

and choosing where the numbers come from, the Congressional Budget Office at one point, the Office of Management and Budget at another.

This violates a fundamental rule in accounting, not consistently applying the accounting principles; or, in this case, the budget forecasting. Picking and choosing. And we should no more let the White House do that than let Members of our own body do that. We in Congress should stand square behind the principle that we insist that the budget forecasting process have integrity, and that we not claim that no such bill has been on the floor of the House when the Wall Street Journal has already reported that we have done it and when the Congressional Budget Office has already reported that we are \$17 billion into the Social Security surplus.

We must improve our practices if we are going to continue to have any credibility. We cannot have letters of the type that are circulating in this Chamber today. And, Mr. Speaker, I will submit this letter for the RECORD.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, November 8, 1999.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Many of you are asking when we expect the budget negotiations to be completed. We expect budget negotiations to be complete when we have a balanced budget that doesn't raid Social Security, doesn't raise taxes and pays down the debt for the third year in a row.

Earlier this year our conference committed to stop the 30-year raid on Social Security—and according to the Congressional Budget Office, we have done that. The President began the budget negotiations by taking a large step our way and joining us in our commitment to lock away every penny of Social Security. We're working with him in a bipartisan fashion to protect retirement security.

The key to the whole puzzle is protecting Social Security and paying down debt. We will not schedule any piece of legislation on the House floor that spends one penny of Social Security. That said, we expect to adjourn for the year when we've ensured that every penny of Social Security is locked away.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us personally.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.
DICK ARMEY,
Majority Leader.
TOM DELAY,
Majority Whip.
J.C. WATTS,
Conference Chairman.

ONE PENNY ON A DOLLAR WILL SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to start off by just kind of rebutting my distinguished colleague. The Wall Street Journal is a great newspaper,

but, tell me, have my colleagues ever read a newspaper that does not sometimes get it wrong; does not stretch the truth?

Here is a report from the Congressional Budget Office. Now, I know the good folks at the Wall Street Journal know everything there is about Congress and spending and so forth, but these people are actually hired to do this job, they are the ones who are in the room. CBO stands for Congressional Budget Office, and they have certified that the Republican budget does not raid the Social Security Trust Fund, as have the Democrat budgets for the past 40 years. Here is what it says: Projected on-budget surplus under the congressional scoring, the way it is done, \$1 billion, and this is as of October 27, 1999.

Now, it is real odd to me that people who have been voting against every single appropriations bill because they do not spend enough money are now coming in here in the 11th hour and trying to rewrite the rules. Where was this fiscal austerity back during the September and October debates? All we heard from the liberal side of the aisle was, "You don't spend enough money, so we are going to vote no."

Well, hello, where does the money come from? Social Security. We have held the line on it, we have passed the appropriation bills, 13 of them on Republican votes, because we could not get our Democrat colleagues to join us because it did not spend enough money for them.

Yes, there have been a few defectors, and we appreciate them, but we started this year taking the President on. He said from the well of the House let us spend 40 percent, actually I think it was 38 percent, of the Social Security surplus on a whole line of new entitlement programs. But the Republicans' key goal is to not spend the Social Security surplus. That is a quote. That is a direct quote from the White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, and that was as of October 20.

Now, that is coming from the folks who do not exactly like Republicans down on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. We are not going to spend the Social Security surplus.

Now, what have we proposed doing? We have proposed reducing the size of the government budget. For every \$1 we have asked the bureaucracies in Washington to cut out a penny, and they can do it. Here is an example of one place they could do it. Now, we have heard there is absolutely no waste, but this is the President's trip to Africa. He went on a number of trips this year. He went to China and spent \$18.8 million, took 500 people; went to Chile, spent \$10.5 million; went to Africa and spent \$42.8 million, and took 1300 of his dearest and closest Federal Government friends. Now, there were other people. This does not include Se-

cret Service or Peace Corps, this only includes Federal Government employees.

Now, under our radical budget, the President next year would say 13 of those friends will have to stay home. One example would be the mayor of Denver. The mayor of Denver goes to Africa with the President. Why? Is Colorado so important to our African policy? If so, why not let the good people of Denver pass a hat and pay his freight? Thirteen hundred people went to Africa for \$42.8 million. There is not a Member of this House who would say that was a wise expenditure of money, and there is not a member of this White House who would say he could not cut some of that out.

Or what about the \$3 million ducks in Hawaii? The U.S. Department of Interior bought an island off of Hawaii for \$30 million. The purpose was so ducks could breed on it. The only problem was only 10 ducks took advantage of this new honeymoon package. So what we have are ducks, \$3 million each, over there having a big time. Now, we need to find a Hugh Hefner kind of duck who can promote this thing a little bit and maybe we can get it down to \$1 million or \$2 million a duck.

I think back in South Georgia we would probably call this a waste of money, and I suspect the folks would in Kansas, New York, and all over the place.

What is this really about? This is about trying to get Washington on line with the American people, the people who drive an extra two blocks to fill up their tank for \$1.07 a gallon instead of \$1.15 a gallon; the people who do not buy a new suit until the clothes are on sale; the people who go out to eat when they have a coupon and order chicken instead of steak; and the people who do not buy any running shoes unless they are the discontinued brand or marked down 50 percent; and the parents who raise their kids to turn off the light when they leave a room, and do not run the water when they brush their teeth.

We are saying to Washington that they should live their lives like the American people. If we can, we can find a lot more than a penny on a dollar and we can save Social Security.

NEW SENSE OF HOPE AND RE- NEWAL TO EASTERN NORTH CAROLINIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I will leave a response to that very comical presentation to a later time.

I have a more serious and also a very jovial and happy announcement to make, and that is to thank Members of Congress and to thank their staffs in particular for joining with 11 Members