

of the total budget surplus for debt reduction, but still no answer from the Clinton-Gore administration.

There will be an estimated \$268 billion surplus this fiscal year alone. Our question is simple: Should it be used to pay off our public debt, or should it be spent on ongoing Federal programs? Republicans are for using the surplus to pay off public debt.

Where do President Clinton and Vice President GORE stand?

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

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 2000

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the women in my district and women all across this country need to have the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 reauthorized.

The act was first passed in 1994 and has been a lifeline to women who are victims of violence. The current act would go even further by improving existing provisions and adding new ones, such as dating violence, the provision of transitional housing, the creation of supervised visitation and exchange programs for children, and expanding services to reach the elderly and previously underserved populations.

The new reauthorization was passed by this body on September 26, but it remains a top priority, because the other body has yet to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, the Women's Coalition of St. Croix, the Women's Resource Center in St. Thomas, and the Safety Zone in St. John are depending on us, the women and the families they care for, especially their children who also become victims and have a high risk of themselves becoming perpetrators, are depending on us.

I join the other distinguished women of the House and all of my 415 colleagues who voted for its passage in calling on the Senate to do the same and give us a Violence Against Women Act before we adjourn.

ANOTHER INVITATION FOR DEBT ELIMINATION

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, as you heard my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), say, it has been 23 days since this Congress asked the President to join us in dedicating 90 percent of next year's surpluses to paying off the debt; and once again, they still have had no response to that request.

The Clinton-Gore administration made it very clear they have a priority on reducing the debt for Third World nations, in distant countries away from our shores. Yet they remain silent on this issue of debt elimination for our own country, for our own American working men and women.

Under this Republican-led Congress, we have already paid down \$350 billion in debt since 1998, and our plan is to further reduce the debt by an additional \$240 billion in the year 2001 and completely eliminate the debt by 2012, while at the same time preserving and protecting Social Security and Medicare.

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Eliminating the public debt is good for the economy and lowers interest rates for minor consumers on everything from home mortgages to credit cards, saving American families over \$5,000 a year.

Once again, I call upon the President to join me and my colleagues on this responsible middle ground to eliminate the public debt and ensure a stable future for Americans through generations.

URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of the 106th Congress, there are a few bills that Congress must pass before we go home. To me, one of those "must pass" bills is the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. The House passed VAWA, but the other body has not yet acted on the bill. There is no more time to waste. This law must be reauthorized this year.

The program has done so much. Over the past 6 years, VAWA has helped millions of women, children, and families who have been victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. This bill is not controversial. The leaders in the other body have a choice: they can continue to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, or they can turn their backs on them.

To turn their backs when they know that VAWA is working would be unconscionable. VAWA must reach the President's desk before Congress adjourns.

AMERICA NEEDS INTEGRITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, guess who made this claim: I

have been a part of the discussions on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve since the day it was first established.

That boast was made a few days ago by AL GORE, who was not even elected to Congress until 2 years after the Strategic Petroleum Reserve was established. He took credit for it, but he was not even in Congress when it happened.

Two days ago in the Presidential debates, GORE claimed that he was at a Florida high school when a student had to stand in class because the classroom was so overcrowded.

The principal of that school laughed when he heard the claim and said, "We have never allowed a student to stand in the back of a classroom or to stand in a classroom." He also added that the classroom in question, a science lab, has about \$150,000 this year alone in new equipment.

Why does he have to keep making these things up? What drives him to take credit for so many things that he clearly had nothing to do with?

Mr. GORE has a problem with the truth. We need leadership that knows the difference between self-serving fantasy and reality. Our country is hungry for integrity.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded not to make personal references to the Vice President.

ASKING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE AMBER ALERT PROGRAM

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) introduced a resolution that recognizes the importance of a community initiative, a successful and effective way to combat child abduction called the Amber Alert Plan.

The Amber Alert is named after Amber Hagerman, a 9-year-old girl who was tragically abducted and murdered in Arlington, Texas, in 1996. The tragedy of Amber's case was felt throughout north Texas, and it led to a search for new and innovative community responses to help law enforcement officials find missing children.

The Amber Alert is a partnership between broadcasters and law enforcement agencies. When law enforcement determines a child is missing, they activate the Amber Alert, by notifying area-participating radio stations. The stations agree to interrupt their programming and broadcast an emergency report, much like an emergency broadcast system. Their report gives details, like the description of a child or any