

agree with the Democrats: WIC is a win for Democrats, WIC is a win for Republicans, but WIC, most importantly, is a win for our Nation's children.

#### COMMENDATIONS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS FOR COMING TOGETHER ON BALANCED BUDGET PLAN

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again commend the leaders of Congress and the President for coming together on a consensus to balance the budget and to encourage them to keep up the work. This issue is too important to allow it to be sidetracked.

Although a lot of discussion here in Washington is about deficit reductions and long-term economic impacts, I have found many of my constituents and many Americans would like to know how the balanced budget plan affects them and their families. To these people I would say that the balanced budget agreement will have tremendous benefits to them, their families and generations to come.

Experts have predicted a balanced Federal budget will help to lower the interest rates in our country and our economy. Having lower interest rates means paying off our credit cards, buying a car, funding education, or buying a home becomes more affordable. A balanced budget means all Americans are one step closer to making these investments.

By placing the American dream within the reach of every American without creating more expensive government programs, we will bring our friends, families and communities closer. In short, Mr. Speaker, I want each and every one of my constituents in Illinois and every American to know that the balanced budget plan of 1997 benefits all Americans and helps all Americans to help themselves, which is truly the basis upon which our country was founded.

#### WIC PROGRAM MOST SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EVER IMPLEMENTED

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate that prior to coming to Congress I heard the eloquent prose from Congress that underscored the need for this country to be en route to supporting policies that enhanced family values and that was cost effective and that would benefit Americans in general.

It was a shame, I felt, upon arriving here that the Republicans had proposed to reduce funding for the most vital program affecting families that this country has known, not only vital but

very effective, and that was the Women, Infants and Children Program.

I joined other colleagues in publicly denouncing that proposal that was designed to impose further pain on this country's children and that was to deny them opportunity for proper nutrition, thus propelling them into other medical problems, such as infant mortality, child anemia, and low-birth weight babies as a result.

I want to publicly thank the Republicans for hearing our cry and for hearing our plea and restoring that vital program to its full capacity.

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#### ADMINISTRATION'S ROLE IN BRAC QUESTIONED

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

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I met with a number of National Guard members yesterday and we discussed their crucial role in our Nation's military. I find it slightly ironic that their visit coincided with news from the Pentagon that the administration is going to propose that we initiate another round of base closings.

I cannot help but make the connection that if the President had not circumvented the last round of base closings, the level of cuts that is being proposed would be unnecessary. If the reports are true, the administration will be asking the individual branches, including the National Guard, to substantially reduce their numbers, all to save money that could have been saved if BRAC had been followed by the President.

The purpose of a BRAC is to depoliticize the process and allow objective outsiders to recommend which bases should be closed based on a number of objective criteria. This process worked well until the President signed the bill, then ordered something quite different.

Another BRAC? Why does the President not start by respecting the decisions forwarded by the last BRAC?

#### WIC SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FUNDING

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the women, infants and children's program and the long-term health of the low income women, children and infants that this program helps. This program is one of the most effective social government programs that we have for protecting the present and future health of many of our most vulnerable and needy children and mothers. I applaud those Republicans in this House who have chosen to do the right thing and work in a bipartisan manner to support the 200 plus Democrats who have demanded full supplemental funding levels for WIC.

The small amount of extra money to be allocated to WIC Program is a smart and cost-effective investment in the future of our country and its children. For every dollar that we invest in WIC, we save more than \$3 in Medicaid spending and other taxpayer costs down the road. The transfer of funds needed to ensure full funding for the WIC Program will prevent some 180,000 children, 160,000 in California, from being put at risk.

As the mother of a 6-year-old I know full well how important is the kind of nutrition and care for young children which will help them be ready for school and to work hard in their young lives. I support this WIC funding.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL RAY REID ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has given this country more than half a century of loyal, dedicated service, first in the Army and then the U.S. House of Representatives. Col. Ray Reid, who retires today as my senior advisor, has served the third district of Arkansas for more than 20 years as chief of staff to my two predecessors, Senator Tim Hutchinson and former Congressman John Paul Hamerschmidt. Before he took on the responsibilities of Congress in 1974, Colonel REID had already served in three wars: Vietnam, Korea and World War II.

Well known to be one of the most knowledgeable men in Washington, Ray has held the respect of everyone who has ever come into contact with him, regardless of party affiliation or position. He is known as a straight shooter who deals with everyone fairly and forthrightly.

The people of Arkansas will sorely miss this man who has proven himself to be a dedicated soldier, a committed public servant, and a loyal friend. Ray, we wish you and your wife, Jean, the greatest happiness in your future endeavors.

#### WASHINGTON'S ROLE IN HELPING THE POOR

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, when I am home in my district I am sometimes asked, "What can you do for the poor?" I have two responses.

First, if the poor look to Washington to solve their problems or to make them rich, they will be as disappointed in the future as they are today, some 32 years after failed welfare state policies were begun. Mr. Speaker, we have 32 years of evidence that increased spending on Government programs does not end poverty, it perpetuates it.

On the other hand, my second response offers more hope. Washington