

to claim the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

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

There was no objection.

#### AMERICAN AGRICULTURE NEEDS SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate my remarks with the comments of the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE). Both of those gentleman represents States very similar to mine when it comes to agriculture and the prominence of agriculture in our economy in our home States.

Mr. Speaker, every day I receive calls from the people who sent me here to represent them, and every day I get letters and messages describing the need for relief from excessive regulation.

I am proud to represent the people of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, and I have done my very best to represent them well. The people of the High Plains are good, hard-working people who love their families and whose values I am proud to say coincide with my own.

So today, I want to say a few words in particular about the farmers and ranchers who live and work on the Eastern Plains of Colorado. These producers, for the most part, are descendants of the first settlers of the West. They work the same fields and provide the affordable food that makes America a great place to live.

They take a lot of things in stride with their heads held high. They persevere in the face of a lot of things they cannot change. Drought, excessive rains, low crop prices, and the actions of foreign governments are all things beyond a farmer's control.

Farmers get a sense of pride doing the work they do, helping to feed the Nation and seeing the result of a year's work at harvest time. Farmers only ask to be able to do the work and live like other Americans. And right now, they cannot do that for a couple of reasons. Reasons the Republican Congress is attempting to address. See, the relative economic prosperity that the country is enjoying right now has left agriculture behind in many sectors.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the President vetoed the Agriculture Appropriations bill. Without warning nor legitimate reason, he placed the financial condition and trade competitiveness of America's farmers in grave jeopardy. These people expect their elected officials to know and understand them, to

represent them in policy and in belief. I can tell my colleagues how challenging it is to face farmers at home and try to explain the behavior of our President in vetoing a bill so central to agriculture in America.

Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States has been wholly unconcerned about the people who are now suffering because of White House politics, the farmers and ranchers in Colorado and throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, farmers face commodity prices that would drive any other business out of business. Take for example wheat, one of the staples of the American diet. It was priced at \$2.35 just last week, yet wheat costs over \$3 just to grow and harvest. Corn and cattle prices are yielding record low prices also.

Mr. Speaker, on October 2, this House of Representatives recorded 333 votes for the Agriculture Appropriations bill. Just a few days later, on October 6, the Senate voted the exact same measure off of the Senate floor. Yet when the President was given the bill, one of the only bills to pass with such a commanding bipartisan majority, sadly he let our farmers down.

Our bill provided \$4.2 billion, and I say \$4.2 billion to provide emergency aid. This money could be used to help people who have been victimized by declining crop prices, drought, flood, fire, disease and so on.

Pulling the rug out from under the Agriculture Appropriations bill, the farmers and ranchers of America, has a debilitating financial impact. There are many financial services, financial markets, insurance policies and provisions, bankers, that rely on the figures that are derived from the Agriculture Appropriations bill to set the planning prices, to set the financial figures for the next growing season. All of that, of course, is delayed now as Congress negotiates downstairs with the insiders from the White House and the Members of Congress who are negotiating with the White House to get this bill passed and concluded.

Every day that we engage in those kinds of debates we are delaying the ability of farmers and ranchers to move forward on financial planning and cash management on the farm.

Our approach in this bill was heavy on trade expansion. This is something that is very, very important, and a huge distinction between our values in a Republican pro-trade House and a White House that seems to be ignorant of the need to expand trade markets.

In fact, we have budgeted, set aside significant funds for the Export Enhancement program and this White House has refused to release those dollars in a way that can really help some of the hurting farmers throughout the country.

This bill is also heavy on research. Cutting-edge research is what has allowed American farmers to maintain

their competitive edge around the world. Let me give a perfect example: The Russian wheat aphid. It was introduced into North America not too long ago. It is a very resistant variety of aphid, of insect. It has a remarkable ability to modify itself to various chemical applications. This research is important.

We also need tax relief. Farms are where we look to preserve the American culture. Rural America is a place where every American ought to be concerned. Rural America is the part of the country today that preserves strong families, good schools, close communities, strong economies, where we still honor the values of honest hard work. And I think it is inward to rural America where we need to look today for the values that will carry us into the next century.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, having our President veto the agriculture appropriations bill in my estimation was a very bad mistake. I am confident that our Republican Congress will always keep the needs of farmers and ranchers in the forefront as we proceed in the closing days of this Congress and return home to those constituents that sent us here to operate faithfully and justly, not in a partisan sort of way. We will keep the farmers and ranchers foremost in our minds as we proceed.

#### THIS CONGRESS MADE PROGRESS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there was this guy who was in hell and he was sentenced to go to hell and he was walking around down there and he was smiling. The devil says to him, what are you smiling about. He said, I am from South Georgia. It is 90 degrees. I do not feel so bad. I kind of feel like I am back home again.

The devil got mad. The devil cranked up the thermostat to 100 degrees and checked on the guy after a little while, walked over, the guy was not even sweating. Devil said, now what is the problem, why are you so happy now? He says, well, again, I am from South Georgia and 100 degrees is like July. This does not bother me a bit.

The devil got real mad, cranked up the thermostat to 110 degrees. And at this point the guy was smiling again. The devil runs over to him and says, I know, August, right. And guy says, you got it, devil, 110 degrees is not a problem.

The devil got real mad and turned the thermostat down to 15 degrees. Everything got blue and frozen. Devil ran over there and he saw the South Georgia boy smiling one more time and he said, what is it now? And he says, devil, I am smiling because apparently the

Democrats and the Republicans have finally found something that they agree on up there in Washington.

And so the reality is, Mr. Speaker, we are often painted, Democrats and Republicans, as fighting things over. I will say this, that I believe philosophically so often that my side is right, as my good friends on the Democrat side believe their side is right. But what probably a less than complete world it would be if one side always won.

