

am all in favor of some of the money being dedicated to Social Security.

When the President made his State of the Union address, we anticipated \$8 billion. Certainly if you only had an \$8 billion surplus, it should go to the Social Security contingency fund, rainy day fund. But if you have \$50 billion, why not divide it the way that I propose. One-fourth of it can go to Social Security, \$50 billion or more, one-fourth Social Security contingency fund. One-fourth should go to the reduction of taxes on people, families that earn \$50,000 or less. And one-fourth should go to a direct grant system for school construction and repair and renovation and improvement. Another fourth should go to other education matters such as reduction of class sizes, the purchase of equipment, education technology.

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We can spend \$50 billion in ways that would be an investment for national security. If you put it into education, it is an investment for national security, unlike any other expenditures. We are going to spend it on something, we might as well put on the table a discussion right now of how we are going to spend the \$50 billion, how we are going to invest the \$50 billion and not play games.

I put a statement in the RECORD on the budget where I said the following last week at the time of the discussion of the budget:

It is highly likely that there will be a budget surplus of no less than \$50 billion for the coming budget year. For the first time in many decades, there will be a window of opportunity to make meaningful Federal investments in education. Unfortunately, the Federal share of the overall expenditures for education is merely 7 percent at present. This budget surplus offers an opportunity to bolster our national security by increasing the pool of brainpower to operate our increasingly complex society. I propose that the new budget surplus be divided in accordance with the priorities that I have just stated. This represents a worthy budget deal. Let us make a deal. Let the deal be on the table in respect to how we should spend the dollars, one-fourth for direct emergency for school funding, one-fourth for Social Security, one-fourth to reduce taxes for people at the bottom, and one-fourth for other education priorities. This represents a worthy budget deal which should immediately be placed on the table for discussion and debate. We need an open debate on the best use for the surplus. What American voters should fear most is a closed-door, smoke-filled room, a deal made in October with only representatives of the Republican-controlled appropriations committees and representatives from the White House present. There will be a compromise which will leave out very important, basic national security concerns, especially as they relate to education.

School construction will be tossed aside in that kind of compromise. Let us talk about it. Let the American people hear the possibilities. Let the focus groups and the polling show us where they are and let the parties respond to that. The common sense of the American voters cannot go into play if they do not know what the issues are, if they do not know what the possibilities are. We have an option. We have a \$50 billion plus option, a window of opportunity, and the public ought to know about it. A multibillion dollar deal is going to be made. Let this deal be done in the sunshine. Let us do a deal for the children of America.

Start acting real.

Right now do a democratic deal.

Do this magic surplus deal.

Upfront right away.

Chase infected cynics

Off the political highway.

Make humane rules.

Build safe schools.

Start acting real.

Right now do the deal.

Sunshine is now okay.

Act fast in the light of day.

Invest it the people's way.

Stop pushing the no touch lie.

In four pieces cut the pie.

Start acting real.

Right now do the deal.

Vote for children's justice fast.

Make up for the stupid past.

The budget is on keen keel.

Upfront right away.

Do this magic surplus deal.

Do the deal now. Let us not have a situation similar to the one we had in 1990 when they all went to the White House under George Bush and the leadership of the Congress and they made a deal that was not in the best interests of the American people. At that time I wrote a piece called the Budget Summit where I said:

In the great white D.C. mansion

There's a meeting of the mob.

And the question on the table is

Which beggars will they rob?

There's a meeting of the mob.

Now, I'll never get a job.

All the gents will make a deal.

And the poor have no appeal.

There's a meeting of the mob.

It is still relevant. I do not want the mob to meet at the White House or any appropriations room and decide behind the scenes how to use the surplus without the input of Members of Congress. We all get elected, the same number of constituents in the districts. We should all have input. The American people should have an input. The columnists and the analysts, everybody should have an input. They should not suddenly wake up and find the deal is done and is done badly, we have used the money in ways that are really not consistent with what voters think are the priorities. Education is an ongoing priority.

Within the education priority, there is no priority more important than construction. Safe schools, safe schools where students can study safely and in

peace and with the necessary equipment and supplies. They should come first. In our national security, nothing is more important than education. We have a window of opportunity. We need the leadership in this House, we need the leadership in this city, in Washington, leadership that understands this. Nations rise and fall on the basis of their leadership.

As I said before, superpowers can fall, too. The Soviet Union died at age 75 because its leadership was just not responsive. Its leadership closed its circle. They would not listen to anybody from the outside. They would not even let the outsiders know what they were deciding.

Nothing is worse than going into the backroom and making a deal without the input of the American people. Nothing is more anti-democratic. Nothing is more destructive. We need leadership. We are a great Nation. We are called, as President Clinton said, the indispensable Nation. We have a pivotal set of decisionmakers in this pivotal Nation. This year is a pivotal time of decision-making. Let us make decisions that are in the interest of the children of America.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of business in the district.

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

Mr. FARR of California (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. HOUGHTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and until 6 p.m. on Wednesday, on account of family illness.

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. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOODE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY OF NEW YORK, FOR 5 MINUTES, TODAY.

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