

question was on the lips of every senior there: What are you going to do to protect Social Security, and will you protect it for my children?

The President's budget has answered that question yes. Yes, we will protect Social Security. We will do so in a common sense way. We will set aside the surplus to protect Social Security, to protect Medicare, and to invest in our future. It is the right thing to do, it is the common sense thing to do, and it is what the American people and the people of my district of southwest Washington want us to do.

Madam Speaker, when this debate moves forward on how we will spend that surplus, I urge my colleagues and friends here, do the right thing. Protect Social Security for our current seniors and for our future generations.

□ 1045

**REPUBLICANS WANT AMERICANS TO KEEP MORE OF THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY, DEMOCRATS WANT MORE BIG GOVERNMENT**

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, the issue is very simple. We want, on the Republican side, to allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. The Democrats want to increase the size of government.

Let me say that again so the message is clear. On the Republican side, we want the American people to keep more of their hard-earned dollars through tax cuts. On the Democratic side, they want to increase the size of government.

Let me say it again so the message is loud and clear. On the Republican side, we want the American workers to keep more of their hard-earned dollars through tax cuts. The Democrats want to spend more of our money.

Let me say it a fourth time, or do I have to? Who do we trust? Do we trust big government to spend our money, or do we trust yourself to spend more of our money through tax cuts?

**THE DEMOCRAT PLAN WILL PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE**

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, we all of us here in Congress must speak out very loudly and very clearly about protecting the very foundations of our Nation's retirement security. Democrats say save the surplus to protect social security and Medicare.

Our Republican colleagues' rhetoric has frightened a whole generation of

American people to such an extent that they fear it will not be there when they retire. I am one of them. But the Democratic plan will keep our economic engine running and competitive while maintaining fiscal discipline, and ensuring that social security and Medicare will absolutely be there to protect every American family.

Republicans want to leave over 45 million middle class families out in the cold with their tax cuts for the wealthy, with their tax plan. But the average annual cut for 60 percent of regular American taxpayers would be a measly \$100. Compare that to \$20,000 for those earning over \$300,000 and we will see who will be shortchanged.

The Republican tax cut plan is unfair. Let us use the surplus for everyone.

**THE SURPLUS SHOULD BE SPENT IN PAYING DOWN THE NATIONAL DEBT**

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

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, there is a lot of talk about the surplus. Everybody has ideas on how to spend the surplus. Fortunately, saving social security is high on every list, as well as tax cuts.

There is another necessity, paying down the national debt. We do not hear much about paying down the national debt. It is a lot more fun to spend money. But the interest on the present debt is \$300 billion a year. As we pay down the debt, interest payments will decrease, which means more money for the real needs of government.

Let us put paying down the debt high on our priority list.

**DEMOCRAT PLAN WILL SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND PROVIDE TARGETED TAX CUTS TO MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS**

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, for the first time in three decades the Federal Government has a surplus. The debate: what to do with it. Today Democrats want to use the historic \$70 billion surplus to save social security, save Medicare, and to provide targeted tax cuts to middle class families.

Republicans want to give a one-time tax break that mostly benefits the wealthy. The Republican tax plan is unfair and it is ill-advised. A 10 percent tax cut is a plan that is skewed to the wealthy. If Republicans get their way, 60 percent of Americans, the middle class backbone of this country, will get a tax rebate of only \$100, while the wealthy, those making over \$300,000, will get a \$20,000 tax break.

Let us take this opportunity to help people. Let us save social security and Medicare. Let us look at those targeted tax cuts, like a tax cut for long-term health care, school modernization, child care, for stay-at-home parents, those that directly benefit working middle class families. Let us not squander this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

**LET US KEEP OUR SENIOR CITIZENS FROM POVERTY AND SUPPORT SOCIAL SECURITY**

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, before the implementation of social security, so many of our senior citizens in America simply died in poverty. Let me make myself perfectly clear. Before we had social security, so many of our senior citizens died in poverty. Yet, our Republican friends choose to give away tax dollars, if you will, without realizing the importance of saving social security as the most successful anti-poverty legislation ever passed into law by Congress.

Social security is not broken. For millions of Americans, it is the only means of sustenance that is available to them. For millions of others, it is a necessary supplement to their pension plans and retirement funds. Without social security, I have no doubt that the life of older Americans and the disabled will be stark and unforgiving.

That is why we must reinvest our budget surplus into social security, to make sure they will be there for our future. Under the President's budget for the next fiscal year, we will take 62 percent of our budget surplus and put it back into social security, helping extend the life of the program decades beyond 2032.

Madam Speaker, let us take our senior citizens out of poverty and support the continuation of social security.

**THE PRESIDENT CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS**

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last year in the President's proposed budget, he proposed saving all surpluses in the future for social security. Then he went on in his proposal and had enough new spending to eliminate all surpluses.

The President cannot have it both ways. This year he is proposing 62 percent of future surpluses for social security, and everybody is applauding that; 15 percent of surpluses to save Medicare, and many are applauding that. Then he went on with a spending plan that would take 75 to 80 percent of proposed surpluses and spend them.