

nothing more than tax overpayment made by taxpayers.

Anyone who has ever looked at Washington for any length of time knows that one of only two things will happen to the surplus. We can give it back to the people who earned it or Washington will find a way to spend it.

I think Jesse "The Body" Ventura was right. The government should apologize and then refund the money back to the people to whom it belongs in the first place, the taxpayers of America.

#### ANOTHER VIEW ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, let me set the record straight. The money that comes in here belongs to the American people. But what we fail to deal with is the history.

All during the Reagan administration, Democrats and Republicans in this House spent Social Security money and used it like a credit card. We built up a \$5 trillion debt for the Cold War. Now, after almost 10 years of work, since I have been in the Congress, since 1988 and under Mr. Clinton for the last few years, we have got a surplus. What does the majority leader offer us? Let us take the surplus and give it away and leave that credit card debt there.

No American family, when they receive money in a Christmas bonus or whatever, says, "Well, we got all this credit card debt; let's go get deeper in debt." That would not be a financially prudent family. The United States Congress, acting on behalf of the American people, ought to pay off the credit card debt in Medicare and in Social Security.

#### CONGRATULATING COACH JIM PHELAN AND MOUNT ST. MARY'S MOUNTAINEERS ON EARNING BID TO NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate coach Jim Phelan and the Mount St. Mary's Mountaineers on earning a bid to the NCAA basketball championship for only the second time in their school's history.

The Mounties won the right to go to the Big Dance by defeating the Blue Devils of Central Connecticut State on Monday night by a 72-56 margin. Monday night's victory was the third straight upset for the Mountaineers who were seeded sixth entering the

Northeast Conference Tournament. The Mount was led by the smooth shooting of Gregory Harris and the tenacious defense of Melvin Whitaker.

In addition to earning a right to play in the NCAA championships, Monday's victory was also an historic event for their longtime coach. Jim Phelan became only the fourth coach in NCAA history to win 800 games. He joins the ranks of Adolph Rupp, Dean Smith and Clarence Gaines and is the winningest active coach in the NCAA. Coach Phelan's 800 wins demonstrate his commitment to the school, his players and his community. I am convinced the Hall of Fame is just around the corner.

Congratulations Mount Saint Mary's, and congratulations Coach Jim Phelan.

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#### GUNS OVER PEOPLE

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, during the past year did we not hear the Republicans say something about the rule of law? I think I recall some Republicans saying everyone deserves his or her day in court, even if it means tying up Congress, the White House and the judiciary, costs the taxpayers \$40 million, huge legal bills for everyone. But when it comes to their good friends in the gun lobby and their precious time and money, well, the Republicans simply will not allow them to be threatened with a lawsuit or held accountable through civil action.

Mr. Speaker, once again the GOP does the bidding of the National Rifle Association, preempting cities like Chicago who dare to sue the gun industry, the modern-day merchants of vengeance. A Republican bill will be introduced limiting lawsuits against the gun makers, ironically sponsored by the same gentleman who once told the Committee on the Judiciary a plaintiff deserved her day in court. In the eyes of the GOP, a sitting President can be dragged into a civil suit, but not the gun industry.

Clearly, the Republicans care more about guns than people. I guess that is what GOP stands for: "Guns Over People."

#### THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET DOES NOT ADD UP

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the truth is now out about the President's budget. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, has now documented the obvious. The President's budget just does not add up.

It is not simply a case of the usual Washington accounting tricks. The ac-

counting is so outrageous that no serious analyst can defend it. In fact, the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, shows exactly where and why it does not add up. The budget busts the spending caps that were signed into law by the President in 1997, in the summer of 1997. And even more disturbing, Mr. Speaker, this budget, not only does it not save Social Security, it even dangers Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better.

They deserve an honest budget. They deserve a budget that will continue American prosperity.

They deserve a budget that protects Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget does not do that.

#### PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

(Ms. STABENOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a Democratic administration that has brought us from very large deficits to large surpluses and to say that the next step is to protect Social Security and Medicare and pay back the Social Security Trust Fund. We are not really out of debt until we do that.

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot pay off the national debt when we have a surplus, when will we do it?

Never.

Mr. Speaker, this is a test of the current Congress. Are we going to continue fiscal responsibility or go back to the spending and the deficits of the 1980s?

I stand to support Social Security, Medicare and paying off the debt. If we do that, we put real dollars back into people's pockets by lowering interest rates, which means our mortgages, our credit cards, our car payments go down.

Mr. Chairman, we need to bring down the debt and protect Social Security and Medicare for future generations, and I call on my colleagues to join us in doing that.

#### THE REPUBLICAN PLAN IS BETTER THAN A PAY RAISE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, tax relief is as good as a pay raise, maybe even better. A pay raise could mean higher taxes. It could result in sending more money to Washington, D.C., and have very little extra money jingling around in our pockets. But tax relief is more money in the household budget.

Mr. Speaker, Americans do one of two things when they get a little extra