

The key to agriculture's success is to open foreign markets so we can sell our commodities overseas. The fast track bill provides agriculture a seat at the tariff reduction table, all subject to final congressional approval. It should be passed.

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#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the House is considering a Republican tax bill which spends the entire anticipated budget surplus on tax cuts instead of saving it for Social Security. It is a tax bill that violates the budget rules. That is bad public policy.

Mr. Speaker, I have sponsored and voted for specific tax cut proposals in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and capital gains tax reduction. I will support the Democratic alternative for tax cuts that take effect only when there is a budget surplus that does not include counting Social Security Trust Funds.

Save Social Security first, then offer tax cuts to hard-working people of America.

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#### MEANINGFUL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, America is in danger of losing its number one industry, agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, 1998 has been a disastrous year for farmers all across this great country of ours. And after months of pressure from Congress, the answer of the current administration to this problem was to support a \$500 million disaster package that originated across the way in the other body.

The Republican response to this has been much more meaningful and much more sensible. It is a plan that puts money in the pockets of farmers immediately to provide short-term relief. There is also a package to provide long-term relief in the form of tax incentives and tax relief to farmers. This is a meaningful solution to the current problem in ag country.

Now, the administration has come back with a plan that puts farmers and this country deeper in debt and will depress prices for the long-term.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the administration to cut out the political rhetoric and provide real, meaningful leadership in the arena of agriculture.

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#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, over 500,000 retired Arkansans depend on their Social Security monthly check as a necessary source to supplement their retirement income. In fact, the First Congressional District of Arkansas has the largest number of seniors for whom Social Security is their only source of income.

Right now, millions of working Americans are paying into the Social Security system and are counting on it for when they retire. This year, some have suggested that we have a budget surplus. That just simply is not so.

Of course, there is an enormous temptation to use the so-called surplus or the Social Security Trust Fund to cut taxes. I am all for tax cuts, but not on the backs of our children and grandchildren, not on the backs of our retirees who depend on Social Security as their only source of income.

Mr. Speaker, it must be there when we need it. Congress must save Social Security and not rob the Social Security Trust Fund.

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#### DECEPTION

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, when the other side repeated over and over again during the 1996 campaign that the Republicans wanted to cut Medicare, it was a lie. Many people believed it and so they continued to say it.

When the other side repeated over and over again in 1995 that the Republicans wanted to cut the school lunch program, that was a lie. Yet that worked, too, to some degree. Now it is 1998. The other side has already started on another deception that lowering taxes on farmers and ranchers and families would threaten Social Security. That, too, is a lie.

How ironic that the party that did nothing, nothing for 40 years to fix a system they knew was going broke, is now attacking our commitment to use 90 percent of the surplus to fix Social Security while giving the remaining 10 percent back to the American people. How is it that billions of dollars in liberal spending do not threaten Social Security but lower taxes for farmers and ranchers somehow would?

America's farmers and ranchers need a break, and it is time to give them much-needed tax relief.

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#### ON THE BUDGET SURPLUS AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this year we have a great opportunity, a once-in-a-generation chance to really save Social Security. We can take our

budget surplus and begin to pay back the IOUs into our Social Security system. Unfortunately, though, Republicans are putting politics first and Social Security second. They want to raid the surplus to fund their political agenda. They put fiscal irresponsibility first and Social Security second.

No piggy bank money should be used, Mr. Speaker, for election year giveaways. Instead let us bank all of the surplus to shore up Social Security today.

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#### TAX CUTS

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the House this week is going to be considering an \$80 billion tax cut. As far as tax cuts are concerned, the provisions contained in it would receive wide bipartisan support in this body. Perhaps it is not as pro-growth oriented as much as I would like to see, but as far as tax cuts, it is not bad.

The problem is, it is going to be relying on the so-called surplus to pay for it. The fact is, there is no surplus unless we are willing to borrow and steal from the Social Security trust fund.

I commend the leadership for being up front and honest about it, that they are intending to take the money from that trust fund to pay for this tax cut, but it is the wrong policy. It is the wrong thing to do for our seniors and children, and we should not engage in that election year tax cut in order to satisfy a certain constituency.

Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, was on the hill yesterday and when asked what would be the best use of the so-called surplus, he said, I will tell you what not to do. Do not use it for a permanent new spending program and do not use it for tax cuts when the surplus may never materialize in this very volatile international financial crisis which may have a devastating impact on the U.S. economy.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose the tax cut.

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#### SOCIAL SECURITY

(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, over the past 6 years Democrats have worked extremely hard and pretty much on their own, I might add, to get our fiscal house in order. We have balanced the budget, created a better economy, and we have, in fact, generated the potential, the potential of a surplus to help pay back the debt that we owe to Social Security.

Let me tell my colleagues now about how that is being jeopardized. The Republican leadership in this House wants to take the surplus in the Social