

It is imperative that the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee lower short-term interest rates when they meet next Tuesday. Not only will this send a signal to the global marketplace that we are committed to the strength of our economy, but it will also help alleviate the coming credit crunch.

Last night I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 329, calling on the Federal Reserve Board to lower interest rates as soon as possible. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in sending this strong message to the Fed that the health of our economy depends on their expeditious action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

BALANCING THE BUDGET ON THE BACK OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address this body about the condition of the budget resolution that Congress is supposed to have passed several months ago. Indeed, it was supposed to have been completed on April 15th, and, here we are, we are in the last seven days of September, and we still have no budget.

Now, there are some that say, what is the worry? Is the budget not balanced? Can we not forget about having a Federal budget resolution that sets the spending levels for the various programs that we operate as a government? I submit we cannot.

There is good news. It does appear that if you only look at what is called the unified budget, which includes some surplus in the Social Security program, indeed we will have a surplus. But if you back out this borrowing from the Social Security program rather than the surplus, it now appears that we will have a deficit in the neighborhood of \$70 billion.

It does not make sense, Mr. Speaker, for us to continue to borrow from the Social Security Trust Fund, to take those payroll taxes that Americans are paying into the Social Security program and that their employers are matching, and to use part of that to operate the Federal Government.

When we say we have a surplus, we should reserve that phrase for the situation where we are no longer borrowing from the Social Security program.

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No, we do not have a surplus. We have a deficit this year. We need a budget resolution. We cannot simply brush this off as a formality that is not important.

There is another reason that we ought to have a budget resolution this year. That is because we are considering a reduction in taxes. I think every Member of this body would like to see us reduce taxes. The question is not should we reduce taxes, but the question is, when should we do it? A budget resolution would help us make this decision in a more rational fashion.

The proposal that we will be considering later this week will require an \$80 billion tax cut or provide for an \$80 billion tax cut over a period of 5 years. Many of us feel that this tax cut ought to be conditioned on first balancing the budget without using Social Security. We ought to say that we are not going to somehow take money from the payroll tax program and use that to support a tax cut. Instead, let us make sure that we either cut Federal programs to support that tax cut, or we truly have a surplus, and then have the tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for all of us in this body to call upon our leadership to appoint a conference committee so that the House and the Senate can get together and finally adopt a budget resolution.

When we adopt that budget resolution, we will know and this Nation will know that, No. 1, we do not have a surplus yet this year; and No. 2, they will know that if indeed we are going to talk about a tax cut, the only responsible way to discuss that tax cut is with full awareness that it is being financed with payroll taxes that otherwise ought to be set aside and protected for the Social Security program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REVEREND DR. AMOS WALLER

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great organizer, a visionary leader, a coalition-builder, a singer, and a preacher of the gospel, the Reverend Dr. Amos Waller, who recently made his transition and passed through this life.

Every once in a while a leader comes along who is gifted with the ability to magnetize people and draw them into

his presence, and keep them returning for more of whatever it was that they were receiving. Such has been the life and is the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Amos Waller, founder and pastor of the Mercy Seat Missionary Baptist Church.

Reverend Waller was a graduate of the Selma, Alabama, University of Baptist Faith, and was ordained as a minister in 1956. For the next 42 years he has been a preacher, pastor, revival evangelist, and lecturer, and was a chaplain for the A.R. Leak Funeral Home.

In addition to his work as pastor of Mercy Seat, Dr. Waller organized the WestSide Ministers Alliance, served with the Neighborhood Assistance Program in the city of Chicago's Department of Human Services, was politically active in his neighborhood, and provided food and shelter for the poor and needy members of his community.

As a matter of fact, not only did he provide food for the needy, but he was one who believed in the doctrine that man does not live by bread alone, and so a typical Sunday after services, hundreds of people would gather in his dining room for chicken and dressing and potatoes and turnip greens, and all of the other delights that he was noted for.

The Reverend Waller was a man of great diversity who became a board member of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., and was a great friend of and worked closely with Reverend Sun Myung Moon. In August of 1995 he participated in an international marriage ceremony where 42 couples from his church united with over 3 million others throughout the world as they took and renewed marriage vows.

Reverend Waller has been a developer of ministers and of churches, and out of Mercy Seat came the New Home Baptist Church, where the Reverend Mac McCullough is the pastor; the Greater St. John Baptist Church, where the Reverend LeRoy Elliot is pastor; the Grace Temple Baptist Church, where Reverend Dennis Will is pastor; the Full Gospel Church, where Evangelist Betty Yancy is pastor; True Light Missionary Baptist Church, where the Reverend Freddie Brooks is pastor; Greater Damascus Missionary Baptist Church, where the Reverend Curley Brooks is pastor; New Christian Center, where the Reverend Greg Macon is pastor, and the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, where Reverend Sparks is pastor.

Reverend Waller was affectionately known as Daddy by many of the younger ministers in his community and throughout the area, because he embraced them all.

