CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to the Budget Resolution for FY 2001 (H. Con. Res. 290). For the third consecutive year Republicans have chosen to provide large tax breaks for the wealthy. This Budget Resolution provides at least $200 billion in tax breaks over the next five years for the financial elite of America. Furthermore, this resolution is a major down payment for George W. Bush's proposed trillion-dollar tax scheme. I will not standby while our children's future is bankrupted to fund this irresponsible Budget Resolution.

This budget contains deep cuts in domestic spending by $114 billion over the next five years; fails to provide anything to strengthen Social Security or Medicare; cuts nondefense discretionary spending by $19.7 billion in 2001 and $138 billion over the next five years below the level needed to maintain purchasing power after adjusting for inflation; and pretends to reserve $40 billion for a Medicare prescription drug benefit contingent upon essentially turning Medicare into a voucher program. Republicans have used slight of hand to hide the facts of their irresponsible budget by showing the effects of proposed tax cuts for only the first five years and not the full ten year projections commonly used during the last four years.

I am disappointed in the Budget Resolution because I do not believe that it provides adequate investment in our nation's future. America's future depends on that of her young people—in providing them adequate resources and opportunities to become our future leaders including providing them education and access to adequate health care.

The Budget resolution provides inadequate resources for the education of our young people. I firmly believe that we must focus our attention and our energy on one of the most important challenges facing our country today—revitalizing our education system. Strengthening education must be a top priority to raise the standard of living among American families and to prolong this era of American economic expansion. Education will prepare our nation for the challenges of the 21st century, and I will fight to ensure that the necessary programs are adequately funded to ensure our children's success.

We must provide our children access to superior education at all ages from kindergarten to graduate school. Recent studies emphasize the importance of quality education early in a child's future development. And yet despite these studies, the Budget Resolution still inadequately funds programs that would provide for programs targeting children in their younger years.

In addition, we need to open the door of educational opportunity to all American children. It is well known that increases in income are related to educational attainment. The Democratic budget alternative rejects the Republican freeze on education funding and allocates $4.8 billion more for education for FY 2001, than the Republican budget. Over five years, the Democratic Party demonstrates its commitment to education by proposing $21 billion more than the Republican Budget Resolution.

The Congressional Black Caucus (''CBC'') will offer an amendment in the nature of a substitute that promises to invest for the future of our nation. The CBC substitute is a budget that maximizes investment and opportunity for the poor, African Americans, and other minorities. This Budget for Maximum Investment and Opportunity supports a moderate plan to pay down the national debt; protects Social Security; and makes significant investments in education and training.

The CBC budget requests $88.8 billion in FY 2001 for education, training, and development. This is $32 billion more than the Republican budget provides. The CBC substitute will propose a $10 billion increase over the President's Budget for school construction. Other projected increases include additional funding for Head Start, Summer Youth Employment TRIO programs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Community Technology Centers. In an age of unprecedented wealth the CBC has the vision to invest in the American family and not squander opportunities afforded by a budget surplus.

I will not support the failed policies of the past. Senator MCCAIN has best characterized this Budget Resolution as one that is ''fiscally irresponsible.'' I support a budget that invest strengthening Social Security; provides an affordable prescription drug benefit for all seniors; helps communities improve public education with quality teachers, smaller classes, greater accountability and modern schools; and pay down the national debt. These are the policies that invest in our children and in the future of our nation in the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD ROTH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I honor an individual whose dedication to the community and the overall well-being of the 43rd Congressional District is notable. On April 1st, Mr. Richard Roth, will step down as the Chair of the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce—a day that also marks Chamber's 100 year anniversary of service to the community. My district has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly give their time and talents to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations. Mr. Roth has proved himself one of these individuals again and again.

Richard Roth has a long and commendable history of serving Riverside County. Currently, he is a member of the Inland Empire Board of Directors for the Employer's Group, the civically minded Monday Morning Group and the Raincross Club. Additionally, in the past, he has selflessly served as Vice Chair of the Parkview Community Hospital Board, Vice Chair of the March Field Museum Foundation Board of Managers and member of the Board of Directors for the Volunteer Center of Riverside.

