

contortions this morning to try to explain it otherwise.

As the New York Times said yesterday, the study shows that the proposal would benefit the wealthy. Five million of America's wealthiest families would get most of the benefit, and 40 million working families would lose money at the end of the year or get little or no benefit.

These are families who wake up and go to work every morning and try to provide for their family and pay taxes. But under the Republican plan, they would not be entitled to share in the tax cut, they would not be entitled to share in the benefits of the struggle to balance the budget in this country.

Instead, what the Republican plan would do and what every study shows, it would take most of the money and give it to families who are earning over \$250,000 a year, who would get \$27,000 in benefits. In fact, they would get more benefits than the salary of the 40 million families at the lower end.

TAXPAYERS OF AMERICA WANT TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, most Americans do not feel that they are getting good value for their tax dollar. If people felt that the Government used their tax dollar wisely, to benefit those that truly need the help, they would not resent paying their share of the taxes.

But when the Government takes more and more of our money each year and all we get in return are more failed programs, more Government waste, and more money that goes straight into the pockets of special interests, that is when the taxpayer feels cheated.

The liberals have forgotten that the average working family spends more on taxes than the same average working family spends on clothing, housing, and food combined. The taxpayers want to be sure that their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent wisely and that they are helping their fellow citizens, who truly need the help.

Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers of America deserve tax relief. It is time to give the taxpayers tax relief.

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FICA TAXPAYERS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about Jerry Seinfeld and George Kastanza and those people who do not pay taxes. The Republicans believe if you do not pay income taxes, you do not pay taxes. I ask 50 percent of the working Americans, hard-working

Americans who only pay FICA, 7 percent off the top gross, "Do you pay taxes?"

Mr. Speaker, I have three daughters, two of whom are in that category. They pay taxes. That is what the President is talking about. That is what Democrats are talking about. Yes, they ought to be included in tax relief, because those hard-working Americans are earning just enough to stay above water, and they need help; not the folks who are making \$75,000, \$150,000, \$275,000 and \$500,000. But in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, watch out. Watch out. Because what this tax bill does is it starts to really hit in the seventh year in terms of undermining our ability to get the deficit under control. In the second 10 years, it explodes in terms of tax benefits for the wealthiest in America and the deficit will be paid by the poorest working Americans in America.

AMERICA NEEDS TAX RELIEF TO REMAIN LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, few issues are more closely linked to the idea of freedom than the issue of taxation. If America is to remain the land of opportunity, it can only be so if the people are free, free from a government that stands in the way of Americans pursuing their dreams. My family came to Kansas as immigrants in 1893. They arrived virtually penniless. But they knew that through hard work, the sky was the limit. They followed the Kansas motto, "Ad astra per aspera," to the stars through difficulty. Like others, they came to America to escape limits on their freedoms, whether religious, economic, or political, and they came to pursue their dreams.

But when a government takes more and more of the fruits of our labor, it becomes more and more difficult to pursue our dreams. The Government's power to tax Americans, to take away from our dreams, has grown too great. It is time to cut back on the Government's power. It is time to bring back the idea that America is the land of opportunity.

TAX CUTS FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the debate here is rather simple. The question is, as the elected representatives of the people of this country, is it our responsibility to make it easier for those who are walking into the showrooms where they sell Mercedes or people who are trying to buy a Ford Escort and send their kids to school?

If we listen to our friends in the majority party, the Republicans, they be-

lieve that we were sent here to cut taxes for the top 1 percent by tens of thousands of dollars. The estimates are in news reports that the top 1 percent will get a \$27,000 tax cut while the bottom 20 percent will actually lose money on the proposal that came out of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, this country is the most productive, wealthiest country in the world because we have provided opportunity at all levels of our economy, not just continuously shifting the burden to the poorest working people in America. Tax cuts and making it easier for middle-class and working people are what this Congress ought to be about.

REJECT MFN FOR CHINA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject most-favored-nation trade status for China. An increasing volume of evidence signals that this policy of engagement has failed to create democratic changes in China, nor has it helped our own national interest.

While we blindly extend MFN to China, that Communist regime continues its aggressive foreign policy. China challenges all measures of civilized international behavior. It has sold chemical weapons and missiles to terrorist nations. Domestically, the Communist regime that rules China continues to treat its citizens with ruthless brutality. Any type of religious events are brutally brought down by the regime. Catholic priests have been murdered; women are forced to have abortions.

Even President Clinton admits that the human rights situation has not improved despite assurances that engagement will improve the lives of the Chinese.

While China reaps the benefits from trade with the United States, we have a \$40 billion trade deficit with Communist China with no evidence that it will decrease in the near future. Both Democrat and Republican administrations continue to stubbornly praise a one-way engagement by the United States. The United States can do much better.

COMPETING TAX CUT PROPOSALS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic tax cut program says to families who work and who pay taxes, "Yes, you are entitled to a tax cut, to a child tax cut." That is what we will provide for you. The Republican tax proposal says to the richest corporations of this country, "We will lower your tax obligation and in fact many of you will have a zero tax obligation."