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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 6, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable CHARLES F. BASS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 8. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to deny entry into the United States of certain foreign motor vehicles that do not comply with State laws governing motor vehicle emissions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2675. An act to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit proposed legislation under which group universal life insurance and group variable universal life insurance would be available under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1021. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that consideration may not be denied to preference eligibles applying for certain positions in the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 2432. An act to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2505. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey title to the Tunnison

Lab Hagerman Field Station in Gooding County, Idaho, to the University of Idaho.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for 5 minutes.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY WHILE PROVIDING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH TAX CUTS

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would take a few minutes and talk about an issue that is so important to the folks back home on the south side of Chicago in the south suburbs, that I have the privilege of representing.

We have had a big achievement in the last few years, doing something that Washington failed to do for 28 years, and that is we balanced the budget, something that families back home in Illinois do every day.

As a result of that balanced budget, we have an opportunity, because for the first time in 28 years we actually have more tax revenue going into the Treasury than we are spending. It is something new, something new, a new experience in Washington, and I am proud to be a part of this Congress which balanced the budget for the first time in 28 years.

It is projected by the Congressional Budget Office that this opportunity over the next 10 years is \$1.6 trillion or

1 trillion 600 billion dollars in extra tax revenue that is coming to Washington. One thing the folks back home have often told me, and that is if we do not prevent them, those politicians in Washington will spend that extra money on government spending and new government programs, when it is really the hard-earned dollars of the folks back home in Illinois that are the surplus tax revenue that we have here in Washington.

I am proud to say that this House in the last 2 weeks has taken action to preserve this extra tax revenue, this extra tax surplus, and to use it to save Social Security and eliminate the marriage tax penalty and to help family farmers and small businesspeople and those who want to send their kids off to college.

We adopted what is called the 90-10 plan, and under the 90-10 plan we set aside 90 percent of projected tax revenue surplus, which is \$1.4 trillion, for Social Security, priority number one. What is left we give back to the American people in tax relief, addressing what I consider to be the most unfair provision and the consequence of our Tax Code, which is the marriage tax penalty, eliminating it for the majority of those who suffer it.

I think it is important to point out that we set aside \$1.4 trillion in surplus tax revenue to save Social Security, and the remainder we use to eliminate the marriage tax penalty and other consequences of our Tax Code. That is a big victory for the folks back home because when one thinks about it, back last January when the President gave his State of the Union speech, I was one of those who stood up and applauded when the President said, let us take the surplus and use it to save Social Security, because at that time the surplus was about \$600 billion.

Well, we have set aside, just 2 weeks ago, more than two times what the President asked for to save Social Security, \$1.4 trillion.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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