

many of whom will be pushed below the poverty line.

Mr. Speaker, this budget is cruel, it's cynical, and it's mean.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT DESTROYING SANTA ROSA ISLAND

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, today I bring to light another example of the overreaching arm of the Federal Government. Santa Rosa Island off Santa Barbara, CA, happens to be one of the homes for the snowy plover bird. The National Park Service has decided that the snowy plover is so endangered by cattle ranching on the island that a 3-mile-long fence and road must be built to protect the bird. The local ranching company must build the fence within 7 days or the Government will do it for them and give them the bill. Scientific data proves that cattle ranching on Santa Rosa Island does not endanger the bird. In fact a strong case can be made that 93 years of cattle ranching has actually led to a greater proliferation of the bird.

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Unfortunately, the Department of Fish and Wildlife refused to review this data.

Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act was supposed to protect species in danger of becoming extinct. It was not meant to be a vehicle to destroy the well cared for environment of Santa Rosa Island.

CUTTING WELFARE TO FUND TAX CUTS IS WRONG

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

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I am here because my constituents have asked me to speak out for their interests. I want to read what they have said. James Gamwill wrote to me and said, "I hope you will use your good office to prevent cuts in Medicare. It aids seniors whose health may not be so robust. The high cost of health care puts us in a financial bind."

Or Louise Robertson, who wrote from Aloha, OR. She said, "I urge you strongly to fight all attempts to diminish Social Security and Medicare benefits."

Well, in their interests, I say shame on this Republican budget, because it cuts senior health care protection, it gives tax cuts to the wealthy, and it increases Pentagon spend spending. This budget hurts all working families, American families, and Oregon families. I think it is wrong, and I know that many Oregonians think it is wrong too.

A TIME FOR ACTION

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I am a firm believer that actions have consequences. By the same token, doing nothing can have consequences as well. If Congress does nothing about Medicare or the budget, I doubt America could survive the consequences.

The actions of Congress over the past generation have resulted in an enormous national debt. Servicing this debt consumes a large chunk of the over-all budget. If Congress does nothing about the disastrous trend of deficit spending, in 10 years we will be unable to meet other obligations while servicing the debt.

Likewise, if Congress does nothing to protect Medicare, it too will become insolvent in just 7 years. Let me be clear, this information is coming from President Clinton's own people and is not a Republican gimmick.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences for doing nothing are too great. We here in Congress have the ability and the responsibility to do something about these two problems. The debt poses a threat to future generations and a collapse of Medicare would hurt older Americans. Now is not the time for inaction or the arrogant avoidance of responsibility that has permeated Washington.

MEDICARE: THE REAL CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk these days about contracts.

There is the Republican Contract With America.

There is the contract with America's veterans.

There is the contract with Federal retirees.

And there is the contract with senior citizens.

So far this year, the spotlight has been on the Republican Contract With America. The Republicans are quite boastful about moving their contract through the House in 100 days.

But what about the other contracts? What about the promises made to veterans, Federal retirees, and senior citizens?

I am particularly concerned about breaking America's contract with our senior citizens.

For years we have promised reasonable health care through the Medicare system. Now the Republicans are willing to sacrifice Medicare—and the seniors who depend on it—in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

If the Republicans want to meet the terms of this country's contract with senior citizens, then they should look

elsewhere for their budget and tax fixes than the pocketbooks of our senior citizens.

REPUBLICANS MEAN TO PRE- SERVE AND IMPROVE MEDICARE

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration's Trustees Report on Medicare warns that the Medicare trust fund starts to go broke in 1996 and is bankrupt by 2002. House Republicans are determined to save Medicare by using new approaches, new management, and new technologies to improve it, preserve it, and protect it. The current Government-controlled Health Care Financing Administration system has a lot of waste and fraud. The General Accounting Office estimates \$44 billion a year in Medicare and Medicaid fraud.

We want to give senior citizens an incentive to fight waste and fraud by paying them 25 percent of any waste or fraud they find in their own bills. House Republicans want to strengthen and empower senior citizens.

House Republicans will increase Medicare spending from \$4,700 per retiree today to \$6,300 per retiree in 2002. That is a 34-percent increase in Medicare spending per retiree. There is no proposed cut in Medicare spending.

House Republicans will preserve the current Medicare system. We will create a series of new choices so senior citizens can control their own future.

Mr. Speaker, together we can create a Medicare system that offers the best care at the lowest cost, with senior citizens having the greatest control over their own health care.

PROTECT THE MEDICARE TRUST FUND

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago we celebrated Victory in Europe. And while it would be another 3 months before Japan surrendered, World War II would soon be at an end.

Victory did not come easily. Millions of Americans answered the call of duty, and many gave their lives. On the homefront, men and women worked to keep the country running, and my home State of Connecticut made invaluable contributions in defense manufacturing.

A generation answered the call of duty—now our Government must do the same for them.

If we reform the Medicare system, it cannot be to pay for tax breaks for the few. It must be to shore up the trust fund to benefit seniors.

We can never fully express our gratitude to the World War II generation—

words just do not go far enough. However, our deeds can help show our respect. We must protect the Medicare trust fund.

