widely optimistic, but also prone to extreme error. If the Congressional Budget Office used the same economic assumptions that the Social Security Trustees use when forecasting the future financial solvency of Social Security and Medicare, the two largest government programs, there would be no surplus. Despite this fact, the majority has pressed ahead with a financial plan that leaves no room for error, leading us down a fiscally dangerous path.

The Majority has based spending decisions on unrealistic spending assumptions. Four years ago, I watched this Congress engage in much backslapping and self-congratulating after passing the last Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Almost immediately, Congress began to wink and nod at spending limits imposed in that bill, tortuously bending and breaking the rules in order to claim spending limits had been honored. Two years ago, Congress dropped the charade, shattering spending limits and effectively giving up on the 1997 act. Now we are again holding down spending to unrealistic levels. Even the Republican Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee has already stated that the spending limits in the legislation are not feasible.

The document before us today drastically underfunds critical health, environment, and veterans programs. As our country is facing what the President and GOP claim is an energy crisis, they have proposed cutting funding for the Department of Energy by 7 percent. Energy conservation programs, the only truly feasible solutions for helping us address the short-term energy problems, are cut by nearly 10 percent. President Bush has repeatedly called for improved spending on America’s veterans, yet he underfunds VA programs by one billion dollars. Finally, this budget resolution cuts funding for environmental programs by 11 percent. While this is consistent with the Administration’s anti-environmental actions, it threatens the important progress we’ve made in environmental policy over the last decade.

The budget resolution before us is not a financial blueprint, but rather a tax cut dressed up as a budget outline. All of the optimistic assumptions underlying the tax cut are based on unrealistic levels. Even the Republican Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that the Committee, having had under consideration the subject of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002, had come to no resolution thereon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARA ABERNATHY

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

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, at the appropriate time we will, on both sides, recognize our staffs, because although we do the talking, they do the arduous work that goes into this enormous task of putting together a budget.

We have one particular staffer that I want to recognize tonight. Late last week, as we were working another night well past midnight, I looked at Sara Abernathy and I said, “When are you due?” She said, “Next Wednesday.” I said, “For goodness sake, get yourself home.”

Well, the baby was not born Wednesday, it was born March 26 at 10:30 p.m. It is a Democrat. And I would simply like to say to Sara Abernathy, who has worked arduously in putting this budget together for us and for the good of everybody, “Congratulations on the birth and arrival of Nicholas Colum Butler on March 26.”

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO UNITA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the following report from the President of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit hereon—

With the sponsorship of NBC 6, Jennifer and Don cofounded Women of Tomorrow, a mentoring and scholarship program for high-school-aged girls. The women of Tomorrow mentoring program currently operates in 17 schools in South Florida, and by January of next year, the program is expected to operate in every public high school in Miami, Dade and Broward Counties.

This year the program will award several academic scholarships as well as scholarships for books and supplies for low-income, at-risk girls.

I applaud the devotion of mentors Marita Srebnick, State Attorney Kathy Fernandez-Rundle, Judge Judy Kreeger, Attorney Sherry Williams, and the many prominent women of South Florida who dedicate their time to help mold today’s young girls into tomorrow’s leaders.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Jennifer, Don and NBC 6, and, indeed, all of the women of tomorrow for contributing to the promise of our future and for leaving a lasting legacy that is sure to benefit all of society.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CO-FOUNDERs OF “WOMEN OF TOMORROW”

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I congratulate news anchor Jennifer Valoppi and Don Brown, president and general manager of NBC 6, for reaching to at-risk young women who choose to further their educational goals.

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