

for the first time since I have been here, they are going to use Social Security surpluses for tax cuts.

There is no business in America that would go to their pension fund, take money out of the pension fund, and use it for pay raises. So why does Congress think that they can use Social Security surpluses for tax cuts? This is a totally unreasonable proposal.

I would like to make it very clear that this is different than the 1997 tax cut package. In 1997, we reduced spending and we reduced taxes. That is good. But in 1998, we are about to reduce taxes by utilizing Social Security surpluses that belong put away for the safety and security of Social Security for our senior citizens, and that is wrong.

I conclude this morning by asking the Republican leadership to reconsider asking for a vote that is going to put Members in this Chamber in a position where they have to choose between protecting Social Security for our seniors and cutting taxes for American people, both very good objectives.

SO-CALLED FEDERAL BUDGET SURPLUS IS FUTURE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, to follow on the comments of the person preceding me in the well, there will be much fanfare this September about the looming budget surplus, no end of ideas on how to spend these monies. That side of the aisle is going to promote tax cuts, with the exception of the gentleman who spoke before me.

Let us get some facts: 73 percent of the American people pay more in Social Security taxes than income taxes. We all pay this tax, knowing it goes to support our parents, our grandparents, the disabled, and, hopefully, ourselves, when we retire. This year Social Security will have a \$90 billion surplus.

Guess what? The so-called Federal budget surplus is the future Social Security trust fund. If we spend it today on tax cuts, it will not be there tomorrow for America's retirees.

We better step back and think about that before we jam this bill through in an attempt to get reelected and be popular in an election year at the cost of the future of Social Security.

THERE IS NO REAL SURPLUS TO GIVE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up on what the previous speaker said, not only my Republican colleague from Wisconsin, but also my Democratic colleague from Oregon.

Seniors understand, when we talk to them and when we have town meetings,

that there is essentially no surplus; that the so-called surplus that we talk about is essentially what is owed to Social Security, and that we have to pay back a lot of money to the Social Security trust fund over the next 5 or 10 years if we are to have enough benefits to pay out to Social Security recipients.

That is why this Republican tax proposal is really the wrong way to go. What will happen, essentially, is that we will, in fact, increase the debt and, ultimately, may have to raise taxes in order to provide the benefits that Social Security recipients need.

So what I say is we spent a lot of time last year on a bipartisan basis to pass a Balanced Budget Act. We have a balanced budget, but we still have this problem that we have to pay back Social Security. We do not have a surplus. We do not have one to spend.

Let us not, in the few weeks we have here in this Congress, waste our time trying to kid the American people that somehow we are going to give them tax relief. It is not really there to spend.

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FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I oppose the so-called Dollars to the Classroom Act which would turn critically important elementary and secondary education programs into one giant block grant.

Republicans want to eliminate 31 programs that work, including the Eisenhower professional development grants, women's educational equality, school-to-work, and gifted and talented education grants.

In the last Congress, Republicans tried to eliminate the Department of Education. Today they are trying to kill any chance of Federal leadership in education. Education is primarily a State and local responsibility. But the President and the Congress must provide national leadership on national issues and no issue is more important than improving education for our kids. Instead of focusing on what works, reducing class size, improving school facilities, raising standards and improving the training of our teachers, the Republicans want to destroy critically important programs. Do not let them succeed. Oppose H.R. 3248.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a 60-year success story that all Americans should be proud of. Prior to Social Security enactment, over 50 percent of our retirees were in poverty.

Today it is less than 10 percent. We have an opportunity now to take the next step to protect Social Security for today, for tomorrow, for the future generations to come. But we are in jeopardy this week. We have heard from my colleagues this morning about efforts to take future Social Security trust fund dollars and place them into tax cuts. We last year all voted together, a majority of Republicans and Democrats, to provide a \$95 billion tax cut within the context of a balanced budget. I supported that. I want to move forward and continue to do that. But I will not vote for tax cuts that remove critical dollars from the future of Social Security. That is irresponsible. I call upon my colleagues to save Social Security first before any effort is made to proceed on tax cuts. The future of Social Security is just too important to all Americans.

90-10 TAX CUT PLAN

(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, the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) has just released a bold new tax cut package for this Congress. It is called the 90-10 tax cut plan. It will improve the health of Social Security and cut taxes.

First we will set aside 90 percent of the surplus, to save Social Security, a surplus that will total about \$1.4 trillion, and then we will use 10 percent of the surplus to cut taxes now. It is important to emphasize that we must cut taxes now. Already the liberals have ideas how they want to spend your money. Those who love big government do not think that the middle class ought to have tax relief. In fact they are against the whole idea of tax cuts, always and everywhere.

This tax package contains marriage tax penalty relief, it makes health care more affordable for many of those who cannot get it today, and it gives hard-hit farmers assistance at a difficult time. We were told that we could not balance the budget and cut taxes at the same time, but we did, just as we will save Social Security and cut taxes this time.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to answer my friend from Kansas if I might for just a second.

