

about accounting. It is about the fact that we live in a great country, we live in the greatest country the world has ever seen, and yet we can live in an even greater one if we live within our means.

There are a lot of economic reasons to balance the budget, but what would it mean to the person back home? Mr. Speaker, experts have said, including Alan Greenspan, that living within our means under a balanced budget could mean a drop in the interest rates, perhaps as much as 2 percent, and, if the interest rates drop 2 percent, the average homeowner could have a lower mortgage. If a family has a 30-year mortgage on a \$75,000 house, then over the lifetime of the loan that family will save and pocket \$37,000.

That is why we need to balance the budget, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the Democrats and Republicans will all step forward, put partisanship aside, and do the right thing.

WORK OUT OUR DIFFERENCES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the deadline for the continuing resolution, and once again it appears the Speaker, NEWT GINGRICH, is prepared to shut down the Government because of the disagreements over the budget.

I have said before, and I will say it again, we may have differences between Democrats and Republicans on the budget, but the negotiations should continue and the Government should not shut down because the Speaker cannot come to an agreement.

Already the President has said that he wants to continue the Government operations for at least another week, if not beyond. The Senate leadership on the Republican side has also agreed to that. Speaker GINGRICH once again says "no" because of his own ideology.

We should work out our differences on the budget. I think right now there is no question that the American people feel that Medicare and Medicaid must be preserved and the Republican leadership in the House must come up with a budget proposal that protects Medicare and Medicaid, protects our environmental protection, our education programs. They have not done so. The President has agreed even to the 7-year balanced budget that the Republicans have proposed, but now it is up to Speaker GINGRICH and the Republicans in the House to come up with a program that agrees with the priorities of the American people.

LOWER TAXES AND SPENDING RESTRAINT

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrats love to chant over and

over that "heartless" Republicans are "slashing" Government to give tax breaks to their friends. False. But it is true that in some areas of Government, like foreign aid, we are cutting. In other areas, like Medicaid and Medicare, we are increasing spending.

And it is also true that we advocate tax cuts. Remember, higher taxes means more spending in Washington. I am proud that Republicans are going to give a \$500 tax credit to children and to working families. The money that Americans make belongs to them; it does not belong to the Government. And let me say this about lower taxes: We need lower taxes to help grow the economy. It is essential to balancing the budget that we have strong economic growth. This time lower taxes will be coupled with spending restraints in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, let us end the excuses and let American families keep more of what they earn.

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DEMOCRATS STAND FOR MEDICARE, REPUBLICANS STAND FOR MEDIOCRE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues focus on this chart, which says "Medicare." It is one little word, but I think it says more about the differences between Democrats and Republicans than any other word. Mr. Speaker, Democrats care very much about Medicare, and Republicans want to take the care out of Medicare. They want to slash Medicare by \$270 billion to give a tax break for their wealthy friends.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans would like to take the "care" out of Medicare. By their budget they are taking the "care" out of Medicare. I hope we look at this. When they take the care out of Medicare, this is what happens to health care in this country. It becomes mediocre care. Democrats stand for Medicare. Republicans stand for mediocre health care for our seniors, mediocre care so our seniors cannot get the care they need; mediocre care so people go without health care; mediocre care so senior citizens have to suffer, all to give a tax break for the rich. For shame.

THE DEMOCRATS SHOULD GET THE FACTS

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I would love to respond to the gentleman who has just addressed us and tell him that we have a standing offer: It is \$1 million if he can find those cuts. We are still waiting. The challenge has been out there.

It is not working. The people in this country no longer are being deceived. The polls show that. I have been to town meetings. I find that people are angry that Democrats are trying to mislead them, that the Clinton administration is trying to mislead them. People do not like to be scared unnecessarily. I think that is a very good thing that they do not.

I would suggest that the gentleman might want to talk to our new colleague, Tom Campbell, when he arrives here and find out just exactly what is going on out there in America, because people know the truth. We are providing for Medicare. We are increasing Medicare. We are going from \$4,700 per capita to over \$7,100 per capita in our budget. President Clinton's budget does not balance. CBO says it one more time, it does not balance. We will stand behind our challenge. Get some facts.

OUR COUNTRY AND OUR TROOPS DESERVE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Members of this House, Republicans and Democrats alike, cast votes of conscience on our mission to Bosnia. Some Members endorsed the mission, some expressed serious concerns, and some opposed it altogether. That is the way democracy should work. But there can be no excuse, there can be no justification, there can be no rationalization for prohibiting this House last night, which the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER], did, from having a unanimous vote in support of our troops that are already in Bosnia.

Let me read the resolution the gentleman from California [Mr. BAKER], and his colleagues who supported him killed last night on this floor:

Resolved: That the House of Representatives unequivocally supports the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who are carrying out their mission in support of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina with professional excellence, dedicated patriotism, and exemplary bravery.

For anyone to stop this simple resolution is at best a lapse in judgment and, at worst, mindless partisanship. Our country and our troops deserve better than that.

