

actually happen, and I would urge my colleagues to work hard to make education the top priority of this Congress.

BALANCING THE BUDGET IS A MATTER OF COMMON SENSE

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people when they hear that the country's national debt is over \$5 trillion asked me how did we get into such a mess? Have the politicians in Washington totally lost their minds?

Mr. Speaker, while I cannot comment on the mental state of Washington politicians, I can say a few words about passing on a \$5 trillion debt to future generations.

I think it is wrong. I think balancing a budget is not so much a spectacular achievement. Rather, I consider it a matter of common sense. I suppose that says a few things about how much common sense there has been in Washington in recent decades.

And so while I support a balanced budget amendment, the one that Congress passed earlier this week, I really do not want to tire myself out by patting ourselves on the back. On the other hand, maybe allowing common sense to win the day in Washington is something to cheer about. Last time I checked, the budget had not been balanced since 1969.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep some champagne ready.

FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES IN THE BUDGET

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, let us be perfectly clear about this budget agreement. It is far from over. Now that the framework has been decided by this body, it is time to talk about priorities.

The Democrats' priorities are to educate our children. First we want full funding for WIC, then we fought tooth and nail to protect funding for Pell grants, bilingual and immigrant education, Head Start, and child literacy. Now we must force the Republicans to make good on this agreement.

The Republican agenda is just as clear. They continue to brag that their number one concern is cutting taxes for the richest people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, is this what the American people want? When they want to know why our schools are crumbling to the ground and our students are not learning to read, is there a Member in this Chamber who will look them in the eye and tell them that tax cuts for the wealthy are more important?

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POLITICS IS A FUNNY BUSINESS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, politics is a funny business. Not too long ago, we were told that we could not balance the budget and cut taxes for working Americans. Well, the surprising thing is that most Americans never believed that nonsense. Most Americans knew that Washington could get by on less and that American families ought to get by on more. Business as usual here in Washington meant that every year the taxes went up, the Federal Government got bigger and people grew more and more frustrated.

What did the politicians in Washington have to show for these tax and spend habits? A national debt of over \$5 trillion. It has been a long time coming, but finally the American people have said enough, enough to irresponsible spending, enough to the tax policies that are holding America back. This balanced budget agreement is a far cry from what needs to be done to stop Washington from its wasteful spending ways, but at least it will bring the budget into balance by the year 2000, and it will make Washington spend a little less so that American families can spend a little more. It is about time.

AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE BY THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans held hostage by the Republican majority; 1 million-plus children in Texas and counting, without health insurance. Ten million children in this country and counting, without health insurance, with no legislation by this Republican majority being brought to the floor of the House to remedy this tragedy. Flood victims in the Dakotas and across the Nation being held hostage without being able to have the emergency relief dollars that they are in need of.

Women, infants, and children being held hostage, 360,000 of them, not able to have the WIC Program that provides them with nutrition. Three hundred sixty thousand less Pell grants, 31,000 less work study jobs for our young people, and 483,000 less teachers, teaching valuable needed reading and math skills to our children.

What are we going to do? Release the hostages. Begin to do legislation that works for the American people. Provide health insurance for our children, and yes, take care of the flood victims in the West. Release this legislation, get us out of this hostage situation.

DISRUPTION SHOULD NOT DETER AMERICA'S DREAMS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I daily give thanks for this institution where we are free to express different ideas and opinions.

It is worth noting that my distinguished colleague from Texas offered precisely that: Her opinion based on spurious facts, claiming damage to people that simply does not exist.

Sadly what we see, Mr. Speaker, is the disgruntled fringe of the left terribly, terribly upset that at long last there is a new consensus—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. In American politics of people working together—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. To give tax relief to working families.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. To help people get everything they can get in terms of their own livelihoods, their own ambitions—

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I see the gentleman does not want to yield.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, within the Rules of the House, if I might suspend for a second, within the Rules of the House, I would ask to be allowed time to finish my remarks, for I was interrupted and the gentlewoman failed to suspend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). That time does not come out of the gentleman's time. The gentleman from Arizona has the time.

Mr. HAYWORTH. I thank the Speaker very much.

I would say to my colleagues, we have another example of people more interested in disrupting the institutions and agreements than working for honest and open debate.

DEMOCRATS WILL BE WATCHING THE BUDGET FOR AMERICA

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the wee hours of the morning this body passed a balanced budget resolution. The plan, please understand, provides a rough blueprint. Now we get the opportunity to work out the details of this budget.

As we head into the process, Democrats are going to be watching carefully to make sure that this budget gives every, every working man and woman a shot at the American dream, and the right to a quality education has always been an essential part of that dream. So, the Democrats are going to be fighting to make sure that