

The sooner the Republicans abandon their budgetary smoke and mirrors and join us, the sooner we can get to work on the accomplishments President Bush promised.

BUDGET SURPLUS BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last night President Bush told the American people they deserve tax relief. And he is right. He said "the growing surplus exists because taxes are too high and government is charging more than it needs. The American people have been overcharged and, on their behalf, I am here to ask for a refund."

Well, I am on the President's side. We are not talking about a little surplus. We are talking about enough money to pay down the debt; enough money to bolster and save Social Security; enough money to preserve Medicare; enough money to pay off every dime of public debt that will become liquid over the next 10 years; enough money to strengthen our military; enough money to keep \$1 trillion set aside for needed spending. And we still have \$1.6 trillion left over.

How can anyone think we do not have enough for this tax cut? The surplus belongs to the people, not to us.

After we have done the work we are elected to do, it is our duty to refund the rest back to the taxpayers who have overpaid. It is not the government's money.

THE IRS CAN NOW RAID CHURCHES

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, imagine a raid by 150 policemen. Was it a mob bust in Russia? No.

Was it a drug warehouse in China? No.

It was a church in Indianapolis. That is right. The Internal Revenue Service raided a Baptist Church seizing the pastor, and, in fact, removing the pastor by force. Unbelievable.

Now, everyone knows there is two sides to every story. Think about it. In America, you cannot pray in school, but now, the IRS can raid churches. Beam me up. America is going to hell in a hand basket. I yield back the Gestapo attitude that just keeps growing in our Federal Government.

PRESIDENT SETS MISSION TO RETURN POWER OF GOVERNMENT BACK TO THE PEOPLE

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the President of the United States has set out on a mission to return the power of government back to the people.

Mr. Bush effectively made the case that was sound fiscal discipline. The Federal surplus provides us with the opportunity to strengthen Social Security, revitalize our armed forces and continue to pay down the debt while returning some of the money back to those who earned it, the American people.

By providing tax relief for all Americans, the President's plan takes the extra money out of Washington, where it otherwise will be certainly spent on programs designed to enlarge Federal Government programs.

President Bush recognizes that after the bills are paid, the left-over funds belong to the American taxpayers. Rejecting a plan to use a portion of the surplus for tax relief is the equivalent of paying for a gallon of milk at the grocery store with a \$10 bill and having the cashier refuse to give you back the change. It is wrong.

I feel that the President's plan puts America on the right track towards fiscal discipline as well as providing the American family with much-needed tax relief.

LOOKING CLOSELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY AT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS

(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, I applaud President Bush for setting a positive tone for the country and for trying to find areas of agreement where we can make progress. I am going to be looking closely and constructively at his proposals in education, prescription drugs and Social Security.

While I agree with many of the priorities the President outlined, I am very concerned about his overall budget. It risks the fiscal discipline that has been important to our strong economy, and it fails to make the investments that our families need.

The President's tax plan would weaken our economy, and it fails to provide fair and significant tax cuts for those who need it the most.

Instead of cutting taxes for working and for middle-class families, the President's budget gives 43 percent of the benefit of his tax cut to just the top 1 percent of wage earners. If we act responsibly, we can have a significant tax cut for all Americans and still meet the Nation's other pressing needs such as education, Social Security, a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and national defense. The President's tax cut, however, makes meeting these needs impossible.

We should be able to come together on a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of all Americans. While the President's plan does not meet this goal, I look forward to receiving his full budget and working together to do what is right for our country.

IT IS TIME FOR THE REST OF THE STORY FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, after President Bush's speech last night, it is time, as Paul Harvey would say, for the rest of the story.

To those who have prospered the most in the last 10 years, who earn over \$300,000 a year, President Bush gives almost \$1 trillion of public money. But to those seniors who are desperate for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, the President says, in effect, forget it. He proposes to give subsidies to HMOs and insurance companies in the hopes that they will offer seniors private insurance.

To those parents, teachers, and educators who want full funding of special education, the President said, in effect, forget it.

To those who built Medicare and Social Security, brick by brick over 65 years, President Bush said, in effect, tear down these buildings.

He wants to turn Medicare over to insurance companies, and he wants to privatize Social Security. That is the rest of the story; and unfortunately, it is not pretty.

A BLUEPRINT FOR NEW BEGINNINGS, A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET FOR AMERICA'S PRIORITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-45)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

With a great sense of purpose, I present to the Congress my budget. It offers more than a plan for funding the Government for the next year; it offers a new vision for governing the Nation for a new generation.

