

find acceptable answers to any problem, that the spiritual needs of humanity must be served, that planning for the future was preferable to lamenting of the failures of the past.

The great sportswriter Grantland Rice could have had Evander Simpson in mind when he wrote the following: "For when the great scorer comes to mark against your name, he writes not that you won or lost but how you played the game."

Evander Simpson played the game with dedication to God and his community. We who are left can only thank a kind providence that placed him along beside us on this highway of life.

I am also pleased this evening to say to this body that I am also placing with this speech a tribute to Evander Simpson read by Miss Carolyn G. Ennis at Mr. Simpson's funeral on April 30, 2000, and that tribute follows my remarks herewith, Mr. Speaker:

A MAN NAMED SIMPSON

(By Carolyn G. Ennis)

And God stepped out on space
And he looked around and said,
I'm lonely, I'll make me an educator.
So God made many teachers and principals.
And the young children were taught.
And the young children learned. And God said, "That's good."
And God said, I'm lonely still. I need a dynamic leader
A man who knows how to look like a banker,
How to act like a gentleman,
How to think like a politician,
And how to work from sunrise to midnight like a homegrown country farmer.
So God made many, many more educators,
But he was lonely still. And God said, "I'll make me an
Excellent educator:
A man with vision, values, agility and versatility;
A professional man and Crusader with a pioneering spirit.
One whom the power of office will not spoil nor kill,
One who has a conscience and a will,
To do the right thing at the right time, the right way.
So God sat down by the side of the river
In a place called Sampson County.
With his head in his hand he thought and thought.
Then God said, "I'll make me an extra-special educator
—A superintendent for schools.
A man for consolidation, accretion, and integration,
A man for providing sources and resources to develop
The best educational opportunities for all children and
For all teachers in Johnston County;
A man who will know how to "command" from his experience
In the military so others will learn how to march in unity
To the same drumbeat for excellence in education.
So God made this "Educator of Excellence".
And Johnston County, North Carolina, the United States of
America and the entire educational arena of the world
Have never been quite the same, since God created
Mr. Evander S. Simpson, who was and still is an extra-special, excellent educator. And God said, "That's Good,"

And today, we echo again in fond memory of Mr. E. S. Simpson
Relections of your life to repeat. That's good

ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JOHN T. WEED

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. What I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is to honor a young man who, 33 years ago on May 14, 1967, was a corpsman in the Navy, fought with the Marines in Vietnam, served his country extremely well, and on that particular date put his own life in danger to save my life while in an operation called "Union" in the northern part of South Vietnam.

That young man, who went to Vietnam in 1966, in November, stayed more than a year and not only served his country well, not only served the Marines very well, but he acted responsibly as an American and was a fine example of this country to that war-torn region and to the people.

That young man is with us today, Mr. Speaker. His name is John T. Weed from Texas. And I wanted to make this statement to salute his effort, his commitment, his courage, his grace, and his skill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for his patience.

I just talked to former Corporal John T. Weed, who is with us today, and the gentleman who took care of our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), when he was badly wounded in Vietnam as a Marine Corpsman.

But what he said, which the gentleman from Maryland did not say, was that, in fact, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) saved his life twice. The gentleman from Maryland always manages to pass over that when he is talking about John Weed.

I have just had an opportunity to talk to him, and I have to agree with my colleague he is a great American, truly. And he mentioned another thing, and that is that the platoon sergeant, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), was the most stabilizing influence on his life as an 18-year-old trooper in the Marines.

So I wanted to add my two cents worth and add the rest of the story to the story told by the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate those announcements by my colleagues.

I have been working on Social Security for the last 5 years. I am very concerned that we are putting off tough decisions that are going to mean that we either, in the future, substantially raise social security taxes on workers or we cut benefits.

And we have done that before. In 1977, when we were short of Social Security funds to pay benefits, we both cut benefits and increased taxes. We did that again in 1983, when money was short in the Social Security Trust Fund. We again in that year cut benefits and raised taxes. So some people are suggesting that we add giant IOUs to the Social Security Trust Fund and assume that the Government is going to pay that money back at a later date.

Let me briefly review a pie chart that shows the budget of the United States for this year. As we can see, the bottom green pie is Social Security. It represents 20 percent of the total budget. Defense only represents 18 percent of the total budget. The 12 appropriation bills that we spend most of the year arguing about is even smaller than the Social Security budget, with 19 percent.

If we take all of the entitlement programs, it represents a little over half of the Federal budget. And here is what is projected by the Social Security Administration actuaries. They are suggesting that if we do nothing, social security taxes, taxes to cover our senior programs, will have to increase from the current 15-odd percent up to 40 percent within the next 38 years. That is if we do nothing. Two choices: either taxes are going to substantially be increased or benefits are going to have to be cut by over one-third.

That is why I think it is so appropriate in this presidential election year that we have an articulate discussion on how to save Social Security. I was disturbed last night when AL GORE started criticizing Governor Bush's proposal that he has not even made yet. So demagoguing this issue is not going to help come to a final solution. It is going to jeopardize being able to work together. Look, we are not going to do this unless Republicans and Democrats work together.

Here is a quick snapshot of the bleak future of Social Security. We have a short-term surplus coming in for the next 11 or 12 years on Social Security. After that we reach into somebody else's pocket to come up with the funds. The estimate from the actuaries is \$120 trillion that we are going to be short in terms of our commitment to Social Security over and above what is coming in in taxes.

SHOOTING AT ZOO AND GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Members back and inform