

President Clinton's man in Haiti is systematically destroying democracy there. Unfortunately, this comes at the expense of the American taxpayer. Members will remember that \$3 billion of democracy building we just provided? What, we have to ask, is the White House going to do about their man in Haiti? Is the Clinton White House backing democracy in Haiti, or is it backing another darling of the left strong man? Is this Papa Doc all over again? We need an answer.

THE REPUBLICANS ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH REAL PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are desperately out of touch with real people in this country. First, they try to hold up disaster relief to flood victims. Then they say that people trying to move from welfare to work are not entitled to the minimum wage or basic workplace protections.

Now the Republicans are trying to push through a tax bill that gives huge tax breaks to millionaires and provides almost no relief to the people who need it the most, middle-income and working families. The bulk of their tax cut will go to those families making over \$237,000 a year. That is wrong.

What message are the Republicans sending to hardworking Americans? They want to give a \$10,000 tax deduction to upper-income families who can already afford to send their kids to college. Yet they propose a \$500-per-child tax credit that penalizes working mothers with children in child care.

Mr. Speaker, right now parents are forced to take two and three jobs just to feed their families. These are the people who need tax relief. Instead, the Republicans have loaded this tax bill down with gifts to their wealthy friends. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker. It is wrong, and we will not allow it.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR: PASS TAX CUTS AS PART OF A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, politics is all about choices. One of the biggest choices facing lawmakers is the direction of the U.S. economy. We can go down the path of higher taxation, more welfare benefits, and more regulation. This is known as the European path. It is also the path chosen by liberal Democrats.

The European path is a lot of fun for politicians. They can play Santa Claus, but it is not so much fun for the people. Just ask the people out of work in Germany or France, where the unem-

ployment rate is twice the jobless rate here in the United States.

The other path is a path in just the opposite direction: lower taxes, less regulation, welfare reform. That is the direction we want for the U.S. economy. That is the direction we want for Americans looking for a job, Americans looking for a better job, Americans looking for higher-paying jobs.

This is the time to choose directions. This time the choice is clear. We must pass the tax cuts as part of a balanced budget. Choices, Mr. Speaker, that is what politics is all about.

THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE: TARGETED TAX BREAKS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS, NOT TO THE VERY WEALTHY

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to call for tax fairness, a simple proposition. Democrats have supported balanced budgets and Democrats support reasonable tax cuts, but not tax breaks exclusively for the wealthy.

The American public needs to know that under the Republican approach to tax cuts, the top 35 percent, people making over \$247,000 a year, will get two-thirds of the benefit. There is a Democratic alternative. We take a more Robin Hood approach to tax cuts. We suggest that two-thirds of the tax benefits ought to go to the middle class, people who make \$40,000 and \$50,000, people who make \$20,000 and \$30,000.

So the proposition is really very simple. It is not a question of whether we want tax cuts. We want tax cuts. What we want are fair tax cuts that benefit most of the Americans in this country. That is the Democratic alternative: Targeted tax breaks to the middle class, not to the very wealthy.

A HISTORIC TAX CUT FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I join the ranks of Republicans who are proud to tell our constituents that this Congress is giving them the first tax cuts they have had in over 16 years. I agree with those who call this budget historic, but it is historic for a lot more than just the \$85 billion that we will be returning to the pockets of working families over the next 5 years. History is going to show that 1997 marked the year when American leaders began to redefine what is and is not income.

Through these tax cuts we have taken the first step in announcing to the American people that income is not the money they carefully saved through their lives and left for their

children and their grandchildren. Income is not the assets of their family businesses they built with pride and nurtured over the years and just happened to be there when they died. Income is not the increased valuations of their homes.

I believe these tax cuts are the first step toward a simplified tax system that fairly and honestly taxes income, and a move away from a system that punishes savings and investing in our children, in our future, as our current system does.

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON RACE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I traveled with President Clinton to San Diego, CA. There the President announced his initiative on race: One America in the 21st century.

The President has appointed a commission of highly respected Americans to examine this issue and call for a year-long dialog to take place across our Nation. In the address, the President stated, "We must be one American community, based on respect for one another and our shared values."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. There is no issue more important to the future of our country than building the bridge of trust and understanding between people of all religions, all nationalities, and all colors.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend President Clinton for launching this bold initiative. Not since Lyndon Johnson has a President so directly and sincerely addressed the important issue of race. There are those who have criticized the President's initiative, who would use any opportunity to attack the President. I hope and pray that the President's critics will cease their attacks. This issue is too important to the future of our Nation to be exploited for political gain.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your inspiring words this weekend, and for beginning the process of healing and bringing our Nation together.

LET US PASS THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT AS PART OF THE BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, the more Government taxes, the more it discourages people from doing productive work. The more Government taxes, the more it discourages business from increasing output and creating jobs. The more Government taxes, the more it discourages people from saving and investing. The more Government taxes, the harder it is for families to make ends meet, the harder it is for