

a little more personality, I would have become an accountant. But studying these figures, what we found out was we cannot change the way Washington does business. Over two-thirds of our budget is entitlements locked into law. That means an entitlement is when you show up at the window and you say, I would like some money, the Government shells it out. Until you change those laws, either requiring work from welfare recipients or requiring that people be citizens or making these other changes in laws, you are going to have the budget on automatic pilot.

Where we have made the improvements is in the discretionary funds, that small area outside of defense and outside of the entitlement areas where we can change. But there is only so much longer you can squeeze the parts in the other areas of the budget to make them efficient. It would be like asking IBM to get all of their salary savings out of the clerical help and not to do it out of the executives or any of the sales force. So IBM has to have a more balanced view as they try and downsize their corporate structure in order to make themselves profitable.

We in Government have to do the same thing. We have to change the entitlement process to make sure those people who receive a Government check are actually in need. That is what our welfare reform is about, and that is what all of the changes in immigration are about.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of discussion, especially during the presidential campaigns that Americans do not care about balancing the budget, Americans have moved their attention to something else. I can tell you that I got elected and the majority of the 73 freshmen, Republican freshmen got elected in 1994 because we promised first and foremost to balance the budget.

Social issues aside, all this other stuff aside, we said we were going to spend only as much money as we take in. We are going to balance the budget. I am still hearing Americans tell me, at the 75 townhall meetings I have held over the past year and a half, they are still saying the same thing: Balance the budget, get Washington's business in order and you guys live by the same rules that we have to live by across the country. So this is great news.

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield for one more thought, that is this is not even partisan. The demographics are what are crushing us. When the baby boomers, people younger than me, even, retire, 37 million people are going to stop paying 16 percent to Social Security and welfare and SDI, and they are going to start receiving.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Right.

Mr. BAKER of California. The ship goes upside down. This is not debate over whether we want to balance or whether we want to stop living off our grandkids.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Sure.

Mr. BAKER of California. By 2010 it is over. We have 14 to 16 years to straighten this out. While the others drag their feet, my own Senator ran ads saying, I will vote for the balanced budget, vote for me. She got here and reneged. It was the one vote that killed the balanced budget amendment.

We do not have the luxury any longer to debate whether. It is when and how, and those are tough decisions. I have projects in my district that I would like to see expanded, too, but we are going to have to suck it up, take our medicine and balance this budget. I appreciate the gentleman bringing up the point.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Reclaiming my time, you said something very important. This is not an ideological issue. If the environment is important to you, if you think we need to fund environmental cleanups, if somebody thinks that welfare is poverty to them, if somebody thinks Social Security is important, defense, it does not matter what the issue is.

#### MORE ON THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH].

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. I was just going to say, regardless of what is important to you on issues, we must balance the budget first. We have got to make sure that on April 15 that Americans are not paying more of their tax money to service the debt than take care of the things that Government needs to take care of.

Again, the news today is great news. I read the news today, great news. We are actually winning the war against the deficit despite the fact we have had no cooperation from the White House.

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, next year we will go over the line. We spent more on the interest on the national debt than we do on defense. You know, this President is not hesitant about deploying our troops in all kinds of foreign wars. We have to say strong in defense. Interest on the national debt will exceed what we spend on defense.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. The same people that vote against balanced budget are the same people that say we are spending too much money on defense.

Mr. BAKER of California. Fifteen percent of the budget.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. If we are spending too much money on defense, we are really spending too much money on interest on the Federal debt. I say it is time we do what middle-class Americans have done for years, spend only as much money as you take in, balance the budget and cause an economic revival in this country that is unprecedented that will lift all the boats.

Mr. BAKER of California. Amen.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

#### CYNICISM IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, this is the anniversary of the Oklahoma explosion, which made everybody stop in their tracks and ask very deep questions about the cynicism that is raging in America and about the cynicism that has been unleashed, I think most unfairly, on Government employees. They have been the scapegoats for so much of talk radio, so much of the hate that has been unleashed.

A year ago today, we suddenly saw the faces of Federal employees, that they were like us, that they had families, they were hard-working, they were there, they were trying to live their lives and serve their country. Suddenly, many of their lives stopped or many of their lives will never be the same. I hope that we continue to fight very hard to come out of this big hole of cynicism that we have dug ourselves in.

I remind people that the word "cynic" comes from the old Greek word about yapping dogs. Cynics really do not contribute anything positive, they just yap, yap, yap, yap. And that type of thing ends up in destruction. It is very easy to destroy things. It is very difficult to rebuild. So if anyone has criticism, fine, but then tell us what you are going to do about it after your criticize.

I must also say, as I rise today to talk about this year anniversary, how very proud I am of my congressional district. Denver, CO, has been selected as the place to have the trial for the outcome of this Oklahoma explosion. Obviously the citizens of Denver were not particularly thrilled about that for fear that it just painted a big bull's eye on them for all sorts of security problems at our own Federal building, which is where the Federal courthouse is near, and all the other issues that might come from this trial, which will clearly be a very high-profile trial.

Yet, as we all know, as citizens, it is our part to make sure everybody gets a fair trial. It was determined a fair trial probably could not be held in Oklahoma City. So Denver, Colorado bit its lip and said OK, we have to do our part. I guess this goes on. This big media carnival will go on there, and we only hope justice comes out of the media carnival rather than something else. But in the interim, one of the very moving things that has happened that Coloradans have done has been their reaching out to the families of the Oklahoma victims. Many of the Oklahoma victims' families want to be present at these trials, want to come and want to see justice be done, want to sit in the courtrooms, want to participate in some way or another, to