

it takes in, to pay for a growing bureaucracy—a bureaucracy that includes 160 different job training programs, 240 education programs, 300 economic development programs, and 500 urban aid programs.

A bureaucracy that pays over 1,900 union employees at the Social Security Administration using money from the Social Security trust fund.

How does Washington afford all this? By taking more of the money that you earn. Take Bill Clinton. He wasn't in office 100 days before attempting to raise taxes. By comparison, Republicans spent their first 100 days trying to cut taxes. After all, it is your money.

Three years ago, against unanimous Republican opposition, Bill Clinton, forgot that it was your money, and imposed the largest tax hike in American history.

I want to know—what is so wrong about asking Washington to live within its means?

What is so wrong about demanding that Washington not spend extravagantly at the expense of our children? Is it fair to punish working families who are trying to save for the future?

It's time to end the tax trap and give the American family some well-deserved tax relief.

But, I don't want to stop there. Our entire tax system needs an overhaul. The current system is economically destructive, impossibly complex, overly intrusive, unprincipled, dishonest, unfair, and inefficient.

We need to look toward the future and develop a tax system that will make that future a success. And I don't care if it is a flat tax, a sales tax, a round tax, or a square tax—I just want it to be based on the principles of freedom. That is, it must be fair and simple, reduce bureaucracy, encourage savings and investment, be efficient, drive the economy, create opportunity for all, and put more money in your pocket.

Americans don't want, don't need, and don't deserve an intrusive IRS any longer.

America was made great because we, as a Nation, strived hard, sacrificed often and worked together to be the best.

And we will continue to be a great Nation if we embrace a vision that will abandon the failed systems of the past and be led by the opportunities of the future.

With this vision we can enact policies that encourage economic growth, raise wages, promote savings, and return hope and optimism to every American.

Unending dreams and limitless possibilities—that's what the American dream is all about. It's up to us to take it back. It is our destiny.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WALKER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REPUBLICANS GOAL IS TO END THE TAX TRAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I represent probably the most diverse district in the State of Illinois. I represent part of the city of Chicago and the south suburbs, industrial communities like Joliet, and Rockdale and La Salle, Peru, and many bedroom communities and farm towns, too.

As I travel throughout my district, I look for things that are always in common, even though my district is so very diverse, and one thing that I have always noticed is that there is hardly a day that goes by that a young working mother or working father does not come up to tell me how difficult their life is right now and how concerned and fearful they are for their future.

They ask questions about why so many families are struggling to keep their heads above water. Why is it that Americans are working harder and working longer yet they have less to show for it? Why is it that more people have to hold two jobs just to make ends meet?

The answer can be summarized in three words, the tax trap. It is simple to explain. The harder you work, the more taxes you have to pay. The more taxes you have to pay, the longer and harder you have to work. And you end up working harder and longer and Washington ends up with more, but you end up with less.

Today, almost half of what you earn goes to Washington and the government in one form or another. Half. And the tax trap is particularly difficult on working women who are trying to balance a career and family obligations

just to pay all the additional taxes. Every year you send more of your hard-earned income to support a Washington bureaucracy that is growing and that leaves less for you and for your family.

Did you ever wonder why Bill Clinton and his liberal friends are asking you to sacrifice a little more so Washington can spend a little more? Should we not demand that Washington spend less so that you can keep more? After all, it is your money.

Against unanimous Republican opposition, Bill Clinton imposed the largest tax hike in American history, \$264 billion, to be exact. Yet he still expects Americans, after that, to save more and to give more. But we know it just cannot happen that way.

Let me state this clearly. The cost of Bill Clinton's tax policies to the typical Illinois family in higher taxes and lower earnings is \$2,600. And all of us have felt that tax crunch. That is why we have so many people in this country who are so afraid of the future.

And in many ways I share that fear, because when I think of this, I think of parents with children in high school who have the dream of sending their children off to college, but they fear they cannot afford the interest on the student loan.

Then I think of the newly married couple who wants to buy their piece of the American dream, their own home, but they are afraid they cannot afford to because mortgage rates are becoming higher and higher.

I think of American seniors, people like my own mom and dad, who are depending on Medicare but are afraid it will not be there in just a few years when they will really need it.

These are real people with real concerns and real fears, and for them I ask, what is so wrong about asking Washington to live within its means? What is so wrong about demanding that Washington not spend extravagantly at the expense of our Nation's children? Is it fair to punish working families who are trying to save for their future?

The Washington liberals and the bureaucrats will tell you to just work a little harder for Washington. Well, maybe the Washington bureaucrats need to work a little harder. I say it is time that you stop working for Washington and start working for yourselves. It is time to end the tax trap and give the American family some well-deserved tax relief. It is time to return your power and your money and your influence to where it belongs, with you, the citizen and the taxpayer.

As Americans, we cannot settle for less. As Americans, we cannot accept second best. As Americans, we cannot lower our expectations. This could be the greatest economy in the world, but we will only restore that greatness if we enact policies that encourage economic growth, raise wages, encourage savings, and return hope and optimism to the work force.