

and on. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in what has taken place in an important area of congressional responsibility.

BULLETPROOF VEST ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FOX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate the House in its bipartisan efforts in adopting this Bulletproof Vest Act. This legislation was recently signed by the President. It was worked on by principally the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and others like myself who are part of the Law Enforcement Caucus who championed this legislation.

There are over 300 cosponsors, Mr. Speaker. This is a high number for any bill in the House. And it is endorsed by every single major law enforcement organization in the country: Fraternal Orders of Police, the Sheriffs' Association, the National DA's Association, and rightfully so.

With 600,000 police officers in the United States, the men and women who represent us in municipal departments and county police departments and State Departments all across the country, as there are 600,000 of them, 150,000 or 25 percent do not have the bulletproof vests which are so important to make sure that we ensure the safety and security of all of our police officers.

So under this bill, the Bulletproof Vest Act, \$25 million will be designated as part of the Federal budget in a matching program, 50/50, with Federal and local contribution, making sure that all of those 150,000 officers will now have a vest.

We want to make sure in the United States that having a bulletproof vest will be as standard as having a police shield for every one of our police officers. I know that from our own district attorney where I come from Montgomery, Pennsylvania, Mike Barino said it was the most important bill of the 105th Congress, that we pass this legislation.

So I am pleased that President Clinton has joined the House and Senate in agreeing that this bill is important and has just signed it into law.

We do not have to look to the officer of my hometown Abington township, Joe Dalton, who in 1992 was, in fact, working on a case with many other officers from other departments in apprehending a fugitive who had committed a bank robbery and then proceeded in a high-speed chase through several counties, townships, and municipalities only to keep the police at bay.

Frankly, when the case was continuing, Mr. Dalton, trying to apprehend the defendant, was shot at point-blank range. Had he not been wearing his bulletproof vest, we would have gone to a

cemetery and funeral the next day. But as such, because he had the bulletproof vest, we are much richer, and the country is more safe in knowing that people like Joe Dalton can continue to serve his community and our country.

So I am very pleased to thank the House for its efforts and look forward to working on other important law enforcement and crime prevention legislation as we continue this 105th Congress.

UNITED STATES ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to encourage my colleagues to take a deep breath and slow down, because things are happening very, very fast out here. When things start happening very, very fast in Washington, D.C., what happens is we lose track and we lose sight of what is going on; and the next thing you know, the taxpayers' money starts disappearing like it has done for a generation out here, and it starts disappearing very, very fast.

When this gets out of control, when spending gets out of control in this city, when we forget what had happened before 1995, we quickly get to a point where the idea of reducing taxes or paying off debt or restoring Social Security become impossibilities.

So I rise tonight, and I have not done this presentation in quite some time, but I think it is important, I think it is very important that we remember where it is we are at in this Nation; and that, even though we have come a long way, we have still got some problems facing our country.

This first chart that I brought with me tonight shows that the debt from 1960 to 1980 did not grow very much. But from 1980 forward, this debt has grown right off the wall. Although we made some good progress on it, now we need to remember that, even when we get to a balanced budget, we are here in this picture, and it is still a very, very, very serious problem facing our Nation. When we start talking about spending bills in this community, we cannot let ourselves lose sight of the fact that we are still deeply in debt.

For those that have not seen the number, we are currently \$5½ trillion in debt. The number looks like this. It is 5,500, and then it has three, six, nine more zeros after that. It is a huge, huge number.

I used to teach math, and I tried to translate this number so it would mean something to an average person watching this presentation and to my colleagues. If you take that number, 5½ trillion, and you divide it by the number of people in the United States of America, if every, man, woman, and child in the United States were going

to pay off just their share of this debt, it would be \$20,400 for every man, woman, and child in the United States of America.

For a family of five like mine, I have got three kids, and of course my wife at home, they have literally borrowed \$102,000 and again basically over the last 15 years.

Let me put that another way. In this community, they have made the decision to spend \$102,000 for every family of five more than they collected in taxes basically over the last 15 years.

The kicker is this bottom number down here, because, you see, this is not just funny money in Washington, D.C. They have to pay interest on this money. The average family of five in the United States of America today is paying \$580 a month every month to do absolutely nothing but pay the interest on this Federal debt.

When we think about the mess that we have been given or what has happened in this country, in this legacy that we are about to pass on to the next generation, it is this idea that we are paying this \$580 a month; that money belongs out there in the families. It should be the American people's money. When somebody goes to work to earn that money, it is their money. We should not be using it to pay interest on this debt that has been run up.

A lot of people go, well, shoot, that is not me. I do not have to worry about it. I do not have to pay \$580 a month in taxes, so it is not me. The reality of this is that, when you look at what you do in society, when you go in the store and buy a loaf of bread, when you buy your kids a pair of shoes, the store owner makes a profit selling the pair of shoes or selling that loaf of bread; or at least we hope they do, because if they do not, they are going out of business.

When they make a profit selling that loaf of bread or selling that pair of shoes, part of that profit gets sent out here to Washington D.C. in taxes. In fact, every group of five people in the United States of America, every family of five or every group of five is in fact paying \$580 a month one way or another to allow the interest on this debt to be paid.

When I came out here in 1995, when I was first elected, I came out of the private sector. I came out to this office, the first office I ever held of public office. In the private sector, I was a home builder. I started as a math teacher, and then we started a business in the basement of our home. We wound up building 120 homes a year, providing about 250 job opportunities here in America. It is really what our country is all about.

When I came out here, I came out here with an idea. I came out here with the idea, if we could get government spending under control, we could fix this problem. That idea was very different than the people that were here before.

What I brought with me is a chart that shows the old Gramm-Rudman-