DETROIT NEWSPAPER STRIKE

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to take a few moments to pay tribute to some of the bravest and the strongest people that I know, those 2,000 men and women who are taking on two of the largest and the wealthiest and the most powerful corporations in our country, those 2,000 men and women who are standing strong in Detroit against Gannett and Knight-Ridder, those 2,000 men and women who have put their lives on hold for two years, been challenged economically, physically, emotionally, but are fighting for fairness and for justice and for what they believe in.

They are people like Kate DeSmet and Sandra Davis, they are people like Frank Brabanec and Stephen Olter, Mark Naumoff and Ben Solomon. They are the people that I met with last weekend when we held a rally and a march and did a civil action against those who would deny the over 2,000 men and women in Detroit their jobs at these newspapers.

We had over 120,000 people attend a rally in support of these brave men and women. Last Saturday morning I heard Frank Brabanec tell of being struck in the head, beaten, drug across the pavement. I saw hundreds of people holding picket signs with a picture of him being kicked. I heard Stephen Olter tell of being struck with a baton and a metal nut launched from a sling shot. I heard Mark Naumoff tell of being pinned under a gate when a truck knocked off its hinges and knocked it into a peaceful picket. I heard of Ben Solomon being handcuffed and then having pepper sprayed in his eyes.

These are the stories of the voices of the Detroit Newspaper lockout. They are the struggles that these men and women go through nearly every day as they fight for what is right. They are the same struggles our parents and our grandparents fought for, bled for, and sometimes died for. But they are the struggles that brought us a decent wage, that brought us pensions and health benefits, that brought us the weekend, that brought us safe working standards, that brought us overtime pay, that brought us all the things that help make the middle class in our country today and make our country as productive and as wealthy as it is.

They are the struggles that have raised the standards of living for every single American citizen, whether they belong to a union or not. We owe them a thank you. We owe them a thank you, not a kick in the side, as they were given in their efforts to bring justice to the workplace.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, I say thank you to Frank and Stephen and to Mark and Ben, and to everyone who has fought for the dignity of American workers. I also stand with you. This is a struggle for human rights, for fairness and for justice; it is a struggle worth fighting for, and I can tell these workers, and I can tell 120,000 people who came from all over the country last weekend. In fact, we had people come from Europe to stand with our brothers and sisters, that we will win this struggle, because the News and the Free Press, the two papers in Detroit owned by Gannett and Knight-Ridder are wrong, they are disobeying the law, they are guilty, they are guilty of disrespect for the law by keeping these workers out.

A judge just last week ruled that they conducted themselves with unfair labor practices. They need to return these people to work so they can provide for their families. And we will be talking about this issue as we talked about the issue of the workers, the strawberry workers in California who are struggling to be able to be recognized with a decent wage and decent benefits. We will be talking about workers struggling in the poultry facilities in the Carolinas or the textile mills in the South or the steel workers at Pittston or the Caterpillar workers who have been struggling for years. These are American workers who deserve the respect of their government, of the corporate leaders in this country, and certainly their citizens.

So again, I thank those at the Detroit News, those who are fighting the News and the Free Press for justice and fairness for the American worker.

TAXPAYERS RELIEF ACT OF 1997

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that tomorrow, part 2 of the budget agreement, the historic agreement that has enabled us today to have a great victory for the American people by saving money, by reforming entitlements, by saving Medicare, that that agreement goes into phase 2 tomorrow with a very, very important Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997.

I want to take just a moment to remind my colleagues of the human side of the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997. This is a bill which will provide more money for working taxpaying families with children; it will provide more money for folks who are going on to college and vocational and technical school; it will provide more money for families who have family farms or family ranches or family businesses and have the head of the family die and would potentially even lose that business to the IRS; and it provides for more resources to go to savings and investment and job creation, which is very vital if our welfare-to-work reform is going to succeed, because if we are going to ask people to leave welfare to go to work, we have to have enough economic growth, enough new jobs, in order to have the work for people to leave welfare to go to.

So the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997 is very, very important. Let me put it in personal language. My sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Ray Heddleson out in Leetonia, Ohio have two young boys, Jon and Mark. Jon has graduated from high school, is about to go to college; Mark has one more year in high school. They know that the educational tax components of this is going to help them pay for the cost of those two boys being in school, and they know that when both of those boys are in school, that that is a lot of money for a working, middle class family.

My sister Robin and her husband David have two young girls, my nieces, Emily and Susan. They are not at that age yet, and they know that that $500 per child tax credit, $1,000 a year in extra take-home pay for their family means a lot and is going to enable them to do things, whether those things are saving for education, doing something with health care, doing something with the family; frankly, maybe just having fun and bonding closer together because they go on a vacation. I do not think we in Washington should define for parents what they think their priorities are for their children. This $500 per child tax credit creates the opportunity for those young folks to have a chance to have a better life.

My brother Randy and his wife Jill have two children, my niece Lauren and my nephew, Kevin. Again, they are not of the college-going age yet, but when they think about savings for college with the tax advantages of this bill, when they think about that extra $1,000 per year in take-home pay, having two children, when they think about the chance for when they go to college or vocational-technical school to have that extra tax credit, they know that we are going to help their family have a better future with this bill.

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My oldest daughter, Kathy, owns a little company called the Carolina Coffee Company down in Greensboro, North Carolina. She actually lives in the district of the gentleman from North Carolina, [Mr. HOWARD COBLE]. She knows, as a small business woman, that this bill is going to make it better for her employees, because they are going to have more take-home pay.

This bill is going to make it better in that college town, because there is going to be more help for people who go on to college and vo-tech school. And this bill has relief in it that helps small businesses.

