

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