most recently in Phoenix where we met with American Indians, getting the input and ideas of how do we address the issue. What we have found out over and over is we need local people involved in the process. We need local advertising that targets the local community as best we can.

We can conduct a good census and get the best census ever. But if we are going to play games with this administration and say we are going to have two censuses, which is illegal, we are going to waste our efforts and have two failed censuses. Let us work together and get the best census possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas 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 gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MCINTOSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHITHER THE BUDGET SURPLUS

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke on this floor in reference to the many, many promises the President made in his State of the Union speech and in the days just before and just after that speech. As Senator Everett Dirksen said many years ago, ''A billion here and a billion there and pretty soon it adds up to some real money.'' It is probably the easiest thing in the world to spend other people's money.

It is also one of the easiest things in the world to promise government money for everything to everybody. Yet as the National Taxpayers Union pointed out after the State of the Union speech, the promises contained therein would require $288.4 billion in increased spending in the first year alone. The next week, last week, Newsweek magazine published a chart showing that all these new promises would, if enacted, cause a $2.3 trillion shortfall over the next 15 years.

On election day of 1994 when control of the Congress changed parties, the stock market, the Dow Jones average, was at 3800. It has now reached as high as 9600. One of the main reasons our economy has been so strong over these last 4 or 4½ years has been that we finally started bringing Federal spending under control. We are even, temporarily at least, having some surpluses.

But let me point out how big a change this is. A few months after President Clinton took office, Alice Rivlin, his Director of the Office of Management and Budget, put out a shocking memo. She said that if we did not make major changes in spending, we would have yearly deficits of over $1 trillion a year by the year 2010 and between $4 and $5 trillion a year by the year 2030.

If we had allowed that to happen, our entire economy would have crashed. No one would have been able to buy a car or a home. Our children of today would have seen their standard of living not even probably 5 or 10 percent of what it is when they are in the prime of their lives, if we had sat around and let the ridiculous and wasteful Federal spending that was going on continue.

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Sometimes it is far more compassionate to not spend money and instead leave more money with the families of America to spend on their children as they see fit. Today taxes and government spending are at all-time highs. There is a misimpression by some that government spending has been cut in recent years. Really all we have done is slow down the great increases that were going on.

When I first came to the Congress, every department or agency was routinely receiving 12 and 15 and 18, even 20 percent increases in spending each year. Everyone knew that we could not continue spending at that rate, everyone knew that that would lead very soon to a major crash of our economy, and so we were able to get things under a little better control and decrease or cut these increases in spending down to about 3 percent a year, something that we have been able to live with.

But today the average person, the average family, spends about 40 percent of his or her income in taxes and at least another 10 percent in government regulatory costs. A Member of the other body, Senator FRED THOMPSON from my State of Tennessee, ran some ads a couple of years ago which were so true. He said today one spouse works to support the government while the other spouse works to support the family. This is why we are talking about tax cuts.

But if we allow all these promises and programs that have been made in recent weeks to be enacted, we will get back into trouble so quick it will make your head swim. We will get back just where we were a few years ago. We will not see these surpluses that are predicted for the years ahead. To enact bills that allow, as Newsweek said, a shortfall of $2.3 trillion over the next 15 years would just be unconscionable.

And I want to place in the RECORD at this point a column on the State of the Union speech written by nationally syndicated columnist Charley Reese, which I think sums up far better than I have the situation that we will get back into if we are not careful:

[From the Orlando Sentinel, Jan. 28, 1999]

DON'T BUY INTO LIES ON TOP OF LIES ABOUT A NONEXISTENT SURPLUS

(By Charley Reese)

The first thing to keep in mind when evaluating Bill Clinton's laundry list of promises, made in his state of the Union speech, is that Mr. Clinton is a proven liar.

As any misled wife can tell you, the practical problem in dealing with a liar is deciding when, if ever, he is telling the truth and when he is lying. Lying is far more serious than liars would have you believe.

Two main lies underlie his speech.

One is the lie that Social Security needs saving. Well, only from politicians. The current tax brings in more than enough money to keep the Social Security Trust Fund solvent, but Congress and presidents use the surplus to offset deficits in other places in order to promulgate the second lie—that the budget has a surplus.

Both Republicans and Democrats are co-conspirators in this con job.

So, starting with two lies, Clinton then proceeds to spend a nonexistent surplus stretching 15 years into the future. Even if this year's surplus were real, there is no way to predict that the surpluses will continue for 15 years into the future. That is pure fantasy.

Clinton's promising this and promising that, all financed by a nonexistent future surplus, is a perfect example of demagoguery. Furthermore, everything Clinton proposed, except spending more on defense (again with the mythical surplus money), is unconstitutional.

Yes, I know that nobody pays any attention to the Constitution except lawyers trying to get around the democratic process. But, nevertheless, if you will just read the document, you will notice that nowhere is the federal government authorized to get involved in local land planning, health care (long- or short-term), child care, urban sprawl, education or discouraging kids from smoking tobacco. (God knows they've done a poor job of discouraging them from smoking dope).

It's dismaying that more people can't see through this thinly disguised con game Washington politicians are playing. They do polls. They find out what folks are worrying about. They promise to fix it. They pretend they can fix it, despite a deplorable record of failure ($5 trillion and the feds lost the War on Poverty; $40 billion and they lost the war on drugs). They pretend they can do it at no cost. This year, they will all be spending the mythical surpluses, which, like psychics, they know will come in the future.

