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Welcome, Mr. President. We will extend our hand so that you will not fall. Together we can take a big red pen like the one I am holding in my hand and cut wasteful Government programs, protecting the Social Security surplus.

Congratulations, Mr. President. Come on over.

REPUBLICANS USE SOCIAL SECURITY AS A PIGGY BANK

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, it is so very refreshing to see the Republicans here on the floor professing an interest in protecting the Social Security surplus.

It was only a short time ago that their majority leader was condemning Social Security as a bad deal and saying he never would have created it in the first place.

What we do know this year is, after jeopardizing Social Security with a near trillion-dollar irresponsible tax break for those at the top of the economic ladder, that the Republicans' own Congressional Budget Office has verified that they have gone \$13 billion already, if we stop right now and went home, \$13 billion into the Social Security surplus. That is without ever having come to this House floor, 3 weeks after the Federal fiscal deadline, and presented the bill to fund education and health and a wide variety of other measures.

The Republicans, if they stay on their current course, are going to dip into Social Security another \$24 billion dollars. That is without any help from anyone but themselves. Apparently, their new interest in Social Security is to use it as a piggy bank.

PRESIDENT'S TAX VETO ALLOWS "DEATH TAX" TO CONTINUE TO CLOSE SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have here a headline from the Colorado Springs Gazette newspaper. It says, "Brookhart's Lumber Business Selling to Avoid 'Death Tax,' Company Says."

I have known this company for over 30 years. I watched their struggle over this issue. This is a company that is 52 years old, locally owned, three generations. They wanted to continue to operate this profitable small business. They wanted their boys to inherit it when they are gone. But they cannot because of the death tax.

Locally-owned company sells out to a Dallas conglomerate. We lose a locally-owned company.

Be proud, Mr. President, your veto saved the Nation from this evil tax cut

that would have gotten rid of the death tax and prevented incidences like the Brookharts which are occurring all over the Nation with small farms and businesses everywhere.

In his passion for more tax dollars and for the bigger Government he so loves, he should remember that there are real-life consequences to his irresponsible actions.

Be proud, Mr. President. But I am ashamed of you and your thirst for the hard-earned tax dollars of working Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). The Chair will remind Members to address the Chair, the Speaker, and not other persons.

PEACE WEEK

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Peace Week.

The award-winning Peace Week program has brought together three communities I am so proud to represent: Guadalupe, Orcutt, and Santa Maria. During the week, residents of these communities united to show their commitment to creating and building a more peaceful society.

The success of this innovative week is due in no small part to the great contributions made by Sister Janet Corcoran at the Marion Medical Center in Santa Maria.

Sister Janet started this program 3 years ago when she noticed such an increase in the number of victims of violence admitted to Marion's Emergency Room. Sister Janet saw the need for leaders throughout the community to get involved. With their leadership, Peace Week has developed into an effective series of workshops and activities to promote non-violence strategies.

It is fitting that Peace Week corresponds with our own Voices Against Violence Teen Conference here in the Capitol, which includes a young student from Santa Maria. Both are excellent examples of programs aimed at preventing violence.

Peace Week illustrates well how communities can come together and make real change. I am so proud that this is taking place in my district.

"HOUSE CLOBBERS CLINTON TAX BOOST"

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, let me share with my colleagues a headline from the front page of one of the leading newspapers in the country. Today the front page headline in The Washington Times says, "House Clobbers Clinton Tax Boost."

That is right. Did my colleagues know that Bill Clinton and AL GORE wanted to raise taxes again? In fact, yesterday this House voted on the \$238-billion Clinton-Gore tax increase. And even House Democrats who joined with Bill Clinton and AL GORE in 1993 giving our Nation the biggest tax hike in the history of our country voted against another round of tax increases.

The question I am asked also besides the Bill Clinton tax increases is, is it true that Bill Clinton wants to raid Social Security again? And we recall earlier in the President's budget that he submitted to Congress he called for setting aside 62 percent of Social Security for Social Security and taking the other 38 percent, almost \$340 billion of Social Security, and spending it on other things. I would point out this House has rejected that, as well.

My colleagues, we can balance the budget without increasing taxes. We can balance the budget without raiding Social Security.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CLAIMS THEY ARE SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership is stealing eggs from the hen house while pretending to guard the door. They claim that they are saving Social Security. But their own office, their own office, the Congressional Budget Office, points out that they have already spent \$13 billion worth of Social Security money.

Their leadership budget is so full of gimmicks and budget tricks that it would make an accountant cry. In an attempt to fudge the numbers, the leadership created a 13th month so that they can crunch more numbers into the fiscal year.

But the facts are very stubborn things. The Republican leadership is not saving Social Security. They have no plans to do so. The Republican majority leader himself has called Social Security a "rotten trick" and "bad retirement." He has called for Social Security to be phased out.

Earlier this year the Republican leadership tried to spend nearly \$1 trillion of the surplus on tax breaks for the wealthiest people of this country instead of strengthening Social Security.