

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 under funds 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 surplus assumptions and draconian cuts in needed programs are simply a charade to allow the President and my Republican colleagues to claim they can cut taxes and balance the budget. But they cannot. This document does not protect the Medicare trust fund and triple counts the Social Security Trust fund in order to fit the President's tax proposal. The tax cuts described in this resolution are heavily tilted to those who need help the least and premised on questionable economic forecasts.

Since coming to Congress in 1996, I have based my fiscal policies on five basic principles:

1. Fair tax relief for working Americans.
2. Honoring our promises to Social Security and Medicare.
3. Paying down our \$6 trillion national debt.
4. Avoiding future funding shortfalls.
5. Funding commitments to our children, seniors, veterans, and the environment.

I believe these are important goals that most of my colleagues share. Unfortunately, the document we are debating today accomplishes none of these principles. Oregonians have repeatedly told me they want to see

budget and tax policies that are fiscally prudent and deal with for the challenges our country faces. This resolution doesn't and I oppose it.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. All time for general debate has expired. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, March 22, 2001, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUSSLE) having assumed the chair, Mrs. BIGGERT, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that 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; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress 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 herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) that was de-

clared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 2001.

HOUR OF MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, March 28, 2001.

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

There was no objection.

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 outreaching to at-risk young women who choose to further their educational goals.

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.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

CONGRATULATING BANGLADESH
ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to celebrate the anniversary of the struggle the Bengalis went through to become an independent nation 30 years ago on March 26, 1971.

I visited Bangladesh a year ago with President Clinton at this time and was impressed with the progress that the country has made. The people and the government received us very warmly as we visited the capital Dhaka and the surrounding cities.

Madam Speaker, the independence of Bangladesh was hard fought. In 1970, a strong opposition within the masses arose in east Pakistan against the injustices and discrimination levied on the Bengali people. In the early spring of 1971, Pakistani forces moved in and ruthlessly tried to suppress the uprising with death squads and indiscriminate killings. Indira Gandhi, the prime minister of India, became very vocal in her opposition to Pakistani oppression and in 1971 the Indian army was sent in to help the Bengali fighters.

In 12 days' time, the Bengali liberation force, with the help of the Indian army, drove the Pakistani forces out of the region and Bangladesh was born. I salute the brave Bangla fighters, as well as the soldiers of the Indian Army who stood firm together to help the dream of a free Bengal nation become a reality.

Madam Speaker, U.S./Bangla relations have been developing positively since Bangladesh's declaration of a free republic in 1972. Current U.S./Bangla relations are excellent as demonstrated in several visits to Washington by the Bangladeshi premiers over the last 20 years.

In 1995, First Lady Hillary Clinton visited Bangladesh. The current prime minister of Bangladesh, Ms. Sheikh Hasina, also visited the United States in 1996 and 1997.

Relations between Bangladesh and the United States have further strengthened since the participation of Bangla troops in the 1991 Gulf War Coalition. The Bangladeshi soldiers also served jointly with the 1994 multinational force in Haiti.

The current government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, elected in June 1996, has indicated that it will continue along the path of privatization and open market reforms but progress has been slow.

In the government's first year, real GDP growth of 5.7 percent and inflation of 2.6 percent were the best figures in the 1990s. We must collaborate in many ways with Bangladesh and continue our aid package to Bangladesh,

and I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for starting the Bangladeshi caucus.

I have joined the same and hope to work with him for Bengali issues.

Under Madam Hasina, Bangladesh pursues a positive foreign policy based on friendship with all and malice towards none. While relations between the United States and Bangladesh are good, clearly there is ample room for improvement. One such area I believe U.S./Bangla relations can be improved is trade.

Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the African-Caribbean trade initiative that was introduced last year. The initiative gives only textile industries in Africa and the Caribbean duty free access to U.S. markets. A stark reality has to be understood that presently Bangladesh derives 76 percent of its foreign reserves from these exports. Taking this market away, most of which is the U.S. market, would deal a very heavy blow to the democracy of Bangladesh as it struggles to improve the conditions of its people.

Another important area where we can help, and I think my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) again has drawn attention to this, is the arsenic poisoning occurring in the drinking water wells in the Nawab Ganj district in Bangladesh. In the early 1970s, UNICEF, in an attempt to bring clean drinking water to the Bengali people, dug two wells to access shallow water ducts. At that time, arsenic testing was not conducted and arsenic's inherent slow-working poisonous effects were not recognized.

I ask my colleagues to urge the current administration to work on a long lasting solution for this problem affecting a great number of Bangladeshis.

Madam Speaker, on this historic occasion of Bangladesh's 30th anniversary of independence, we must show our sincere appreciation for all that Bangladesh is doing to improve itself and express solidarity with its democratic principles of governments in progress. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating this occasion in wishing Bangladesh the very best of success in the years to come.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 83, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-30) on the resolution (H. Res. 100) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the con-

gressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION
REAUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for support of the Native Hawaiian Education Reauthorization Act, which I have today introduced with my colleague the Honorable NEIL ABERCROMBIE.

The Native Hawaiian Education Act has been in effect since 1988. Congress has recognized its special responsibilities to the native, indigenous peoples of the United States by creating education programs to meet the special needs of American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

Programs supported with the modest appropriations provided under the Native Hawaiian Education Act have helped to improve educational opportunities for Native Hawaiian children, youth, and educators. Through the establishment of Native Hawaiian Education Councils, the Act has given Native Hawaiians a voice in deciding how to meet the critical education needs of their community.

Native Hawaiian students begin their school experience lagging behind other students in terms of readiness factors, such as vocabulary scores, and they score below national norms on standardized education achievement tests at all grade levels. In both public and private schools, Native Hawaiian students are over-represented among students qualifying for special education programs provided to students with learning disabilities. They have the highest rates of drug and alcohol use in the State of Hawaii. Native Hawaiian students are under-represented in institutions of higher education and among adults who have completed four or more years of college.

Why are Native Hawaiian students so disadvantaged? The poor showing of Native Hawaiian students is inconsistent with the high rates of literacy and integration of traditional culture and Western education historically achieved by Native Hawaiians through a Hawaiian language-based public school system established in 1840 by King Kamehameha III. But following the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893, by citizens and agents of the United States, middle schools were banned. After the United States annexed Hawaii, throughout the territorial and statehood period of Hawaii, and until 1986, use of the Hawaiian language as an instructional medium in education in public schools was declared unlawful. This declaration caused incalculable harm to a culture that placed a very high value on the power of language, as exemplified in the traditional saying:

I ka 'ōlelo nō ke ola; I ka 'ōlelo nō ka make

In the language rests life, In the language rests death.