

Mr. Speaker, clearly that was rejected by the Members of this Congress today. Members today who voted no voted no and said, "President Clinton, it is really time to finally balance the budget. The American people are waiting and watching."

No more Washington, D.C. gimmicks. No more political games. No more divisive grandstanding. Let's do the right thing. Let's balance the budget. Let's put our government back to work.

The vote was unanimous. Republicans and Democrats voted "no" and sent a bipartisan message to President Clinton that we are moving forward to balance the budget and it's about time that he joined us.

The American people are waiting and watching.

STRENGTHENING, PRESERVING, AND PROTECTING MEDICARE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to continue this dialog and discussion that we are having which the American people on Medicare, and I need to first begin with the 1995 April 3 trustees' report which said at the present financing schedule the Medicare Program is sufficient to insure the payment of benefits for only 7 years. It will be out of money in—it will be bankrupt in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Republican Congress has taken the steps to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare.

Now we are going this by ourselves. The Democrat Party, the President, has done absolutely nothing in this process to strengthen, preserve, and protect Medicare, but they are doing all kinds of things to scare the American people, saying, "Cut, cut, Cut."

Mr. Speaker, in response to that the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Haley Barbour, put out this ad and challenge to the Democrats. It said, "If you can prove that we are cutting Medicare, come get a check for \$1 million."

Now what I would think with over 200 Democrats in the House, that they would have been lining up because all we have heard, Mr. Speaker, for 6 months is Republicans are cutting Medicare, and yet somehow, when there is a million dollars in it, suddenly there is silence, and I have never known Democrats to be overwhelmingly statesmanlike, so I assume, when it comes time to put money where their mouth is, that they are not interested in really participating because, Mr. Speaker, they know that the truth is that Medicare spending is going from \$8,816 per person to \$7,100, and with that kind of truth, then they do not want to come get their million-dollar check.

Now the gentleman from Pennsylvania who has just helped keep these charts on the floor has also studied

this very carefully with me. I know he is on top of Medicare, but also on the budget as well.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Congressman KINGSTON, I appreciate the opportunity for you to yield to me. The fact is that Medicare spending under the Republican proposal will go from \$4,800 a year to at least \$7,100 a year. This big increase is going to make sure that Medicare is going to be there for all seniors. The fact is the proposal also does some other important things. The American public should also know, and our colleagues, that we are going to reduce the cost of paperwork involved with Medicare from 12 percent to like 3 percent or less with electronic billing. We also, the medical education, the indirect and direct costs, instead of being part of Medicare will have its own separate item so that those funds will again go to seniors' health care. I think it is also important to note the options they have, the Medisave accounts and the managed care. All will make sure that Medicare goes up double the rate of inflation.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. Medicare is essentially 1964 Blue Cross plan, and I would not want my mama to be driving around in a 1964 Ford Falcon. I want her to have all the technology, and those options that you are talking about, she wants traditional Medicare, she can have it, but if she wants all the other options, she can.

Now you know what is interesting is that we had to have a trustees' report on Medicare to tell us it is going bankrupt. As Members of Congress, we should have known that already, but there is one thing that we do not need the trustees' report on, and that is the fact that the U.S. Government is going bankrupt.

We have a debt right now of \$4.9 trillion which we are passing on to our children today, just because the Democrats and many others in Washington are acting like, well, this does not affect me. In some of the major newspapers in the country; I think the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Washington Times, maybe the L.A. Times; the CEO's of many of the Fortune 500 companies in America took out an ad urging Congress, urging the President, to balance the budget within 7 years.

Now a lot of the colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been bad mouthing these people. Let me tell you who they are bad mouthing, I heard one of the speakers earlier tonight say how horrible these folks were. We are talking IBM, Ford Motor Co., Circuit City, Toys "R" Us, and, as I sat here and listened to what we used to call parlor pinks—parlor pinks, as you know, were Socialists. They are not quite Communists, but they do not like—they are collectivists. They do not like people making a profit—bad mouth all these companies, and these are companies that have products in every one of our households around

America, but, more importantly than that, the jobs.

Where do these parlor pinks think jobs come from if not employers?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman would yield, I appreciate, Congressman KINGSTON, your bringing this topic forward because frankly most Americans want to see a balanced budget, a balanced budget, and these companies, and their executives, and their employees all agree that we balance the budget, we are going to be able to reduce the costs of car payments, mortgage costs, college expenses, health care costs. We have been spending almost the same size as the Defense Department just on our Nation's debt, and 25 years or 26 years of overspending have gotten us \$4.9 trillion in debt.

Mr. KINGSTON. Well, have you ever thought about this, Mr. FOX? What if the children could vote? All we hear from here is oh, the children, the children. What if those children who are going to be paying \$150,000 in interest on the national debt over a 75-year period of time on top of their Federal, on top of their State, on top of their local taxes, what if those 5 year olds that we are so, that they are allegedly so concerned now about out there on the playground, what if they could vote?

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Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Obviously, they would also want a balanced budget.

Mr. KINGSTON. Obviously they would say, wait a minute, mom and dad. You mean to say all of that stuff that you are charging, I have to pay for? Maybe we do not need all of those Federal spending programs after all. Maybe all those bureaucrats in Washington should go home.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. If the gentleman will continue to yield, the fact is that the vote today was very historic. The Clinton budget, which would give us nothing but more deficit, more spending, more tax increases, which would create less jobs, was in fact defeated 412 to zero. Republicans and Democrats together said that was not the answer.

ZERO VOTES ON PRESIDENT CLINTON'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] to join me in this special order.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me start out by asking a question, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the gentleman said. The President had a balanced budget plan, is that correct?

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Yes.

Mr. KINGSTON. He introduced it in Congress?