

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### A BROKEN BALANCED BUDGET DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I offer to the family of Bob Hope the sympathy of this House and my personal sympathy in recognition of all that he has done to contribute to this country and as well to contribute to the many veterans who have benefited from his service.

Let me also applaud the pages that will be leaving this House at this time and thank them so very much for all that they have contributed, and wish them very well and will add my request that they come back and visit us again.

Mr. Speaker, today we had an unfortunate experience in this House, and the experience was such that I thought it was appropriate to bring it to the attention of the American people.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Texas yielding for a moment so that I may make an important announcement.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I made an announcement that was erroneous regarding a report that Bob Hope had passed away. I want to apologize to Bob Hope, his family, and the entire Nation for the erroneous announcement made on the House floor today.

The floor announcement was based on a story which briefly appeared on an Associated Press Internet news page this afternoon. They have since removed the story.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I regret this announcement and I look forward to many more happy memories from a wonderful entertainer and a distinguished American.

Again, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, with that I will gleefully acknowledge that I do not have to offer sympathy to the family of Bob Hope and I am joyful about that.

I do want to provide this very important assessment of where we are today and where we are going. And I do that because as the final vote was cast on the Kasich Republican budget, I heard applause throughout this Chamber. And tragically, I think, those who are not engaged in this debate were misguided and misdirected.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day for America. It is the busting of a deal, the balanced budget deal that we made in 1997, when many of us from both sides of the aisle said that it is a good thing that we bring down the deficit, it is a

good that we pay off the debt, it is a good thing we tighten our belts.

But for those who applauded, the reason why they may not be knowledgeable is because they will not feel the pain until the year 2003. The young people that we just congratulated as pages, senior citizens who will just become 62 or 65, veterans who have come to me in my office and said their whole health care package has been reordered because of the balanced budget, in the year 2003 they will really feel the pain.

For this budget that was passed today we have the words of the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget, these are his quotes, and I refer to Senator DOMENICI who said, "This budget is a mockery." The Senate appropriations subcommittee chairman, Senator STEVENS, dismissed it and said, "I do not know where we are going to get \$45 billion in cuts."

Mr. Speaker, this budget cuts veterans, food stamps, and title 20 another \$10 billion. It cuts the help we give in foster care and child care that many of our States rely upon. This budget cuts Medicaid so that we force people into a system of no health care.

I wonder how many people realize that in the scheme of the number of systems of good health care in the world, that we in America, the United States of America, do not even fall in the top 10. The country that has the greatest ability of invention and research in medical care and health devices, we do not even serve our people as well as European nations and Third World nations, and yet we are going to cut Medicaid \$12 billion.

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What does that do? I am not on Medicaid. It does not bother me, some may say. What it does do, it burdens your local public health systems. And for those of you who have HMOs who are squeezing you every day, you see how it feels when there are throngs of people forced into no health care. That is what happened today.

In addition, might I say that we have not fixed Social Security. We have cut food stamps, crop insurance, agricultural research that was already passed in a bill, just recently passed today, but we will be looking to try and fund those, and yet they have been cut \$25 billion.

Some Members always say that it does not bother me, it does not impact me. But when the least of ours are not able to receive the services that they need, it does impact those of us who care. The balanced budget that we passed in 1997 took into consideration the great effort we have made to move people from welfare to work. But yet this budget we passed today imposes another \$10 billion in temporary assistance to needy families. Might I say, it is families that we are talking about, men and women and children that we are cutting another \$10 billion.

Oh, the economy is doing well, never been probably as active and as produc-

tive as we can see it today in 1998, but there are years to come. There are economic cycles. We have all been through them, the bust in California, the oil bust in Houston, the automobile bust in Michigan, the various cycles of problems that we have had. This is what you are going to face when people come in need to the Federal Government to help the States.

You will have in the year 2003 an enormous cut where services that are needed, Medicare and Medicaid and services dealing with welfare to work and transportation issues, the money will not be there. That is what was voted on today.