Reverend Waller received awards from the mayor of Chicago, the Governor of Illinois. He and Mrs. Waller, who preceded him in death, were presented the 1996 Parents of the Year award for Illinois, in conjunction with a proclamation by President Clinton declaring July 26, 1996, as Parents Day.

Reverend Waller understood the role of business and economic development activities, and helped to start local businesses; specifically, the A-1 Garfield Exterminating and Janitorial Service, operated by Mr. Garfield Major. He encouraged his parishioners to vote and to shop in the neighborhoods where they lived, a sound and wise economic development strategy.

In the book of Matthew, the fifth Chapter, 14th through 16th verses, we read, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light unto all that is in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven."

The Lawndale Community of Chicago and the Nation have seen and benefited from the good works of Reverend Dr. Amos Waller, and now may his soul rest in peace.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4618, AGRICULTURE DISASTER AND MARKET LOSS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the special order of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. HUNTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-743) on the resolution (H. Res. 551) providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4618) to provide emergency assistance to American farmers and ranchers for crop and livestock feed losses due to disasters and to respond to loss of world markets for American agricultural commodities, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4578, PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT, AND H.R. 4579, TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the special order of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. HUNTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-744) on the resolution (H. Res. 552) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4578) to amend the Social Security Act to establish the Protect Social Security Account into which the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit budget surpluses until a reform measure is enacted to ensure the long-term solvency of the OASDI trust funds, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4579) to provide tax relief for individuals, families, and farming and other small businesses, to provide tax incentives for education, to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2621, RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENT AUTHORITIES ACT OF 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the special order of the gentleman from Texas, Mr. HUNTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-745) on the resolution (H. Res. 553) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2621) to extend trade authorities procedures with respect to reciprocal trade agreements, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thought it would be appropriate today to talk a little bit about national security, especially in the wake of the President's remarks. We have had some remarkable statements by the President in the last several days regarding national defense.

They are remarkable not because they display any insight that is unusual, from my perspective, but that they are the first admission by the President that our military is broke and needs fixing. When I say it is broke and it needs fixing, I mean it is dramatically underfunded.

We spent about \$100 billion more per year in the 1980s under Ronald Reagan than we are spending today, if we look at real dollars. We do not have the soviet empire to contend with, but we still have fragments of the soviet empire, including Russia, which still has nuclear weapons which are still aimed at the United States.

We have now a number of nations exploding nuclear devices, like India and Pakistan. We have Communist China racing to fill the shoes, the superpower shoes, of the Soviet Union. Also we have a number of terrorist nations, or would-be terrorist nations, around the world, including North Korea, which are now testing missiles and developing missiles much more rapidly than our intelligence service ever thought they would.

Particularly, I think, we were alarmed when we saw just a few days ago, really, the North Korean Taepo Dong-1 missile, a three-stage missile, fired over Japan in a very long flight, or what would have been a very long flight, had they let it go all the way. We realized suddenly that they were years ahead of our intelligence estimates in terms of building and deploying intercontinental ballistic missiles, ICBMs.

ICBMs have an important meaning to the United States because that means

to us as Americans, those are the missiles that reach us. Short-range missiles like the Scud missiles that Saddam Hussein used to kill some of our troops in Desert Storm of course can still threaten troops in theater.

That means that if we have American Army personnel, Marine Corps personnel, or Navy personnel around the world, those Russian-made Scud missiles, which are proliferating to a lot of outlaw states like Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and others, can fire on our troop concentrations.

But ICBMs have a special meaning to Americans because those are the missiles that reach us in our cities. That means, to a serviceperson who may be serving in the Middle East, there are lots of little missiles that can reach him in his role as a uniformed serviceman for the United States, but the missiles that are being developed now by the outlaw nations can reach his parents and his family, his city, his community. That has a special meaning to us.

Along with my good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CURT WELDON) and the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FLOYD SPENCE), I have taken to asking a lot of questions concerning our progress in missile defense to the Secretary of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs when they appear before us.

My favorite question is, if an intercontinental ballistic missile was fired today at an American city and was coming in, do we have the ability to stop it before it explodes in our community? The answer always is no.

The reason I ask that question is not because I think maybe the Secretary does not know the answer, but because if we ask the average citizen in the United States or a lot of average citizens in the United States whether or not we have a defense against missiles, most will tell us, sure we do.

I remember watching one focus group when they were explaining to the monitor, good American citizens, hard-working, why they thought we had a defense against missiles. The guy that was running the program said, how would we shoot them down? One person said, we would scramble the jets. Of course, we know, a lot of us know, that one cannot possibly catch up with an ICBM that is traveling as fast as a 30-06 bullet or faster with a jet.

Another person said, we would shoot them down with cruise missiles. We know we cannot do that, those on the committee, because cruise missiles are very slow compared to ICBMs.

Another said, I thought Ronald Reagan took care of that program. But he did not take care of the program, President Reagan, that is, because he was stopped by the people who sit in this Chamber, by the U.S. Congress. We derided his warning to us that we were entering the age of missiles and we had to have a defense against missiles; that they would be proliferating around the