

(1) to ensure that the Medicare and Social Security are preserved and (2) to reduce the public debt. We have a moral obligation to uphold these principles. Not only are they critical to Americans today, but they will greatly impact American generations of tomorrow.

The bill introduced by my friend and colleague from Kentucky would reduce the publicly held debt by an additional \$240 billion in FY01 and would protect all of the Social Security and Medicare surpluses. By using 90% of the projected FY01 surplus, we are making a good-faith, common-sense effort to put an end to all publicly held debt by 2012, keeping with

the promises made when I was first elected in 1994. Instead of spending this money on more unnecessary federal programs in Washington, we are putting a real downpayment on a better future for America. I urge my colleagues to join me this week in voting that future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2000*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last night I was meeting with constituents in North Carolina and unavoidably missed rollcall votes 477 and 478.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 477 and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 478.