November 17, 1999

Mr. Speaker, this Republican-led Congress has successfully passed important and responsible legislation, and we can do it again.

TAKING PORK OUT OF SPENDING BILL

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, we have essentially a colloquy here this morning, and I would like to join with my colleague from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) in pointing out the irony of what is happening.

We are dipping into the Social Security Trust Fund, according to the leadership’s plan, by at least $17 billion. We are cutting across the board, or prospectively, the President’s plan, by at least $17 billion. We are doing this to avoid what the Administration claims is a trillion-dollar deficit.

We are giving the American people a trillion-dollar investment that we are going to take away from them.

Unbelievable, Mr. Speaker. The American people have been deceived. They have been lied to. They have been lied to.

Let us give the American people a tax cut at this time, when we are in mid-November and quite frankly the Republican-led Congress has done very little. The Appropriations bills languish and the needs of the American people are being met. Now we seem to be arguing over four-tenths of 1 percent of a cut. We need to move on.

DO-LITTLE CONGRESS

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, here we are in mid-November and quite frankly the Republican-led Congress has done very little. The Appropriations bills languish and the needs of the American people are not being met. Now we seem to be arguing over four-tenths of 1 percent of a cut. All that the American people asked for things that cost very little and would improve their lives, like a Patient’s Bill of Rights so patients and doctors can make their medical decisions; like an increase in minimum wage so everyone can enjoy the strong economy; like 100,000 more teachers so we can have smaller classes. And, Mr. Speaker, why can we not provide prescription drug coverage for all of our seniors?

Mr. Speaker, let us work for the American people. Unfortunately, under the Republican-led Congress, it is always the same old song. Tax breaks for the rich and a tax on government. America wants a Congress that works for them like Democrats are fighting for, for 100,000 teachers, 50,000 new police officers, a real Patient’s Bill of Rights, protecting our environment and providing prescription drug coverage for all seniors, all paid for, all paid for without busting the budget or raiding Social Security.

RHETORIC AND WASTE IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. President, come home and solve this final budget problem that we have here. We may again have an across-the-board reduction in spending to finally find the offsets to cover the additional spending the President wants to put forth. We need him to return from all of these foreign affairs trips he is taking.

It is too bad I only have 1 minute here, because I could go on for hours about the waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government. He claims we cannot reduce by only a penny out of $1 waste, fraud and abuse.

Here is an example. Mr. Speaker, $14.2 billion that was for low-income...