Lastly let me say, Mr. Speaker, we all talk about child care. In my community we have 5,000 slots for Head Start. We need 20,000. Yet this House has cut Head Start and it has cut job training.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that it would be a good day. It is Friday. But it is a tragic day. Those who applauded, I hope that sound rings in their ears as America cries out as this budget was passed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Members are reminded to refrain from individual references to Members of the other body.

#### E-RATE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, the FCC is on the verge of halting the collection of money for a new program to help wire schools and libraries to the internet thru the e-rate provisions of the universal service fund.

Let me begin with a few facts:

1. The Universal Service Fund is older than Social Security. Yes Mr. Speaker it is older than our most venerated entitlement program.

2. The 1996 Telecommunications Act extended the generations old Universal Service program to include schools and libraries. This is a matter of law.

3. Long distance phone rates are at their lowest point ever.

4. Access charge reductions to phone companies—part of the "deal" that resulted in the 1996 Telecom Act—have totalled 2.4 billion over the last 11 months—well above the \$2 billion estimated demand for discounts in the Schools and Libraries Corporation.

5. The Schools & Libraries Corporations has 14 employees, smaller than the vast majority of Congressional staffs.

Now: through all the myths, propaganda, and nonsense that is being spread about the E-rate and Schools and Libraries Corporation—myths these facts are meant to dispel, one central fact is being neglected: Connecting schools and libraries to the Internet will benefit our children. It will benefit the children of my district and children across this nation.

That is why we are here: period.

I began with that simple proposition. Mr. Speaker, because we are getting bogged down in a debate that is becoming increasingly virulent, malicious, and frankly, political.

We are not debating the educational interests of our children, we are cowering to the selfish objectives of vocal interest groups.

But Mr. Speaker if politics is to stop at the schoolhouse door, then we ought to consider the needs of our students, the future taxpayers of America.

Mr. Speaker: Only 27% of classrooms currently have an internet connection—in lower income areas, only 13%.

With this level of connectivity how can we expect our nation to meet our current and future labor force needs:

The Commerce Department reports that 200,000 to 400,000 jobs requiring computer software skills are currently going unfilled because of a worker shortage.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently predicted a 70% growth in computer and technology-related jobs by 2005.

From 1996 to 2005, more than 1.3 million new computer scientists, engineers, and systems analysts will be needed in the U.S. to fill vacant jobs. On average, this amounts to a need of more than 136,000 workers every year.

Just recently the Education & Workforce committee heard compelling testimony about this very subject. There is tremendous concern in communities across America that our schools may not have the tools needed to prepare students to work in an information intensive economy.

Still, the economy grows by leaps and bounds in large part because of the role of information technology on productivity.

In Tennessee, information technology has had a dramatic impact in the workplace: from transportation to medical services, information technology has created exciting new jobs opportunities for citizens across the state.

Over 400,000 Tennesseans are employed in high-tech industries.

The average wage for a high-tech worker in my state is estimated to be over \$36,000 per year.

High tech exports from the state total over 2.1 billion dollars per year.

The growing importance of information technology to Tennessee and to the nation means that our students need the tools to compete and win in the 21st century.

In school districts around the state educators are working hard to provide students with the educational resources that they need.

The passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the establishing of the Schools and Libraries Corporation provided a means from the Memphis city schools district to accelerate the implementation of the district wide Networking Solution.

When Networking Solutions was presented to the Memphis Board of Education the presentation culminated several years of research and planning to develop a network solution that would allow the District Technology Plan, Realizing Vision 2000 Through Technology to become a reality.

The plan would create a fast, reliable, and manageable environment that provides for an integrated solution for voice, data, and video. The scope of the Networking Solution project includes several major components: school workstation cabling and writing, school infra-

structure, the district wide fiber networking service fees, the Administration Building server, and the Teaching and Learning Academy server.

Developed in concert with IBM, the district has implemented a network pilot project that gives the Memphis students and teachers a wide range of opportunities, such as: providing students with access virtual instructional libraries; the ability to transit and receive live, 2-way TV quality video, audio for Distance Learning, Video Conferencing, Video Broadcast, E-mail and Intranet Capability.

Memphis City Schools staff have worked closely with the Council of Great City Schools, the State Department of Education, and IBM to complete applications for the e-rate discounts in order to implement the Networking Solution district wide.

