

This plan establishes a required organization, responsibilities and procedures in the event of an accident or incident at Anniston Army Depot. The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures and actions to be employed by Fort McClellan reaction teams in support of a chemical accident or incident occurring on the Anniston Army Depot and which is or will become a potential hazard to the depot and surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, several hundred thousand people are in that surrounding community of Anniston Army Depot, and Fort McClellan's resources have been committed by that permit request in case we have a problem there.

I had a meeting last year, almost a year ago, with Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch. I would like to read a letter he wrote to me in August. He said:

DEAR MR. BROWDER: In our meeting on June 16, 1994, you and I discussed Department of Defense policy and intentions on several matters related to the Chemical Demilitarization Project scheduled for Anniston Army Depot. You requested that I provide assurances on these matters, and I am pleased to respond to this request. As you know, the Department is eager to conduct its business in a manner that is open and meets community concerns to the maximum extent possible. The "safeguard" assurances you request serve this purpose and therefore deserve the positive responses provided below.

Please rest assured that we share your concern for safe and environmentally sound destruction of chemical weapons at Anniston. Specifically . . .

Madam Speaker, under the heading of Fort McClellan Support Resources:

By separate correspondence I'm asking the Secretary of the Army to work closely with Alabama Department of Environmental Management to respond to the State requirement and to be fully responsible to their concerns.

He closed:

I assure you that the Department of Defense will continue to insure that the destruction of our chemical weapons stockpile is accomplished in full cognizance of the ongoing need to protect our people and our environment.

Then the Undersecretary of Defense that same month issued its memorandum for the Secretary of the Army. Subject: Chemical Weapons Demilitarization Facility at Anniston Army Depot:

Efforts are ongoing to ensure the successful start of chemical weapons demilitarization operations at Anniston Army Depot. In order to gain the requisite support for these operations, we must ensure the application of certain safeguards which will satisfy local concerns and enhance the safety of the demilitarization process.

Madam Speaker, this lists all the requirements, the decontamination team, the medical assistance team, says we need to be fully responsive to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and we must commit appropriate military resources such as the following which have been identified at the current location to support the demilitarization effort.

Madam Speaker, for 40 years the Army has dumped these dangerous chemicals on Alabama. They pledged Fort McClellan as our rescue squad. Now they want to close down the rescue squad and strike a match to that pile of dangerous chemicals. I will not allow that to happen. I will do everything I can to stop that from happening unless this dangerous mistake is reversed.

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#### BY SLOWING GROWTH IN SPENDING FROM 7.6 TO 3 PERCENT WE CAN BALANCE THE BUDGET BY 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I would like to talk for just a few minutes about the rate of increase that we have seen in Federal spending and what some of us would like to do to stop that from happening.

Last summer House Republicans held a series of meetings and decided that someone had to step up to the plate and do something about this very serious fiscal problem. Without question, Madam Speaker, one of the most important issues we face today is our soaring national debt. I think both parties agree with that. Today it has reached epidemic proportions in that we have a national debt of almost \$5 trillion, \$4.8 trillion to be more exact.

Think about the magnitude of it. We are not talking about millions or billions that we throw around here daily. We are talking about trillions, almost \$5 trillion.

I realize that it is difficult for most people to think in terms of trillions. It is for me. But look at it this way. Five trillion is a 5 with 12 zeroes behind it.

Or look at it in terms of what \$5 trillion means if we divide it equally among the American citizens. In those terms \$5 trillion means \$18,000 for every man, woman and child in the United States, and, unless we deal with this problem now, by the turn of the century the United States will spend more on interest on the national debt than we spend on the defense of our country.

That is why Republicans, and I might say some Members of both parties, are offering a fresh approach.

If we simply slow the growth in spending from what it has averaged over the last 10 years, 7.6 percent; that is right, 7.6 percent every year increase over the last 10 years, if we slow it to about 3 percent, we can balance the budget by the year 2002. Programs that have been growing by leaps and bounds must be reined in.

Now if we are being honest with ourselves and with the American people, we and our critics must make it clear that the Republicans are simply limiting the rate of growth in a broad variety of programs.

I say to my colleagues, Yes, if you were told otherwise, you're not being told the truth. For example, Republicans want to reduce the rate of increase in the school lunch program. This year we're spending about \$4.5 billion on this program, and we're proposing a spending level of \$4.7 billion for fiscal year 1996. Now if that sounds to you like an increase, you have got it right.

My colleagues, only in Washington can an increase of \$200 million be considered a cut, and that is what our opponents are claiming.

Let us look next at the Child Nutrition Program. We are currently spending at a level of \$3.47 billion.

The American people need to know that Republicans want to slow the rate of growth in this program by proposing a 1996 spending level of \$3.68 billion, another \$200 million increase. It is an increase over present levels, but it is not the astronomical rate of increase that some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want.

What I am saying is that we are not decimating or gutting these programs. We are slowing the rate of growth for them from an average of 7.6 percent to about 3 percent.

Let us look at one more program. Let us go to veterans benefits as a final example where in 1995 we spent about \$17.73 billion. The spending level for veterans benefits under our Republican program for 1996 is \$17.78 billion, another increase this time of \$50 million, but a reduction in the rate of growth. By doing this we are doing something different to bring spending under control. We are doing something different because we recognize that there are limits to taxes Americans should be expected to pay, and there are limits to the debt we should create.

We need to get real. We need to be straight with the American people, particularly with those who are the beneficiaries of the worthy programs that we are talking about.

Join with us in bringing about a realistic, long range spending plan that will provide the level of benefits needed but will not bankrupt our children and our grandchildren.

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#### REPUBLICAN PARTY, A PARTY OF CONTRADICTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, now that the first 50 days are past, I think we are beginning to see the true colors of the Republican Party. Once again they are playing Robin Hood in reverse, taking from the poor to give to the rich. When I thought about some of the things that have occurred over the last couple of weeks, it appeared to me that what we have is a party of contradictions. This is a group that said, What we are is pro-life. We believe in