

the President has shown a complete lack of leadership in helping them.

With the Clinton administration sitting on the sidelines as our family farmers struggle, Congress is taking swift action to protect our family farmers for many years to come, also with respect to the current disaster situation.

Yesterday, I was pleased to join members of the House leadership in announcing the \$3.9 billion agriculture relief package to address crop disaster losses. Also on yesterday, the House Committee on Ways and Means passed a tax package that is going to be very beneficial from a long range perspective for all small business people including farmers.

These relief measures will place real money into our farmers' hands in a time of great need. It is incumbent upon the Clinton administration to get off the sidelines and join Congress in swiftly approving this much needed disaster package.

HELP THE AMERICAN FARMER

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the actions that the administration has taken in their budget proposal this year with the farm crisis going on.

I spoke yesterday about the \$573 million tax increase that they propose to put on our livestock farmers who are dying out there today. Also, I would like to point out what they are doing to help the grain farmer and the person trying to do conservation work.

In their budget proposal, they want to tax people for the information to find out how to comply with the programs. So when you go into the NRCS office or you go to the FSA office, bring your checkbook because the administration says they are going to charge you to get information from you. It is outrageous.

I would just like to tell the Secretary of Agriculture and this administration, they have taken enough out of the hide of the American farmer, and they better go to work and try to help them rather than to continue to tax them and put them out of business.

MEDI-SCARE ALL OVER AGAIN

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, how destructive it is to honest debate to hear our liberal friends one after another claim that tax relief for farmers and ranchers will threaten Social Security. How incredibly dishonest, misleading and, yes, typical to be hearing those accusations.

Can someone on the other side please explain to me how it is that spending does not threaten Social Security but tax relief does?

How ironic that the party that does not bat an eyelash about spending billions and billions of dollars in failed welfare programs and wasteful bureaucracies, without uttering a peep about its impact on Social Security, now claims the tax relief for farmers and ranchers and families is going to threaten Social Security.

How ironic that the party that did not put one dime aside for 40 years to save Social Security now claims that they are interested in protecting the Social Security Trust Fund.

It is pure politics. It is a perfect example of how the other side plays the game.

Mislead seniors, again; oppose tax cuts, nothing new there; and accuse Republicans of undermining the very system that they are trying to reform. It is Medi-scare all over again. How sad.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. LANTOS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. COBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MINGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

THE STEEL IMPORT CRISIS

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a concurrent resolution today, along with 76 of my colleagues as original cosponsors, which calls on the Administration to take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises occurring in Asia, Russia and in other areas of the world.

In two briefings held last Thursday and today, the Congressional Steel Caucus heard from top executives of the large integrated steel companies, from the President of the United Steelworkers of America and top ex-

ecutives of other steel industry sectors. The news is not good. Steel imports are pouring into the United States at very low prices and are threatening the existence of the U.S. steel industry and the jobs of persons working in this important industry. And I should remind everyone that every job in the steel industry also supports numerous jobs in terms of suppliers and downstream industries.

We should not be faced with this situation—the U.S. steel industry and its workers have sacrificed over the last decade and have invested heavily to make this industry the most competitive in the world. Demand for steel is high and the industry is lean and competitive. But the industry and the jobs of its workers are being threatened by unfairly priced and unfairly traded steel imports.

Between June of 1997 and June of 1998, steel imports to the U.S. from Russia increased 45.8 percent; from Korea, 89.5 percent; from Japan, 113 percent; and from Indonesia, 308 percent. There are indications that these import figures will grow even larger in the third quarter of 1998.

We are asking that the Administration take the following immediate actions to help stem these injurious imports: (1) to pursue enhanced enforcement of U.S. trade laws to protect the domestic steel industry and its jobs; (2) to pursue all available remedies to ensure a more equitable sharing by other nations of the burden of accepting these imports; (3) to establish a task force to closely monitor steel imports into the U.S.; and (4) to report to Congress by January 5, 1999 on a comprehensive plan for responding to this import crisis.

We cannot stand by and lose this vital U.S. industry and these important jobs as foreign nations attempt to export their way out of their own economic woes.

TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis in rural America. Yesterday, we announced a \$3.9 billion relief package, which I hope will start us down the path toward recovery. Next week, the House will vote on important tax relief legislation for America's farmers and ranchers.

