

**URGING MEMBERS TO COSPONSOR
REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN ACT**

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

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act and changed the way this Nation addresses the crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Today, because of that, there are more investigations and prosecutions with stiffer penalties, including life sentences for those who cross State lines to commit domestic violence. Communities across the country are training police officers on how best to respond to family violence calls.

Today there is a National Domestic Violence Hotline, which provides a lifeline to the more than 8,000 callers each month. There are more shelters and counseling services provided for the women and children who are faced with danger in their own homes. Children who experience domestic violence have stronger advocates and support within the judicial system. These programs have made a significant difference in the health and happiness of hundreds of thousands of women and children and families.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing the 5-year reauthorization of the programs under the Violence Against Women Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsorship. There is no excuse for domestic violence.

**FAIRNESS MUST BE PRACTICED
WITH RESPECT TO APPOINTMENT
OF CONFEREES**

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, with strong Democratic support, the House of Representatives, in a bipartisan way, passed the education flexibility bill. This bill is about old values and new ideas: old values of local control of our schools, new ideas of added flexibility for increased student performance.

When we appointed conferees to this bill last night, our leadership did not appoint a single Democrat who supported the bill on the House Floor. We had a majority of Democrats support the bill in committee, a majority of Democrats support the bill on the House Floor, but yet no Democrats who supported the bill were appointed to conference and supported the bill on the House Floor.

We can talk about Republican and Democratic civility and fairness, we can talk about better ratios and funding, but we need to practice that fair-

ness with our appointments to conference.

In Abraham Lincoln's words, with malice towards none, with charity towards all, these need to be reflected outside our party and within our party.

THE VETERANS' BUDGET

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

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, growing up, one thing I learned from my father, a veteran of the Second World War, was that when you shake hands and make a promise with someone, you stick to it. This might seem a little old-fashioned, but it is a value I will never forget.

Our service men and women enlist in the Armed Forces with a simple understanding. To their country they pledge their youth, their dedication, and if need be, their lives. In return, their country promises that veterans will have some basic needs provided for when they leave active service.

The Clinton-Gore administration has broken this promise to our Nation's veterans. The administration's budget neglects our veterans' health care needs. The VA faces cost increases of more than \$1 billion, and a shortfall of more than \$100 million in medical insurance collections. In other words, our veterans are shortchanged by \$1 billion under the President's budget.

If we add those costs up with the Clinton-Gore proposal, do we know what that amounts to? Disaster. Our veterans deserve better. That is why I support the largest increase in history for VA medical care over the administration's budget request. The majority's \$1 billion increase over the Clinton-Gore budget for veterans will head off predicted closures of needed VA facilities. This is our promise to veterans, and we are going to keep it.

CENSUS UNDERCOUNT

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an accurate Census, and the use of adjusted data to compensate for the chronic undercount of people that occurs in each Census.

In 1990, the Census missed almost 21,000 people in my congressional district in Orange County. This is the equivalent of over \$54 million lost over a 10-year period. Only nine of California's 52 congressional districts were more undercounted than my own. We lost a lot of money, and we pay taxes.

In the city of Anaheim, my own hometown, we were undercounted by over 7,000 people, and as a result, Anaheim lost \$1.5 million in Federal funding, job training, law enforcement,

emergency shelters. These were all underfunded because we were not getting our Federal dollars. It would have made our streets safer, we would have had shelter for the homeless, we could have trained the unemployed.

I urge my colleagues to support the use of adjusted Census data, and challenge them to make all Americans count.

THE CRISIS IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart. I would like to talk about the budget, saving social security, saving Medicare, but I think the crisis in Kosovo demands our attention.

The Constitution says, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States."

Article 1, section 8, says "The Congress shall have the power to declare war." I wonder when we are going to accept responsibility for our actions and debate a declaration of war when we are about ready to bomb a sovereign state. If we want to do that, let us accept our responsibilities, and let us do it as a body.

Until that time, let us not hide behind the curtains or the skirts of the President of the United States under the War Powers declaration. Let us get some guts and let us fight for freedom.

**LET US FULLY FUND THE BUDGET
TO PROVIDE FOR VETERANS'
NEEDS**

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, as the sound of war today reverberates throughout this Chamber, let us take this opportunity to make sure that we do not forget about the veterans of past wars, the men and women who have put their lives on the line defending this country.

Frankly, the President's budget is grossly inadequate in terms of protecting veterans' needs, as is the Republican budget. In the State of Vermont, the Veterans Administration hospital at White River Junction is under significant financial pressure, and that is true at VA hospitals all over this country.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when some are proposing huge tax breaks for some

of the richest people in this country, let us not forget the veterans.

