

CONGRESS SHOULD RETURN BUDGET SURPLUS TO AMERICAN PUBLIC

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the budget estimates are in; and the news is very good. This year, for the first time, the Congress of this Nation is going to have an opportunity to do what the American family has had to do for year after year. That is balance the budget.

Substantial progress has been made and giant steps have been taken in shrinking the size and the scope of the Federal Government. However, we must not stop now. We have finally righted the ship, and now we must take great care to stay the course.

The presence of a budgetary surplus must be used to save our current entitlement programs, not create new ones. This money should be returned to the people, not used to create more layers of bloated Federal bureaucracy.

Now that this Republican Congress has succeeded in balancing the Federal budget, all attention should be focused on the family budget. The liberal's concept of bigger government and \$100 billion in newer taxes is not better government. Decreasing taxes and reducing the size and the scope of the Federal Government has gotten us where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue this fight. Do not follow this giant step forward with two equally large steps back.

PATIENT ACCESS TO RESPONSIBLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today the National Association of Manufacturers is in Washington to oppose legislation that would reform managed care. It appears that the Republican leadership will stand with their special interest friends at the expense of average, middle-class Americans.

Now, let us talk about what this legislation is, the Patient Access to Responsible Care Act. Take away that title. This is what this bill is about: ensuring that patients have access to specialists; making it easier for consumers to sue health plans for medical malpractice; and ensuring that medical decisions are made by doctors and not by insurance company bureaucrats and by allowing doctors to tell their patients what their options for medical treatment are and not be gagged by health care providers.

Instead, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Republican leadership want to keep power in the hands of the insurance companies that are more concerned with healthy profits than with healthy patients.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Republican leadership to join Democrats in supporting these commonsense reforms.

THE ERA OF SMALLER GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago on the lectern to my right behind me, the President stood up and said the era of big government is over. Hence, enter into, I guess, the era of the smaller government. And then this week, as he announced his new \$100 billion increase-spending budget, he said we are at the end of an era. So I guess what the President was saying is that the era of big government being over only lasted 2 years, or about 23 months if we are counting.

What else does he say in this new era? Nationalize health care; nationalize Federal day care programs; expansion of the sinking Medicare program, causing more problems for our Nation's seniors; and, of course, paying millions and millions of dollars to that favorite U.N. organization.

We in the Republican party hate to see the era of smaller government being over with. We think that it should continue. We support smaller government and lower taxes; stronger families, not a stronger Washington bureaucracy. We support a stronger military, not a stronger Saddam Hussein. We support stronger local governments and less influence outside of Washington.

INTERNET NEEDS A CHASTITY CHIP

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, what a world. Frazzled Frances Wyndham believes she got pregnant during a sexy e-mail exchange by a paramour 1,500 miles away. That is right: pregnant.

Frances said, and I quote, "His words were so sexy, I was totally seduced." Talk about instant connection. This is immaculate reception, Mr. Speaker.

And if that is not enough to crash our hard drive, think about the legal implications. What is next? Bill Gates paying child support? Microsoft, my eye.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act. The computers do not need a V-chip; Internet needs a chastity chip. I would say, "Beam me up," but that may be a new delivery system for e-mail.

PRESIDENT'S "TAX AND SPEND" BUDGET

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton just 3 years ago proposed a 5-year budget with \$200 billion deficits every year for as far as the eye could see. We Republicans said no. We said no to big government, no to using phony numbers. We in Congress insisted on passing a bipartisan budget that balanced and that kept the lid on spending.

Well, here we go again. It is back to budget-busting time. Once again it is going to be up to Congress to act like grown-ups and keep a lid on spending. The President's budget expands entitlement spending. It puts the Medicare program in jeopardy only 1 year after we acted to save it. Taxes go up and up again in the President's budget.

Tax and spend, tax and spend. No matter how good the White House can spin it, and they are very good at spinning, the President's budget is a tax and spend budget.

Mr. Speaker, let us balance the budget. Let us pay down the national debt. Let us really save Social Security, not with smoke and mirrors. And let us give the American people the much deserved tax relief.

AMERICA SHOULD END CUBAN EMBARGO

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, last month we witnessed one of the most amazing events in recent memory, one that we thought that we would never see: Communist dictator Fidel Castro welcoming Pope John Paul to Cuba.

The sight of thousands of Cubans turning out to see the Pope and the sounds of his words on Cuban national television rebuking Castro for decades of repression against democracy and the Church were cheered by Americans. The Pope is on our side in the fight against communism and tyranny.

But let us also remember the second part of the Pope's message: The U.S. embargo against Cuba is unfair and inhumane and should be ended. For almost 40 years, we have tried and failed to isolate Castro's Stalinist regime. The Cold War is over, yet we still pretend that the small island 90 miles off our coast does not exist. But for the millions of Cubans who live in poverty, the lack of adequate food and medicine is all too real.

At a time when we send millions in humanitarian aid to "democratic allies" like North Korea, we should heed the Pope's advice by ending the embargo for food and medicine. We can punish Castro, but it is time to stop punishing the poor people who live in Cuba and need food and medicine.

AMERICA SHOULD MOVE CAUTIOUSLY REGARDING IRAQ

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