

ED ROYBAL

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, when I came out to speak about another issue that was very important to me, I did not realize that we were doing 1-minutes on our great friend Ed Roybal.

I just wanted to add my voice as a Californian who came to Congress and was subject to Ed Roybal's kindness and goodness and great sense of courtliness and courtesy, that he will be deeply missed. Because the fabric of Ed Roybal is what makes this House run and gives us civility in difficult times. What a wonderful, fine gentleman and what wonderful treatment he accorded all of us in the California delegation, Republican and Democrat.

ED ROYBAL

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues to reflect upon the life and service of Ed Roybal. I had a great privilege in that I served all of the time that he and I served together, from 1981 until his retirement.

I had the opportunity to serve on two of the appropriations subcommittees with Congressman Roybal. First on the Labor Health Subcommittee, on which I now serve with his daughter LUCILLE who does an extraordinary job and of whom I know he is extraordinarily proud. I then served with him as well on the Treasury Postal Subcommittee, a subcommittee that was very important to me in my district because of my Federal employees.

I was a young, new Member. Ed Roybal was a mentor. Ed Roybal was someone who had great experience and wisdom and who taught me much as a Member of the House of Representatives. He taught me about commitment to people and keeping people uppermost in our minds as we considered the policies before the House and before the Appropriations Committee.

I was privileged to work with Ed Roybal. I was privileged to learn from Ed Roybal. I was privileged to know a gentleman, an American, a proud Mexican-American, and an American who made a difference.

LUCILLE, as you sit there and listen to us talk, and you and I have talked before, I know that you are extraordinarily proud to be the daughter of an American who made a difference, of a Mexican-American who made his people proud, of a Californian who represented his State well.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to honor the memory and the record of a

great American, my friend and mentor, Chairman Ed Roybal.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

REPUBLICAN CREDIBILITY DROWNING IN SEA OF RED INK

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today House Republicans had the audacity to claim that they are getting tough on spending, that they are restoring fiscal discipline. But I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, who do you think you are kidding? Do you not think the American public is watching what you have done?

Just this morning, USA Today reported on our Nation's dire fiscal conditions, quoting experts on both sides of the aisle.

For example, the newspaper said: "To hear Comptroller General David Walker tell it, the United States can be likened to Rome before the fall of the empire. Its financial condition is 'worse than advertised.' It has a 'broken business model.' It faces deficits in its budgets, its balance-of-payments, its savings, and its leadership."

The leadership, of course, of this city and this country is a Republican President, a Republican-led Senate, and a Republican-led House.

Mr. Speaker, I have been a proud Member of this body for 25 years. For 17 of those years, a Republican has occupied the White House. I would suggest to my colleagues, there is one person and only one person in America that can stop spending in its tracks, and that is the President of the United States. No single Member of Congress, no single member of the Senate, but a President can say "no" to spending. So when Presidents lament spending, they lament what they have done.

Here is the reality, Mr. Speaker: in every single one of those 17 years, this country has had substantial deficits. Let me repeat that: 17 years of Republican leadership and 17 straight years of deficits.

The Republican budget reconciliation bill would only perpetuate that record of irresponsibility and recklessness. Why? Because the net effect of their reconciliation package would add \$20 billion additional deficits in this country. Five years ago, the Bush administration and this Republican Congress inherited from a Democratic President a 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion and four consecutive budget surpluses from the Clinton administration.

I call your attention to this chart: budget deficits, fiscal year 1982, the first fiscal year for which Ronald Reagan was responsible, to fiscal year 2006, which is the current year we are budgeting for. Look at that, 17 straight years of Republican deficits, with no exception.

Now the Republicans come to the floor and they say, oh, my goodness, we have had Iraq. We have, but when Ronald Reagan said it was good morning in America, when he said the economy was doing extraordinarily well and that America was back and had an overwhelming reelection based upon that premise, guess what? We had a deficit of \$212 billion. The next year we had a deficit of \$221 billion. So the deficit picture you see on this chart is unblemished straight deficits until Bill Clinton is elected President of the United States.

Then Bill Clinton, as you can see on this chart, introduced an economic plan on this floor, and I will get to that.

President Bush had promised the American people that he would proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. You will see he was dead flat wrong. So when you hear these Republicans make representations about what they are going to do, look at the 17 years Ronald Reagan said he was going to balance the budget. He did not do it. George Bush the First said he was going to balance the budget. He did not do it. The present President of the United States said we can adopt his economic program and we would pay off the national debt, we would not spend a nickel of Social Security, and we would not spend a nickel of Medicare. He was wrong, or I might say, he misrepresented politely every one of those points, and has run up deficits of 157, 377, 412, 319 and \$323 billion.

That record is one that ought to be rejected. Democrats have been united in rejecting those proposals. We will continue to take that posture.

At the same time, Republicans have raised the debt limit not once, but twice, not three times—but four times in four years; \$450 billion in 2002, \$984 billion in 2003, \$800 billion in 2004, and \$781 billion this year.

The interest payments on the national debt are now the fastest growing category of spending in our budget.

So today, when Republicans say that they want to restore fiscal discipline, we must respond: You have lost all credibility on this issue.

President Bush has not vetoed one—not one—spending bill.

Republicans rammed a prescription drug bill through this Congress that they insisted would cost \$395 billion. But they suppressed a more accurate estimate, and now that legislation is expected to cost \$1 trillion.

The budget reconciliation bills are the Republican Party's latest charade.

They say that they are cutting spending by some \$54 billion—including cuts of \$12 billion to Medicaid, \$14 billion to student loans, \$1 billion to food stamps and \$5 billion to child support programs.