□ 1752

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H. Con. Res. 68) ''A concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009'' and requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

## APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 68, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET—FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2009, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES OFFERED BY MR. SPRATT

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Spratt moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 68 be instructed, within the scope of the conference, to insist that the huge and fiscally irresponsible tax cuts set forth in the reconciliation directives in the concurrent resolution be reported at the latest possible date within the scope of the conference, and to require that the reconciliation legislation implementing those tax cuts not be reported any earlier, to provide the Congress with sufficient time to first enact legislation extending the solvency of the social security and medicare trust funds consistent with the sense of the Congress language in section 315(b)(4) and (5) of the Senate amendment and findings in 322(a)(1)–(3) of the Senate amendment and provisions in sections 5 and 6 of the House concurrent resolution because of the preeminent importance of so enhancing retirement security without reducing benefits and because projected budget surpluses should first be reserved for the use of those trust funds consistent with section 315(a)(4) and (5) of the Senate amendment and sections 5 and 6 of the House concurrent resolution rather than dissipated through the resolution's tax cuts which jeopardize the future of both social security and medicare.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) will be recognized for 30 minutes and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT).

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My motion to instruct conferees demands that Congress deal with the solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds before we enact huge tax cuts that could drain the budget of the very funds that are needed to save, protect and make solvent for the long run Social Security and Medicare.

By our calculation, in the first 5 years this proposed tax cut will take $143 billion out of the resources of the Federal Government. The next 5 years it will be $788 billion. And in the third 5-year period of time, occurring around the year 2009, just when Social Security and Medicare need it most, in that 5-year period of time alone by our calculation, this conference report, if enacted and reconciled, would drain the Treasury of $1.066 trillion and leave Social Security and Medicare high and dry.

The motion we make is similar to a motion I made in committee and it is similar to an amendment that we brought to the House floor. It simply says, let us deal first with Social Security, then with Medicare; let us establish them as priorities.

Mr. Speaker, we have come farther than anyone would have expected since 1993 in eradicating the so-called budget deficit, the year-to-year deficit. We now face the next big challenge. If we can step up to it, we can turn the corner into the next century in better fiscal condition than this country has been in in a long, long time. But we cannot lay claim to that until we have dealt with Social Security and Medicare. We cannot deal with Social Security and Medicare and make them solvent for the long run, assuredly solvent, 50 to 75 years, unless we deal with them first.

If we first pass a tax cut of the magnitude proposed by this budget, we will leave Social Security and Medicare unattended, neglected, and we will leave the budget without the resources necessary to do anything about those programs in the future.

In the well of the House just a couple of weeks ago when this budget resolution passed, I pointed out the fact that I am not opposed to tax reduction. We have got it in our own budget resolution. I think in due course it is very much in order, given the surpluses that we see projected. I think they should materialize before we commit ourselves to a big tax reduction, but their budget, the resolution before us, is fixated on tax reduction to the extent that when it comes to dealing with national defense, they flatten the President's budget out in the last 5-year cycle. In dealing with veterans, they actually cut the allocations for veterans' programs at a time when our World War II veterans are swelling to the point that they need it most. They deal with crop insurance for 5 years and then cut the money off in order to provide for more tax cuts. They say that they are for funding more for the NIH, but they take the function for health in the budget and actually give it less, all in the name of maximizing the tax cut.

What we are saying is, as to these other programs, the time and day will come when we can sort through those priorities, but as to Social Security and Medicare, there is no question that they have primacy, they should come first, they should come before tax reduction. That is the gist of this motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have just been handed essentially this motion to instruct. In a spirit of just being back from the break that we have been on, I am trying to ignore a lot of the kind of inflammatory language that is contained in this motion to instruct, like the word ''irresponsible'' tax cut. That, to me, is an oxymoron, an irresponsible tax cut. There is no such thing as an irresponsible tax cut. But, I mean, if the gentleman from South Carolina wants to call this fiscally irresponsible, I do not know that I want to get into a big fight with him about that.

Essentially, the way I read this motion to instruct, it is basically saying that we should take the latest possible date within the scope of the conference and require that the reconciliation legislation implementing those tax cuts not to be reported any earlier. It does not seem as though it has got any real force to it.

□ 1800

The gentleman is just saying, ''Can you put off the reconciliation as long as possible?'' That is the way I read this. The gentleman from South Carolina, is there something more than that that he is trying to say?

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KASICH. I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. SPRATT. I am trying to say a lot more than that, Mr. Speaker, but to stay within the scope of what is permissible, I have to say do not do it except as the last act. But I am saying to the gentleman the responsible thing, the responsible thing is not to drain