THE INVISIBLE DEMOCRAT PLAN TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday House Republican leaders introduced our 7-year program to balance the budget. Democrats and liberal critics immediately jumped on it, crying and screaming and insisting there is another way to balance the budget without cutting spending.

So to keep the debate in perspective, I thought I would introduce to the people the Democrat plan to balance the budget and take care of Medicare. Here it is. Excuse me, it is upside down, backward. There you go. There you go. This is it, Mr. Speaker, the Democrat plan to balance the budget and take care of Medicare.

I hope it is not in too much detail for my friends on the other side of the aisle. I am sorry to get into such detail during a 1-minute speech. But the fact is, it is May. We have been in session since January. Balancing the budget is a bipartisan responsibility. We are \$4.8 trillion in debt. The third largest expenditure on the budget is the interest service on the national debt. Medicare will be broke in 6 years. If we want to help senior citizens, Mr. Speaker, we have got to do a little bit more than this.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

JAPAN TAKES UNITED STATES TO COURT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Japan is suing Uncle Sam. And guess what? This new court is the World Trade Organization. Remember GATT? Supposedly created to promote and enforce free trade? GATT is now being used by the most protectionist nation in world history, Japan, to kill free trade. And listen to what Japan says. We here in Japan believe we have a better than 50-percent chance of winning in court.

Unbelievable, ladies and gentlemen. Congress has been a bunch of wimps, allowed Japan to wreck our economy, wreck our jobs, and now Japan is taking us to court. What is next, Congress? A judgment in favor of Japan in this kangaroo court? Beam me up. Shame,

Congress. You have allowed our jobs to be stolen, our companies to be taken overseas, and you are talking about some wild Disney business around here. Straighten out our order of business, our balance of payments, or you will never, never balance our budget.

THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, the House Budget Committee starts work on the first fiscally responsible budget the American people have seen in decades. Many House Democrats will come to the floor, attacking various parts of the budget for being too hard on their special interest groups, I ask my colleagues to reflect on the choice before us today.

We can continue to do things the Democrats' way. We can continue to waste more of the taxpayers' money for more Government programs, more bureaucracy, and more Federal intrusion into the lives of the American people. Or we can go a different route. We can start taking steps that will mean a brighter future for our children, better jobs for working Americans and more security for our Nation.

In the election of 1994, the American people decided that fiscal irresponsibility and broken promises were a thing of the past. With the budget process we start today, Republicans will lead the way to a balanced budget.

PASS BOTH A BUDGET BILL AND A FARM BILL

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we are now in the process of shaping a budget for America for the next fiscal year. Soon, we will consider reauthorization of a farm bill for the next several years. It is my hope that we will pass a budget bill and pass a farm bill. The two bills should not be mixed.

None will dispute that cuts in the budget are inevitable; all will agree that farm programs should bear a share of the cuts. But, \$15 billion in reductions is not a cut, Mr. Speaker, it is a severance. \$15 billion in reductions will gut the farm programs, will disrupt vital revenue sources in rural communities, and will affect the economy in severe and unintended ways. This issue transcends party and region. It is a direct hit on rural America, and it also strikes a blow against urban America.

Let us pass a budget bill. Then, let us pass a farm bill, but, in our effort to stabilize the budget, we must be careful not to destabilize food production for working families who are America's consumers.

PROTECT AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, we have many tough choices to make during the next several weeks and Republicans have been the first to come forward and face these challenges. But we need to take great care in reducing those programs that have had such a profound effect on our rural communities over the last 60 years. America's rural communities are fading examples of American history—neighbor helping neighbor, family helping family.

We cannot turn back 60 years of farm programs overnight and expect our rural communities to survive. Farm communities can survive through tax and regulatory relief, farm program reform and better trade policy reform. Remember, farm programs have declined an average of 9 percent each year since 1985—a reduction of over \$15 billion. If all other Federal programs had taken the same budget reductions during this period, our budget would balance. Assaults on agriculture are not productive, so I challenge my colleagues to roll up our sleeves and learn how important farming is to America.

REFORM THE MINING LAW OF 1872

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, 123 years ago today, President Grant signed into law a bill aimed at promoting the settlement of the Western States. This bill allowed folks to mine valuable minerals such as gold and silver from Federal lands in those States for free. It also allowed people to obtain title to these lands for \$2.50 an acre. In one sense, the mining law of 1872 served much the same purpose as the Homestead Act.

Today, the Homestead Act has long since been repealed. The West is well settled. Yet, the mining law of 1872 survives intact, in this age of skyrocketing Federal budget deficits still allowing the wholesale giveaway of valuable Federal lands and minerals. It is incredible, but true, that annually under this law the United States allows about 1.8 billion dollars' worth of gold and silver to be mined for absolutely free.

And for the most part, these minerals are not being mined by the lone prospector of old, but rather, by multinational corporations who reap the benefits of this last great giveaway of American natural resources.

What a shame. What a shame, Congress, to allow lands, owned by every American, to be given away for fast food hamburger prices. To allow billions of dollars worth of the public wealth to be produced for free by corporations based in Luxembourg, Toronto, and London.