

taking lessons from Mike Tyson. I say that because Uncle Sam's tax bite is too big and the American family is suffering.

Just take a look at this chart. The tax bite has progressively evolved into the Mike Tyson tax. Back in 1950 when my parents were starting out and trying to live the American dream, the tax bite was only 6 percent of their budget. Did you hear that, Mr. Speaker? Six percent of the family budget was sent to Washington, DC.

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Well, trying to live the American dream has gotten a little bit harder over the years. The family budget has been turned on its ear. The tax bite today, which can only be called the Mike Tyson tax bite, is now 23 percent of the family budget. The Government has only, it is 23 percent, the Government has earmarked 23 percent of the family budget for Washington bureaucrats.

Let us throw the IRS out of the ring and declare victory for the American family. Let us give the American dream a fighting chance.

#### A TAX BILL THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Democrats want tax cuts and tax relief for working taxpaying families. However Republicans in the Congress have passed tax bills that shortchange working families and instead shower tax breaks to the very wealthy.

A new Treasury Department analysis revealed that the Republican bill is light on relief for working families and heavy on tax breaks for the rich. According to the Treasury analysis, only a third of the tax breaks, only a third, go to the middle 60 percent of all families. Who is that? Families making between \$17,000 and \$93,000 a year.

By stark contrast, the Democratic alternative offers those same families 66 percent of all of the tax cut relief, and those are the working families in this country we want to help.

Republicans also skimp on the tax breaks for college students in their budget. Their bill only gives half of the \$1,500 college tuition credit for the first 2 years, does virtually nothing for juniors and seniors.

Mr. Speaker, that is why Democrats continue to fight for working families. We are going to ensure a tax bill that meets the needs of working families in this country.

#### UNION SUMMER VIOLATES FEDERAL WAGE AND HOUR LAWS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Last year Mr. Speaker, the AFL-CIO offered approxi-

mately 1,000 3-week summer internship jobs to college students, who received a weekly stipend of \$210 for their work. They called it the union summer. From press accounts it appeared that some of the students worked an average of 76 hours per week for an hourly rate of \$2.76 per hour. This arrangement, if true, is a violation of the Federal wage and hour laws.

In October 1996, I requested the Department of Labor to investigate these alleged violations. The Department of Labor said they are looking into the matter, but after numerous letters and telephone calls over the last 8 months, the Department refuses to provide me with specific information about the case.

A new union summer program is under way right now in 1997, with thousands of college students participating around the country. The Department of Labor should do everything in its power to ensure that appropriate Federal wage and hour laws are fully enforced, regardless of the identity of the employer.

I am continuing to press the Department of Labor to promptly report on its investigation because I fear that similar transgressions, if left unchecked, could occur again with this union summer program this summer.

#### THE GIFT OF LIFE

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, 2 years and 2 months ago today, I was told that I had 2 months to live. Fortunately on July 10, 1995, 2 years ago today, I underwent a successful liver transplant that saved my life. I was extremely lucky and fortunate that someone out there thought enough to give me the gift of life and donated their organs.

I have spoken on the floor many times, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of organ donation, but often people just do not think about organ donation until they are faced with a friend or a loved one that desperately needs a transplant, and I am no exception.

Mr. Speaker, today in the United States there are over 50,000 people waiting for an organ. Eight people a day will die because there just are not enough organs to go around, and that is why it is so critical that people are educated and made aware of the importance of organ donations and the second chance that it gives thousands of people every year.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago I received the gift of life, so please talk to the family, the loved ones, and give someone else the miracle, the gift of life, and become an organ donor.

#### AMERICAN TAXPAYERS FORCED TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTING NUCLEAR WASTE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a new scheme is emerging. Under H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, American taxpayers will be forced to pay for the transportation of nuclear waste across this country. At a time when we are trying to reduce the burden on taxpayers, now they will be forced to pay huge sums for the construction of an expensive interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain, NV. And, Mr. Speaker, taxpayers will also be liable for the cost of cleanup of any accident that occurs during transportation, not the nuclear power industry.

A DOE contractor report concluded that if an accident were to occur in a rural area during transportation cleanup, costs to the taxpayers could range between \$176 million to \$19.4 billion. A cleanup in an urban area would cost considerably more, perhaps \$9.5 billion just to raise and rebuild the most contaminated square mile.

This is a pivotal time in Congress when we are trying to balance the budget and give tax breaks to hard-working Americans. Why then would we want than to shoulder the burdens of H.R. 1270?

#### SUPPORT EDUCATION AND MIDDLE-CLASS TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on my colleagues in this House and the negotiators on the tax bill to put support for educational opportunities and tax relief for middle-class families at the top of their priority list. As a former two-term State school chief, I know firsthand how important education is to our children's futures.

In this modern economy, high school diplomas are no longer enough to ensure workers can achieve economic success. We must support opportunities for lifelong learning. Education is a journey, not a destination.

Unfortunately, according to the Education Department, the Republicans' tax bill would shortchange 186,000 North Carolina students out of relief from educational expenses. In addition, the tax bill the House passed would actually raise taxes on some college students and penalize retired teachers, and that is absolutely wrong.

Today, college students from across this country are rallying here at the Capitol to protest tax policies that shortchange them. We must heed their call and pass meaningful tax relief for education.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to support educational opportunity for all of our children and meaningful tax relief to middle-class families.

#### A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1