

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, we have an historic opportunity to do what is right for America. We have an opportunity to make a real commitment to paying down our \$5.6 trillion public debt by committing 90 percent of our budget surplus to debt reduction.

Republicans are committed to paying down the national debt, to protecting the economy, and the economic prosperity of future generations of Americans.

The Clinton-Gore administration, on the other hand, have other priorities. They want to spend the surplus on more big government programs. Mr. Speaker, I learned in Economics 101 that this is irresponsible to spend money when we are in debt, especially when we have a \$5.6 trillion debt.

So I rise today to urge the administration to put their partisan and irresponsible agenda aside and join with this Republican Congress in committing 90 percent of the surplus to paying down our national debt.

Join with us to do the right thing for all Americans today and for generations to come.

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#### AMERICA SHOULD SUPPORT THE FREE ELECTIONS IN SERBIA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the people of Serbia have spoken. I hope as the hours proceed, and maybe as we have been on the floor, I have not heard the latest update, that democracy will take hold and they will be free.

I met Mr. Milosevic, and actually went and sat in his office and asked him to promote peace. It was 1995, and he said to me, "I will do so." Some few short years later, I find myself in refugee camps in Albania looking at the threatened, intimidated, and frightened refugees that Mr. Milosevic had sent fleeing out of Serbia.

It is time now for him to lay down his leadership of despotism, and he should at least recognize that the people have spoken. It is time now for his nation to be free, to become part of the world community.

I would ask that they will be able to proceed as free citizens under the duly-elected new president. Mr. Milosevic has served his time, and unfortunately, it has not been a leadership of sharing.

I would hope that we would stand up and support the new and free elections of the people of Serbia, and include in that support the request that Mr. Milosevic, who hopefully will be found and, as well, be able to address the grievances against him, now knows that he no longer serves as president of that Nation.

#### THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BASIC RESEARCH OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to talk a little bit about the work of the Subcommittee on Basic Research, a subcommittee I am honored to chair.

This subcommittee has had a busy and productive 2 years. In the 106th Congress, we have held a total of 25 oversight hearings, field briefings, markups, on a range of important and timely issues.

In addition, we have passed through the House two bills authorizing fire and earthquake programs under this subcommittee's jurisdiction, and oversight for the National Science Foundation, NSF, whose funding we authorize.

I believe the work we do in the subcommittee is truly unique. In our hearings on information technology, than on technology, education research, plant genomics, and biotechnology, for example, we have been able to glimpse the future, and through our oversight and authorization bills I hope we are able to shape that future, as well.

I am proud of our record and the collegiality and bipartisanship on the subcommittee. I look forward to continuing that effort in the next session.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the subcommittee who work behind the scenes to get things done. Stephen Eule, Peter Harsha, Mark Harrington, Sharon Hayes, and Steve Howell have made my job easier. I thank them for their good ideas and hard work.

I also compliment and congratulate our subcommittee ranking member, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and her chief of staff, Jim Wilson.

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#### THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to follow up on the comments made by the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. SMITH, and also related to comments I made a few moments ago about the importance of improving math and science education in this country.

As I mentioned in my previous comments, we are enjoying an immense economic boom at this time, much of which is due to the results of science and technology. In particular, it is due to the research which has been done over the past 50 years.

That is why the work of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is so important, because if we wish to

maintain a good economy, if we wish to have our children have a good economy, we must make the same investment in scientific research today that our parents and grandparents made 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago, and which we are enjoying the fruits of today.

It is extremely important that we continue that research effort to improve the health, the lives, and the freedoms not only in our Nation, but of peoples throughout the entire planet.

I commend the gentleman from Michigan for his work. I hope this Congress will continue to show a willingness to fund scientific research and maintain our leadership among the nations of this planet.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GEJDENSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### WHAT IS BEHIND OPPOSITION TO THE DEMOCRATS' MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year a confidential document prepared for House Republicans somehow found its way into the public realm.

It was not big news at the time, just some talking points prepared by Republican polling firms on the Democrats' Medicare prescription drug plan.

According to their analysis, one way to create opposition to the Democratic plan is to call it a one-size-fits-all plan or a big government plan.

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One cannot blame the public for bristling at those phrases. I do not know