Now, I just want to warn the American people about one thing, because these are some of the ploys that are going to be used by our liberal friends. The argument is going to be made over and over again, by an endless parade of folks from the other side, that the Republicans are raiding Social Security to give tax cuts to their rich friends. I have got to admit, the other side is not creative but they are predictable: Try and scare older Americans.

The fact of the matter is, and make no mistake about it, that these are the same folks who ran the House for 40 years and did not put one dime into the Social Security trust fund. On the other hand, our leadership has committed that 90 percent of the surplus, or \$1.4 trillion, will be walled off and put aside for Social Security.

So when you hear the endless parade of speakers from the other side come down here, listen but bear in mind one thing. The question is, who are you going to trust? Are you going to trust the people who 3 years ago took control of the Congress and said that we would balance the budget and did it, who said that they would reform welfare and did it, who said that they would cut taxes and did it, who said that they would save Medicare and did it, who said that they would reform the IRS and did it, and who are now saying that we will save Social Security by taking the surplus, 90 percent of it, \$1.4 trillion, and walling it off to save Social Security? Or are you going to believe the folks on the other side who for 40 years did not put a penny into the Social Security trust fund?

That is the question I think the American people have to ask themselves because it really is a matter of who are you going to trust? I would submit to the American people that we have an opportunity, with the tax relief bill that we are going to be voting on next week, to wall off 90 percent of the surplus, \$1.4 trillion, over the course of the next several years, to save Social Security, take the balance, 10 percent, about \$80 billion, and bring tax relief to middle income Americans, to families, by addressing the marriage tax penalty and taking steps to begin to eliminate that; by creating a small, safe exclusion in the Tax Code that allows people to put money aside and not pay taxes on it and by helping hard working farmers and ranchers across this country, in my State of South Dakota, who are trying to make a living, and feel the heavy hand, the heavy burden of government through taxes and regulation, because the 10 percent of the surplus that will be used for tax relief in this package is going to address a number of important issues for farmers and ranchers in my State of South Dakota.

The first is the death tax. It is going to make it easier to pass on the family farm or the ranch or the small business on to the next generation so when people die they do not have to visit the IRS at the same time they visit the undertaker. That is an important change. It makes permanent income averaging, because farming and ranching is a very volatile business and this allows them to spread out over time their tax liability. It also allows for deductibility of health insurance premiums for self-employed people. Farmers and ranchers do not get to deduct important tax change.

It also allows for a loss carry-back provision in which farmers can go back to their five most profitable years and, if they have experienced losses currently, taking their current losses against those profits and receive a refund from the Internal Revenue Service.

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Important cash relief and tax relief and cash flow assistance to agriculture,

where they desperately need it today. But we are going to hear again the parade of our friends from the other side, and they are our friends, but the fact of the matter is they are going to use the same old well-worn arguments to say that the Republicans want to give tax cuts to their rich friends, raid Social Security to give tax cuts to their rich friends.

Mr. Speaker, I tell my colleagues one thing for certain. The farmers and ranchers in South Dakota are not rich. They are hard-working people who deserve a break, and we have an opportunity to do something that is meaningful to help them back on their feet and recover and back on to better times.

I hope that the American people, and I want to put them on notice today, because they are going to hear it time after time after time again. This is the same argument that we have heard before. They are going to go after and try to scare older Americans.

I say to America, do not believe it. We have a commitment to save Social Security. We have proven in the past that we keep our promises with welfare reform, with the balanced budget, with tax relief, with Medicare and IRS reform.

Who is America going to trust and who are they going to believe is going to save Social Security for the future of America? That is the question that the American people have to answer. I hope as we have this debate in the ensuing days, that people are keenly aware of the arguments that are going to be made. But Americans should look at the record and ask themselves who they are going to trust.

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

(Mr. BILBRAY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Ms. SANCHEZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PEASE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THUNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extra-

neous material:)

Mr. LANTOS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THUNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extra-neous material:)

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILBRAY, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THUNE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Mr. SAXTON.

Mr. KING.

Mr. PAPPAS.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. FORBES.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

Mr. KIND.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. CRAMER.

Mr. FARR of California.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. JOHN.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. THUNE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. POMEROY.

SENATE BILLS AND CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFERRED

Bills and a concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1770. An act to evaluate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services to Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1998. An act to authorize an interpretive center and related visitor facilities within the Four Corners Monument Tribal Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. Con. Res. 103. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists on Tibet and on United States policy with regard to Tibet; to the Committee on International Relations

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker: