

the American people are disappointed in Vice President AL GORE.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that the Member should avoid personal references to the President or the Vice President.

**CONGRESS MUST WORK TO PAY  
OFF THE PUBLIC DEBT AND  
PROVIDE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG  
BENEFIT TO SENIORS**

(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, in this time of great prosperity, it is imperative that Congress works to pay off the public debt and provide a prescription drug benefit for all seniors.

The Nation has a public debt of over \$3 trillion. However, in the last 3 years, Republicans have paid down \$354 billion in public debt and are on track to completely pay off this part of the national debt by 2012.

Republicans are committed to using 90 percent of next year's budget surplus to pay off the public debt, while locking away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses.

While we remain the most prosperous Nation in the world, the sad reality is that there are still some seniors who have to choose between putting food on the table and the prescription drugs they need to live healthy lives. Mr. Speaker, that is not fair.

When we passed a prescription drug benefit that was voluntary, available, and affordable for all seniors, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GEPHARDT) and the Democrats walked out on seniors. That is not right. Republicans will not walk out on seniors, and will continue to work to find a bipartisan solution to reducing the cost of prescription drugs while working to pay off our public debt.

**THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PUT  
DEBT REDUCTION AHEAD OF  
SPENDING AND AGREE TO RE-  
PUBLICAN 90/10 PROPOSAL**

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 22 days since the Congress proposed to lock away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses and dedicate at least 90 percent of the total budget surplus for public debt reduction. It has been 22 days that the Clinton-Gore administration has refused to answer our calls for debt reduction.

There will be an estimated \$268 billion surplus this fiscal year. Our question he simple: Should it be used to pay off the public debt, or should it be spent on ongoing Washington programs?

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Republicans are for using the surplus to pay off the debt. Where do President Clinton and Vice President GORE stand? Our children and grandchildren deserve better than to inherit mountains of debt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and Vice President to put debt reduction ahead of spending and agree to our 90-10 percent proposal.

**UNITED STATES MUST DO MORE  
FOR JUST PEACE IN SIERRA  
LEONE**

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the war in Sierra Leone has been one of the most barbaric in the world. A rebel group, the RUF, supported by neighboring Liberia, has been conducting the most hideous of violence against civilians in this west African country. They are doing this to steal the Nation's diamond wealth.

Last week, 4-year-old Memunatu Mansaray told us how her and her grandmother were among 300 people who sought refuge in a mosque when rebels attacked the capital. When she cried out, the hiding population was discovered, and all but her were shot dead. She survived because, when it was her turn, a rebel commander told a 12-year-old boy, a boy captured and drugged by the rebels, not to waste a bullet on her, but to cut off her hand. Her right hand was amputated that day when she was just 2 years old.

Fortunately, private Americans have come forth to give her medical attention. But there are thousands of other child victims with nothing. As a matter of fact, there are 20,000 amputees. I believe that those who saw her left with an awareness of why the U.S. must do more to help bring a just peace, a just peace to Sierra Leone. This savagery has to stop.

**PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS  
SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO  
ELIMINATE DEBT**

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been 22 days ago since Republicans asked the President and Vice President to join us in dedicating 90 percent of next year's surplus to eliminating the national debt. Even last night, the Vice President said he

wanted to reduce the debt. But as of this morning, we have not heard a word from either one of them.

I am curious, what are they waiting for? Could it be because the Vice President has proposed over \$1 trillion in new government spending? I think it is. It seems the Vice President cares more about spending the surplus than saving it. Why else has he been silent on joining our efforts to eliminate the debt?

This Democrat administration spending spree will jeopardize the health of Social Security and Medicare, and that is just wrong. I tell the Vice President, come on, together let us eliminate the national debt. Social Security and Medicare depend on it.

**WOMEN'S CAUCUS COORDINATED  
EFFORT ON PASSING VAWA**

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, one of the top priorities of the bipartisan Women's Caucus is reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. The House has already passed it by a nearly unanimous vote, 415 to 3.

But while women are being beaten up and children continue to witness violence every day in their homes, the Senate and the conference committee have yet to act. It is time for action. We are calling, in a bipartisan way, on our colleagues in the House and the Senate on the conference committee. We know that this bill will save lives. We know that it helps our communities deal with domestic violence.

We know that passing VAWA is one way to stop the cycle of violence in America. We know that the prosecutors and law enforcement officers support it. How long must our children suffer the consequences of family violence. Every day that goes by without passing it is too long.

We call upon this House and Senate and conference committee to pass the Violence Against Women Act.

**PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES  
DISAGREE ON TAXING ISSUES**

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, as a result of decades of social engineering, the United States Tax Code has evolved into a complex maze of deductions, credits, exemptions, and special preferences under which taxpayers with same incomes can pay vastly different amounts in taxes.

This uneven treatment of taxpayers is fundamentally unfair and it is at odds with the American value of equality under the law.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Vice President AL GORE's economic plan