

and Maxwell, have made many sacrifices during his 16-year-naval career. Serving on three submarines, he has spent a significant amount of time underway away from his family. We are all deeply in debt to the contributions of great Americans such as Commander Sullivan to ensure the freedom we all cherish.

As Commander Sullivan now prepares to return to sea yet again, this time as captain of his own submarine, I call upon my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to wish him every success as well as fair winds and following seas.

BALANCED BUDGET DOWN  
PAYMENT ACT, II

SPEECH OF

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 1996*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3019) making appropriation for fiscal year 1996 to make a further downpayment toward a balanced budget, and for other purposes:

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Chairman, the Republicans believe they have a great plan to put a downpayment on a balanced budget.

They believe they have found a perfect method to cut what they consider to be excessive "social spending."

They have proposed legislation that slashes funding by \$900 million for veterans health care, veterans employment programs, and the construction of new veterans psychiatric care facilities. They have said "No" to needed VA hospitals and outpatient clinics which would have served up to 700,000 veterans. These cuts are for below President Clinton's budget request and are even below the House-passed level with regard to health care issues.

On top of all that, they have now given themselves a safety mechanism. They have invented a sure-fire way to guard their plan from criticism.

How?

By removing these indefensible provisions? By realizing the errors of their huge budget cuts?

No. Instead they choose to silence someone who has the courage and the expertise to point out the flaws in their budget plan, our Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jesse Brown.

In the Republicans believe their plan is such a marvelous solution to our budget woes, why then are they trying to muzzle the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from during his job, advocating for adequate funding for VA programs? Why else would the Republicans aim their funding cuts at the Secretary of Veterans Affairs travel budget and staff support?

I think I know the answer.

Maybe the Republicans themselves don't believe their plan is so wise. Maybe they know their downpayment unfairly cuts funding for those men and women who served under our Nation's flag. Maybe they fear that veterans will be informed of these cuts and will vote their concerns at the ballot box next November. Maybe they are worried that the next time they drape themselves in the flag the American people won't buy it.

They know that Secretary Brown is speaking the truth. They know that he is a strong and knowledgeable advocate for veterans.

I can find no other explanation.

The Republicans must doubt their own commitment to veterans. They must fear that Jesse Brown will expose their budget for what they know it is. Why else would they prevent the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from speaking out on the issues that he knows best?

I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule for this continuing resolution. It prevents those who really care about our Nation's veterans from striking punitive language aimed at silencing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

It attacks the independence of a cabinet level agency and silences the best voice America's veterans have. It compromises Congress' commitment that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs would be an effective advocate for the millions of men and women who served in our military. This rule is bad for veterans and bad for the United States.

AMBASSADOR FERRARO RECOGNIZES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 12, 1996*

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 1996, Ambassador Geraldine Ferraro, head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, spoke eloquently about International Women's Day. Ambassador Ferraro recognized the many high-ranking women in our Government who perform outstanding service on behalf of human rights all over the world. She spoke at length about the many human rights violations that women still face, in spite of our best efforts. I would like to have her remarks included in the RECORD.

AMBASSADOR GERALDINE FERRARO, HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION, UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8, 1996

Thank you so much, Tim, for that kind introduction. It is a great honor for me to be here today on the occasion of International Women's Day with so many friends and former colleagues and to have the chance to speak with you about women and human rights and the essential role they both play in our efforts to fashion a new and better world for those who follow us.

Before I begin, however, I want you to know that you have chosen some of my favorite people to honor today, Mr. Secretary. I am pleased, but not surprised, because each of them has been at the forefront of the struggle to protect the rights of women, each of them fought for the rights of children, the poor, the disabled and the disenfranchised at home before coming to Washington. So moving into the arena of international human rights has been a natural progression for them.

These are women who are not afraid to stand up for the cases they believe in. Indeed, the desire to fight for such beliefs was why they ran for public office in the first place.

But many run and only a few win. What we see here are women who have helped make history, each in her own way, women who overcame the obstacles others so often put in their path. Together, they prove that it is not just possible for women of principle to lead, but that the public will support them when they do.

This, then, is change. And change is what this administration has achieved, both with regard to women and to human rights. You know and I know that this has not been easy. But change is taking place. There are more women at the highest levels of our Government now than ever before, demonstrating their competence, day in, day out, proving their value to the country and to the world—no nonsense women like Madeleine Albright. I don't know how many of you saw her on television the other day, when the Cubans were trying to explain how shooting down unarmed planes in international waters was somehow an act of courage. Madeleine let the world know exactly what she thought of their so-called machismo, and she called it, what it was in plain English, as well as in Spanish. Yes, Madeleine has been a most articulate spokesperson for this country no matter what the issue.

And, of course, there's Donna Shalala, Janet Reno and Hazel O'Leary, handling complex Cabinet portfolios with skill and determination. And here in the State Department: Robin Raphel is doing an excellent job with India and Pakistan; Tony Verstandig is making real contributions to the Middle East Peace Process; Melinda Kimble, proved herself a leader at the Beijing Women's Conference; and Nancy Ely-Raphel made a vital contribution to the success of the Vienna conference and more recently the Dayton accords. Both Lynn Davis and Joan Spero are among the Secretary's most trusted advisors, while Phyllis Oakley has been a pillar of strength on refugee issues. And Pru Bushnell has shown enormous leadership on African issues.

There are many more of you who also deserve to be recognized as well, women who stand in the trenches of government and do battle every day for the things we believe in. Because we don't have just a handful of exceptional women in Government any more; we've got thousands of them. In every office in every department and agency in this Government, there are women making believers of those who doubted them before. This is change.

It's a measure of your achievement that this change is, I believe, irreversible.

That doesn't mean that I think the battle to ensure women's rights is over in this country, that women have achieved equality in the workplace and in their paychecks. That doesn't mean that we have put an end to sexual harassment, that we are free to walk our streets at night, or that the fear of violence no longer haunts the daily lives of millions. Nor does it mean that those who would turn us against each other, pitting those who stay at home to raise their children against those who go to work, have suddenly seen the light. It doesn't mean that the glass ceiling is shattered or that every deadbeat dad is paying for his children now. It doesn't even mean that we, as a society, understand what it takes to be a woman today, what it means to walk a tightrope between family and the work place, at a time when so much is changing and yet so little.

No, but I'm optimistic because there is a course to history. How many women worked here in the State Department a generation ago—not just in secretarial positions—women have always filled those spots—but as analysts, office directors, desk officers? There was Eleanor Dulles, a specialist in German affairs—whose brother just happened to be Secretary of State—and who else? Not many. Look at your numbers now. Who among you thinks we're ever going back?

I'm optimistic about the future because I am convinced that the doors of opportunity which we have opened will never again be closed. The gains we have achieved will be