Richard Roth is a Managing Partner of the Riverside County law firm of Reid & Hellyer. He is also involved in the community as an adjunct instructor in Labor and Employment Law at the University of California at Riverside, Graduate School of Management and in the University Extension Division.

In addition to his private practice of law, Richard Roth is a Brigadier General in the United States Air Force Reserve. In this position, he presently serves as the Mobilization Assistant to the Staff Judge Advocate, Headquarters Air Mobility Command and Reserve Advisor to the Chief Counsel, United States Transportation Command. In 1987, Richard Roth received the Reginald C. Harmon Trophy as the Air Force Outstanding Reserve Attorney and in 1992 he was named California Air Force Association Reserved Man of the Year.

Richard's outstanding accomplishments make me proud to call him my friend, community member, and fellow American. I thank him for his contribution to the betterment of the community and I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of Riverside County.

RECOGNIZING MARC COTTA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marc Cotta for his many years of service in the news industry. Cotta, who is currently the News Director for KJEO–TV 47 in Fresno, is retiring this week after 26 years of service in the broadcast business.

Starting out in 1973 with KSLY (of San Luis Obispo) and KTIP/K100 (of Porterville), Cotta got his early career start working on radio sales, news reporting, and announcing/production. He then spent 3 years as Assistant Program Director for KSLY, before moving into television. From 1978–1980, Cotta worked as a reporter and news sports anchor for KSBY (of San Luis Obispo). In 1980, Cotta moved to Fresno's KJEO, channel 47 and a CBS affiliate, where he worked as a television reporter. By 1981 he had already moved up to be the Sports Director for KJEO, where he served until 1992. From 1992 to 1993, Cotta served as Executive Managing Editor for KJEO. Because of his strong work ethic, attention to detail and ability to know a good news story, it wasn't long before the station promoted Cotta once again, this time to Assistant News Director, where he served until 1995. From 1995 to present, Cotta has served as News Director for KJEO in Fresno.

Cotta is a great news director. He's always on the hunt for the next story. He keeps a Rolodex a mile long with contacts throughout the Central Valley and indeed throughout California.

Among his accomplishments Cotta won the Edward R. Murrow Award in 1998 for the western region. He has had three Emmy-nominated newscasts: for 1996, 1997, and 1998. In addition, he had Emmy-nominated reports in 1997. Cotta started the Fresno market's only weekly half-hour sports show. He has also developed the first live aerial news gathering capabilities in the market, the first digital satellite news gathering in the market, and the first two and half AM show newscasts in the market.

Cotta has produced a variety of T.V. specials and programs, as well as spearheading coverage of several major sporting and news events. Cotta has covered Super Bowls, the World Series, Major League All-Star games, the NIT Championship of 1983, the College World Series, and the 1989 San Francisco earthquake.

While Cotta leaves channel 47, KJEO he remains an outstanding source of news and information and leaves behind a 26 year legacy of dedication to his profession and his community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Marc Cotta for his tremendous contributions to his community and to the news and broadcast business. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Cotta many more years of continued success.

IN HONOR OF LTC STEVE H. INADA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a man who has dedicated his life to serving in the U.S. Army and has pursued all of his military endeavors with the highest degree of bravery and courageousness. Lieutenant Colonel Steve Inada will be retiring from active duty on June 1, 2000, after over twenty years of service to his country.

Born in Marina, California, Steve enlisted in the Army through the University of California at Berkeley ROTC program in April 1978. Throughout his military career, LTC Inada's valiant service has resulted in, among other things, his receipt of various personal awards including: an Army Service Ribbon; a National Defense Ribbon; an Armed Forces Reserve Ribbon; an Army Achievement Medal; a Joint Service Achievement Medal; an Army Commendation Medal; a Joint Commendation Medal; three Meritorious Service Medals; a Joint Meritorious Service Medal; and he will soon receive a Retirement Medal. A life of dedication to his country has also earned Steve a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, an Airborne Badge, a Joint Staff Badge and an Office of Secretary of Defense Badge. We should all aspire to lead a life of public service similar to that of LTC Inada who has time and time again placed his country before himself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the many contributions which LTC Inada has made as a member of the U.S. Army. At each assignment, he has functioned as an invaluable asset to his division. Although well deserved, LTC India's retirement is a loss for the U.S. Army. I wish Steve many years of happiness as he enjoys his golden years.

