

Third, our budget blueprint begins the process of actually paying down the debt we are passing on to our children. Everyone would agree that we have a moral obligation to take care of our children. Part of this obligation is relieving our kids of the nearly \$6 trillion Federal debt. This is what I call generational fairness. The Republican budget plan would maintain our commitment to generational fairness by continuing the start we made last year on paying down some of the debt.

How would this work? Under our plan, Social Security taxes would be collected and locked away until a reform plan was enacted that would actually preserve the Social Security system. Until a specific fix is worked out, those excess funds would be used to pay off bonds owned by the public. This means it would be easier to meet future obligations to Social Security. And, Alan Greenspan tells us, it means lower interest rates.

Fourth, our budget blueprint makes possible reductions in the tax burden on American families as additional revenues become available. Americans are overtaxed. The average American family pays more in taxes than they do for food, clothing, shelter and transportation combined. That is wrong. The Republican budget plan makes strengthening Social Security our first priority. Then, as more surplus dollars become available, we believe Americans should start getting some of their excess taxes back. They should be given back as an overpayment, because that is what they are. Our plan recognizes that extra taxes left in Washington will get spent on new government programs that most folks neither want nor need. When we allowed Washington to start taking taxes out of our paycheck, we never said to Washington, "You can keep the change."

In sum, our budget plan reflects the priorities of the American people. It safeguards 100 percent of the Social Security money, unlike the President's plan, and keeps faith with our Nation's seniors. Then, by preserving fiscal discipline, paying down debt and offering tax relief, this budget ensures lower interest rates and a stronger economy well into the 21st century. This keeps faith with our children. It is a budget I am proud to support.

#### ISSUES OF CONCERN REGARDING IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

TRIBUTE TO HOUSTONIANS ON OBSERVANCE OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a month in which we honor women for the contributions that they have made to the United States and to our communities and our neighborhoods.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly acknowledge some of my neigh-

bors in Texas, in Houston in particular, who I hope to be able to expand on their many contributions in weeks and months to come by tributes that I will submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. But just for tonight briefly since I will also talk about another issue in the time allotted, let me pay tribute and acknowledge:

Christa Adair, the first secretary of the NAACP, who created opportunities for people to vote in Houston, Texas.

Luella Harrison, an outstanding teacher, pioneer and spokesperson in our community.

Mrs. Erma Leroy, another activist who has contributed along with her husband, Moses Leroy, to the labor movement in Houston.

Madgelean Bush who founded the Martin Luther King Community Center that today provides facilities for babies with HIV/AIDS.

Nellie Fraga who has championed Hispanic and Mexican rights but also cultural connections and exchange.

Mrs. Laurenzo, the owner of Ninfa's Restaurant, a businesswoman premier who has guided us to indicate and teach women that they too can be involved in business.

I pay tribute to those women among many others who have done such great things for our community with a special tribute as well to Mae Jemison who has pioneered into space and now has an office in the Houston area.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to respond and indicate some issues of concern that I have as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims of the House Committee on the Judiciary. I was disappointed that the amendment today of my good friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) was not able to be debated. The gentleman from Texas offered an amendment to ensure that criminal aliens that were already incarcerated would not be released until deportation. I wanted the gentleman from Texas to have the opportunity to discuss and debate a very important issue. The issue was raised because of the \$80 million that was included in the emergency supplemental appropriations bill that was to provide increased border enforcement and funds for 2,945 additional beds for the detention of criminal aliens from certain parts of Central and South America.

I am concerned that when money is given to an agency and it is given to the agency still with the sense that the agency is not functioning, that we need to debate the issue and get clarification. I think it is important that we should acknowledge, as was acknowledged, that any presupposed or any memo that suggested that the INS was prepared to release criminal aliens is obviously incorrect or has been withdrawn. I am disappointed that preliminary discussions about that were ultimately released to the public. But INS should own up to it and explain what that memorandum was about. They say it was about the fact that they did not

have enough beds. In fact, in our own community, they have contracted out the need for facilities for incarcerating or keeping criminal aliens. What I would like to see is the Federal Bureau of Prisons move more expeditiously, although I know they are working toward doing this, in providing beds for criminal aliens so that they are not located particularly in neighborhoods and communities around the Nation.

I also believe it is important not just to give \$80 million for the increased border enforcement, but we need trained Border Patrol agents, experienced Border Patrol agents. And so it is important that INS responds how they are going to ensure that the border enforcement patrol is well trained so that everyone is protected, both the Border Patrol agents as well as those they encounter.

I think it is equally important that we address the question that so many have approached me with, and, that is, the INS personnel, in terms of improvements, both in terms of their conditions but also, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the workings of the office, the delay, the treatment of those who come into the INS office.

My commitment to all of those who are commenting about the INS is that we are going to fix it. It is an agency that has an enormous responsibility. Mr. Speaker, this is a country of immigration but it is a country of laws. My colleagues have my commitment as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims that we are going to address these concerns to the INS and make the United States known for a fair and balanced immigration policy while responding to the concerns of our constituents and our colleagues.

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#### THE NEW DEMOCRATS WANT FISCAL DISCIPLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow on the House floor we will begin the budget process. We will debate in the full House for the budget resolution, and the budget resolution is the parameters under which we will pass the spending bills later on in the session. So this is the first attempt to get a look at what our budget is going to look like for the fiscal year 2000.

I rise today to talk about fiscal discipline and to urge fiscal discipline in that process, and I do so from the perspective of a Democrat, but a New Democrat, and I would like to explain that a little bit at the outset because I am a member of the New Democratic Caucus back here in Washington, D.C., but that is not something folks may