

They are vulnerable, they need our assistance, they need the help of Government.

ACTION NEEDED ON PENSION PROTECTION

(Mr. GEJDENSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, soon we will be taking up H.R. 1377, the Savings are Vital to Everyone's Retirement Act of 1997, the Savers Act. It is very nice. It says the President should have a study. But we know what we need to do on retirement protection. There is legislation that I have authored, and others.

Fifty-one million Americans do not have pensions today. Women, one-third of them are covered by pensions at age 55, and that is wrong. Women retirees are in systems that provide lower benefits. Women are less than half as likely as men to work in jobs that are covered by pensions. Twelve million women work for small firms who simply do not have pensions at all.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans when they were in the minority used to attack us for having studies. That is what they have turned out to do now. We are going to study pensions, when we know what we need to do. We need to make sure that unscrupulous companies do not rip off people's pensions, so people can invest in a modern society where they move from job to job, that they can keep those benefits, that it is easier for private companies to set up pensions, and that women are treated equally to men. Studies are fine. Let us get some action on the floor.

COMMENDING THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, here in America we are taxed on the very first cup of coffee we drink in the morning. We are taxed on every gallon of fuel we expend just to get to work. We are taxed when we make a phone call. We are taxed when we buy something on the way home. When we get to our home, we pay property taxes on the house we live in. Then, God forbid, if we should die, we are paying taxes once again. We pay in life and we pay in death.

Early this morning we did something about that by passing the balanced budget agreement. For the first time in 16 years we have hope of a little Federal tax relief for families that work. For the first time in nearly 30 years we will get to a balanced budget by the year 2000. Sweet dreams, America. Hope is alive.

STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH DISASTER RELIEF AND WIC FUNDS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 60 days since the President sent disaster relief legislation to the Congress. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would rather play politics with the bill than move to provide needed relief for flood victims. Republicans have added a poison pill to the legislation, which in fact would ultimately reduce the levels of funding for education, for the women, infants, and children program, and for other programs that directly benefit working middle class families today. This could undermine the entire bipartisan budget agreement that we did work into the wee hours of the morning to pass.

Meanwhile, the flood victims continue to wait for their disaster relief money. In addition, 360,000 women, infants, and children who receive nutrition assistance from the WIC program are at risk for losing milk, formula, and cereal. I urge my Republican colleagues, stop playing politics with the bill. Let us pass the legislation. Let the President sign it, and move quickly to get these funds to the folks who so desperately need them.

WITH A WINNING BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT, THE ONLY LOSERS ARE BIG GOVERNMENT AND THE STATUS QUO

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, America awoke this morning to the first balanced budget agreement in nearly two generations. Today I rise to commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both Democrats and Republicans, for the passage of the balanced budget agreement.

This budget truly is good news for the American people. This bipartisan approach demonstrates to the American people that we in Congress are willing to put aside petty partisan politics to pass this historic balanced budget.

Although this agreement may not be perfect, passage of this budget will mean smaller government, lower spending, lower taxes, a solvent Medicare system, and a balanced budget, all in one plan. The people in my district in Nevada will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money to save, invest, and send their kids to college, or spend any way they see fit. Seniors, families, and future generations will all benefit from this budget agreement. The only loser is big Government and the status quo.

COURT MARTIAL FOR LT. KELLY FLYNN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon said Lt. Kelly Flynn, the first woman to fly a B-52, committed adultery and lied. Lt. Kelly Flynn admits she made a mistake. For this, the Pentagon has chosen to court-martial Lieutenant Flynn.

What a country, Congress. Jimmy Swigert can return to prime time, but Kelly Flynn gets hard time. Unbelievable. For years G.I. Joe was given a condom and a slap on the wrist, but now G.I. Jane gets a court-martial, a slap in the face, and to boot, labeled as Jezebel for life. I ask, if this was Lt. Erol Flynn instead of Lt. Kelly Flynn, would there be a court-martial, Congress? Beam me up.

The truth is these Pentagon fat cats have been sitting on their bureaucratic self-righteous brasses far too long. What is next, gentlemen? Chastity belts? I yield back the balance of all this adultery and crime.

IN HONOR OF THE RESIDENTS OF FARIBAULT, MN

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, next week we celebrate Memorial Day. I rise to commend the residents of Faribault, MN, for their traditional observance of this most sacred holiday.

The first observance of Memorial Day by the residents of Faribault, MN, was on May 30, 1869. Under the leadership of the local Grand Army of the Republic post, Capt. J.C. Turner, the post commander, took command and led the soldiers and citizens of Faribault, MN, on the first Memorial Day march. With colors and banners unfurled they marched to three local cemeteries where flags and flowers were placed on the graves of fallen comrades. A ceremony was held with a scripture reading and prayer led by Reverend Dubois.

This year the citizens of Faribault and the Rice County Veterans Association will once again participate in community activities, and proudly display the stars and stripes in honor of Faribault's fallen heroes and departed loved ones.

The people of Faribault serve as shining examples for their longstanding patriotism and commitment to civic duty.

