

percent of spending to 27 percent. Absent structural reforms or massive tax increases. Social Security and Medicare will continue to eat up ever larger percentages of our budget—at the expense of important investments in our children and our future.

In the Finance Committee last week, I offered an amendment with Sens. John Breaux (D-La.), Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), Charles Robb (D-Va.) and Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) to cut the payroll tax, increase retirement savings and restore permanent solvency to the Social Security program.

This amendment would have provided a \$928 billion payroll tax cut to the 80 percent of American families who pay more in payroll taxes than in income taxes. This tax cut would be directed into individual savings accounts for retirement security. Not only does this amendment provide all workers with a massive payroll tax cut, it also substantially expands the ownership of assets in this nation.

Ownership of wealth is essential for everyone to have a shot at the American dream. The payroll tax is the principal burden on savings and wealth creation for working families. Furthermore, this payroll tax cut would still have left room for Medicare reform, an income tax cut, debt reduction and other spending priorities.

While I did vote for the Senate finance committee tax bill, I believe that a \$500 billion income tax cut is a compromise figure that will leave room to reform and modernize the Social Security and Medicare programs and to invest in important domestic priorities, such as education, defense, veterans and housing.

I agree a compromise is ultimately doable. That's why I intend to join Sens. Breaux, John Chafee (R-R.I.) and Jim Jeffords (R-Vt.) in proposing a \$500 billion income tax cut alternative. While it can easily be argued that the GOP version is too high, it's also as clear the Democratic alternative is too low.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF JULY 27, 1999, PAGE H6536, DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2605, ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The CHAIRMAN. If there is no further debate on the Visclosky motion to strike, it will remain in abeyance pending

disposition of the Boehlert perfecting amendment, on which proceedings have been postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites throughout the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the United States Army Corps of Engineers under this program shall undertake the following functions and activities to be performed at eligible sites where remediation has not been completed: sampling and assessment of contaminated areas, characterization of site conditions, determination of the nature and extent of contamination, selection of the necessary and appropriate response actions as the lead Federal agency, cleanup and closeout of sites, and any other functions and activities determined by the Chief of Engineers as necessary for carrying out this program, including the acquisition of real estate interests where necessary, which may be transferred upon completion of remediation to the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of Energy: *Provided further*, That response actions by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under this program shall be subject to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, 40 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 300: *Provided further*, That these provisions do not alter, curtail or limit the authorities, functions or responsibilities of other agencies under CERCLA or, except as stated herein, under the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.): *Provided further*, That any sums recovered under CERCLA or other authority from a liable party, contractor, insurer, surety, or other person for any expenditures by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Department of Energy for response actions under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program shall be credited to this account and will be available until expended for response action costs for any eligible site: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may exercise the authority of 42 U.S.C. 2208 to make payments in lieu of taxes for Feder-

ally-owned property where Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program activities are conducted, regardless of which Federal agency has administrative jurisdiction over the property and notwithstanding references to "the activities of the Commission" in 42 U.S.C. 2208: *Provided further*, That the unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for these activities in this Act or any previous Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act may be transferred to and merged with this appropriation account; and thereafter, may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), I raise a point of order against the portion of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program beginning with the last comma on page 7, line 7 through page 9 line 2, on the grounds that it is legislation on an appropriations bill in violation of clause 2 of Rule XXI of the Rules of the House. This program has not been authorized for fiscal year 2000. In fact, it is likely that there has never been an authorization for this program.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from California wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I concede the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Indiana wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Chairman, we concede the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The portion of the paragraph identified by the point of order provides for extended availability of funds without a supporting authorization in law, and includes five legislative provisos.

As such, that portion of the paragraph constitutes legislation in violation of clause 2 of rule XXI.

The point of order is sustained. The specified portion of the paragraph is stricken.