

The problem is further compounded by the certainty that while upper income families are receiving the benefit of the lion's share of these tax cuts, they secure a much smaller percentage of their income from Government benefits than average families at lower- and middle-income levels. Upper income families would be affected the least by budget cuts necessary to balance the budget and pay for further tax cuts, primarily for their benefit.

We are giving these benefits to the wealthy at a very high price to the country. At a time when we should be focusing on fiscal restraint, further deficit reduction and spending cuts, the Republicans instead are focusing on tax cuts.

The proposals in the contract are simply a recycling of the hollow promises from 1981: large tax cuts, defense spending increases, and a balanced budget. That is what they said then; that is what they are saying now. They did not keep their promises then and they can't do it now.

The Reagan administration predicted the economy would improve from a \$55 billion budget deficit in 1981 to a surplus of \$5.8 billion in 1985. In reality, the Federal deficit actually rose during that period to \$212 billion—another gap between rhetoric and reality. They inherited a deficit of \$55 billion and they ran it up to \$212 billion, all the while saying they would achieve a surplus.

Mr. President, the contract is just as irresponsible. The contract's tax cuts will cost \$364 billion, and the Republican defense increases will add another \$82 billion. That means the Republicans need \$1.4 trillion of spending cuts to balance the budget by the year 2002. Let me repeat: The Republicans need \$1.4 trillion in spending cuts over the next 7 years to balance the budget after their tax cuts and after their defense increases.

But where are their spending cuts? Where are they? "Where is the beef?" The only specific cuts the contract identified add up to \$277 billion over the next 7 years, not even enough to pay for their tax cut proposal, let alone start to balance the budget.

The bottom line is that there is a \$1.2 trillion—not million, not billion, \$1.2 trillion—Republican credibility gap, the gap between Republican rhetoric and Republican reality. It gives new meaning to the phrase "Don't ask, don't tell." That is the economic policy the Republicans are asking the American people to buy—a pig in a poke. "We will balance the budget." The problem is \$1.4 trillion. They have shown \$277 billion of spending cuts. Where is the rest? Where is the other \$1.2 trillion?

You really have to wonder what the Republicans are hiding from the American people.

We have seen these sorts of promises before, so we know what is going to happen. These tax breaks for the wealthy will end up busting the budget and the middle class will get stuck

with the bill in one of two ways. Either they will be paying through huge cuts in middle class programs, from Medicare to student loans to keeping our highways in good repair, or they will pay with higher interest rates on home loans, car loans, and educational loans, and economic stagnation caused by falling investment in our future.

The Republicans have been enormously successful at selling their contract as a benefit to the middle class.

Mr. President, the reality is that, hidden in the fine print of the contract, are enormously expensive tax breaks for the wealthy that will bust our budget.

Instead of talking about more defense spending and tax breaks for the wealthy, the Republicans need to tell us their specific proposals for balancing the budget. Where are they going to cut the other \$1.2 trillion necessary to balance this budget? That is \$1,200 billion.

We are waiting to hear from the Republicans. Where are they going to make the cuts specifically? Not these nostrums, "Oh, we will maybe eliminate agriculture funding."

In closing, let me again say we have heard this all before. There was a credibility gap in the 1980's between what the Republicans promised and budget reality. Earlier, I said the Contract With America was a contract on the middle class.

I would warn those middle class Americans who listened to the promises of the Republicans in the 1980's. What happened to you? What happened was the rich got richer, the poor got poorer, and the middle class paid the bill.

Mr. President, political rhetoric in a campaign is one thing. Performing when one has the responsibility of governing is another thing. I call on the Republicans and I challenge the Republicans to come forward with their plan to balance the budget.

What are they going to do to close the gap between the \$1.48 trillion necessary to balance the budget over the next 7 years and the paltry \$277 billion of budget cuts they have identified? Where is the other \$1.2 trillion the Republicans need in spending cuts in order to balance this budget?

We are waiting. The American people are waiting. We wait with great interest to see how our friends on the other side of the aisle will begin to close the gap between rhetoric and reality.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

#### NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and recognition of National Autism Awareness Week, January 9-15. Many of you may recognize autism from Dustin Hoffman's character in "Rainman." What some of you may not know is that autism is a neurological disorder that affects some

380,000 individuals in the United States today. Individuals with autism often have trouble with communication and social interaction; their brains don't process information in the same manner as yours or mine. Yet, some forms of autism are mild and individuals can be extremely talented in areas like math or music. Because of this vast range of impairment, autism is referred to as a spectrum disorder. It is a bewildering disability—a mystery science is still trying to unravel.

As we recognize National Autism Awareness Week, it is fitting that we also recognize the Autism Society of America, currently celebrating its 30th anniversary. The society offers those affected by autism and their parents and families, support and advocacy. The society has also been a persistent force on Capitol Hill, and I have been pleased to work with the society in our joint effort of advocating for increased funding for biomedical research. Last year, I was proud to play a role in directing the national Institutes of Health to hold the first ever national workshop in autism which is scheduled for this spring. This year I am looking forward to the findings and conclusions of the workshop.

Understanding is the beginning of acceptance and support. Awareness of the autism spectrum disorder is critical to further research efforts, eradicating discrimination and stigmatization, and improving the quality of the life of individuals with autism, as well as that of their friends and families. That is why it is important to recognize this week, and every week, as National Autism Awareness Week. The work we have before us cannot be completed in 1 week out of every year. It will require all of us, and every week.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this week as National Autism Awareness Week.

#### MEMORIAL TO BILL SMULLIN

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, with the passing of Bill Smullin, Oregon has lost another of its pioneers. Bill was for over 50 years a legendary figure in broadcasting and was, in the words of a National Association of Broadcasters chairman, "a great standard-bearer for all broadcasters."

Growing up in the shadow of Mt. Hood as the son of homesteaders, Bill Smullin was one of the first newspapermen to make the transition to broadcasting. Acquiring first radio, then television and cable operations, Bill built his California Oregon Broadcasting Co. into a sophisticated, cutting-edge system which featured the best technology had to offer.

Bill's interest in serving rural areas was avid. In an effort to ensure that smaller television markets had access to films, he helped form Television Station, Inc., in the 1960's, which bought and distributed films to rural stations. About the same time, Bill