But one would never know it from listening to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, many of whom seem to be positively incapable of describing our tax cut proposal accurately.

Republicans call for both tax relief and debt reduction in our proposal. Indeed, our plan would reduce the debt held by the public by slightly over $2 trillion over the next 10 years. To call that irresponsible is reckless or a bit odd. We have a balanced and fair plan that not only provides for debt reduction and tax relief, but insists on a Social Security and Medicare lockbox provision for the first time. One hundred percent of the retirement surplus would go to Social Security and Medicare.

In other words, all FICA taxes would actually go towards the programs they were designed to go towards, Social Security and Medicare.

Do Democrats really think that is reckless?

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, to prevent potential catastrophic nationwide computer meltdown, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, is fighting brokers and firms to ensure that their computers actually read “00” as of January 1 of 2000.

Recently an 87-year-old broker who has spent 50 years in the investment business was fined $5,000 for not being Y2K compliant. There is only one problem. This particular gentleman does not own a computer. His operation is so small he does not actually sell them mutual funds he just gives advice. He never touches any money at all.

Mr. Speaker, that has not stopped the SEC from demanding a yearly audit of his firm which costs him another $5,000. He went ahead, and he paid the original Y2K fine because he could not afford the money to fight the bureaucracy.

He will not be without a computer for long, however. New SEC regulations insist that all brokers have a computer so they can receive e-mail notices from the agencies.

Here we have a legitimate businessman being harassed and intimidated by his own government agency paid for by the government’s own tax dollars. Outrageous. It is inexcusable and a waste of taxpayers’ time and money.

The Securities and Exchange Commission gets my porker of the week award and my disgust.

STOP THE ANTI-MINING GREED

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. The left-leaning, anti-mining zealots want a Federal tax on all mining operations on an estimated, hypothetical, or proposed value of a mine. Moreover, the proposed values that are given to these mines are nothing but mere guesses that always grossly overexaggerate the worth of the mineral deposit.

For example, some of these mining opponents cite the Stillwater Mine in Montana as a taxpayer giveaway of $38 billion. Grossly exaggerated, Mr. Speaker. $38 billion could fund a hostile takeover of the Ford Motor Company. This amount of money could purchase the entire metal mining industry in the United States and Canada.

Some claims that patents Barrick Gold Mine have a value of $10 billion. Keep in mind that the supposed 10 billion is wrapped up in a small acreage of desert rock. Using their irrational logic, one could say that the raw land beneath the Washington Post printing plant would be worth several billion dollars itself.

In 1556 Georgious Agricola stated the miners should start mining operations in a district only where it is friendly. This quote still holds true today. Stop the anti-mining greed.

MIRONING THE PASSING OF REV. BOOKER T. SEARS OF SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, every community has citizens that strive to improve the way of life for all those around them. They serve others because they want to, not because they have to.

One such man was Reverend Booker T. Sears of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Last week Reverend Sears, a pioneer civil rights leader and respected community leader, passed away at his home. Reverend Sears was pastor of Thompson Street Baptist Church for nearly 50 years. His efforts within the community helped integrate public schools, desegregate public transportation, and develop many community improvement projects.

Reverend Sears will be remembered as a man who truly cared about all those around him. During his career, he was a mentor to young pastors and a servant to everyone in the community.

Reverend Sears is a testimony of one man making a difference in the lives of thousands, Mr. Speaker. We will miss Reverend Sears. It is now our time to carry on his mission of love and service.