

PROTECTING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat defenders of the status quo oppose letting families keep more of what they earn. A constituent of mine, Ronald Reagan, called that "economics without a soul."

Families should be rewarded rather than penalized by the tax system. Breadwinners shouldn't have to work harder for the Government than they do for their families.

Let us look at a few facts. If the exemption for children had kept pace with inflation, it would now be worth \$8,000 instead of the current \$2,350. In 1950, the average American family paid \$1 out of every \$50 in taxes. Today, the family pays \$1 out of every \$4 in taxes.

We know that regulation and taxation together are antijobs and antifamily. This Congress has kept its promise to the American people and passed commonsense regulatory reform. Now it is time to recognize that taxation is regulation's evil twin. We need to protect the American dream, and the American family and pass the tax bill. Families know better how to spend their money than the bureaucrats in Washington.

BURDENSOME TAXATION

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, from 1954 until 1995, this body was governed by a party whose basic philosophy was that Government could do everything, provided that enough money was spent.

The consequences of this philosophy have been devastating.

Today, the average family pays over half of its income to taxes at all levels. One cannot logically expect civilization to continue with taxation so burdensome and Government so expensive.

The American people have lost their patience with this situation. They have figured out that there are winners and losers with the current tax system. The winner, of course, is the Federal Government. The losers are American families and senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the tax relief the Republicans promised in our Contract With America. The liberals will offer refrain after refrain of class warfare. But let us not forget whose philosophy and whose stewardship created this mess in Washington.

THERE THEY GO AGAIN

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today the Democratic Study Group released it

second report on the real meaning of the Republicans' so-called contract. The report describes the way the Republican tax bill—the so-called crown jewel of the contract—will result in an enormous giveaway to the wealthy and the biggest corporations of this country, while Republicans give working Americans the back of their hand.

Here is an example of the real meaning of this tax bill. A family with total income under \$75,000 will get an average tax break of about \$36 a month.

On the other hand, for those making over \$200,000 a year, the average tax break will be almost a thousand dollars a month.

Welcome to tax relief, Republican-style: another massive relief program for the wealthy, a pittance for working Americans, while exploding the deficit.

Anybody nostalgic for 1981? The last time they tried this, David Stockman, President Reagan's budget director, later admitted that all of this was "a Trojan horse to bring down the top rate for the wealthy."

There they go again.

WE MUST PUT AN END TO OUT-OF-CONTROL GOVERNMENT AND OUT-OF-CONTROL TAXATION

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, let us resist the temptation of the guardian of the failed policy of the past to come up here and offer faulty rationalizations for class warfare. Let us talk real facts. And, Mr. Speaker, the facts speak for themselves.

In 1950 the average American family paid 2 percent of its income to the Federal Government in taxes. Today, the average American family pays 24½ percent of its income to this Federal Government. Something is wrong with this picture.

For the last generation, this Congress has operated under the false assumption that all money belongs to the Federal Government. If a person has any money, therefore, it is only because he has obtained it from the Government or it is money that has not yet been taxed.

That is absolutely wrong. With the rise in excessive government and excessive taxes have come a true decrease in freedom. Every dollar Government takes away in taxes is a dollar less in economic freedom for American businesses and families.

Last November the American people sent a message to this town. Republicans heard that message. That is why there will be meaningful tax reform for deserving American citizens.

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ANOTHER IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, this week the American people will have the opportunity to see another important difference between Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

Democrats are for higher taxes, and last year, they went along with the Clinton administration and raised taxes on families, on middle-income workers, on senior citizens.

Republicans are for lower taxes, and this week, we will cut the taxes Democrats raised last year.

We will cut taxes on families, on middle-income workers, on senior citizens.

All the Democrats' class warfare and economic warfare rhetoric cannot change the facts: They are for higher taxes; Republicans are for lower taxes.

Democrats want Government to spend more. Republicans want working Americans and their families to have more to spend.

Stay tuned, America; the Republicans are making your voices heard again this week as we pass the final item in our contract, a well-deserved tax cut for American families and a boost for the national economy.

THE TAX FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, over and over, we hear the Democrats wailing that the capital gains tax cut will benefit the rich. Of course, they have obscured the facts again. The capital gains relief in the Tax Fairness Act will go to benefit all income groups. Seventy percent of the taxpayers benefiting from the capital gains cut will have incomes of less than \$50,000. The capital gains tax cut will put money into the economy which will lead to more investment and create more jobs. This will help all hard-working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this is a debate over the role of Government. The Democrats will fight for more government and more spending; we want the people back home to keep more of their hard-earned money. I want that roofing contractor in Martinez, GA to have a \$500 tax credit for each of his children. The Democrats want his \$500 for Federal bureaucrats. It is just that simple.

THE AMERICAN DREAM SAVINGS ACCOUNT

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our low national savings rate is a national disgrace and a dead drag on the productivity of our economy, and anyone who is concerned about this, in my view, should be supporting H.R. 1215, the Republican tax bill.

