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# BALANCED BUDGET DOWN PAYMENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes:

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, the bill we are voting on today represents a sensible, humane path to a balanced budget. This bill preserves vital Federal programs, but also cuts unnecessary Federal spending.

The purpose of balancing the budget is not to make accountants sleep easier at night. Holding the line on spending is about getting our priorities straightened out. And it also keeps our commitment to create jobs and increase opportunities. The whole point of cutting the budget deficit is about creating economic opportunity and a better future. It's about lowering interest rates, spurring investment, and securing and creating more, better paying jobs.

This bill protects the Federal role and pledge to those who truly need help, and makes sure that their needs will not be ignored. It keeps our commitment to our veterans, \$400 million in additional funds for health care; to children in Healthy Start, \$93 million; and education programs for the disadvantaged, \$7.2 billion; it boosts funding to \$738 million for the Ryan White CARE Act to help people suffering from AIDS; and includes \$1.34 billion for job and vocational training programs. It also keeps our commitment to seniors, especially older workers in Older Americans Act jobs programs, \$373 million.

Equally important, this bill pares back spending by \$23 billion. It eliminates some 200 separate programs, many of them wasteful or duplicative. In the era of a \$5 trillion dollar debt, we simply cannot afford to spend \$18.4 million on the Office of Technology Assessment, \$12.5 million for cattle tick eradication programs, and \$850,000 for historical society calendars for Members of Congress.

This bill has shown that even in the absence of a comprehensive agreement over how best to reform Medicare and Medicaid, we can still make progress on the budget.

What is not highlighted in the media is that fact that below the surface of these highly visible budget battles, Congress has been able to cut these duplicative and unnecessary Government programs and regulations through the annual appropriations process. Our progress since 1994 has been to cut \$43 billion from the deficit.

The Congressional Budget Office's latest fiscal year 1996 deficit estimates are lower than expected—down to \$144 billion, from a level almost \$200 billion in 1994. And that decline is in large measure the result of Republican votes to put our Government on a diet.

Through careful and judicious cuts, we have changed the entire debate in Washington.

When President Clinton submitted his 1993 budget, taxes were raised retroactively. The question now is not if we should balance the budget, but how and when.

Of course, the devil is the details. Raising taxes may be a favorite of the President's, but I am committed to holding the line on spending and taxes, setting firm priorities in spending, and keeping the commitments we made to our constituents.

I think it is worth noting here that H.R. 3019 leaves H.R. 2099—the VA/HUD appropriations bill which Mr. Clinton vetoed on December 8, 1995—virtually unchanged.

Keep in mind that this is the same congressional budget which the VA Secretary called "mean spirited". Now we find that this so-called mean spirited budget—which includes a nearly \$400,000,000 increase in VA health spending over fiscal year 1995 levels—was really perfectly acceptable to the President all along. After 7 months of leaving the VA without an appropriation, we find that the President had no major problem with what Congress originally passed.

I think, however, that in the end, all sides of the budget debate can hopefully draw some useful lessons from the bill. Here we have a bill that lowers the deficit and puts us ahead of schedule on discretionary spending. And it was done without the Government shutting down, but by rolling up our sleeves and making the tough choices.

## THE WISDOM OF ABE MARTIN

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, Abe Martin, the mythical philosopher created by the early 20th century Indianapolis News writer, Kin Hubbard, said this:

When Lem Moon was acquitted of the murder of his wife, he was asked by Judge Pusey if he had anything to say. And he said, "I never would have shot her if I'd realized they wuz going to put me through so much red tape."

Abe's wisdom endures.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. HARRY A. FOSTER

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a man who devoted much of his life helping and improving the lives of others through his devotion to Michigan's agricultural heritage. Harry A. Foster passed away recently in his home in Okemos, MI on March 11, 1996.

Harry was born and raised on his family's farm in southwestern Michigan where he excelled in 4-H and Future Farmers of America [FFA] projects. At a young age, he earned his American Farmer Degree while active in the FFA and served as State President of the Michigan Farm Bureau of Young People. He was also an alumnus of Michigan State Uni-

versity's Agricultural Technology Program and earned a B.S. degree in Agricultural Economics.

After graduation, Harry served as a 4-H extension agent in Livingston County. In 1961, he became the initial employee of the Michigan Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association [MACMA] where he provided 27 years of outstanding service. After serving MACMA, he became Executive Director of the Michigan Asparagus and Michigan Plum Advisory Boards where his contributions were numerous. Mr. Foster's long and distinguished professional career is a testament to his dedication and to his genuine concern for agriculture and farmers in Michigan and around the country.

Harry's community involvement extended beyond his professional career. He was an active member of the Okemos Community Church and served as president of the Okemos Board of Education. Due to his outstanding advocacy and his enduring compassion, he courageously envisioned and founded the Dyslexia Resource Center.

Harry took great pride in the relationships he developed in the Nation's Capitol on behalf of the producers and their marketing interests he represented so fervently. Many of the actions of this genuine farmer's friend have benefited producers and their attendant industries across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will join me in celebrating the many accomplishments and achievements of Harry Foster and in honoring his memory.

## TRIBUTE TO MRS. JANIE A. GREENE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, celebrating 101 years of a thriving lifetime is a monumental achievement. I am pleased to recognize Mrs. Janie A. Greene, a resident of Brooklyn since 1933. Mrs. Greene was born on April 29, 1895, and she has experienced a bountiful life.

Janie was born in Georgetown, SC, to her proud parents Prince and Clara Browne. In 1915 she married Walley Greene. They remained married until he died in 1931. Four children were born out of that marriage, Thelma Greene McQueen, Clifton Greene, Oreda Greene Dabney, and Myrtle Greene Whitmore, whom she presently resides with. A devoted family member, Mrs. Greene has 11 grandchildren, and a host of great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

The church is a central part of Mrs. Greene's life. She has been a member of People's Institutional A.M.E. for over 55 years. Mrs. Greene is presently a charter member of the South Carolina Club and also a member of the Virginia Smith Missionary Society. Among her varied interests are: gardening, reading, shopping, and preparing daily brunch for herself and her family.

It is indeed rare for a person to live to be 101 years old, but it is even rarer to experience such a rich life in that length of time. I am proud to claim her as a resident in my home borough of Brooklyn.