''MR. BASEBALL'', A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR HARRY WIGGINS OF MISSOURI

HON. PAT DANNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Ms. DANNER. Mr. Speaker, as famed baseball legend George Herman ''Babe'' Ruth once said, ''Baseball was, is and always will be to me the best game in the world.'' Well Mr. Speaker, for more than 30 years, America's favorite pastime has, indeed, been the best game in the world to my former colleague and longtime friend, Missouri State Senator HARRY WIGGINS. Today I honor him for being named ''Mr. Baseball'' by the Kansas City Royals.

As most fans of the Kansas City Royals are aware, Senator Wiggins has been a lifelong sports enthusiast who has never hesitated in proclaiming the Royals as ''The greatest organization in baseball.'' Since becoming a state senator in 1974, Harry has used his position as a dedicated public servant to rally behind the needs of the franchise while advancing the Royals' image as a team which thrives on the spirit and dedication of its fans.

As a young boy growing up in Kansas City, Harry dreamed of playing third base for the Kansas City Blues, a Triple A Farm Team whose glory days have long since ended. Although Harry would never join the ranks of baseball greats such as Joe Dimaggio, Mickey Mantle and Johnnie Mize on the baseball diamond, his love of the game and passion for baseball in Kansas City has never diminished. Decades later, and now as a seasoned statesman and respected politician, Harry is still the first fan to arrive at Kauffman Stadium and the last to leave—his busy Senate schedule permitting, of course.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House of Representatives for allowing me to congratulate Senator Harry Wiggins for his many years of support for the Kansas City Royals. His love of the game of baseball, commitment to the team and unwavering advocacy on behalf of all Royals' fans continue to show that he is truly deserving of the title, ''Mr. Baseball''.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, passing a budget resolution should be the first step in a process of guiding our country towards fiscal stability. In a time when the economy is strong and when there is a consensus on things like reducing the national debt, protecting Social Security and getting the most out of the dollars we invest, one would hope the budget resolution could be accomplished in a constructive fashion. At this time, we should establish a blueprint for government spending that guides our spending decisions through the coming years and gives a signal to the American public about our priorities.

Unfortunately, again this year that has not been the case with the budget resolution. The resolution adopted by the Republican majority continues a pattern of budget gimmicks, ambiguity, and deception. The Republican appropriators have no intention of following this blueprint and there is virtually no one in the Republican caucus who's going to have a voting record at the end of this year that would conform to what the budget resolution demands. This budget is rife with double counting, under counting for important priorities such as a Medicare prescription drug benefit, and slashes other priorities for massive tax cuts that are not supported by the American public and will not find their way into law.

I voted for four alternatives to this budget, all of which are superior to the Republican version which was passed. There are details of each that I don't necessarily agree with, but they are each more honest and would be better for America than the Republican version.

I hope I will see the day when we have a budget resolution that actually resembles the final budget at the end of the year.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 25th as Greek Independence Day. This past Saturday, as Greeks celebrated the 179th anniversary of their freedom from Ottoman rule, many of my own constituents commemorated this occasion with a special ceremony in Middletown, Connecticut. The blue-and-white Greek flag flew high over Middletown, as city and state officials gathered with residents for the unveiling of a new street sign called Eleftheria Way—the Greek work for freedom.

The pursuit of freedom is just one of the many ideals which have historically bound together our peoples. In many ways, Greece was the birthplace of American democracy. In 370 B.C., Plato wrote in The Republic: ''Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike.'' In an address made over 2400 years ago, Pericles explained: ''Our Constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law; when it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not a membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the mass possesses.''

As Americans, we are indebted to the contributions of the Ancient Greeks in so many areas, including science, medicine and the