She is also looking forward to the work that the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. ROB PORTMAN], has done on the commission to simplify and reform the IRS, because she knows if we will simplify taxes and simplify paperwork, we are going to have a dramatically better

future for small business in this country. She knows that it is small businesses that create the jobs, that create a better future.

We all believe that it is very important to encourage people to save, to invest, to create jobs, because we know that if we are going to enter the 21st century and compete in the world market, if our children are going to compete with China and Japan and Korea, with Germany and France and Italy, with Brazil and Mexico, we need to have the best equipment and the best factories with the best jobs.

So this bill provides for the kind of incentives to save and invest and create jobs, called capital gains, because it cuts the tax on those who are willing to take the risk to create jobs, and that is very important to every citizen who wants a job, and it is very important to all of us who want our children to have the best jobs in the world.

Finally, this bill helps families that might have worked all their lives, who might have a family farm or a family ranch, who might have a small business they have created and worked on. We do not believe it is right for someone to have to visit the undertaker and the Internal Revenue Service the same week. We think that is just wrong.

We do not think it is right for someone to be in a position where they have worked all their life, they love their children and grandchildren, they have saved all their lives, and now the government is going to punish them when they die by taking away 55 percent of everything they save. We just think that is wrong.

So this bill begins to reduce the burden of the death tax, it begins to help small businesses and family farms so families can pass on to their children and their grandchildren their life's work.

So on balance, whether you are a young person with children who are young, and you are going to get that extra $500 per child. Remember, for a family with 3 children that is $1,500 in take-home pay more this coming cycle. So that year after year, let us say you have a child born, as our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas [DICK ARMEY], had a grandson born last week, Chris faces the prospect that over the next 16 or 17 years his parents are going to have $8,000 or $8,500 more before he gets of an age to go on to college or a technical school, and that is, we think, good for America; better for the family, better for the parents, better for the children, better for job creation, better in creating the work so people can leave welfare and go to work.

That is why we believe the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997 is the right thing to do.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE FOR THE INDEPENDENCE DAY DISTRICT WORK PERIOD

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105–154) on the resolution (H. Res. 176) providing for consideration of a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL BENEFITS SPECIAL INTERESTS AND THE WEALTHIEST AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIAHRT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, if the 1996 elections told this Congress anything, it was to work together in a bipartisan fashion. In my district in California and throughout the Nation Americans told us to put aside differences and provide a tax cut that makes sense.

Unfortunately, the Republicans who crafted their tax bill turned a deaf ear to the American people, to the President, and certainly to those of us on this side of the aisle. Instead, they chose to listen to the special interests that had inordinate influence in the way the campaigns were conducted.

Just look at their tax bill. The American people want education tax credits to make college affordable. Instead, what do they get? Not much for education, but large cuts in the capital gains tax for the wealthiest Americans, not just the farmers and small business people who build a business and deserve to sell it for retirement.

Americans want affordable child care, but what do they get instead? A bill that denies the $500 per child tax credit to 15 million families who work hard to make ends meet. Americans want the middle class to get tax relief and corporations to pay their fair share. But what do they get instead, in this bill? A proposal to wipe out the alternative minimum tax, which would allow the largest corporations in America to not pay a dime in taxes.

Remember, this debate is not about whether we should cut taxes, it is about who gets the benefits. When we act tomorrow on a tax bill, we will make a clear distinction between the two parties as to where our attention is focused. Who gets the benefits? On that there is a clear difference. The Democratic bill helps working families. The Republican bill, I regret, caters to the wealthy and the special interests.

Mr. Speaker, even by Washington standards there is some extraordinarily creative accounting going on by Republicans as they try to cook the numbers to show who benefits from their tax cut proposal. Now for the first time, truly independent comparisons of the Republican and Democratic tax plans are in. Here is what the U.S. News and World Report had to say when they conducted an independent comparison of the Republican and Democratic tax plans.

Calling the Republican calculations ''ridiculous,'' it pointed out that the Republican tax plan is so tilted to the rich that Steve Forbes will face a lower tax rate than his house servant. ''The GOP's tactical aim here,'' the magazine says, ''is to put middle class voters against the 'undeserving poor.' Well, there is, it seems, a dime's worth of difference between the political parties after all,'' concludes the U.S. news and World Report.

For middle class working families, it is much more than a dime, it is the thousands of dollars in their pockets. The Democratic tax cut plan is the one that makes sense for America. It is fair, it promotes opportunity, and it rewards working families.

When we look back at the history of the last 15 years and we see the stagnant wages that have affected people who make from $25,000 to $50,000 to $75,000 a year, and we have limited options in a restrained budget deal, we have to make sure that we focus the relief on the people who need it most. Many of these people are not part of the stock market boom. They are not in position to share in the growth of this economy. They need to be considered first and foremost when we try to sort out our priorities in dealing with this tax bill.

Most economic analysts have indicated without political bias that fully 50 percent of the funds made available in the Republican tax proposal will go to the 5 percent at the very top of the income ladder. That does not seem to me to be in a fair and even an objective sense the right thing to do with limited resources available.

We have, I think, reached the point where the two parties will put away the myth that some have perpetuated that there is not a dime's worth of difference between us. Tomorrow we will vote on a Democratic alternative and then on a Republican bill. I think Members will find that there is a difference, and that the Democrats, in supporting their reform proposal, are standing up for the people who need us the most, who do not have the resources to take the vacations and to pay for the high cost of private educations, the people who simply want to get their kids a higher education, and who want a little bit of time, maybe on a long weekend, to make the long work week pay.

I certainly hope we will make the decision tomorrow that will be in their interests, and show once again, there is a dime's worth of difference, maybe thousands worth of difference between the two parties.