Democrats believe America deserves tax relief but the money should not come from the Social Security trust fund.

Now they are going to fool around this week and try to create a separate piece of legislation to bank this

money, but the reality is what they want to do, the Republican plan is a sneak attack, it is reckless, it is short-sighted and it is irresponsible. It is a raid on the Social Security trust fund. It spends the so-called surplus that does not exist and it endangers the retirement security of future generations.

We have a clear responsibility. Save Social Security first. We need to strengthen the Social Security system. It is the only sensible and responsible course of action.

I encourage my colleagues to be opposed to anything that will dip in and raid the Social Security surplus in order to provide the program that they are advocating.

WELFARE REFORM

(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, I have had the chance to visit a number of schools in my district. After one visit, I was surprised by one of the teachers who told me that she appreciated the welfare reform that this Congress passed back in 1996. So I asked her to tell me about that. And she said, well, there was this boy in her class, she said, let us call him Johnny. All of a sudden Johnny started to behave better. He had a better attitude, he was a better student. Everything about Johnny was better. Finally she asked Johnny, "Is there something different at your house?" And Johnny responded, "Yeah, my dad got a job."

Mr. Speaker, a job is more than the way you earn your living. A job helps to define your very life. Despite what some of our liberal friends claim, the real purpose of welfare reform was not so much to save money. It was about saving people. It was about saving families. It was about saving children from one more generation of poverty, dependency and despair. It has certainly made a difference in Johnny's life.

Mr. Speaker, what a difference a Republican Congress has made.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, Social Security, the most successful domestic program in our Nation's history, is under attack. Sadly, this attack is coming from within. It is a sneak attack, coming from the Republican leadership, under the guise of tax cuts. Two-thirds of our country's elderly depend on Social Security for over half of their income. The Republican sneak attack will take \$80 billion that we need to shore up the Social Security trust fund. They would rob the Social Security surplus. We cannot allow a sneak attack on Social Security while the

Nation is preoccupied. That is what the Republican leadership is hoping for. We cannot let them get away with it.

Democrats support tax cuts, but tax cuts should not come from the Social Security trust fund. Our Nation's elderly depend on Social Security. Our children depend on it. Working families depend on Social Security. The \$80 billion sneak attack will hurt all of them.

Mr. Speaker, let us save Social Security first.

STAND FIRM AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Administration ought to be commended for taking strong action against Osama bin Laden and his many followers who are behind the recent terrorist attacks on American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. Osama bin Laden is a traitor to Islam, and he has betrayed the commandments of his faith.

Chapter VI, verse 151 of the Koran states, "Take not life, which God hath made sacred, except by way of justice and law."

Terrorist attacks on our embassies have taken the lives of hundreds of innocent people, Americans and non-Americans alike. Osama bin Laden, like all terrorists, has engaged in a cowardly act and he does violence to the very religious principles he invokes. He offends the millions of devout followers of Islam who do not believe that the killing of innocent people has any role in a civilized society.

The Administration should stand firm against terrorism and strike back against the cowardly murderers who are a threat to free peoples everywhere.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, when I came to this House 10 years ago, the Republicans spent a lot of time telling us that we used the Social Security money to balance the budget. They said, "You're masking the deficit by moving that money over and using it to balance the budget."

Under President Clinton's leadership, we have brought the budget back into balance and there appears to be some surplus on the horizon. What do the Republicans want to do now? They want to take that money, not pay back Social Security but give it away in tax relief.

Now, when the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means tomorrow rolls out this three walnuts game that you see at the county fair, where is the pea, the American people are going to watch their Social Security moved around so fast in two different bills, it will be designed to confuse them. They

will put out a bill that says we want to put lots of money into balancing the Social Security, and then we just want this little teeny bit out here for a tax cut.

The first money that we have in surplus should go to pay for Social Security.

WE NEED ANTIMISSILE DEFENSE

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. The gentleman fails to remember that it was the Democrats that increased the tax on Social Security in 1993 and it was the Republicans that saved us from dipping out of the trust fund so it would not go bankrupt.

But I am here to talk about the missile that North Korea fired and its importance. Most of the press reports that the missile can reach the United States, some 3,300 miles. That is true. But tactically the THAAD and the Upper Tier, the Upper Tier is the Navy antimissile defense program, THAAD with the Air Force, any time we have a ship, say if South Korea is invaded, we cannot bring our carriers north of Cheju which is on the southern tip. That means they can be hit. Our forces deploy out of Japan and Taiwan. They can be hit there as well. So it is not just the threat of a missile reaching the United States. It can reach all of the ports to where we deploy against any country. That is important. That is another reason why we need antimissile defense.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4104, TREASURY, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, have the conferees been appointed?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Not quite yet.

Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. KOLBE, WOLF and ISTOOK, Mrs. NORTHUP, and Messrs. ADERHOLT, LIVINGSTON, McDADE and HOYER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. OBEY.

There was no objection.