

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we are at a real interesting time. We are in the home run stretch of the legislative session. We are in a position on the budget that we are negotiating with the President because of three different reasons. Number one, we had the 1997 budget agreement. That agreement was a bipartisan agreement, over 300 Democrats and Republicans alike joined forces to say, let us put some fiscal order, some discipline in this place. The President signed off on it. Now even though it is a bipartisan agreement, it seems like only one party is responsible for carrying out that agreement. That party is the Republican Party.

Number two, we do not want to spend Social Security money. Now, do not take my word for it as a Republican. This is John Podesta, the Chief of Staff at the White House. He works for Bill Clinton. Here is his exact statement: "The Republicans' key goal is to not spend the Social Security surplus." I am glad, suddenly the White House is saying things right and we are very glad about that. Indeed, if you look at this smaller chart, that is exactly what we have been able to do. In the past, the Democrat controlled Congress and under Republican control, Social Security money has been taken for general purposes. But this year, zero. A historic moment. We have not raided Social Security. Very important.

The third reason we are in this position is that the President had promoted a tax increase as a way to fund a lot of new programs. On a bipartisan basis, this House, 419-0 voted against increasing taxes. So right now we are in a situation where the only way to continue the 1997 budget agreement and not raid Social Security is by reducing spending a mere one cent on a dollar.

I am a father of four, Mr. Speaker. I have two teenagers and two smaller children. We have to every month sit around and decide are we going to fix the washing machine, are we going to buy new tires. I guess we will have to postpone that vacation or that trip to Atlanta one more time in the fancy hotel, but we are used to doing that. But when Libby and I sit around the table and cut our budget, out of \$5, we have got to look for 2 or \$3. All we are saying to the Federal Government is cut out a nickel out of \$5 or one cent out of \$1. We have heard from Democrats tonight, that cannot be done.

Let me give my colleagues a few suggestions. The FDA has a pizza inspection program. If you buy cheese pizza, the FDA inspects it. But if you buy pepperoni pizza, the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspects it. I do not know, but in the private sector we would say, let us combine that. Or how about this. The President went to Afri-

ca with 1300 of his closer Federal employee friends, spent \$42.8 million. Or how about when he went to China, he spent \$18.8 million and took 500 of his closer friends. Cutting out 1 percent would mean 50 of them would have to stay at home the next time he goes to China. The next time he goes to Africa, 13 would have to stay at home. That does not sound so bad to me. But we keep hearing how harsh this is.

How about the program in Washington, D.C. where the Federal Government spent \$6.6 million on a staffing company to help the government get people from welfare to work, \$6.6 million and they were supposed to place 1500 people. One year later and \$1 million later, they had only placed 30 people out of 1500. They spent \$1 million to do that.

□ 1930

That is waste. And, you know what? I would like to pop the bubble of the Democrats and the big spenders up here. The Federal Government does not have any money. Let me repeat it: The Federal Government does not have money. It is the people's money. We hard working taxpayers send our money to Washington. It is not the Federal Government's money, it is sent to them by hard working taxpayers. So I believe that we in Washington have to be very careful on how we spend that.

Now I want to say one thing that is just kind of interesting. Here is a statement by Secretary Babbitt when a reporter said is there no more waste in government in your department? Secretary Babbitt, who is Mr. Clinton's appointee for the Department of Interior, the guy in charge of the National Parks, he said, "Well, it would take a magician to say there was no waste in government." Amen to that. "We are constantly ferreting it out. But the answer is otherwise, yes, you have got it exactly right." From the President's own folks, yes, there is waste in government, and we can cut it out and save Social Security.

NO CLEMENCY FOR CONVICTED MURDERER

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee has announced that in November 1999, it is the Freedom Month for Leonard Peltier. I used to be a former police officer and I take this personally.

This committee intends to deliver to the President of the United States a petition asking him to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier.

Leonard Peltier is currently serving consecutive life sentences in a Federal penitentiary for the ruthless murder of two FBI agents. To commute the sentence of Peltier and allow him to be re-

leased would be a tragic injustice. The Members of the FBI Agents Association and the Society for Former Special Agents of the FBI want the President and all Americans to be aware of all reasons why clemency should not be granted to Peltier.

June 26, 1975, was a hot dusty Thursday on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota when two young FBI agents arrived from their office in Rapid City. It was about noon when the agents pulled into the Jumping Bull compound area of the remote reservation seeking to arrest a young man in connection with a recent abduction and assault of two young ranchers.

Observing Peltier's vehicle, the two agents pursued it. Unknown to the FBI agents, one of the three men in the vehicle was Leonard Peltier, a violent man with a violent past. He was a fugitive, wanted for attempted murder of an off duty Milwaukee police officer.

Knowing these cars pursuing him were FBI cars, Peltier and his two associates abruptly stopped their vehicle and began firing their rifles at the agents. Surprised by the sudden violence, outmanned and outgunned and at an extreme tactical disadvantage, the agents were wounded and defenseless within minutes. One of the agents suffered a severe wound, having his arm blown off. The other agent was hit in the left shoulder and the right foot. Both agents were clearly at the mercy of Peltier and their associates.

Not satisfied with the terrible injuries that they had just inflicted, Peltier and the other two men walked down the hill toward the ambushed and wounded agents. Three shots were fired from Peltier's rifle. One of the agents was still conscious, kneeling and apparently surrendering, was shot in the face directly through his outstretched hand. He was shot right through his hand. He was trying to surrender. He died instantly. The unconscious FBI agent who was lying there with severe injuries was shot twice in the head at close range. He also died instantly.

Following the murders, Peltier fled the reservation. In November 1975 an Oregon state trooper stopped a recreational vehicle in which Peltier was hiding. Peltier fired at the trooper and escaped. But found within that recreational vehicle was one of the weapons from the FBI agent with Peltier's fingerprints on the bag which contained the weapon.

When later arrested in Canada by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Peltier remarked that had he known those were mounted police officers and they were there to arrest them, he would have immediately blown them out of their shoes. These are not the comments of an innocent man, and they portray a very violent man who, without mercy, assassinated two FBI agents.

Peltier in 1977 was finally brought to justice and he was found guilty on both counts of the murder of these FBI