

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY OF PIONEERS INTO THE STATE OF UTAH

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

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of today's 150th anniversary of the entry of the pioneers into Utah. The pioneer exodus was an event of monumental proportions. Seeking a land of opportunity and freedom, over 80,000 Mormon pioneers made the trek west in wagons, on horses, and on foot, covering the rugged trail from the shores of the Mississippi to the valley of the Great Salt Lake. It was blistering hot in the summer and deathly cold in the winter. Obstacles included disease, fatigue, hunger, and hostile natives.

My great grandfather, George Q. Cannon, was among those pioneers. At the age of 17, he lost both parents along the trail. Yet young George trekked on. He went on to become a Utah leader, fighting for statehood while serving in this very body as a territorial representative.

Today I honor my ancestor and his fellow pioneers for having the courage, fortitude, and the faith in every footstep to push on despite the obstacles, creating a legacy of faith and freedom.

TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES WHO TRULY NEED IT

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce to all of my colleagues the Boyer family of Ste. Genevieve, MO, in my district. No strangers to hard work and sacrifice, the Boyers are struggling to provide their children with a quality education.

Cecil is a janitor in the County Sheriff's Department; Mary, a biology and algebra teacher for the past 23 years at Valle Catholic High School, has started working a second job as an attendant at a local gas station.

Now not only are the Boyers taking out student loans, but their daughter, Cathy, a junior at Central Missouri State and their son, Kevin, a Jefferson Community College student are also working part-time jobs. Combined, the Boyer family, four people working five jobs, make about \$50,000 a year, middle class by anybody's definition of the word.

Under the Democratic tax plan, the Boyers would receive a \$1,584 tax cut; under the Republican vision of tax relief the Boyers would receive only \$528 in tax cuts.

Republicans have taken weeks to reach agreement on a unified tax cut

proposal, but for most middle-income families like the Boyers it was not worth waiting for.

We hope the President can persuade Republicans to move toward the Democratic tax cut and direct relief into the pockets of the families who truly need it.

MOVING TOWARD THE GOAL OF LESS GOVERNMENT AND MORE FREEDOM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to review some recent history. It is a matter of record that the American people have not had a tax cut in 16 years. It is also a matter of record that the Federal budget has not been balanced in 28 years. It is a matter of record that we have never had Medicare reform.

Mr. Speaker, the 105th Congress is about to change all of that. This Congress is on the verge of passing the first tax cut in 16 years. This Congress is about to achieve the first balanced budget since 1969. This Congress is about to enact the first major reform in the Medicare Program in history.

While I do not believe the tax cuts go far enough and the budget will not be balanced soon enough, I do believe that we are moving toward the goal of less government and more freedom for the citizens of this Nation. The American people whom we serve deserve this.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR PROVISION IS BAD FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the independent contractor provision is a potential disaster for the working people of our country. What would it do if adopted?

It would take away health care and pension benefits from millions of employees.

It would punish socially responsible employers and reward companies which refuse to invest in their workers.

It would mean an instant tax increase for workers who would pay twice as much in Medicare and Social Security taxes.

It would deny workers their legal protections against sex, race, age, and disability discrimination.

It would lead to the misclassification of millions of employees, and this would cost the U.S. Treasury billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the independent contractor clause is bad for employees, bad for legitimate businesses, and bad for the future of our economy. Twelve Republicans wrote to the Speaker of the House citing their serious reservations

about this clause. Seventy-nine Democrats wrote to the President asking him to delete this provision.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to America's workers and eliminate this provision from the final budget bill.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO EMPOWER FAMILIES BY TAKING AWAY SPENDING DECISIONS OF IRS AND PUTTING THEM BACK WHERE THEY BELONG

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, every morning in America, working families get up, send someone to work, sometimes two parents to work; they earn a paycheck, and they are required by law to send a big chunk of it back to the IRS in Washington, DC, so bureaucrats can make spending decisions for their families.

The Republicans in this Congress have proposed empowering families by taking those spending decisions away from the IRS and putting them back where they belong.

Our friends on the left do not agree with that proposal. They want to stop this tax cut, and the only way they can do it is to find some reason to be against it, and the argument we hear day after day is that it is a tax cut for the rich.

We should ask ourselves who they mean by the rich. They mean people earning \$50,000 a year, like the family that the distinguished gentleman from Missouri [Mr. GEPHARDT] showed us. If someone owns a TV set and can listen to this debate, they are probably the rich they are talking about.

AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES DESERVE TAX RELIEF, NOT A TIME BOMB

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the \$50,000 argument my friend makes; it is not \$50,000. Sixty percent of their bill, their tax bill, goes to people who make \$250,000 a year or more. This tax plan is a time bomb. It reminds me of those crazy TV furniture commercials that we see on TV: No money down, no interest, no payment until 1999.

Mr. Speaker, who is going to get stuck with the bill taking care of these people making a quarter of a million a year that are going to get 60 percent of this bill? It is going to be America's working families.

Under this bill, a young police officer supporting a family makes \$23,000 a year, puts his life on the line every day. He would not get a single dollar in child tax credit, not a single dollar. But when the deficit starts to soar again, he is going to foot the bill for those millionaires and those wealthy people.