All this amounts to is blatant vote-buying, as corrupt as if they were standing outside the voting booths, stuffing $20 bills into people's pockets. It amounts to robbing Jane to buy the vote of Betsy.

Why should one working mother, who pays for her own child care, be taxed to provide free child care to someone else?

The low-life, unprincipled politicians have turned government in America largely into a racket, and it appears that many Americans have become so corrupt themselves that they don't care as long as they get a piece of the booty.

Well, from the point of view of a paid observer, watching a society collapse is probably more interesting than watching one that is running smoothly, but nevertheless I don't recommend it.

I don't know of any greater civic sin a people can commit then taking this great country, created and preserved at such a great price in blood, sweat and tears, and tossing it away just because Americans have become too damned lazy, timid, greedy and irresponsible to preserve it for posterity.

Despite what you hear, the state of this union isn't very good.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN HELPING STUDENTS MEET HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard from all of our colleagues, from the President of the United States and from governors across this land, education is the top issue on the public agenda and accountability is the order of the day. Parents and taxpayers want quality schools that show results in helping students meet high academic standards. The President says that he wants us to have world class standards so that students in the United States can compete in a world economy with the students and citizens of any Nation in the world, and I think that that is important.

The Federal Government over the past three decades has spent some $118 billion in funding the Title I education programs, with rather mixed and variable results, and now we are looking to invest many billions more over the next five years. In fact, we will invest something in the neighborhood of $40 billion over the next five years in Title I, a program that is designed to help in the main educationally and economically disadvantaged children. But what is it we are getting for that investment, and how can we ensure that we will in fact get a better return on that investment of $40 billion than we received on the first $118 billion that we invested?

We have been told by the Republican leadership of the House and, I believe, also in the Senate that the expansion of the so-called Ed-Flex bill will be one of the first items of their agenda in meeting some of the educational needs of this country. Currently there are 12 States that receive broad authority to waive many of the Federal laws and regulations with respect to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

My question is, I want to know, for the granting of that waiver for the additional flexibility to let school districts use this money in their best judgment for their best purposes, what is it they are telling us they are prepared to do on behalf of America's students and on behalf of the families that are so terribly concerned about the education of their children?

They tell us that States are being held accountable under Ed-Flex for their actions and that they have put in place a procedure of accountability, and yet when we look at the GAO report that has recently been issued on Ed-Flex, we find out that that is not necessarily the case. We find out, according to GAO, that many Ed-Flex States, these 12 States that have been granted this authority, have not established any goals or defined only vague objectives.

One State's plan, in exchange for flexibility in Federal dollars, says that they have a commitment to the identification and implementation of programs that will create an environment in which students actualize their academic potential. For that we are handing them millions of dollars, so that they can create an environment and the implementation of programs so that students will actualize their academic potential. No suggestion of how we would measure that or whether we know that is true.

Yet we find a State like Texas which has said not only will they set out specific numerical criteria that are closely tied to both schools and districts and the specific students affected by the waiver; the Governor of Texas has said what he will do and what the State legislature of Texas has agreed to do and the Department of Education, in exchange for the flexibility under Ed-Flex from rules and regulations of the Federal Government, that he expects that the districts that receive the waivers under this act, that they will make annual gains on the State tests so that 90 percent, 90 percent of his students will pass the State assessment in reading and math.

In addition, the Governor of Texas goes even further than that. He says that the districts must make gains so that at the end of that same five-year period 90 percent of the African American students will pass the State exam, 90 percent of the Hispanic students, 90 percent of the white students and 90 percent of the economically disadvantaged students. For that we have granted them a waiver and access to millions of dollars of Federal moneys for education.

I am asking Members of Congress and the administration, which plan would you rather invest in? Would you rather invest in a plan that gives you numerical goals and standards and achievement for our students in this country, or would you rather invest in a plan that gives you rhetoric about some ephemeral goal that may or may not be achieved and no timetables and no standards as to how they will achieve that?

If we are going to be the venture capitalists in improving education in this country with the limited Federal dollars that we have, that in this one program will provide over $40 billion, I think like any venture capitalist we ought to ask what is the return we are getting on that money, because there are a lot of uses for that $40 billion and every Member of Congress has a different priority.

But we ought to be asking, what are we going to get back? The Governor of Texas has told us what we will get back is a 90 percent passage rate at the end of five years on a high-quality State test that will test their ability to perform in both reading and mathematics. In the other 12 States it is something in between. A lot of it is rhetoric, a lot of it is no goals and no accountability.

The President stood here in the State of the Union and said that he wanted accountability, the parents wanted accountability, and clearly Members of Congress do. When the Ed-Flex bill comes to the floor, we should demand that it have provisions for accountability. We ought to at least demand something as rigorous as the Governor of Texas and the State legislature were prepared to put on the line in the name of education reform.

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

(Mr. SCHAFFER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FOLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPUBLICAN AGENDA FOR THIS YEAR

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about the Republican agenda for this year, and that agenda is called Best Schools and Military and Agriculture, and ''BEST'' in this case stands for balancing the budget, ''E'' is for education, ''S'' is for saving Social Security, ''T'' is for lowering taxes and, of course, having the best military and agriculture.

We want to balance the budget, but first we believe that Social Security,