

also reducing the legislative and executive branch appropriation by 20 percent, which would save \$3 billion over the next 5 years. The American people spoke clearly last November—they want to downsize the Government. We should understand that message. And that process needs to begin at the top with Congress and the President. To be credible, we must not only eliminate wasteful spending but we must also be willing to look at good programs and prioritize our limited financial resources so we get the most important served. I do not pretend to think that we can correct decades of neglect and abuse overnight. While these 75 proposals which I offered are not a cure-all, they will hopefully serve as the first shot in the coming budgetary battle between the defenders of the status quo and those of us who came here to make a difference.

The debate is between the habitual big spenders in the District of Columbia and those newcomers who have dared to suggest maybe the Federal Government should stop the waste, fraud, and abuse of the precious tax dollars. There is no one in America who has come forward to claim or even to imply that every Federal dollar spent is a dollar well spent. On the contrary, there are tens, if not hundreds, of millions of Americans who know we are not handling their tax dollars as wisely as possible and they are asking us to do better. There is no excuse for us not to do better. We can start now, we can start today. I urge my colleagues to look at my list of spending cuts, and if they do not like my list, make your own. There are plenty of places to cut spending.

CUTS IN VETERANS' BENEFITS CALLED CALLOUS AND UNCONSCIONABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STOKES] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. STOKES. Madam Speaker, last week the House Appropriations Committee voted to drastically cut \$206 million in funding for programs that serve our Nation's veterans. I do not think this is the proper way to demonstrate our commitment to individuals who have made the ultimate sacrifice in serving this Nation and protecting our lives and property.

It is especially callous that these cuts come from funds earmarked for medical equipment and ambulatory care facilities. The Veterans' Administration currently has an unmet need of necessary medical equipment exceeding three-quarters of a billion dollars. The bill passed by the Appropriations Committee would increase that unmet need by at least \$50 million.

How can we even consider such reductions when information we hear daily tells us of new and emerging medical conditions being experienced by

our veterans. Just when our veterans' medical centers and medical teams are recognizing and attempting to address these problems, the Republican-controlled House wants to slash funds that would be used to purchase such types of equipment as cat scanners, x-rays, EKG machines, and other vital equipment. Already, due to budget constraints, the VA is not able to replace and improve medical equipment nearly as often as the private sector.

Even more shocking is the \$156 million reduction in construction projects. These funds are targeted for ambulatory care facilities—a crucial aspect of the VA's medical care agenda at a time when our aging World War II veterans are requiring more medical assistance. Clearly, this is not the time to cut back on ambulatory care facilities.

If the rescissions have been recommended by the Republicans on the committee to offset the costs of the California earthquake and other natural disasters, it will create another disaster for thousands of our veterans. If these actions are intended to offset the cost of future tax cuts—including capital gains for middle-class families and affluent investors—it is unconscionable.

These cuts are ill-considered. The veterans of this Nation have dutifully served this country. We owe them the same full measure of devotion they gave in protecting this Nation with their lives.

THE ROLE OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINDER. Madam Speaker, this past week in a press conference with the President's Presidential press secretary, we heard him say that, "Prime Minister Rabin is calling. I think it is fair for us to say because he is upset and alarmed by the action taken in the House of Representatives to cut back on funding in the fiscal year 1995 supplemental bill for debt forgiveness for Jordan."

While he said that, we do not know if that is why Prime Minister Rabin was calling. We have learned that very often what this White House says has no relation to the facts, but that is what he said.

He further said the President told the Prime Minister in candor that we face a very tough audience on Capitol Hill. "This is an example of the tilt toward isolation that you now see in the Republican-dominated Congress."

That is vintage Bill Clinton, blame the other guy, "I didn't do it, I am trying to help you, the devil made me do it, the dog ate my lunch, the dog ate my homework."

Madam Speaker, the President's entrance into the Middle East is to first

make it partisan and to politicize foreign affairs. It is most shameful that it is done in one of the most troubled areas of the world. Why does he do this? Because for 2½ years this Nation has lacked a coherent global vision, a global view.

What are our U.S. national security interests? When I look across world, I see our friends in NATO, the former Soviet bloc, it is absolutely in the interests of the United States that the former Soviet-bloc nations discover that capitalism and freedom work.

I see our increasingly important trading partners on the Pacific rim and, of course, the tinderbox for the world, the Middle East. And where are our troops that are supposed to be the shield of the Republic and the shield of our foreign affairs? Our troops are in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, Cambodia, Macedonia, northern Iraq, hardly a reflection of a coherent world view.

The peace process today in the Middle East has been carried out without United States leadership. This is the first administration of the last four that has shown no interest in leadership in the Middle East peace process.

The PLO agreement was reached, not in the United States, but in Oslo. Of course, the great handshake took place on the south lawn, but we were not involved until after the agreement had been reached.

The Jordanian-Israeli agreements were bilateral. The agreements were signed on the south lawn, but we were not there in the leadership. But lacking any domestic agenda this year, the President has decided to weigh in on the Middle East and has done so by politicizing it and making it partisan. He can do something about this right in his own administration. Israel is a nation that is in a defensive posture, with armed aggressors all around her, and is building a defensive ARROW missile system for protection to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles. We now have an Arms Control and Disarmament Agency that has been in effect since 1972—and an ABM agreement—that is negotiating further agreements with former Soviet-bloc nations for reasons that absolutely escape me.

We are the only Nation that can add to the technology required for a bullet to intercept a bullet. We have done that with the ERINT missile, called the PAC-3, built by Rockwell. But this administration, under what I presume to be simply bureaucratic inertia, has chosen to limit further technological advances in this intercept missile technology to 3 kilometers per second, precisely what we have now. I do not know why we would want to limit any future technology, since there is not a nation in the world competing with us in this technology, why would we ask them to agree with us to limit what we can do?

Mr. President, if you want to do something about the Middle East and for the future safety of this very vulnerable friend in this troubled part of the world, abolish the Arms Control