

The key to agriculture's success is to open foreign markets so we can sell our commodities overseas. The fast track bill provides agriculture a seat at the tariff reduction table, all subject to final congressional approval. It should be passed.

#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the House is considering a Republican tax bill which spends the entire anticipated budget surplus on tax cuts instead of saving it for Social Security. It is a tax bill that violates the budget rules. That is bad public policy.

Mr. Speaker, I have sponsored and voted for specific tax cut proposals in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and capital gains tax reduction. I will support the Democratic alternative for tax cuts that take effect only when there is a budget surplus that does not include counting Social Security Trust Funds.

Save Social Security first, then offer tax cuts to hard-working people of America.

#### MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, America is in danger of losing its number one industry, agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, 1998 has been a disastrous year for farmers all across this great country of ours. And after months of pressure from Congress, the answer of the current administration to this problem was to support a \$500 million disaster package that originated across the way in the other body.

The Republican response to this has been much more meaningful and much more sensible. It is a plan that puts money in the pockets of farmers immediately to provide short-term relief. There is also a package to provide long-term relief in the form of tax incentives and tax relief to farmers. This is a meaningful solution to the current problem in ag country.

Now, the administration has come back with a plan that puts farmers and this country deeper in debt and will depress prices for the long-term.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to cut out the political rhetoric and provide real, meaningful leadership in the arena of agriculture.

#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, over 500,000 retired Arkansans depend on their Social Security monthly check as a necessary source to supplement their retirement income. In fact, the First Congressional District of Arkansas has the largest number of seniors for whom Social Security is their only source of income.

Right now, millions of working Americans are paying into the Social Security system and are counting on it for when they retire. This year, some have suggested that we have a budget surplus. That just simply is not so.

Of course, there is an enormous temptation to use the so-called surplus or the Social Security Trust Fund to cut taxes. I am all for tax cuts, but not on the backs of our children and grandchildren, not on the backs of our retirees who depend on Social Security as their only source of income.

Mr. Speaker, it must be there when we need it. Congress must save Social Security and not rob the Social Security Trust Fund.

□ 1030

#### DECEPTION

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, when the other side repeated over and over again during the 1996 campaign that the Republicans wanted to cut Medicare, it was a lie. Many people believed it and so they continued to say it.

When the other side repeated over and over again in 1995 that the Republicans wanted to cut the school lunch program, that was a lie. Yet that worked, too, to some degree. Now it is 1998. The other side has already started on another deception that lowering taxes on farmers and ranchers and families would threaten Social Security. That, too, is a lie.

How ironic that the party that did nothing, nothing for 40 years to fix a system they knew was going broke, is now attacking our commitment to use 90 percent of the surplus to fix Social Security while giving the remaining 10 percent back to the American people. How is it that billions of dollars in liberal spending do not threaten Social Security but lower taxes for farmers and ranchers somehow would?

America's farmers and ranchers need a break, and it is time to give them much-needed tax relief.

#### ON THE BUDGET SURPLUS AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this year we have a great opportunity, a once-in-a-generation chance to really save Social Security. We can take our

budget surplus and begin to pay back the IOUs into our Social Security system. Unfortunately, though, Republicans are putting politics first and Social Security second. They want to raid the surplus to fund their political agenda. They put fiscal irresponsibility first and Social Security second.

No piggy bank money should be used, Mr. Speaker, for election year giveaways. Instead let us bank all of the surplus to shore up Social Security today.

#### TAX CUTS

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the House this week is going to be considering an \$80 billion tax cut. As far as tax cuts are concerned, the provisions contained in it would receive wide bipartisan support in this body. Perhaps it is not as pro-growth oriented as much as I would like to see, but as far as tax cuts, it is not bad.

The problem is, it is going to be relying on the so-called surplus to pay for it. The fact is, there is no surplus unless we are willing to borrow and steal from the Social Security trust fund.

I commend the leadership for being up front and honest about it, that they are intending to take the money from that trust fund to pay for this tax cut, but it is the wrong policy. It is the wrong thing to do for our seniors and children, and we should not engage in that election year tax cut in order to satisfy a certain constituency.

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, was on the hill yesterday and when asked what would be the best use of the so-called surplus, he said, I will tell you what not to do. Do not use it for a permanent new spending program and do not use it for tax cuts when the surplus may never materialize in this very volatile international financial crisis which may have a devastating impact on the U.S. economy.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose the tax cut.

#### 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, over the past 6 years Democrats have worked extremely hard and pretty much on their own, I might add, to get our fiscal house in order. We have balanced the budget, created a better economy, and we have, in fact, generated the potential, the potential of a surplus to help pay back the debt that we owe to Social Security.