I think that if the Chicago Bulls keep on winning the National Basketball Championships, people are going to get tired of watching basketball. I am real proud of the Atlanta Braves, as I know the folks in New York City are proud of the New York City Yankees. If every year it boils down to the Braves versus Yankees, this year it may be San Diego versus Cleveland, people would get tired of watching baseball all the time.

The point is, Mr. Speaker, you cannot always have it the Republicans win; you cannot always have it that the Democrats win. We do need to cooperate. We do need to get some things accomplished, but at the same time, I do not think either side needs to apologize for what they believe in.

I am very proud of what this Congress has accomplished under Republican leadership. We have the first balanced budget since 1969, 1969, when Neil Armstrong was walking on the moon and the Mod Squad was on TV. We have reformed, protected and saved Medicare which a mere 3 years ago was on the road to bankruptcy. Now Medicare, on a bipartisan basis, has been reformed.

This Congress, under Republican leadership, has passed the first tax cuts in 16 years. We have passed IRS reform. This year we pushed for some more tax cuts. We have pushed for ending the marriage tax penalty. And my chart over here, Mr. Speaker, shows you some actual people, some real people who will directly benefit from marriage tax penalty relief. We have Kris Hanson in Nyssa, Oregon; William Johnson, Reno, Nevada; Larry Bergman in Tracy, California; Tom Smith from Columbus, Ohio, and the names go on and on and on, as millions of Americans would benefit from paying less taxes and avoiding paying higher taxes simply because they are married.

How big is this tax cut? We keep hearing the tax cut is huge, but of our \$9.6 trillion estimated expenditure over the next 5 years, the tax cut is a mere \$80 billion. It is a slither of a slither, Mr. Speaker, as you can tell from this chart. It really has been exaggerated. So that people can see it, it is just a mere slice. If this was a pie, I can promise you, you are going to go away hungry.

How much is the tax cut from the surplus? It is about 10 percent. What do we do with the other 90 percent of the surplus, Mr. Speaker? We for the first time in 40 years protect Social Security money out of the Social Security

trust fund. We build a wall on it so that that money cannot be used for roads and bridges. The first time in 40 years, 90 percent of the Social Security surplus would be protected.

What else has this Congress done? We have reformed welfare, welfare, Mr. Speaker, which was vetoed twice by the President and finally signed into law by the President. Today we have 37 percent less people on welfare rolls than we did 5 years ago. We need to continue to do that so that people become independent and that is a very important part of the American experience.

Mr. Speaker, finally let me say on education, we have a whole gamut of issues on education designed to put dollars back in the classroom and control back in local educators' hands and away from the Washington bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, is this Congress making progress? Yes, it is. Is it everything the Republicans wanted? No. Is it everything the Democrats wanted? No. But is America being served by the dynamic of the two-party system? I would say that it is, and we should continue working for these very important reforms.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about why it is that we are still here in Washington, why many of my colleagues are not back in their States campaigning for an election that is very near at hand.

I think we need to realize how important is the struggle that is going on in this city right now as it relates to a very important issue for so many senior citizens in America. That is Social Security.

About two weeks ago we had a huge fight out here about whether or not it was all right to use the Social Security surplus for tax cuts. And in the end that fight was decided, no, it is not okay to use Social Security money for tax cuts. That is not okay.

Tonight we are out here, and many of us have come back specifically for this reason, because there are so many people out here right now that want to take that Social Security surplus money and use it for new government spending. There are specific proposals, one, \$14 billion to fund the IMF. Another one, let us rebuild embassies with the Social Security money. Another one, let us help Korean flood victims with the Social Security money. I am not here to debate the merits of the IMF or even the merits of building the embassies or helping the flood victims in Korea, but what I am here to suggest is that if this government sees fit that these are the top priorities, then it is necessary that we eliminate some

other sort of government spending so that we can afford to fund these top priorities. Because what is wrong is going into the Social Security trust fund and taking the Social Security money out to fund these new Washington spending programs. That is wrong.

If the government sees these as the top priority items, then the government needs to find less important items and get rid of them so that we are not in essence stealing the Social Security money to fund new government spending.

Another program that we are hearing a lot about in the news right now is education. There is a proposal from the President to increase funding for education. I got a call from a constituent. That is the other reason I came over here tonight. I had a discussion with a constituent this evening. She said, Mark, what exactly do you say when the President calls for more funding for education for 100,000 new teachers and building new schools? What do you say back to the President?

I said, I support having smaller class sizes and more teachers and newer school buildings, too. I think it is absolutely essential that we have smaller class sizes and newer school buildings. But the question that needs to be answered is not whether or not we should have smaller class sizes but who is going to control where those dollars are going to, who is going to decide where those new teachers go?

Should it be us out here in Washington? Is there something that makes us powerful or more knowledgeable than parents and teachers and communities? What exactly is it that would lead us to believe that we are better stewards of that money than the parents and the teachers and the folks in the local community who can then make decisions how to best spend that money and where to best put those new teachers. The debate is not about whether we should have more spending for education. The debate instead is about who should decide where those dollars are going to be spent.

One more thing, when we talk about the government collecting tax dollars out of working people's pockets, getting them in Washington and then the government, the Federal Government out here in Washington deciding where we are going to put 100,000 new teachers and where we are going to decide that it is all right to build new school buildings, when we collect that money out of the taxpayers' pockets, 40 cents goes to the bureaucracy before any money gets out to hire new teachers or before any money gets out to build new schools. That is wrong. That is what is wrong with the whole concept.

If we want to direct more of the Federal tax dollars to schools and to education, that is good. I have no problem with that at all. As a matter of fact, I think that is a very high priority in our Nation. But when we are redirecting those dollars, let us empower the parents and the teachers and the communities to decide how to best spend