

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the President's proposal to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, provide prescription drug coverage for seniors, give middle class tax cuts and eliminate the Federal debt are well-rounded and thoughtful. Saving Social Security and Medicare and extending their solvency needs to be a top priority of this Congress. Prescription drug coverage for seniors is a critical part of any modern health program. Treatment with medication is cost effective when compared to treating late stage ailments with surgery or other in-patient care. Our seniors who struggle every day for their prescription drugs should not have to choose between paying for food and paying for medication. A prescription drug benefit will prepare Medicare and our seniors' health care for the 21st century.

Fortunately, we are in a position to accomplish these goals due to a strong economy and a once in a generation Federal surplus. Providing prescription drug coverage for seniors as well as providing tax relief for working families is sound and responsible. This opportunity must not be squandered; it must not be wasted. We need to provide for seniors for their future.

PUT OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, ask a liberal what he would do to get rid of the budget deficit, and he or she will say: Raise taxes. Ask a conservative the same question, and he or she will say: Cut spending. That in a nutshell is how we got from a huge budget deficit to the current budget surplus we now enjoy. President Clinton choose the liberal way when he raised taxes in 1993, the largest tax increase in history. Republicans took over the majority in Congress in 1995 and have tried to cut spending and limit the amount of new big government spending programs proposed by the liberals. Two different visions, two different paths to achieve the common goal of a balanced budget.

Republicans forced the President to submit a balanced budget after his first two budgets contained \$200 billion deficits as far as the eye can see. We are grateful that the President finally agreed to work with Republicans to put our financial house in order. Lower mortgage interest rates, lower credit card payments and more job creation have resulted from the change from budget deficits to budget surplus. Good fiscal discipline will help save Social Security and Medicare.

THERE WILL NEVER BE A BETTER TIME TO CUT TAXES

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, according to the numbers as we just heard that were released this week, the OMB has decided that there is going to be a surplus of some \$1 trillion over the next 15 years. This is good news, and it provides Congress with an historic opportunity to improve the standard of living of our Nation by giving tax relief.

The President said in a Rose Garden ceremony Monday: Our new budget framework will use part of the surplus to provide substantial tax relief. The average American has to work 129 days or to May 11 before they get through paying their taxes. Last year, tax revenues grew by 9 percent. That is twice, twice as fast as the economy grew.

Now there are several tax cut plans that we could talk about, but the one that I would favor is one I introduced in this House, is to cut taxes across the board. It is the fairest and the simplest way. It stops the proposal, it stops the practice, rather, of picking winners and losers among overtaxed Americans and allows everybody who pays Federal income taxes to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Mr. Speaker, with the economy growing and the Federal Government running a giant surplus, there will never be a better time than now to cut taxes.

IT TAKES A REPUBLICAN CONGRESS TO GET THE JOB DONE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton ran an ad in his first presidential campaign back in 1992 in which he said he wanted to end welfare as we know it. Then what happened? Well, he had a Democrat-controlled Congress for the first 2 years of his term, and what did they do on welfare reform? Nothing.

The American people decided it was time for a change in 1994, just 2 years later, and elected a Republican majority in the House for the first time in 40 years. The Republican Congress passed welfare reform; the President vetoed it. And then we passed it again, and then he vetoed it a second time. We finally passed it a third time shortly before the election, and the President finally signed it into law, and then he took credit for it.

The liberals had ranted and raved that welfare reform, because it passed, we would see people starving in the streets. Well, just about everybody now agrees that the welfare reform has been one of the greatest success stories in years. Millions of people who were stuck, who were trapped on welfare are now working and supporting themselves and their own children instead of relying on their fellow taxpayers to support them.

Mr. Speaker, it took a Republican Congress to get the job done.

PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, there is a philosophical difference between the Congress and the White House. It will be difficult to reach any kind of agreement on the size and scope of government.

Republicans want to move in one direction, and the liberals in the White House in another direction. Republicans want a smaller Federal Government. The President is fighting to expand the government. Republicans want to cut unnecessary wasteful Washington spending. The President wants to increase spending, throwing money at any kind of problem. The Republicans want the 2000 census to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, which states clearly there shall be an actual enumeration because everyone counts. The President wants to rig the census by allowing political appointees to oversee sampling or, in other words, take another poll. Republicans want to pass a tax cut for working Americans. The President is opposed. Republicans want to protect the surplus. The President wants to use it for new Washington spending.

With such sharp differences in vision, it is no surprise that negotiations will be slow and difficult. But here in Congress we will work hard for the Republican vision of lower taxes and less government, giving working Americans more freedom and a little extra room in their family budget.

CLINTON/GORE ACTIONS TO UNDERMINE THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTS

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when information reached me that the Clinton administration is working hard at the United Nations to undermine and to utterly trash the role of parents throughout the world, I was outraged. Five years ago at the Cairo Population Control Conference AL GORE led an unsuccessful effort to get abortion on demand throughout pregnancy declared an international right. Now Bill Clinton and AL GORE's hand-picked negotiators at this week's 5-year follow-up meeting on the Cairo conference are at it again. They are formally pushing to delete from the proposed implementation document the only two references urging, quote, respect for the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents in the critical areas of sex education and reproductive care for adolescents.

□ 1030

Ironically, while these anti-parent proposals are being aggressively pushed at the U.N., the House is poised to take