In it is the American dream savings account, a unique and innovative new use of the IRA concept to stimulate new and additional middle-class savings for retirement. The American dream savings account will be available to all taxpayers regardless of age and marital status, unlike the current law in which the IRA has many restrictions and limitations. The American dream savings account allows distributions to be made tax- and penalty-free for such worthwhile purposes as first-time home purchases, education expenses, and emergency medical expenses, and it gives homemakers full equity with their spouses in setting aside IRA funds toward retirement.

This provision helps make homemakers achieve parity with spouses in the work force.

Please, support H.R. 1215.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let us review the Democrats' reign in power. In 1948 the average family with children paid only 3 cents of every dollar to the Government. Last year that same family lost 24½ cents in taxes.

American families now spend more in taxes than on food, clothing, and housing combined. The average family losses \$10,060 per year of income due to taxes.

Now let us review the Republican plan. Clinton's tax on Social Security benefits for seniors will be repealed; families with incomes of \$25,000 will have their entire Federal income tax liability eliminated; 35 million families will have their taxes decreased.

Which looks better to you, Republican tax relief or the Democrats' 40-year-old failure of high taxes and run-away spending?

Let us stop feeding the Federal beast. Let us go for tax relief.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Hooray for the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball Team, which won the national championship yesterday. In a come-from-behind victory, the Huskies capped a perfect season, finishing the year with 35 wins and zero losses. Just one other

team in women's basketball history has managed to win the national title undefeated.

For the past 5 months, the Huskies have defeated their opponents by an average margin of more than 30 points. Though yesterday's game was a nail-biter to the end, UConn did not let us down. Led by player of the year Rebecca Lobo, Jamelle Elliott, and Jennifer Rizzotti, the Huskies rallied in the second half to overcome a nine point second half deficit. A strong team effort, supported by Kara Wolters, Nykeshia Sales, Carla Berube, and Pam Webber, helped UConn pull ahead and stay ahead within the final minutes of the game.

Women's sports have come a long way since I played basketball and I was pleased to be able to watch the extraordinary skill and grit of the UConn women on national television yesterday. The UConn women's team has raised Husky-mania to a new level in Connecticut, and has also inspired thousands of young women to pursue their athletic dreams.

Once again, congratulations to the UConn Huskies. You have made the entire State of Connecticut proud.

TAX BREAKS FOR BILLIONAIRES

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, last week a bill passed on tax deductions for health benefits for the self-employed. Unfortunately we had a containment; contained within that bill is an exemption to allow billionaires to escape paying their taxes.

Now, I understand they are going to give up their citizenship in order to not pay their taxes. My understanding is the present conference report is being held in the Senate over that language. I certainly hope that is the case.

In the meantime, having succeeded at that, we now find, I understand, that there is a bill circulating in this House to give one of these billionaires who renounced his American citizenship, who owns a foreign cruise ship, a tax exemption, tax deduction, for business meals and entertainment, and that is contained in the bill.

I can assure you, if the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY] says, as he has, that he will fight the minimum wage with every fiber in his body, I can assure this House that I will fight this billionaire who has renounced his American citizenship to have a foreign-flag, foreign-crewed, foreign-owned cruise ship that takes money from Americans and get a tax break on top of it.

You can bet I am going to fight that with every fiber in my body.

ANOTHER CLASS-WARFARE ANGLE

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, well, there was an example of the misleading hyperbole that we have heard for the last several weeks on Republican programs.

My friend from Hawaii talks about a bill that passed last week that protected billionaires and, in fact, the bill never addressed the issue. It never addressed the issue.

The Senate put some language in a bill that would have dealt with punishing people who leave the United States because of confiscatory taxation. The Senate then receded from their position, because the language was too loose, and the House Committee on Ways and Means could not draft language.

Indeed, in the Committee on Rules in discussion of this bill, the issue was raised, and the Democrats dropped the issue and apologized for the misleading information they brought us, because it was not in the bill. It was not in the House-passed bill. It was not in the conference committee report. And, indeed, not a single Democrat on the Committee on Rules voted against the rule that brought the bill to the floor, and now overnight, overnight, they discovered another class-warfare angle and started misleading America about what was in the bill.

The bill was to return the exemption for health care premiums for single farmers, for private property owners that had nothing to do with what the gentleman from Hawaii spoke about.

LISTEN TO THE RHETORIC ON BOTH SIDES

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, as the House considers the tax cut and spending cut bill later this week, I urge the American people to listen to the rhetoric of the two sides.

Republicans believe cutting taxes is a way to give people back their money.

Democrats believe cutting taxes is a way for the Government to give away its money.

Republicans believe that tax cuts spur economic growth and help the American people help themselves.

Democrats believe tax cuts are giveaways to the rich that hurt their big spending programs.

Republicans believe that taxes are evil.

Democrats believe they are necessary.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it. When the Democrats talk about taxes, they really believe the money is the Government's to spend.

When Republicans talk about taxes, they realize that the money belongs to the people who worked hard to earn it, not to the Government.