

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we finally got an outline of the proposed Republican budget. It is in violation of the Budget Act, a bit late, but better late than never.

I have got to say there is one thing I find I have in common, which is I share their objective to get deficit spending under control and to bring the Federal Government's budget into balance by the year 2002. But past that point, I find we have tremendous differences, and they revolve around the basic approach taken by the Republican Party on this matter.

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That is, Mr. Speaker, their first assumption is that we will not reduce military spending. That is the largest discretionary item from the Federal budget. The Pentagon will take no reductions. The Pentagon, which will have a budget in fact increased above the President's requests in this budget, a budget which is equivalent to the last budget of the great cold war with the Soviet Union, we will still fund 100,000 troops in Europe waiting for the invasion of the Soviet Union into West Germany, unified Germany anyhow, somewhere into that region.

We will still spend \$60 billion a year in defense of Japan against the Soviet Union. We will still produce stealth bombers with no objective, at the cost of \$1 billion each. We will produce a myriad of other weapons systems that we no longer need that would not have worked in any case against our principal adversary of 10 years ago. However, we cannot ask for a penny of cuts at the Pentagon. We know they are spending every dollar wisely. That is off the table.

Then we come to the revenue side. On the revenue side, actually what we are going to do is reduce revenues in order to reach a balanced budget. That does not make sense to most Americans, Mr. Speaker. Most Americans who are having a little trouble making their car payment, house payment, utility payment, and buying clothes for their kids would not think they could reduce their income and get their home budget in balance.

No, indeed, through the miracles in budgeting here in the U.S. Congress, that is exactly what we are going to do. According to the Republican budget proposal, we will reduce income by \$340 billion, not decrease the military by a penny, and we will get to a balanced budget. One might ask "How are we to do that, given that the largest single discretionary expenditure will not be reduced, the military; given the fact that we will reduce our incomes by \$350 billion?" We are going to do it by gutting virtually everything else in the Federal budget that is important to average and working American families.

Mr. Speaker, we will eliminate the Women, Infants, and Children Program. We will cut back on the School Lunch Program. We will reduce student loans, dramatically. After all, who needs a student loan program? Certainly not the wealthy, who are going to get very generous tax cuts under this proposal. In fact, they will have so much discretionary income they will be buying another BMW. They are not worried about sending their kids to college.

Middle-income families, average folks, those struggling to find a way for their kids to go to college, sorry, the Federal Government has to balance its budget, and it has to give tax cuts to the wealthy, and it has to give tax cuts to the largest corporations, repeal the alternative minimum tax, and it cannot find a penny of reductions in the military budget.

This is all laid out here in a rather brutal reality by the Republican majority in this House. I do not believe that these are the priorities of the American people. They are certainly not my priorities. We have just received these documents, so, as I stand here, I am paging through to look for some of the more interesting portions.

We can find places to cut back in natural resources and environmental protection. We can find places to cut back in energy development, particularly in renewable energy resources and clean-up of hazardous waste sites. We cannot find much to cut in agriculture, \$13 billion a year in subsidies. Sam Donaldson getting \$75,000 a year to not raise sheep on the ranch that he does not live on, we cannot cut that. We could not cut Sam Donaldson. He might give some negative press to the majority party. Business as usual. When the Democrats were in charge, we could not cut Sam Donaldson. Now the Republicans are in charge, they cannot cut the Sam Donaldsons in the world. He should get the \$75,000 on the ranch on which he does not live, he is going to live there some day. This is not the bare bones budget we need, and it does not make cuts in the proper priorities.

COMMENDING UNSUNG HEROES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORWOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] will be recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, let me just briefly answer my friends who just spoke about the defense budget numbers. From my calculations the President's defense budget cuts \$127 billion below the Bush baseline. In practical terms, that means that under this President, we have reduced the Army from 18 divisions to 12 divisions. We have reduced our air wing equivalents from about 24 to 13. We have reduced the Navy from about 540 ships to about 340, almost a 40 percent cut. We are going down radically.

However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about something else tonight, because the gentleman mentioned defense, and this happens to be the anniversary, May 10, 1972, of our colleague, the gentleman from California, DUKE CUNNINGHAM, being shot down in the skies over Vietnam, having shot down five MiG aircraft, and I understand at least three of them were in the air, and being nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor for flying into a pack of MiG aircraft that were on his wingman's tail, and probably would have killed his wingman, had DUKE not flown his aircraft into that enemy air formation.

DUKE, we commend you.

While we are at it, I thought I might talk about a few other unsung heroes. Those are people who have been taking a lot of hits lately from the President. They are called talk show hosts. We have a few of them in San Diego. One of them, Roger Hedgecock, is a leader of talk radio in KSDO in San Diego. The President apparently does not like him. He criticizes the President a lot. He led a group of citizens back here a few weeks ago, when we had the balanced budget vote in the House of Representatives, and Roger Hedgecock staged his talk show, his talk radio show, from the Halls of the U.S. Capitol. He brought back in excess of 100 U.S. citizens, people from all walks of life, who walked door to door, not professional lobbyists, but people who went door to door and talked to their Congressmen and other Congressmen about voting for, of all things, a balanced budget.

We have another talk show host, Peter Weisbach, in San Diego, KOGO radio, who thought that perhaps the Mexican bailout, the \$20 billion of taxpayers' money that we sent to Mexico, was not a good idea; obviously, somebody else who disagreed with the President's policies. The President apparently does not like that.

Mike Reagan is another talk show host who appears on KOGO, and many times I have been on Mike's show talking about American foreign policy. He has educated our listeners in areas in which most Americans do not pay a great deal of attention. I can remember listening to Stacy Taylor of KFMB, my neighbor up in Alpine, CA. Stacy is a talk show host that you might classify as liberal or moderate, except for his strong belief in the second amendment. I do not know exactly how you would classify him, but I think that the way he conducts his show is provocative. I think it is informative. He takes me on a lot, takes on a lot of the political figures, takes on the President now and then, and that is not bad.

Lastly, we have Hudson and Bauer of KFMB in San Diego. They were invited by President Clinton when he thought maybe he could get talk radio on his side to come back and have their talk show located on the White House grounds.