A CONTINUING RESOLUTION ON A BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a very important day. It is my birthday. I am either 56 or 65. I cannot remember which. But I want you to know I am a little concerned about something. It is 10:20. I have gotten a call from my daughter, Laura, and my son, Ted, and

one other person from Maryland, but I have gotten no gifts. I know that time has been rushed and we have been doing a lot of things.

What I am going to propose today is that we have sort of like a continuing resolution so my birthday can extend from the 14th through the 21st, to give you all a chance to give me a gift. I do not want this to be a partisan affair. We should be bipartisan in this effort in every way. I do not want you to worry about the gift ban either, or about the fact that I missed your birthday and did not give you a gift. If you all start the charity, then I can respond. I want to thank you for this opportunity. Please keep me in your minds and your thoughts.

REPUBLICAN PARTISANSHIP WILL WRECK THE REPUBLIC

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

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about two subjects this morning. First, I am outraged over the Speaker's and the chairman of the Committee on Rules' declaration that they intend to gridlock action on the Ethics Committee recommendation to close the Gingrich loophole to prevent misuse of congressional offices for personal gain. This is a serious attempt to muzzle the Ethics Committee, and it must be stopped.

The second, I am also outraged, grossly disappointed, that last night this House could not put politics aside and send a clear message to our troops that they have our unequivocal support, our troops in Bosnia, and recognize their sacrifices in the service of our country. That is very, very sad. This kind of partisanship will ultimately wreck this Republic.

SAVINGS WILL PRESERVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, new estimates from CBO project an additional \$135 billion in revenue over the next 7 years. That is very good news, but those estimates are based mostly on gains resulting from optimism all around this Nation regarding our movement toward a balanced budget.

Now the bad news. As soon as the word was made public, old politics reared its ugly head: "Spend that money, spend that money." That is the old way. The problem, if we start spending this new, imaginary money, confidence in a balanced budget will drop and the money will not be there. The lesson: Do not spend that imaginary money. If we do our job, the money will be a bonus to our children by lowering the debt. We must beat back the old politics, save that money,

and protect the American dream for our children.

POLLS SHOW AMERICANS RESPOND TO THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, everyone is talking about signals and messages, but here are some facts and results from the latest New York Times CBS poll:

President Clinton has emerged from the Federal budget standoff with his highest public ratings in nearly 2 years, while House Republicans have lost much of the goodwill they enjoyed after their sweep of Congress last year.

Today President Clinton signed an American-led peace plan on Bosnia in Paris. Under his leadership, American-led peace initiatives in Northern Ireland and the Middle East are flourishing. Somehow, the other side does not want to give him credit for these achievements, but the American people are. The other side wants to shut the Government down, but the President and Senator DOLE want to achieve a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are responding to responsible Government, and not to politics.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD JOIN REPUBLICANS IN BALANCING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, 25 days ago, President Clinton promised in writing to sign a balanced budget agreement by the end of this year. It is now December 14. How much longer do the American people have to wait? Last week, the President vetoed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. Last week, the President said "no" to a brighter future for our children and for our grandchildren.

I would like to read something that this same President said back in March 1994, and how he said it: "Why, then, are we confronted with an opposition party that just stands up and says 'No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no?'" Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to ask himself that same question: Why is he saying no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, to balancing the budget? Come on, Mr. President. Join us in balancing the budget now.

OUR SPENDING MUST REFLECT BETTER PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we complicate

things so much here and we lose perspective, that when we are talking about a budget, it is about setting priorities. It is just like our budgets at home. What we spend our money on reflects our values and our priorities.

As we proceed with these negotiations that are going on, I hope we will keep that in mind and reject the priorities that were set out in the budget reconciliation bill that the House and Senate passed and the President vetoed. Those priorities are mean-spirited: more expensive, less accessible, and lower quality health care; less commitment to education; higher taxes for working people; less nutrition; less immunization, less protection, and more poverty for children; less safe drinking water, more air pollution, more exposure to toxic waste; higher State and local taxes; less taxes for the rich at the expense of the poor. We ought to reject those priorities and set some better priorities for our country.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUTS GO TO WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the gentleman just said and contrary to what we have been hearing from the Democratic side, the tax cuts, all those billions of dollars, \$245 billion, are not for the wealthiest Americans. In fact, 89 percent, almost 90 percent, of the \$500 per child tax credit, that is the largest tax cut in our budget, goes to families making less than \$75,000 a year. Over the next 7 years, this pro-family credit will increase the take-home pay of the average American by \$7,000. I do not know about your district, but \$7,000 is a fair amount of money in mine. In Washington that may not sound like much money, but to the working parents of families who have children, they need that. That is a lot to them. It may help them on their mortgage payments, it may help them save for a college education. They can spend it as they will. It is their money in the first place. It should not have been taken from their pocket.

Mr. Speaker, we must put Uncle Sam on a diet and balance the budget, but we must allow working families to keep more of what they earn.

One other point. Balancing the budget and cutting taxes are not mutually exclusive. The Federal Government spends too much money, not because it taxes too little.

THE SPEAKER'S BALANCED BUDGET PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE VETERANS

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