

The gentleman from Pennsylvania made the point earlier about the fact that there is all this new spending: 39 new entitlement programs. We cannot create a program in this city and ever hope, even though its purpose ceases to exist, to get rid of it if the time ever comes.

So I think before we embark on this road of new Federal spending, new government, new Washington programs, which is clearly the direction that the President wanted to go when he came out with his budget, and I did not count it up, but a billion dollars a minute is a pretty astonishing rate of government growth, but that is what the State of the Union address was all about, creating new Washington bureaucracy and new Washington spending.

And I think that is a very dangerous road to start down, given the fact that any time we create entitlement programs in this city, they are there to stay.

I think that he is assuming a whole lot of things about the performance of this economy that we really do not know about. I think we would be much better served to the extent that we have addressed long-term issues like Social Security, like Medicare, having done that, that any dollars that are left, we ought to give them back to the taxpayers whose dollars they are in the first place and really ought to have first claim.

So I think you make an important point when you talk about all the various programs over time that have been created, never been evaluated. Before we head down that road again, I think the American public would be better served if we talk in a very fundamental way about ensuring that we do not create new Washington spending. I think that is an important point that we probably all agree on.

Mr. BLUNT. If the gentleman will yield, I think that is exactly right. I think what happens is, if you do have sunset provisions, every agency not only is aware that it is going to have to come up for review, but every assignment it is given is going to have to come up for review, and that just does not happen now.

We have lots of programs on the books that are not funded, are underfunded, or just out there waiting for that moment when they can come back in and grab some more money. Nobody ever challenges those things. I think that one of the great reviews we could do would be to do that.

I think one of our freshman colleagues, the gentleman from Texas (KEVIN BRADY) has legislation he is working on that would really put sunset provisions in as an automatic part of any new program that goes into effect, any new agency that goes into effect. Then of course we ought to go back and attach those same provisions to old agencies.

I think what happens in Colorado and other States that have this is the de-

partments themselves pretty quickly come back to the legislature and say, when they see something that is going to be a problem for them, when it comes time to defend it, when it comes time for them to be reauthorized, they say in advance, you know, we think this is really not working out like we thought it would. We think you ought to eliminate this, because we do not want to come back 2 years from now and explain why we have not been able to make it work. I think that is one of the things we could do to begin to get this government under control.

Also the other thing that has been mentioned so often tonight that we have taken great advantage of over the last 3 years has been the States themselves. How many times tonight in our discussion have we talked about, whether it is welfare programs or education programs, how much benefit we are getting by letting the 50 States be 50 laboratories for change?

There are great results happening in State after State after State where we have allowed them leeway in areas like welfare that they have not had before. The Governor of Wisconsin just the other day, as was pointed out, wrote the last welfare check. There are not going to be any more of those checks issued in that State. It has made a dramatic difference in the way they approach this problem.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. I guess a concluding remark for me is one of the first things I said tonight. I think we really have 3 years to back out of the trust funds. If we do not stop borrowing from the trust funds the next 3 years, we probably will not have an economy that will allow us to do that. I think we have a limited time to stop borrowing from them. I think the pressure ought to be on.

I do not think we have to whack and cut with a cleaver. I think we just have to be a little bit frugal like we are with our own money, just a little bit frugal here in Washington. We can stop borrowing from the trust funds, and we can make sure Social Security and Medicare are strong and that our children do not have the debt that we are going to leave them if we do not do it.

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Our time has expired this evening. I appreciate the Speaker and his indulgence and for presiding tonight. By the way, Republican freshmen have an hour scheduled again next week on Wednesday, so I hope everybody will join us here again. We will continue our discussions about how we can move authority out of Washington back to the States and back to the policymakers and leaders who are closest to the people and know most about how to lead this great country.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LUTHER of Minnesota (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, March 4, on account of family illness.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 3 p.m. today and the balance of the week on account of a family emergency.

#### 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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. CAMPBELL, for 5 minutes, on March 5.  
Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, on March 5.

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

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

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

Mr. HAMILTON.  
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.  
Mr. PALLONE.  
Mr. DINGELL.  
Mr. JOHN.  
Mr. STARK.  
Mr. FORD.  
Mr. BENTSEN.  
Mr. WISE.  
Mr. PASCRELL.  
Mr. SANDLIN.  
Ms. NORTON.  
Mr. KIND.  
Ms. DELAURO.  
Mrs. LOWEY.  
Mr. FROST.  
Mr. TOWNS.  
Mr. VISCLOSKEY.  
Mr. SCHUMER.

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

Mrs. MORELLA.  
Mr. FORBES.  
Mr. KING.  
Mr. DAVIS of Virginia.  
Mr. WOLF.  
Mr. PACKARD.  
Mr. GILMAN.  
Mr. GALLEGLY.  
Mr. ROHRBACHER.  
Mr. PORTER.

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

Mr. RANGEL.  
Mr. MCGOVERN.  
Mr. CLYBURN.