

## Ryan Closing

- For anyone who's listened to this debate for the past few hours, it's clear that *every* Member of this Committee cares deeply about the needs of their constituents back home -- and genuinely wants to do what is right by them.
- Every one of us is concerned about the people who come to our town halls, call our offices, or stop us on the street – to tell us about the difficulties they're having paying their bills, being able to afford health care, or being able to afford sending their kids to college.
- And I know that we're all equally concerned about the young people we meet. We're concerned about whether they'll have good jobs in the future, we're concerned about whether they'll be able to compete with countries like China and India. And we're concerned when they tell us that they really don't think there's going to be any Social Security or Medicare left when it's time for *them* to retire.
- And at the same time, I know we're also concerned about our children. I know I'm very concerned about my three kids back home. I'm concerned about the mountain of debt that we're on track to pile on their shoulders, and I'm concerned about the America that we're going to leave them after every single one of us in this Committee is long gone.
- I know that we *all* care about this, and I know that we want to do what's best for our constituents and our children. And when we look at this budget today, we have to ask ourselves one simple question – are we really doing what's best for them?
- Are we *really* tackling head-on the most pressing challenges our country is facing?
- Are we *really* preparing our country to be competitive in a globalizing world?
- Are we *really* seizing the grand opportunity -- that we have today -- to make things right?

- Or are we just passing a status quo budget? Are we just passing a budget that dresses up the baseline with a couple extra billion dollars in discretionary spending, and a few fancy reserve funds that are nothing more than empty promises to do something in the future – if and when we find the time?
- This budget does nothing about the looming tax tidal wave, and nothing about our entitlements. Is that really all we're capable of producing -- a status quo budget?
- This budget really isn't anything more than we had last year –
  - It just piles on some extra spending -- without offsets, without any effort to cut wasteful spending or set priorities – in short, without any real budgeting.
  - And of course, we also have the dogged insistence to pass the *largest tax in American history* – which will require our constituents, many of which are already struggling to get by, to fork up thousands of dollars more to pay the federal government.
  - Finally, we have nothing, *absolutely nothing*, to address the growth of our largest – and least sustainable -- entitlement programs.
  - We have a willingness to simply add another \$14 trillion in unfunded liability on the shoulders of future generations. Because that's exactly what this budget does by failing to act. This budget allows the unfunded obligations in Medicare and Social Security to go up by another \$14 trillion, or 37%! Just in the 5 year window of this budget.
- Frankly, I'm disappointed. I'm disappointed in this Majority, and I'm disappointed in their producing a status quo budget for a second-year in a row.
- I'm disappointed because *they know better than this*. They've heard from the same witnesses, and heard the same clear warnings as we have. And yet, they *deliberately* chose to do nothing.
- That's not what our constituents expect – and that's certainly not what the Presidential candidates have been promising. The candidates have been promising change.

- And I agree. Let's give the people change. Let's show them that the days of status quo budgets are over. Let's show them that this Congress is willing to step up, be responsible, and tackle the real problems facing this country.
- We have an historic opportunity, *and we know what we have to do.*
- Let's take the opportunity to promote long-term growth in our economy so American can not only compete in the global marketplace – but lead. And let's take the opportunity to find a way to ensure our health and retirement security programs remain sustainable in the future. Finally, let's make sure we don't impose a crushing debt burden on our children, so they can enjoy the same – or higher -- standard of living as we do today.
- So let's start now – and let's start with this budget.
- We know there's a better way. And I hope through continued vigorous debate, we can flesh out some real ideas, and figure out a way to keep America great today – and well into the future.