

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.