they are doing to America and what they are doing to middle-income and struggling families.

□ 1045

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 539 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: