

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-15)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT) 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 and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice stating that the Iran emergency declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2005, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on March 12, 2004 (69 FR 12051).

The crisis between the United States and Iran constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Iran, including its support for international terrorism, efforts to undermine Middle East peace, and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on March 15, 1995, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 10, 2005.

REFORMING SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address this House and the people of the United States of America on a very, very timely subject: Social Security and, more specifically, the opportunity to reform Social Security. Now, recently, the President, President Bush, has been given a whole lot of credit, or blame, whichever your per-

spective may be, for even bringing this issue to the forefront of the American people and to this body.

I have the pleasure of serving on the Committee on Ways and Means of this House of Representatives; and, of course, it is going to be the obligation of the Committee on Ways and Means to deal with this issue and try to bring some consensus to the subject of how we might reform, fix, strengthen Social Security, an institution that has served generations of America very, very well, going back to the era of just post the Great Depression when my parents were just about to enter the working environment themselves as young adults.

So we do this with some degree of trepidation, but we also do it with a considerable sense of obligation to our children; in my case, a grandson now, knowing that an entitlement program such as Social Security that is especially critical to the survival, and I say that word advisedly, survival of so many of our senior citizens and especially the lower-income members of our senior citizen population who absolutely rely on Social Security for their very sustenance, we should pass that benefit, that promise of America on to our children's generation and all generations to come. That is not an easy challenge, as we are going to talk about in the time I have had allotted to me tonight.

Now, as I said at the beginning, at the outset, President Bush seems to get a tremendous amount of credit these days for bringing this to our attention. If the truth be known, President Bush was not the first one to point this out. In fact, if we go back to the very beginning, Franklin Roosevelt himself, often called the Father of Social Security, told us then that the plan put in place, the plan we are still on, was but a starting point, was but a beginning; that it would not be sustainable, nor adequate, forever; that at some point in the future, he even used the word "annuity," an annuity would have to be created, a prefunded liability, a prefunded liability set aside to augment Social Security, because Social Security was never going to be adequate for the entire challenge in front of us.

Now, in addition, and much more recently than Franklin Roosevelt, our last President, the 42nd President of the United States, Bill Clinton, recognized the challenge in front of us and the obligation in front of us to reform Social Security. Now, President Clinton, as this poster to my left says, President Clinton in his State of the Union address in January 1998 said: "We will hold a White House conference on Social Security in December. And one year from now, we will convene the leaders of Congress to craft historic, bipartisan legislation to achieve a landmark for our generation:

a Social Security system that is strong in the 21st century." Bill Clinton.

President Clinton appointed that commission, and it was headed by Democrat Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

President Clinton, just a month later, in February of 1998 also had these words to say at an address at nearby Georgetown University: So that all of these achievements, these achievements meaning the economic achievements, our increasing social coherence and cohesion, our increasing efforts to reduce poverty among our youngest children, all of them, all of them are threatened by the looming fiscal crisis in Social Security. President Clinton said that.

Now, recently, very recently, President Bush has been attacked for even suggesting that there is a problem, perhaps even a crisis with Social Security. I submit to my colleagues again that President Clinton certainly thought that there was, and I say to my colleagues I certainly think that there is as well. We will talk about that in the next little while.

How was Social Security established? Well, again, when my parents were young adults back in the mid- to late 1930s, coming out of the Depression, I am sure that in this very same Chamber, Members of the House of Representatives, led by a directive from President Roosevelt, felt an obligation to some of our seniors that were struggling; and coming out of the Depression, I am quite certain times truly were tough.

And this great Nation wanted to be there for those that needed us the most and had every right to ask for a bit of a helping hand so that they might have dignity in their last days. So Social Security became the program to provide just a little bit of support to maintain that dignity as people lived out their last days.

When it was established in the beginning, there was but a 2 percent tax placed on the first \$3,000 of income a worker had. Now, there are a couple of other little details that are of fairly great significance. Back when it was established, for every beneficiary, every individual who received a Social Security benefit, there was about 42, 43 workers that paid the tax that created the immediate revenue to provide the benefit to that one worker, about a 42 to 1 ratio.

By 1950, shortly after I was born, demographics had changed and there were but 16 workers to pay for one beneficiary.

□ 1630

Even today, we have barely three workers paying for one beneficiary. And by the time my children approach their retirement, there will be barely two workers to pay for one beneficiary.

Now a couple of other little details, and fairly significant and important