

heard a lot of talk about how bold this budget is. Congratulating the Republican leadership for being bold by presenting this budget is like congratulating Lizzie Borden for being on the cutting edge.

BEING RELEVANT VERSUS BEING CONSIDERED RELEVANT

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that some politicians are only concerned about being considered relevant rather than being relevant.

According to Webster's dictionary, relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand.

Relevant is improving the standard of living for our children. That means ridding ourselves of deficits.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the deficits that are mortgaging our children's futures. That means balancing the budget.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the impending bankruptcy of Medicare. That means fixing the problem now.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the spiralling cost of entitlement. That means controlling the growth in the programs, such as Medicaid.

Relevant is having significant and demonstrable bearing on the bloated Federal bureaucracy intruding in the average citizens life. That means eliminate entire agencies and departments.

Relevant is doing what is right by our seniors and our children.

MEMBERS NEED TO STAND UP AND OPPOSE THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is being cut in the Republican budget proposal, make no mistake about it. They are reducing the projected spending level, which means higher co-pays, reduced benefits, and reduced services. Why? Why are they doing this? To pay for a tax break for the wealthy. It is a cut in Medicare to pay for a tax break for the wealthy. If there were no tax break in this bill, there would be no need for the reduction in projected spending in Medicare in this budget.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stand up and oppose this plan.

COME HOME, DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Party that once inspired our Nation by proclaiming "We have nothing to fear but fear itself" today has nothing to offer but fear.

The same party that once rallied Americans from the depths of the Depression today ignores the decline wrought by exploding Federal deficits. The same party whose leaders once warned of the dangers of welfare dole today defends a welfare state that traps the poor in dependency and despair. And the same party that marshalled the free world in the fight against Nazis today silently ignores an economic Dunkirk in Medicare.

There is an alternative for Democrats to this defense of the status quo. And it is well within the Democratic Party tradition. Our balanced budget upholds the tradition of Jefferson by ending the practice of saddling future generations with debt. It affirms the tradition of Roosevelt by providing for a strong, effective government that prepares for the future. And it celebrates the tradition of Kennedy by spurring growth through tax relief.

Come home Democrats: Restore the American dream and the proud tradition of America's oldest party by supporting our balanced budget.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET IS A BAD IDEA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week we can see what the Republican majority is all about: tax breaks for the wealthy, tax loopholes for special interests, increases in military spending. How to pay for those tax loopholes, how to pay for those special interest tax breaks, how to pay for military spending increases? By cutting student loans for middle class families, by cutting veterans' benefits, by cutting Medicare.

Nearly 37 million senior citizens will pay more out of pocket costs, will suffer a reduction in benefits, and will lose their right to choose their doctor. Cuts in Medicare, veterans, students, to pay for tax breaks for the rich. Mr. Speaker, I am a deficit hawk. I voted for the balanced budget amendment, but the Republican budget is a bad idea.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE READY FOR REAL ACTION ON THE DEBT

(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, during the district work period and subsequently, many of us have had town meetings and conversations with the good people we were elected to serve. One message that has come through

loud and clear is that the American people want Congress to work together to solve the great problems facing this great Nation. They know that the Medicare trust fund is going bankrupt. They understand that the burgeoning debt will destroy our children's economic future.

As Churchill reminded us, the American people did not cross the oceans, ford the streams, traverse the mountains, and deal with the droughts and pestilence because they are made of sugar candy. The American people are tough. They are ready for real solutions, but they will not accept simply lining up every day and yapping like a bunch of toy poodles while the debt balloons and Medicare goes bankrupt. The American people want real action. The American people are ready.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET WILL CUT MEDICARE AND NEEDED SERVICES TO STUDENTS AND THE ELDERLY WHILE GIVING TAX BREAKS TO THE RICH

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, we have looked at the charts and we have looked at the graphs. They keep talking about the fact that "We are increasing Medicare, we are not decreasing Medicare." It is like a friend of mine who made \$100 a week back in 1960 saying he got a raise because he makes \$150 now. You have to adjust for inflation, you have to adjust for more people going into the system. This is not an increase. In fact, it is a very large decrease.

In my area in southwestern Pennsylvania, if this Republican proposal to cut Medicare this much goes through, our hospitals tell us that half of the hospitals in southwestern Pennsylvania will close. Many of those hospitals get 60 percent of their money from Medicare reimbursements, because 1 in 5 residents in southwestern Pennsylvania are on Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, this is a budget that would in fact also cut student loans by \$19 billion, that is an average of \$5,000 a year, by charging interest to students while they are in college. We do not want to give them an education so they can get a better job, and when they get older, we want to take their Medicare away; also, so we can give \$20,000 tax breaks every year to the richest 1 million Americans. Unfair, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRESS MUST AVOID RECKLESS BUDGET CUTS IN AGRICULTURE

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