

says he is going to balance the budget, and he has a balanced budget plan. It is \$62 billion out of whack. If we add the \$62 billion surplus in Social Security that he is counting on to cook the books, it is \$120 billion in red. The same thing with the Republicans.

If we have the courage, and I pray that we still do, if we have the courage to come forward with a plan to balance the budget, and yet if we shift \$62 billion over from a Social Security trust fund in an accounting trick that we cannot use, then we are \$62 billion short.

So I support the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN]. Does the gentleman from South Carolina support the gentleman from Wisconsin's proposal?

Mr. SANFORD. I do. As we both know, it will not save Social Security in the long run, because we have this giant demographic shift coming our way as the baby boomers begin to retire in 2012, and there are 730 million. They are about double the size of the generation before and double the size of the generation after.

In other words, it will not save us from that avalanche of graying in America, if you want to call it that, that is headed our way, but it would certainly be a step in the right direction. And most importantly, as the gentleman suggests, if Washington is to be trusted, we have to have, in essence, honest accounting.

For us to say a trust fund, but it is not really a trust fund, is not honest accounting. For us to use Social Security moneys to in essence mask the size of the real operating budget here in Washington again is not an honest accounting. What I hear from folks back home in my district say is that they would like to see honest accounting, and they would like trust fund money to stay in its trust fund.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. When you talk about honest accounting, and talking about trust, I have to tell the gentleman, his job is going to be made more difficult, the job of the gentleman from Wisconsin is going to be made more difficult, and this institution's job is going to be made more difficult in this area and the entitlement area in general, because of the shameless display we saw over the past 2 years of those who would attack us because we were trying to keep Medicare solvent.

The gentleman talked about the trustees. They told us that Medicare was going bankrupt. So we had a group of people step forward with a bold proposal, and the Speaker of the House, who has been fodder for every political campaign over the past 2 years, the Speaker actually had the courage to step forward and say, I know Medicare is the third rail of American politics, I know we are not supposed to touch entitlements; but it is dying and we had better fix it now. If we do not fix it now, we are going to have to pay for it later, and it is going to be seniors and

middle-class taxpayers who take the biggest hit if we do not fix it now.

So we stepped forward and we had the courage to do something 2 years ago. Unfortunately, we paid for it in political terms, because there were others that used that against us.

I have to say that if I could do anything this session, it would be to once again instill in the hearts and minds of all these people the courage to step forward and do what has to be done to make Medicare solvent, to make Social Security solvent; because all these other issues about cutting a program 2 percentage points or 4 percentage points, or increasing school lunch programs 4 percentage points instead of 6 percentage points, they are irrelevant.

In the long run, they are irrelevant economically, because it is Medicare, it is Social Security, it is Medicaid that is expanding at such a rapid clip that it is going to overwhelm all of us, it is going to overwhelm this Congress, and it is going to create an economic meltdown if we do not do something about it.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I appreciate him letting me borrow a little of his time.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. I thank the gentleman, because it does really play into what we were talking about before, and that is talking about creating a civilization that is more connected, more closely connected to the views of our Founding Fathers, to the views of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln, than to the cultural views of what happened in the 1960s or what is happening now: The life of Larry Flynt or the words of Madonna or the actions of Dennis Rodman.

We have to step forward and not be afraid of our past but embrace our past, embrace the ideals of our Founding Fathers who said, "We have staked the entire future of the American civilization not on the power of government, but on the capacity of Americans to live and govern and control themselves according to the Ten Commandments of God"; or the ideals of Jefferson, who said that the government that governs least governs best.

Those are not radical ideas. Those are ideas for the 21st century. Those are ideas that are going to overwhelm the liberals anyway, that are going to overwhelm the radicals anyway. We are moving from an industrial age to an information society, where information disseminates, and just as the agrarian age had a decentralizing impact and the industrial age had a centralizing impact, the Information Age once again is going to empower the individual.

We in Washington should get out of the way and let individuals live as they choose to live, let individuals study as they choose to study, let them worship as they choose to worship, let them spend their hard-earned tax dollars as they choose to spend the money that they make, and we need to get out of their way and let them prosper.

If we do that, we will once again be the great civilization that we once were. We will once again be what Abraham Lincoln spoke about when he said America was the last great hope for a dying world. We still are. We have just gotten off track in the past 30 years.

And hopefully what we did yesterday, what we tried to do over the past 2 years, will begin to bear some fruit. We will create America, we will build a bridge to the 21st century also that will not be based on what happened over the past 30 years, but instead based on those great and lofty ideas that we find in the writings and words of our Founding Fathers.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 6, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This letter is to inform you that in order for me to accept an appointment by Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt to a seat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, it will be necessary for me to interrupt my service on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and as Ranking Member of its subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Rule 19 F. of the Preamble and Rules of the Democratic Caucus provides that no Democratic Member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence may serve on more than one standing committee during that Member's term of service on the select committee. However, the rule also provides that Members shall be entitled to take leaves of absence from service on any committee (or subcommittee thereof) during the period they serve on the select committee and seniority rights on such committee (and on each subcommittee) to which they were assigned at the time shall be fully protected as if they had continued to serve during the period of leave of absence.

While I will remain committed to protecting and enhancing the needs and benefits of our nation's veterans, this letter constitutes notice of my intent to take the necessary leave of absence from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in order to accept an appointment to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

With kindest regards, I remain
Sincerely yours,

SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

CIVIL LIBERTIES, WHERE AMERICA IS HEADED, ITS PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have asked for this special order today to continue