Let us, in this budget process, go well beyond the President's budget for veterans, well beyond the Republicans' budget for veterans, and finally provide the true funding that the Veterans Administration needs to protect those people who put their lives on the line defending this country.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30, TO KEEP EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, many Members of Congress are deeply concerned about the use of executive orders. The public is legitimately concerned also. The courts have improperly given executive orders the force and effect of law. We must get executive orders back into harmony with the Constitution.

I have introduced House Concurrent Resolution 30, with quite a few sponsors. The second sponsor is the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HENRY HYDE). That will accomplish this.

It states that "Any executive order that infringes on the powers and duties of Congress is advisory only, and has no force or effect." We must pass House Concurrent Resolution 30, and make certain that executive authority is kept clearly within the bounds of the Constitution.

THE BUDGET, MEDICARE, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am really here to talk today about the budget, Medicare, and social security. We have the opportunity to show the American people that we can work together and agree on a budget resolution. While it is important that we continue the effort to balance the budget, we need to ensure that programs that benefit the American people the most are protected and strengthened.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle keep talking about tax cuts, and all of us like to give tax cuts, but I do not want to do it at the expense of social security, Medicare, or the educational opportunities for our children.

□ 1030

We cannot risk these valuable programs simply to give tax cuts. It is critical to have a budget that ensures national projects like the expansion of the Port of Houston in my district. The

Port of Houston is important, not only to our Nation, but also locally because dredging the channel ensures safety for many of our residents.

It is our responsibility to take the necessary steps to have a budget that saves and protects Medicare, Social Security, education and projects like the Port of Houston.

SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND ROBBERY

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

Mr. COOKSEY. Mr. Speaker, Lenox Lewis may have been robbed in his recent boxing match, but his experience is nothing compared to the robbery of the Social Security Trust Fund over the past 40 years. It is happening in broad daylight, and the robbers have nowhere to hide. It is time to stop the robbery.

The Republican budget puts the Social Security Trust Fund in a safe deposit box so that the plundering of the Trust Fund will stop. The President will have a hard time finding money to pay for the 85 new spending initiatives in his budget proposal. That is 85 new ways to make a mockery of the Social Security Trust Fund the way the President has proposed.

The Republican budget, on the other hand, reserves 100 percent of the retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues have heard that right. The Republican budget reserves 100 percent of the retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare. In fact, our budget puts aside more money for Social Security and Medicare than does the President's budget.

We cannot do anything about the Lenox Lewis rip-off, but we can put a stop to the robbery of the Social Security Trust Fund that has been going on for too long.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, testimony by the Congressional Budget Office Director confirms that President Clinton's budget blows the roof off the bipartisan spending caps of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. He stated that the President's budget will exceed those caps by \$30 billion in the next fiscal year alone.

The balanced budget agreement is under 2 years old, and the President simply cannot stop himself from spending more of one's money.

We already know that the Clinton budget included \$108 billion in new taxes and fees and not a dime of broad-based tax relief. On the spending side,

we knew that the President proposed more than \$200 billion in new domestic spending over the next 5 years, including nearly 40 new mandatory programs and almost 80 new discretionary programs.

Worse yet, first he said all of the surplus should go to Social Security. Then he said 62 percent of the surplus should be saved for Social Security. Now it is clear that the President's proposal uses even the off-budget Social Security surpluses for new domestic spending programs.

Mr. Speaker, we will pass a budget that provides more freedom to American families and, more importantly, will tell the truth to the American people about what is in it.

DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN BUDGET DIFFERENCES

(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 budget is *deja vu* all over again. Just like 4 years ago, the Republican leadership has concocted a budget that flies in the face of mainstream America.

Their budget fails to extend the life of Medicare by even one day. Instead of strengthening this pillar of retirement security, the Republican budget lets Medicare spend itself into oblivion and collapse in the year 2008. It does not use one penny of the surplus to strengthen Medicare. But while Medicare burns, the Republican budget uses the surplus to give nearly \$1 trillion in tax breaks for the wealthy. This is irresponsible, and it is wrong.

The Democratic budget reflects the priorities of the American people. First and foremost, it takes the high road and strengthens Medicare until 2018. It provides tax relief to working middle class families that need it most. Unlike the Republican plan, which fails to give 48 million families any tax relief at all, the Democratic budget plan delivers tax relief and strengthens Medicare.

The American people deserve a budget that is responsible, that is fair. They do not need a double dose of *deja vu*. Let us strengthen Medicare, and let us give middle class families a tax cut.

REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC BUDGET DIFFERENCES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot of talk today about the President's budget. I have got to say it has got more phony numbers than their census sampling scheme, more misery than the Chinese money laundering scandal.

Here is the basic difference between the Republican budget and the Democrat budget. Republican budget saves