

The question, instead, is whether or not a budget, a budget, the master plan guiding spending and investments decisions of the Federal Government, should be agreed upon before we proceed to debate the merits of a tax cut.

I support a tax cut, as do most of my colleagues. But a budget that sketches our spending needs against the backdrop of anticipated revenue will allow us to determine, and more importantly allow the people to determine, the magnitude of the appropriate tax cut. The sense of this approach is obvious, save to those people more interested in short-term political gain than the long-term solvency of our Federal Government.

NEW ADMINISTRATION MUST SUPPORT NEEDS OF MILITARY

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

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, in Newport News, Virginia, I attended the christening of what will soon be the U.S.S. *Ronald Reagan*, a new magnificent aircraft carrier. Mrs. Reagan, the President, Mrs. Bush, and other leaders were in attendance to witness the christening of this vessel and to honor our former great President.

It is only appropriate that this awesome vessel be named after the leader who led us to victory in the Cold War. This Nimitz-class aircraft carrier represents the "peace through strength" philosophy which played such an integral role in President Reagan's successful foreign policy.

It is crucial that we recognize President Reagan's extraordinary foreign policy achievements. This awesome new addition to our fleet will be a testimony to Reagan's enduring legacy of military dominance. America is a better and safer place for having had President Reagan in the White House. However, we cannot sit back and admire his achievements without noting that our world remains a dangerous place.

We must direct more attention to our armed forces by reforming and revitalizing our military. When President Reagan left office in 1988, the Navy had 15 aircraft carrier battle groups, and 594 ships in service. It now has 12 carrier battle groups and a fleet numbering about half as many ships. The new administration must support the needs of the military to ensure that our armed forces are well equipped and trained to carry out our Nation's priorities while providing support to our allies abroad.

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THE PRESIDENT'S TAX CUT

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I came to Washington to set aside partisan differences and bring common-sense logic to our debates. With breathtaking speed, we are rushing the President's tax cut proposals toward a vote. We have little time for questions, analysis or discussion.

There is no question that tax relief is one of the primary concerns for families and businesses across my State. During my campaign I supported tax relief proposals such as elimination of the marriage penalty and estate tax relief. But let us not kid ourselves. The breakneck pace adopted by many in Congress right now leaves no time to consider our priorities. We are sacrificing the wisdom of the longer view for the instant gratification of an easy tax cut.

Unfortunately, rather than having a thoughtful debate and review of an overall budget framework, Congress is set on a path to consider individual pieces of the tax relief package without first understanding their combined impact.

I come from Utah. In Utah we live within our means. We pay our bills, we balance our family budgets and we save for our future. Why should our government not behave the same way?

TAX CUTS ARE THE RIGHT THING TO DO

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, the hardworking American people deserve a break. The economy is slowing down. Consumer confidence is low. A tax cut now would put money back in the pockets of those who know best how to spend it; that is, the American taxpayer.

A tax refund would provide the average family of four in Texas with over \$1,800 in relief. That may not seem like a lot of money here when we talk about billions and trillions, but that can make a real difference to a family in Fort Worth, Texas. That \$1,800 could pay credit card debt down or pay down a college loan or help with a down payment on a new home.

Just because the government has extra money in its possession does not mean it should spend it needlessly. If a contractor is building a house and comes in under budget, he does not get to spend that estimated surplus on marble counter tops or solid gold fixtures. The unspent money would go back to the homeowners.

These surplus tax dollars should go back to their rightful owners. The

American taxpayers deserve a refund of their money. It is the right thing to do, and it is the right time to do it.

THE PRESIDENT'S TAX CUT

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

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, country singer Alan Jackson croons, "Who says you can't have it all?" We need tax cuts in America. We deserve tax cuts in America. We support tax cuts in America. But the American public is not fooled by the charade that is before us today. It is time to do what the American people do every day. It is time to do what American families do, American farms, American businesses. We simply must know what our budget is before we pass massive tax cuts in this country. There is no other responsible way.

Because make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, if we pass massive tax cuts without a budget, there is absolutely no way to address prescription drugs, to address education, to address military readiness in this country. The only way to do that is to spend the Social Security Trust Fund. That is just not right.

In closing, let us reflect on the musings of President Herbert Hoover, he of fiscal fame, who said, "Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt."

Mr. Speaker, we do not need another Herbert Hoover. We do not need anything like that. We need responsibility. We need discipline. We need a budget, Mr. Speaker.

TAX RELIEF AND A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, even at a time when consumer confidence is falling and energy costs are skyrocketing and the economy is slowing, Washington is racking up huge tax surpluses. This is just more evidence that Washington is overcharging taxpayers and that we desperately need to refund the surplus to the people who created it.

Even as some economists are forecasting gloom and doom, the surplus numbers since Republicans took the majority control in Congress continue to roll in. That is why the time is now to pay off the public debt and to offer tax relief to hardworking Americans. If we are to pay off the debt and provide needed tax relief for economic growth and job security and balance the budget, we must keep government spending down and get rid of the waste and the fraud and the abuse.

Last year's budget, let us face it, was out of control. But this is a new White