

income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1,400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Everyday we got closer to April 15th more married couples will be realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of a down payment on a house or a car, one years tuition at a local community college, or several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH and I have authored the Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

It would allow married couples a choice in filing their income taxes, either jointly or as individuals—which ever way lets them keep more of their own money.

Our bill already has the bipartisan cosponsorship of 232 Members of the House and a similar bill in the Senate also enjoys widespread support.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, quote "the era of big government is over."

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government. But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business. And what better way better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentleman, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math. It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it. What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority. Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Lets eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

WHICH IS BETTER?

The President's Proposal to expand the child care tax credit will pay for only 2 to 3 weeks of child care. The *Weller-McIntosh Marriage Tax Elimination Act HR 2456*, will allow married couples to pay for 3 months of child care.

Which Is Better, 3 Weeks Or 3 Months?

CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
Marriage Tax Elimination Act	\$1,400	\$127	11

CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT—Continued

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
President's child care tax credit	358	127	2.8

□ 1330

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRAGEDY IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to describe to my colleagues a tragedy which occurred in my congressional district of Florida. On the afternoon of November 7, 1997, in Sarasota, Florida, a 13-year-old girl returned home to discover the body of her mother, Sheila Bellush, on the kitchen floor. Bellush, a mother of six, including 2-year old quadruplets, had been brutally murdered. Her throat was slashed and she was shot in the head. When her body was found, her quadruplets were crawling next to her in her blood.

The trail of evidence immediately led to Jose Luis Del Toro, a United States citizen born and raised in Texas. Del Toro fled to Mexico where he was captured on November 20th.

I would like to share with Members, Mr. Speaker, an excerpt from a message sent to me by my constituents Paul and Anita Marshall: Both my wife Anita and I are constituents of yours residing in North Port, Florida. We are also full-time law enforcement officers. Recently I responded to the Bellush murder scene and had a firsthand account of this brutal crime. Having been in law enforcement for 19 years, this was the most brutal of crimes I have ever seen."

Now, Del Toro has been captured. This should have been an open-and-shut case. Del Toro should have been quickly deported for illegal entry and quickly returned to Florida to stand trial for murder. However, when Mexican officials learned of the charges against Del Toro, they refused to simply deport him and instead started lengthy extradition procedures and de-

clared Del Toro would not be returned unless the United States waived the death penalty.

The Sarasota community I represent was outraged, and rightfully so. This move by Mexico is an obstruction of the United States judicial process. It is a violation of U.S. sovereignty, and it is an abomination that we allow this to happen.

This was a United States citizen who was accused of committing a heinous crime against another United States citizen on United States soil, and Mexico apparently feels that it can step right in and prevent this murderer from being brought to justice. I am offended by the arrogance of any Nation that seeks to dictate to the United States what United States judicial policy should be.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, my constituents from North Port, continued on in their correspondence: "How can Mexico dictate what judicial action should be taken in our country, especially after all the financial aid and other assistance we have given Mexico over the years?"

I would like to ask the same question. The answer is amazing. The United States actually grants Mexico the right to interfere with our judicial system in this manner. The U.S.-Mexico Extradition Treaty of 1978 allows Mexico the right to deny extradition if the individual in question may be subject to the death penalty upon return.

I believe this is a dangerous policy with a bordering country where murderers can drive across the border within hours of committing a crime. This is why I am introducing a resolution calling for the administration to renegotiate our extradition treaty with Mexico. I ask my colleagues to join with me and support this resolution.

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

(Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IMMORALITY AND HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, many constituents have called on me to condemn President Clinton or to condemn former Judge Kenneth Starr. Many are convinced that the President has not been honest in his disavowals of indecent behavior, and it is time for others in public life to demand a fuller explanation from him. Many others are convinced that the recent allegations about the President are irrelevant to his performance in office or his right to stay in office and should be dropped.

It is wrong for the President of the United States to have sexual relations