

DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the worst natural disaster in American history, Congress responded with generosity and more than \$60 billion in 6 days. But this week, thanks to the leadership of President George W. Bush and Speaker DENNIS HASTERT, Congress is going to figure out how to pay for it.

In the Deficit Reduction Act, this Congress will achieve more than \$50 billion in savings in the next 5 year to offset the extraordinary cost of Hurricane Katrina. But there is still work to be done.

This legislation is an important first step toward restoring fiscal discipline, but it is just that: it is a first step. With an \$8 trillion national debt and with more spending on Hurricane Katrina awaiting around the corner, it is imperative that we pass the Deficit Reduction Act, move on to an across-the-board cut in this year's budget, and reopen the highway bill and rescind earmarks that are anathema to the American people.

It is written that if the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle? The Deficit Reduction Act is a clear call to begin the process of putting our fiscal house in order, and I urge all of my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, to support it.

REVERSE ROBIN HOOD

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I was coming up, my favorite television program was Robin Hood. The Republican budget coming up this week is one example of what I call "Reverse Robin Hood," robbing from the poor and working class to give tax breaks to the rich, billions of dollars of tax breaks.

Let me tell you one of the examples of this policy and who it is going to hurt: single mothers seeking child support, students struggling to get ahead and pay for their college loans, foster kids, the sick and the poor whose only access to health coverage is Medicaid, those whose nutrition depends on food stamps or school lunches.

The budget is an outrage, one that clearly and forcefully paints a world of two classes of Americans. And with insult added to injury, it punishes those who have committed no crime but to be old, young, sick or uneducated. It punishes the working poor.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans practice reverse Robin Hood.

DUTCH-AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the more than 4.5 million Americans with Dutch roots who today, Dutch-American Day, reflect upon their heritage and the contributions of the Netherlands to the United States.

In 1609, the industrious and seafaring Dutch settled the colony of New Netherlands and named their capital New Amsterdam. However, the influence of the early colonists was not limited to the shores of Manhattan, Breukelyn or even Lang Eylandt, Long Island as we know it today.

Indeed, the colony ranged across the middle Atlantic region to cover parts of five States, including my own State of Michigan. Holland, Michigan may be a long way from my birthplace of Groningen in the Netherlands, but I still identify with my homeland.

The ties between the Netherlands and the United States are significant and long-standing. Centuries before the U.S. Declaration of Independence, William of Orange—the Dutch version of George Washington—set forth his grievances with the ruling Spanish government.

The grievances grew out of the Spanish government's tax policies and religious intolerance. Many years later, a similar scenario played out in the U.S., and Thomas Jefferson used the Dutch "Proclamation of Abjuration" as a model for the Declaration of Independence.

The common bonds of freedom, human rights and democracy inspire my pride in my heritage. But the Netherlands is also a humble and gentle country filled with canals, windmills, and tulips. It is a very forward-looking, modern country with unparalleled innovations in electronics, medicine, logistics, agriculture, and technology.

Today, the Dutch embassy will host a reception in the Rayburn foyer to honor Dutch-American Heritage Day. I encourage my colleagues and members of their staffs to join me at the event to celebrate the historical ties with the Netherlands.

RETURN TO PAYGO

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, the Blue Dog Coalition, of which I am policy co-chair, is going to vote against the budget reconciliation measures coming up this week.

Why? Because after all the sound and fury, these measures will increase the Federal budget deficit, and Blue Dogs are for reducing the Federal budget deficit.

Now, what can be done in a positive manner to address the problem? Don't take our word for it, listen to the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, who has repeatedly advocated that we return to the PAYGO rules, pay as you go.

If you want to increase spending on a program, find the money to pay for it, the way every household in America has to do. If you want to cut taxes, find the money to pay for it.

America lived under this rule from 1990 to 2002. It worked well. We need to return to PAYGO principles.

SEX SELECTION ABORTION IN INDIA A MASSIVE CRIME

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations' push for global population control continues to lead to ugly and inhumane outcomes, especially for girls.

China, as you know, imposes a barbaric "one child per couple" policy that relies on forced abortion, involuntary sterilization and ruinous fines to implement. But a UNFPA report sheds new light on sex selection abortion in India. According to the U.N. report, increasingly parents are using sex selection technologies that enable practitioners first to identify female unborn girls and then to abort them. As a result, fully 60 million girls are now missing according to the United Nations, effectively falling into a demographic black hole from which analysts fear there will be no return.

The report says as many as 2 million unborn baby girls are aborted each year for no other reason than they happen to be female.

In Punjab, the government claims that the numbers of missing girls will increase by 40 percent in the forthcoming generation.

Mr. Speaker, abortion is violence against children. It relies on dismemberment of the baby. Abortion relies on chemical poisoning. Sex selection abortion in India or anywhere else is a particularly heinous crime. All children—boys or girls—are precious. None deserve death by abortion.

MISUSE OF INTELLIGENCE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked at how the Bush administration will stoop to try and justify their actions prior to the invasion of Iraq.

President Bush decided to use Veterans Day, a day set aside to unite our Nation, to deliver a partisan and divisive political speech aimed at my colleagues in the House and the Senate.

Then yesterday, Secretary Rumsfeld came out and tried to blame President Clinton for this administration's manipulation of intelligence. I have no doubt that this administration cherry-picked intelligence.

Remember all the talk from the war cabinet about imminent mushroom clouds here in the United States or Vice President CHENEY's reckless suggestion that despite all evidence to the contrary that Iraq had ties to al Qaeda?

President Bush called all this criticism "revisionist history." The White