Let me tell my colleagues now about how that is being jeopardized. The Republican leadership in this House wants to take the surplus in the Social

Security system which, in fact, is generating that surplus that we have in our budget, they want to take that money and they want to raid it. They want to use it for tax cuts.

Social Security is one of the great success stories of this Nation. Two-thirds of our retirees depend on Social Security for over half of their income. It is bedrock. It has been there, and it needs to be protected. And it needs to be preserved for the future. It is now under a sneak attack. Make no bones about it. While the country is distracted, they want to take that money.

Are Democrats for tax cuts? You bet. But not at the risk of the Social Security trust fund.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4112, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 550 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 550

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4112) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. MCINNIS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) pending which I yield myself such time as I might consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed rule for the conference report to accompany H.R. 4112, the legislative branch appropriations for fiscal year 1999, waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report will be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying conference report for the legislative branch appropriations for fiscal year 1999 represents achievements towards a smaller and smarter government. It shows the progress that can be reached when the will and the effort to make necessary reforms are present.

Some of my colleagues Mr. Speaker, may point out that this conference report provides a slight 2.71 percent increase in spending over last year's level. I would like to note that, in fact, the fiscal year 1999 legislative branch appropriations are still \$40.6 million less than fiscal year 1995 levels.

Next year Federal employees will receive a 3.6 percent cost of living adjustment. The legislative branch appropriations conference report only provides for a 2.71 percent increase overall. Of the whole legislative branch budget, 80 percent of the funding goes towards salaries. The increase of 2.71 percent in the fiscal year 1999 legislative branch appropriations conference report represents less of an increase in salaries than the Federal salary cost of living adjustments. Moreover, the legislative branch appropriations conference report reduces the employment level by 1.7 percent. In fact, since 1994, over 15 percent of the legislative branch has been downsized.

Mr. Speaker, no other branch of the Federal Government comes close to this amount of downsizing. The fiscal year 1999 legislative branch appropriations conference report does include some important spending increases where necessary. For example, the legislation will increase the level of our Capitol Police salaries and expenses, recognizing the important job the men and women who make up the Capitol Police force perform.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) for their bipartisan efforts to create a smaller, smarter government to provide leadership by example.

Mr. Speaker, this is a noncontroversial rule which the Committee on Rules reported by a voice vote.

The underlying legislation and conference report is bipartisan and financially responsible. The conferees did an excellent job of allocating scarce resources while building upon internal reforms we have adopted in recent years to improve congressional operations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this rule as well as to agree to the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me the time. As he has explained, this is a rule that waives all points of order against the conference report on H.R. 4112, which is a bill that makes appropriations for the legislative branch for fiscal year 1999. The bill appropriates a total of \$2.3 billion for the operations of Congress and other agencies in the legislative branch.

This amount is less than 3 percent, less than 3 percent higher than last year's appropriation. The measure substantially increases funding for the Capitol Police. This will provide police officers higher pay, especially if they work Sundays, holidays and nights. This is a fair increase for the men and women who are so important to the secure operations of the Capitol complex.

This bill represents the last legislative branch appropriation bill guided

by our friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO), who will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

The gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) and I both began our service with the 96th Congress back in 1979. Later he became chairman of the appropriations subcommittee on the legislative branch and then the ranking minority member.

In these roles, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) led passage of the appropriations bills. That was no easy task since anything connected with funding Congress has the potential for controversy.

Throughout his tenure, the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) has been a credit to the residents of California's 3rd district and to the House of Representatives. He has accumulated a great deal of wisdom and experience that will be sorely missed especially in the difficult times ahead.

We need more Members like the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the rule was approved by the Committee on Rules on a voice vote with no objections. I urge adoption of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, dittos on the remarks about the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO). I have appreciated his work and appreciated the service that he has given to us. Although I have often found myself on the other end of the voting scheme of the gentleman from California, I can say the gentleman from California has always acted with integrity and honor.

Mr. Speaker, I think an important thing about the legislative appropriation we have here is that this year still reflects a significant amount of money less than when we first took the House in 1995. I had heard earlier somebody on the other side of the aisle commenting about how this House had brought this House into fiscal order. In fact, I think Members will find that this House, speaking literally of the House, was brought into fiscal order when the Republicans took control.

We have had cooperation from the other side of the aisle. Clearly this rule indicates that we have cooperation as we put this budget together.

This House really a leaner and meaner machine. We have taken a look at all the different operations contained within the House. We have looked at where we have needs and, where we have needs, we have accommodated those needs. For example, this year in the Capitol Police force, I know that my colleague from Ohio is a big fan of the Capitol Police and has worked very hard for this appropriation. We have made that allocation. We know that we have one of the top police forces, but we know that we are also now providing the resources that they need.