Our veterans have fought, and many have died, so we can live in a county with free and fair elections, a country where even in an election as close as the last Presidential contest, the winner is decided by the rule of law, and not with violence.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans have fearlessly put their lives on the line for this country. This country can surely give them their own day of remembrance. Veterans' Day is and always should remain November 11. I for one pledge to do my utmost to preserve this day of recognition for our patriotic men and women of our armed services.

## THE TROJAN HORSE STRATEGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I regret that the leadership, the Republican leadership, saw fit to have such a limited debate on a $2 trillion tax cut today. Basically, it worked out, for the portion of the tax cut adopted today, to about $5 billion a minute. I was one of many Members who is not a member of the Committee on Ways and Means who did not have an opportunity to speak and give my reasons for opposing this tax cut so I am going to lay them out now, because we know that this is not the end of the debate.

The Senate will not even take this bill up until late this spring, if then.

Now first, the tax cut is predicated upon a wish, a dream, a projection, a prediction, a prediction. Now, remember all the economists 10 years ago said we see deficits as far as the eye can see, huge and growing deficits. We were supposed to have a $400 billion deficit this year, but here we are fighting about how to spend the surplus. There is an actual real surplus this year. How long will it last? What are the assumptions behind it?

This is a very interesting chart which comes from the official Congressional Budget Office chaired and headed up by a Republican appointee. This is what we are predicating a $2 trillion tax cut on. These are future projections. If one notices, there is a little bit of uncertainty here. In fact, when we get to the year 2006, according to the official projections of the Congressional Budget Office, we could be running anything from a $100 billion deficit to a $1.1 trillion surplus, but today the Republican leadership locked into place tax cuts that are going to spend this surplus even if it does not exist, and they did it under the rationale it is a stimulus for the economy.

Now remember, the tax cuts do not even begin until next year. Well, they added a little bit for this year.

Mr. Speaker, 1/100th of 1 percent of the GNP will be devoted to a so-called retroactive tax cut this year; minuscule amount, totals just tens of dollars, for most families, $15 or $20. Yet what they have done here is begun the same strategy that fooled this Congress before I served here in the early 1980s, the Trojan horse strategy. Dress it up, get it inside the gate and then out pops a big surprise.

The big surprise is most likely to be a return to huge and growing deficits a few years out.

No, we should base tax cuts on actual surpluses received, not on projections by pointy-headed economists who are wrong a lot more times than they are right. If they can project the economy 10 years out, they would not be working at the Congressional Budget Office for a government salary. They would be living on their private island somewhere if they had that much knowledge about the future of our economy, and even they, with this chart, admit they really do not have a clue.

So this Congress is being incredibly irresponsible in locking in place those tax cuts now heavily weighted toward people who earn over $329,000 a year, on the bet that these surpluses might exist or maybe knowing that the surpluses will not exist and not really caring that we could return to the huge days of deficits.

Now, this is reality, folks, right here. This is reality. The United States of America's debt, that is black and white. We owe that. Every American from the tiniest baby to the oldest senior citizen owes a share of that, and if we divided it up equally it would be over $20,000 per person.

They are going to not even address that as effectively as the budget last year. They are proposing under their optimistic projections to leave a much bigger debt for future generations, not to reduce it as much. Under a worst case scenario, they are going to increase that debt and leave it as a gift or a burden to future generations. That is irresponsible.

I have supported the plan to do one-third, one-third, one-third, once we have a surplus in hand. One-third to reduce the debt, and if these wild projections come true we could pay off the debt in 12 years; one-third to invest, to invest in education, in infrastructure. I just got a report today from the National Society of Civil Engineers. We have a $1.3 trillion shortfall in infrastructure. Our infrastructure is crumbling over the next 5 years. That is about what they are spending here, betting that we are going to have these surpluses. We could be investing it. We could be investing it in education.

Then finally, yes, let us have responsible tax relief. There was an alternative today. I voted and proposed other alternatives in the past. A tax relief based on reality, targeted at those who carry the heaviest burden, and that is middle-income families and lower-income families. When we look at the burden of the FICA tax, about more than half of American families pay more in Social Security taxes than they do income tax, they will get no relief under this proposal, even if it puts us massively in debt for the future. This was not a proud day for the United States House of Representatives.

□ 1815

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to women around the world for being honored on International Women's Day. International Women's Day, today, recognizes the achievements and successes of women around the world. It is also a day on which we work to advance the status of women everywhere. This is why I, along with my colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK); the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY); and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and over 60 original cosponsors, we are announcing that we will introduce our bill, the United Nations of 2001 on this important day.

This bill will help save the lives of millions of women and children around the world and will work to bring equality to all people by restoring funding for UNFPA. Equal rights and equality for all people is crucial, whether they live in sub-Saharan Africa or Southeast Asia or the United States.

Over the last 20 years, we have seen a commitment from countries around the world to honor women's rights, and women's voices are finally beginning to be heard. However, this success and the many others we have had is overshadowed by the millions of women around the world who do not even have the most basic rights. There are more than 600,000 women who are dying each year because of complications from pregnancy and childbirth. The inequality of girls and women around the world is real, but there are very real steps we can take to work together toward equality. Over 182 nations support funding for UNFPA, and the United States should likewise support it.

We know that UNFPA works, that it saves lives. Each day we in Congress are confronted by many challenges for which we do not have answers: the answer to global warming, to the AIDS crisis, to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. But we know what to do to save the lives of women around the world, and that is to fund international family

planning through the United Nations Population Fund.