LET US MOVE AMERICA TOWARD A BALANCED BUDGET IN A FAIR WAY

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that Congress has made real progress in reducing the deficit in the last 4 years from \$290 billion down to \$65 billion. That is good. The bad news is that the budget agreement voted upon last night gives huge tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country, the people who do not need it, and at the same time lowers the quality of health care for our senior citizens by cutting Medicare over a 5-year period by \$115 billion. That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, we must move this country toward a balanced budget, but in a way which is fair, in a way which helps the middle class and the working families of this country, and not just the wealthy.

While targeted tax breaks for the middle class are appropriate, it makes no sense that over half of the proposed tax cuts go to the highest earning 5 percent. Not only is that wrong, but it is bad economics. With huge tax breaks for people who do not need them, we run the danger of going through the 1980's all over again and seeing the deficit explode.

Let us move this country toward a balanced budget, but let us do it in a way that is fair.

PASS THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT BEFORE THE PATIENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS MAXED OUT

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to hear the liberals on the other side talk about how disappointed they are that we are not spending more money. At last tally the national debt stood at \$5.1 trillion. The national credit card is hereby declared maxed out.

The politicians in Washington have been going crazy with the national credit card for too long. Although we might think that running up the national credit card is clearly a case of insufficient adult supervision, think again. No, the \$5 trillion debt on the national credit card is a result of 40 years of expanding big government. It is a result of special interests taking over the budget at the expense of the middle class taxpayers. It is a result of an entitlement mentality that requires government to live beyond its means.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a change in the management in Washington. The change in adult supervision means the national credit card is about to see a declining balance for the first time since 1969. Deficit spending has gone on long enough. So I urge my colleagues to be persistent in moving forward on the balanced budget agreement before the patience of the American people is maxed out, too.

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CUBAN INDEPENDENCE

(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. Mr. Speaker, 95 years ago yesterday, May 20, the island of Cuba gained its independence after a long fought struggle against the Spanish crown.

Sadly, while millions of free Cubans outside the island celebrated this proud day, for the 11 million Cubans still living under the brutal totalitarian dictatorship of the Castro regime, it was just another day in the persistent struggle to reclaim the freedoms gained after independence from Spain but lost with the rise of Fidel Castro to power.

Yet Cuba's new freedom fighters face similar repressive measures as those who led the struggle for Cuban independence in the 1800's.

As the Interamerican Human Rights Commission recently reported, in today's Cuba the harassment, accusations, adoption of disciplinary measures, and prison sentences for persons who peacefully display their disagreement with the political regime in place have persisted.

The report adds that those who work against the regime are accused of enemy propaganda, contempt, and rebellion. It is for them that Cuba's independence leader, Jose Marti, wrote, "The sufferings endured for the sake of winning freedom make us love it the more."

PASSAGE OF BALANCED BUDGET RESOLUTION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the balanced budget agreement last night, many people have asked, is it consistent to cut taxes and try to reduce the deficit? To this I say yes. Here is why.

For every dollar we send to Washington as taxpayers, Washington spends over a \$1.50. You can spend your money a lot more efficiently than my friends in Congress. I can spend your money.

If you have more money in your pocketbook, you are going to buy more records, more clothes, more socks, more shoes, more whatever. When you do that, small businesses expand. And when they expand, they create more jobs. When more jobs are available, more people go to work. When more people go to work, less are on public assistance and more pay in taxes. Revenues actually increase. This was proven both by President Reagan and President Kennedy.

The other side to that, though, is as these revenues increase because of a tax cut, we have to hold the line on spending. Last night's budget agree-

ment gives us the opportunity to both reduce taxes, let people spend their own money and hold the line on spending here in Washington.

WHALE WATCHING INDUSTRY IN JEOPARDY

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, a multimillion dollar industry is in Washington State, California, Oregon, and British Columbia. It is the whale watching industry.

Whales are used to boats out there and they do not mind getting close to the boats. In fact, sometimes they will even rub against the boat. This industry is about to be put in jeopardy. The International Whaling Commission meets this year, within the next month or so, and they are prepared to authorize one tribe in Washington and several in Canada to renew commercial whaling.

When they start that, these are very intelligent animals. As soon as we begin killing whales, the blood in the water, those animals will become very skiddish. We will not get a boat within a mile of them. This multimillion dollar industry is about to be put in jeopardy for no good reason in the world.

Once we allow the tribes to do it, then the Norwegians and Japanese, who also have a historic record of capturing whales, will be able to do whaling nationwide. But I am concerned about the whale watching industry in Washington State and the Pacific coast.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX CUTS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have heard the other side characterize capital gains tax cuts so many times as tax cuts for the wealthy that I am truly baffled. I am baffled because I do not know if the other side persists in saying this because they simply do not know what they are talking about or because they know that bashing the rich is good politics.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have a few questions for the other side. Does the other side believe that the role of capital in our economic system is unimportant? Put another way, can the other side conceive of a single thing, anything at all, that is more important to our economic growth than savings and investment? Do the Democrats believe that taxing savings and investment less will result in more of it?

Does more savings and investment help create jobs or prevent them from being created? Does the other side pretend to believe that the poor will prosper if fewer jobs are created?

Of course not. The other side is so obsessed, Mr. Speaker, with the possibility that rich people like Bill Gates and