

from? I'll tell you. The Republicans want to drop 310,000 low-income women off of WIC, just next year. The Republicans want to deny child care to over 12,000 children of working parents in 2001. The Republicans want to eliminate Head Start services for more than 40,000 children and their families by 2005. The Republicans want to cut off energy assistance to 164,000 low-income families next year, precisely at the same time oil prices are rising. And the list goes on and on.

The Republicans call their budget "senior-friendly." Well, with friends like them, who needs enemies?

The Republicans set aside \$40 billion for reforming Medicare and establishing a prescription drug program, yet they fail to provide us with the details of how they plan to do so. There are reports that the Republican's prescription drug program would only cover low-income Medicare recipients. Do they actually think that only the poor take prescription drugs? In fact, over half of Medicare beneficiaries who lack prescription drug coverage have incomes above 150 percent of poverty. The cost of prescription drugs is the fastest growing part of health care, and it affects all Americans. We must establish a comprehensive prescription drug plan which covers all seniors, regardless of income, as they are the ones suffering the most from rising drug costs.

The Republicans claim to put aside funds to shore-up Social Security. But in fact, if they do everything they promise, the Republican budget will actually spend the Social Security surplus. We need to protect Social Security, not put it under any more risk. It seems like everyone has learned the clear lessons of the last 7 years except my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Over the last 20 years we have put off addressing some of the major economic problems affecting American workers and their families. Now, during this time of unprecedented prosperity, it is time to begin dealing with these issues. If we can't do it now, then when can we?

Instead of debating tax cuts which favor the rich and will put us back in the fiscal straight-jacket of massive debt, we should be discussing how to provide quality health care for all Americans, while controlling costs.

We should be discussing ways to protect the most vulnerable Americans—the sick and the elderly. We should pass a strong patient's bill of rights, which includes a patient's right to sue for damages, that is not cynically loaded with poison bills—like Medical Savings Accounts, which are nothing more than tax cuts for the rich.

We should raise the minimum wage without having to buy-off the wealthy by providing them close to \$80 billion in estate tax cuts. Working full-time at the current minimum wage is not even enough to keep a family of 3 or 4 out of poverty. Raising the minimum wage is long overdue and should be done with no conditions attached.

For these reasons and others, I urge my colleagues to reject the Republican budget resolution.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to the Budget Resolution for FY 2001 (H. Con. Res. 290). For the third consecutive year Republicans have chosen to provide large tax breaks for the wealthy. This Budget Resolution provides at least \$200 billion in tax breaks over the next five years for the financial elite of America. Furthermore, this resolution is a major down payment for George W. Bush's proposed trillion-dollar tax scheme. I will not stand by while our children's future is bankrupted to fund this irresponsible Budget Resolution.

This budget contains deep cuts in domestic spending by \$114 billion over the next five years; fails to provide anything to strengthen Social Security or Medicare; cuts nondefense discretionary spending by \$19.7 billion in 2001 and \$138 billion over the next five years below the level needed to maintain purchasing power after adjusting for inflation; and pretends to reserve \$40 billion for a Medicare prescription drug benefit contingent upon essentially turning Medicare into a voucher program. Republicans have used slight of hand to hide the facts of their irresponsible budget by showing the effects of proposed tax cuts for only the first five years and not the full ten year projections commonly used during the last four years.

I am disappointed in the Budget Resolution because I do not believe that it provides adequate investment in our nation's future. America's future depends on that of her young people—in providing them adequate resources and opportunities to become our future leaders including providing them education and access to adequate health care.

The Budget resolution provides inadequate resources for the education of our young people. I firmly believe that we must focus our attention and our energy on one of the most important challenges facing our country today—revitalizing our education system. Strengthening education must be a top priority to raise the standard of living among American families and to prolong this era of American economic expansion. Education will prepare our nation for the challenges of the 21st century, and I will fight to ensure that the necessary programs are adequately funded to ensure our children's success.

We must provide our children access to superior education at all ages from kindergarten to graduate school. Recent studies emphasize

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the importance of quality education early in a child's future development. And yet despite these studies, the Budget Resolution still inadequately funds programs that would provide for programs targeting children in their young years.

In addition, we need to open the door of educational opportunity to all American children. It is well known that increases in income are related to educational attainment. The Democratic budget alternative rejects the Republican freeze on education funding and allocates \$4.8 billion more for education for FY 2001, than the Republican budget. Over five years, the Democratic Party demonstrates its commitment to education by proposing \$21 billion more than the Republican Budget Resolution.

The Congressional Black Caucus ("CBC") will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that promises to invest for the future of our nation. The CBC substitute is a budget that maximizes investment and opportunity for the poor, African Americans, and other minorities. This Budget for Maximum Investment and Opportunity supports a moderate plan to pay down the national debt; protects Social Security; and makes significant investments in education and training.

The CBC budget requests \$88.8 billion in FY 2001 for education, training, and development. This is \$32 billion more than the Republican budget provides. The CBC substitute will propose a \$10 billion increase over the President's Budget for school construction. Other projected increases include additional funding for Head Start, Summer Youth Employment TRIO programs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Community Technology Centers. In an age of unprecedented wealth the CBC has the vision to invest in the American family and not squander opportunities afforded by a budget surplus.

I will not support the failed policies of the past. Senator McCain has best characterized this Budget Resolution as one that is "fiscally irresponsible." I support a budget that invests strengthening Social Security; provides an affordable prescription drug benefit for all seniors; helps communities improve public education with quality teachers, smaller classes, greater accountability and modern schools; and pay down the national debt. These are the policies that invest in our children and in the future of our nation in the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROTH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I honor an individual whose dedication to the community and the overall well-being of the 43rd Congressional District is notable. On April 1st, Mr. Richard Roth, will step down as the Chair of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce—a day that also marks Chamber's 100 year anniversary of service to the community. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly give their time and talents to promote