For too long, politics in Washington has been divided between those who wanted big Government without regard to cost and those who wanted small Government without regard to need. Too often the result has been too few needs met at too high a cost. This budget offers a new approach—a different approach for an era that expects

a Federal Government that is both active to promote opportunity and limited to preserve freedom.

Our new approach is compassionate:

It will revitalize our public schools by testing for achievement, rewarding schools that succeed, and giving more flexibility to parents of children in schools that persistently fail.

It will reinvigorate our civil society by putting Government on the side of faith-based and other local initiatives that work—that actually help Americans escape drugs, lives of crime, poverty, and despair.

It will meet our Nation's commitments to seniors. We will strengthen Social Security, modernize Medicare, and provide prescription drugs to low-income seniors.

This new approach is also responsible:

It will retire nearly \$1 trillion in debt over the next four years. This will be the largest debt reduction ever achieved by any nation at any time. It achieves the maximum amount of debt reduction possible without payment of wasteful premiums. It will reduce the indebtedness of the United States, relative to our national income, to the lowest level since early in the 20th Century and to the lowest level of any of the largest industrial economies.

It will provide reasonable spending increases to meet needs while slowing the recent explosive growth that could threaten future prosperity. It moderates the growth of discretionary spending from the recent trend of more than six percent to four percent, while allowing Medicare and Social Security to grow to meet the Nation's commitments to its retirees.

It will deliver tax relief to everyone who pays income taxes, giving the most dramatic reductions to the least affluent taxpayers. It will also give our economy a timely second wind and reduce the tax burden—now at the highest level as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product since World War II.

Finally, this new approach begins to confront great challenges from which Government has too long flinched. Social Security as it now exists will provide future beneficiaries with the equivalent of a dismal two percent real rate of return on their investment, yet the system is headed for insolvency. Our new approach honors our commitment to Social Security by reserving every dollar of the Social Security payroll tax for Social Security, strengthening the system by making further necessary reform feasible.

Medicare as it exists does not adequately care for our seniors in many ways, including the lack of prescription drug coverage. Yet Medicare spending already exceeds Medicare taxes and premiums by \$66 billion this year, and Medicare will spend \$900 billion more than it takes in over the next 10 years. Reform is urgently need-

ed. Our new approach will safeguard Medicare by ensuring that the resources for reform will be available.

New threats to our national security are proliferating. They demand a rethinking of our defense priorities, our force structure, and our military technology. This new approach begins the work of restoring our military, putting investments in our people first to recognize their importance to the military of the future.

It is not hard to see the difficulties that may lie ahead if we fail to act promptly. The economic outlook is uncertain. Unemployment is rising, and consumer confidence is falling. Excessive taxation is corroding our prosperity. Government spending has risen too quickly, while essential reforms, especially for our schools, have been neglected. And we have little time before the demographic challenge of Social Security and Medicare becomes a crisis.

We cannot afford to delay action to meet these challenges. And we will not. It will demand political courage to face these problems now, but I am convinced that we are prepared to work together to begin a new era of shared purposes and common principles. This budget begins the work of refining those purposes and those principles into policy—a compassionate, responsible, and courageous policy worthy of a compassionate, responsible, and courageous Nation.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
February 28, 2001.

□ 1015

PERMISSION FOR SPEAKER TO ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO SUSPEND RULES ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to entertain a motion to suspend the rules relating to House Resolution 54, today, Wednesday, February 28, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on remaining motions.

FAMILY FARMER BANKRUPTCY RELIEF EXTENSION

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 256) to extend for 11 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 256

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.

Section 149 of title I of division C of Public Law 105-277, as amended by Public Law 106-5 and Public Law 106-70, is amended—

(1) by striking "July 1, 2000" each place it appears and inserting "June 1, 2001"; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "September 30, 1999" and inserting "June 30, 2000"; and

(B) by striking "October 1, 1999" and inserting "July 1, 2000".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 1 shall take effect on July 1, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD the Congressional Budget Office's cost estimate of H.R. 256.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 256.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 256. Chapter 12 is a form of bankruptcy relief only available to family farmers enacted on a temporary basis to respond to the particularized needs of farmers in financial distress. As a part of the Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees and Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986, chapter 12 has been extended several times since 1986 until it lapsed on July 1 of last year.

Absent chapter 12, farmers are forced to file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code's other alternatives. None of these forms of bankruptcy relief, however, work quite as well for farmers as chapter 12. Chapter 11, for example, will require a farmer to sell the family farm to pay the claims of creditors. With respect to chapter 13, many farmers would simply be ineligible to file under that form of bankruptcy relief because of its debt limits. Chapter 11 is an expensive process that