

saying that they have made progress. Yes, they have continued to eradicate marijuana, they have fallen behind some in some of their efforts for interdiction on cocaine, and we need those efforts back up. They have not extradited people that we have asked to be extradited, but they have started the process to extradite.

But there are a couple of facts that make this a very difficult vote should it come to that here in Congress. One is, for all the current plans and efforts that they have done in this past year, there are a couple of irrevocable facts. One is, their drug czar was living in an apartment owned by one under the name of one cartel member. Through that compromised drug czar, who was actually on the take from the cartel, potentially every single source we have in Mexico was compromised.

It is going to be very difficult to rebuild a relationship of trust when you have potentially blown every single source you have worked to develop over decades when they have the brother of the President being involved in the assassination of a presidential candidate, when they have people high up in their military, we learn that they are on the take from the drug cartel.

These are not little low-level occasional problems. When we have the DEA unable to go into regional parts of their country, we have substantive problems we have to address with Mexico.

The North American Free Trade Agreement, often referred to along the border and in other parts of the country as the North American Free Drug Trading Act, is something that has opened up the borders, and we have to get control of those borders. But we must not forget much of what we know about the corruption in the Mexican government is because leaders of Mexico have in fact identified those leaders for us and acknowledged that they have to clean it up. The fact is is they have started and have proposals on the table to work through extradition, to work through rebuilding their navy. We need a maritime agreement, but one of their comebacks to us is, as my colleagues know: Your government never asked us to sign the maritime agreement.

Part of our argument in Congress is with our own administration, and it is tough to put all the blame on Mexico. I say that as somebody who, for my 4 years here in Congress, has been steadily pounding on Mexico because I believe they have not been aggressive enough in drug enforcement. I have had several amendments related to Mexico, and I am not certain how I am going to vote. But it is not a clear-cut case, and we need to continue to encourage the current government.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim the

5-minute special order of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

LIBERALS THINK WASHINGTON KNOWS HOW TO SPEND AMERICANS' MONEY BETTER THAN THEY DO

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) on his plan. It is something that we have supported since 1995 and had the President and also Members of this Chamber on the left supported the same thing. Then when the President vetoed the nine appropriation bills in 1995 that shut down the government, that could have been avoided. I hope that we will be willing to do that in the future.

I was very, very interested to hear our Democratic friends talk about fiscal responsibility and talking about how the saying went that the balanced budget has no constituency. Mr. Speaker, I can tell my colleagues one person that cared about it in 1993 while he was sitting on the couch watching C-Span in the summer in Pensacola, Florida, was myself.

I remember in 1993 watching the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) and a band of young Republican conservatives come to this floor and fight the President and the liberal left's plans to pass the largest tax increase in the history of this Republic. See, their vision of America then and now has been that if we want to balance the budget, the only way we can do it is by raiding the pockets of taxpayers.

In fact, we had some insight on this about a month ago when the President went up to Buffalo, New York, and he told the people in the audience that we really have to avoid this idea that the Republicans have that we are going to cut taxes. The President said to that Buffalo audience:

We could give you money back and hope that you spend it on the right things, but we cannot trust you, basically.

As my colleagues know, what a vision for America. What a sad, tired, worn-out vision for America. It is a vision that is radically different from what the Republican party believes.

GOP, as far as I believe, stands for government of the people. We believe people know how to spend their money better than bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. That is why I ran for office in 1994. I saw the President's budget and the Democrats' budget that passed without a single Republican vote, and I saw that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) and the rest of the Republicans laid out a blueprint, and we said:

Let us balance the budget in 7 years, and if we balance the budget in 7 years, then the economy will explode.

Now the President said that we could not do this because this would destroy the economy, and how many liberals did I hear come to the floor and speak into this microphone and tell the American people if we tried to balance the budget in 7 years, the economy would be wrecked? Boy, talk about a rewriting of history. Now they talk about the Clinton recovery?

I remember Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Fed, testifying before the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH's) committee, and he said:

If you guys and ladies will only pass this balanced budget plan, you will see interest rates go down, you will see unemployment go down, and you will see one of the largest peace-time economic expansions in the history of our country.

That is what Alan Greenspan said. And do my colleagues know what? It is a good thing we listened to the economic intelligence of Alan Greenspan instead of the demagoguery that came from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, because we stayed the course, we fought the good fight, and we took a deficit from \$300 billion when we got here in 1995 down to a point where it is almost balanced.

Mr. Speaker, the news only gets better. We find out this past week that the CBO is now saying:

If Congress and the President do nothing, then the \$5.4 trillion debt that threatens my children's economic future and all of America's economic future will virtually be eradicated in 15 years.

But the question is:

Can the President and those on the left leave well enough alone?

See, we have got these horrible little things called budget caps, a road map for fiscal responsibility, and they think this is a bad thing. In fact, the President sees his only way out is by doing what he did in 1993 and what Democrats have done for 40 years. He says, let us take it from the American people; they do not know how to spend their money. Let us raise taxes by billions and billions of dollars. That is in the President's budget. That is the President's plan.

My gosh, if we talk about cutting taxes, how about cutting taxes for Americans that make from 45 to \$60,000? Raising the threshold? What if we talk about cutting capital gains taxes that actually helps so many Americans, helps grow the economy? They say that is a bad thing. I disagree.

Unlike the liberals, I still believe Americans know how to spend their money better than Washington, D.C.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for