

afternoon. But in the third year, we are not only on track, but again we are ahead of schedule. I think it is very important.

We just dedicated about 10 minutes here to the future and the National Debt Repayment Act. This is not just a series of empty promises like back in the past with Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, and it is not a series of promises based on the past model of how much more money can we confiscate from the American people. These are discussions being held, based on a 3-year track record that have us not only on track but ahead of schedule from what was promised.

I think it is very, very important as we near the end of our hour here that we go back to the past, we cover the present, and we look to the future again and make sure we remember what that means. I cannot help, as we near the end here, thinking about our families back in Janesville, WI, and thinking about our friends in church with three kids, one headed off to college, and they look at the package that is now on the table, it is not fiction, it is here and now, that they are going to get that \$1,500 help to send that student to college. They get to keep \$1,500 more, instead of sending it out here to Washington. And the two kids they still have in their house back in Janesville, WI, they get \$1,000 for them, \$500 for each one of those kids.

This is not the past, it is the present, and it is happening here and now. We are on track to balancing the budget and reducing the taxes.

The first time I ever saw this really work, I was a little cynical of can we actually reduce taxes and balance the budget. But Tommy Thompson did it out in the great State of Wisconsin. If he can do it out there, this is just kind of a Wisconsin carry-through out here in Washington, DC.

The past is a series of promises that were broken, made by people here in Washington. The past and those broken promises motivated people like us to leave the private sector and come out here and serve in this Government to change it. The past and those broken promises of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, where they promised to balance the budget and never did it. The past, 1993, the biggest tax increase in history, how much more money can we get out of the pockets of the American people to say that we are making progress towards balancing the budget? That is the past.

The present is our now-working model of controlling the growth of Government spending, because we know when the Government spends less, it leaves more money available in the private sector. More money in the private sector keeps the interest rates down. And this means something in Janesville, WI. This means lower interest rates so people can afford to buy more houses. And when they buy more houses and cars, somebody has to go to work building those houses and cars.

And those people are leaving the welfare roles, getting jobs and paying taxes. And that is this working model that is making this whole thing happen.

That is the present. The present is not the old ways of the past, reaching into the pockets of American people. It is this new model of curtailing the growth of Government spending. This new model has us not only on track of fulfilling our commitments, but ahead of schedule. It has got us providing the tax relief to American families that had been promised 2 years ago. It is here and now and it is the present. It is not an empty set of promises, but it is actually happening now, as we speak.

The future holds an even brighter picture for our children and for future generations of Americans. The future holds us continuing down this path, passing a bill called the National Debt Repayment Act where we generate a surplus and that surplus is used one-third for additional tax reduction and two-thirds to pay down the debt. Under this plan, by the year 2025, this is our future, before I leave the work force, before I retire, good Lord willing, we will have paid off the debt in its entirety so we can pass this Nation on to our children debt free.

That means no interest payments out here to Washington. That means the Social Security system is revived and restored so our seniors can count on getting the money that has been promised. That is what this is all about, and that is my dream for the future of this country.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, when Thomas Jefferson sent Merriwether Lewis and William Clark off to the great Northwest, he had a great deal of hope for the future of this country. He saw it growing and prospering.

Now, as we stand here in 1997, on the brink of a strong economy, we look forward and we have a great deal of hope, a hope of balancing the Federal Government, of controlling Federal spending, of giving a great deal of hope for the future for our country.

I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. NEUMANN] for coming down here and showing us in very clear terms where we came from in the past as far as Federal Government spending, where we are today, and what we are looking for in the future, which I believe is very optimistic. Again, it is a picture of hope, the same type of hope that Thomas Jefferson saw when he looked toward the West back in the early 1800's, and it is the same type of hope, I think, as we look at the new century. We should have hope for a strong economy, of a way of paying off the debt so our children have a strong future, strong economy, with plenty of opportunity and a way that they can see that they can grow.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. CLAYTON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of a death in the family.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of illness in the family.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of official business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. BLILEY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. GOSS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of attending his daughter's wedding.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KOLBE, for 5 minutes, on June 23.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SANDLIN) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. KILDEE.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Ms. HARMAN.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. WEXLER.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FORBES.

Mr. HILL.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. GINGRICH.

Mr. WOLF.

Mr. MCDADE.

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TIAHRT) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. UPTON.

Mr. GILLMOR.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

Mr. HALL of Texas.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mrs. FOWLER.

Ms. DELAURO.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

Mr. CRANE.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the