The first application was filed by the state on behalf of Memphis City Schools and other Tennessee districts as part of a statewide consortium.

Now under the e-rate plan, the average discount percentage for Memphis is 80%. 80% Mr. Speaker!! That figure alone indicates the degree of need that prevails in my district. That need is not only characterized by a technology deficit, but by a basic infrastructure deficit that borders on the criminal.

Just before the Memorial Day recess, two dozen public schools in my district were forced onto a half day schedule. Why? Because 24 schools in my district Mr. Speaker are without air conditioning!

Mr. Speaker we in Congress would never dream of conducting our business in anything other than first class comfort. We wouldn't dream of giving our staffs less than the most cutting edge technology to conduct "the people's business".

Yet we ask American children to learn in thrive in sweltering, crumbling school buildings. We pay no end of lip service to our commitment to the education of our children but we can't find one dime in a trillion dollar federal budget for school construction and infrastructure improvements!!

And now, to add insult to injury, we are having a serious conversation in the United States Congress—in the people's house—about depriving our children of yet another educational opportunity.

How long Mr. Speaker, before we act like adults in this body and behave in responsible fashion toward our children.

Mr. Speaker, I am the youngest member of Congress and perhaps a bit impatient. But I sincerely hope I don't have to spend my time in this body convincing my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to act like adults.

If we allow the positive benefits of the e-rate, schools and libraries corporation to be nullified because of malicious, malevolent, mean-spirited, selfish politics, then shame on the phone companies, shame on this house, and pity the American people.

Our performance on the Transportation bill before the recess bears witness to our enthusiasm for public works and believe me Mr. Speaker I have nothing against good roads.

However, while we are happy to pave over every available acre in order to improve our transportation system we remain unwilling to invest in our public schools—from the internet to air conditioners.

This Congress cares more about pavement than it does about people. The fact that we

are forced to come to the floor on a Friday afternoon, when we should be at home at public school graduations, is clear evidence of that.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we get our priorities in line or we will continue to see declining test scores and inadequate academic achievement.

Providing our students access to the tools of the 21st century should not be the subject of controversy—it should be the subject of enthusiastic engagement. So I encourage all my colleagues—ask yourselves this simple question: What is best for the children of your district. Will the e-rate get us there—in your hearts you know that this is true, now let's have the courage to act on that belief.

#### TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE NAVAJO TRIBE OF INDIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. REDMOND) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, 1998 is the 130th anniversary of the treaty between the United States of America and the Navajo Nation. In tribute to the Navajo people and the great Nation of the United States, I am going to be presenting the treaty today in its entirety.

The treaty reads as follows:

Treaty between the United States of America and the Navajo tribe of Indians, concluded June 1, 1868; ratification advised July 25, 1868; proclaimed to the people of the United States and the people of the Navajo Nation, August 12, 1865.

Andrew Jackson, President of the United States of America, to all and singular to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Whereas a treaty was made in and concluded at Fort Sumner in the territory of New Mexico on the first day of June in the year of our Lord 1868 by and between Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman and Samuel F. Tappan, commissioners, on the part of the United States and Barboncito, Armijo and other chiefs and headmen of the Navajo tribe of Indians, on the part of said Indians, and duly authorized thereto by them, which treaty is in the words and figures as following to wit:

Article I. From this day forward all war between the parties of this agreement shall cease forever. The Government of the United States desires peace, and its honor is hereby pledged to keep it. The Indians desire peace, and they now pledge their honor to keep it.

If bad men among the whites, or among other people subject to the authority of the United States shall commit any wrong upon the person or property of the Indians, the United States will, upon proof made to the agent and forwarded the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington City, proceed at once to cause the offender to be arrested and punished according to the laws of the United States and also to reimburse the injured persons for the loss sustained.

If bad men among the Indians shall commit a wrong or depredation upon the person or property of any one, white, black or Indian, subject to the authority of the United States and at peace therewith, the Navajo Tribe agree that they will, upon proof made to their agent and on notice by him, deliver up the wrongdoer to the United States, to be tried and punished according to its laws; and