UNFPA has been and continues to be a leader in the renewed commitment of the world community to stabilize global population and improve the status of women. UNFPA is the world's largest internationally funded provider of family planning and reproductive health services. UNFPA serves women, children, and families in 160 developing countries around the world where health care structures are fragile and unable to address the specific health needs of mothers and children.

By funding UNFPA this year, in 1 year alone, 870,000 women will not be deprived of effective contraceptives; more than 520,000 women will be provided with health care support; and there will not be 500,000 unwanted pregnancies. There will not be 1,200 additional maternal deaths, 22,000 additional infant deaths, and 15,000 additional life-threatening illnesses and injuries to mothers during pregnancy and childbirth.

So, on this day, March 8, International Women's Day, I am proud to introduce this bill, which will help bring equality to women everywhere and certainly help save lives.

## POWER IN WASHINGTON OR POWER AT HOME?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, about this time, President Bush is landing in the Dakotas for his first visit to my part of the country. He is landing in Fargo tonight and will be proceeding to South Dakota tomorrow. I think it is significant, Mr. Speaker, that as he makes that landing there, that today we have passed the cornerstone of his tax plan: reduction in marginal rates and real tax relief for working families in this country.

Mr. Speaker, this is the start of what I think will be a great debate to have in this Congress, and that is, who has the power? Does Washington, D.C. have the power, or do the American people have the power? Because the more of this that Washington takes from the American people, the less they have to spend. The more of this that Washington takes, the more power Washington has, and the less power the American family has.

Mr. Speaker, this is a debate about whether we want to consolidate power in Washington or whether we want to distribute power back to our families, individuals, and communities. We have heard a debate today about whether or not to spend the surplus, and our friends on the other side have raised concerns about whether or not we ought to be proceeding down this track. Well, Mr. Speaker, the same people who are making that argument have no such constraint when it comes to spending the surplus on new government programs. That is an entirely different argument that they make.

If we look at the arguments that are made by the opponents of the President's proposal, they really revolve around a couple of basic points. One is that it is too big in the actual size of this tax cut. Well, Mr. Speaker, if we look at it in terms of actual size as a percentage of the total surplus, it is about one-quarter of that surplus, or 6 percent of government revenues over the course of the next 10 years. So in terms of actual size, I would argue, Mr. Speaker, that it is a very responsible number in that it recognizes the commitment that we have to protecting Social Security and Medicare, paying down the Federal debt, and making those necessary investments that are critical to our future, and at the same time, it allows us to get some of that money back into the hands of the American people.

What about the proportional size of this tax cut? Well, if we look at it relative to previous tax cuts, during the Reagan administration, during the Kennedy administration, it is about half the size of the Kennedy tax cuts, and about one-third of the size of the Reagan tax cuts, as a percentage of the gross domestic product and also as a percentage of total government revenues. So proportionally, Mr. Speaker, I would argue as well that this is a balanced and responsible way to go about giving the American people more of their hard-earned money.

Well, the other question is, what about spending? Are we going to be able to have those resources that are necessary? Mr. Speaker, the President's proposal sets aside $1 trillion for contingencies. I care about agriculture in my part of the country. The President has said we recognize there are going to be emergencies that are necessary to come up with additional dollars. So he has accounted for that in the form of a contingency fund of about $1 trillion. Government spending is going to increase 4 percent this next year on the discretionary side; that is the part that the Congress appropriates, and if we add in the total amount of entitlement spending combined, it is about $100 billion over this year's funding levels. That is a significant amount of additional spending. Four percent is higher than the proposed rate of inflation for this next year.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would also say that if we look at it in relative amounts and what it does to allow us to continue to make the investments that we need to make, this plan enables us to do that.

The other argument that is often made, Mr. Speaker, and if we listen to the grim reapers and the prophets of doom, is that the Reagan tax cuts led to the deficits. The fact is, that is not true. After the Reagan tax cuts in 1981, government revenues went up, but the rate of spending exceeded that. Congress could not control, curb, its appetite to spend those dollars; and that, Mr. Speaker, is what led to the deficits during those years. In fact, if Congress had been able to control its spending and only spent at a rate of 5.6 percent average increase per year between 1981 and 1991, the budget would have been balanced in 1991, instead of just a few years ago.

So as we engage in this debate, Mr. Speaker, I hope the American people will listen clearly and understand that this is a great day for the American taxpayers. I am proud to be able to vote in favor of allowing them to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. It is good for the American taxpayers, it is good for the people of South Dakota, and tomorrow will be a day of celebration as the President makes this stop in my great State; and I hope that we will be able to welcome him and deliver to him a message that we care about the people of this country, about the taxpayers, and about giving them more freedom and more liberty.

## PROUD TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRUCCI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to have supported the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001. With an economy sputtering, the time is now for us to act proactively and implement a reasonable and fair tax relief package that will benefit our hard-working, middle-class families and small businesses.

In New York's First Congressional District, where the cost of living is higher than in many regions of our Nation, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 will jump start our local economy and put the money back where it belongs: in the pockets of the taxpayers. They created the tax surplus; they should get it back.

This much-needed tax relief will be put to better use by offsetting costs for our families, costs like a college education for a young person, a mortgage payment, or they will be able to support our small businesses and our local economy. Those middle-class working families earning $50,000 will see a $1,600 tax cut in their taxes. That is a 50 percent cut. A family of 4 earning $35,000 would see 100 percent tax cut. Now, that is fair. And that is reasonable tax relief, and that is real tax relief for middle-class working families.

In addition, this tax package will leave more money in New York State.