

Brown (OH) Greenwood  
 Bryant Gutierrez  
 Burr Gutknecht  
 Burton Hall (OH)  
 Buyer Hall (TX)  
 Callahan Hansen  
 Calvert Hastings (FL)  
 Camp Hastings (WA)  
 Campbell Hayes  
 Canady Hayworth  
 Cannon Hefley  
 Capuano Herger  
 Cardin Hill (IN)  
 Carson Hill (MT)  
 Castle Hilleary  
 Chabot Hinchey  
 Chambliss Hinojosa  
 Chenoweth-Hage Hobson  
 Clayton Hoeffel  
 Clement Hoekstra  
 Collins Holden  
 Combest Holt  
 Condit Hooley  
 Conyers Horn  
 Cook Hostettler  
 Costello Hoyer  
 Cox Hulshof  
 Coyne Hunter  
 Cramer Hutchinson  
 Crane Hyde  
 Crowley Inslee  
 Cubin Isakson  
 Cummings Istook  
 Cunningham Jackson (IL)  
 Danner Jackson-Lee  
 Davis (FL) (TX)  
 Davis (IL) Jefferson  
 Davis (VA) Jenkins  
 Deal John  
 DeFazio Johnson (CT)  
 DeGette Johnson, E. B.  
 Delahunt Jones (NC)  
 DeLauro Jones (OH)  
 DeMint Kanjorski  
 Deutsch Kaptur  
 Diaz-Balart Kasich  
 Dickey Kelly  
 Dicks Kildee  
 Dingell Kilpatrick  
 Dixon Kind (WI)  
 Doggett King (NY)  
 Dooley Kingston  
 Doolittle Kleczka  
 Doyle Klink  
 Dreier Knollenberg  
 Duncan Kolbe  
 Dunn Kucinich  
 Edwards Kuykendall  
 Ehlers LaHood  
 Ehrlich Lampson  
 Emerson Lantos  
 Engel Largent  
 English Larson  
 Eshoo Latham  
 Etheridge LaTourette  
 Evans Lazio  
 Everett Leach  
 Ewing Lee  
 Farr Levin  
 Fattah Lewis (CA)  
 Filner Lewis (GA)  
 Fletcher Lewis (KY)  
 Foley Linder  
 Forbes Lipinski  
 Ford LoBiondo  
 Fossella Lofgren  
 Fowler Lowey  
 Frank (MA) Lucas (KY)  
 Franks (NJ) Lucas (OK)  
 Frelinghuysen Luther  
 Frost Maloney (CT)  
 Gallegly Maloney (NY)  
 Ganske Manzullo  
 Gejdenson Markey  
 Gekas Martinez  
 Gephardt Mascara  
 Gibbons Matsui  
 Gilchrest McCarthy (MO)  
 Gillmor McCarthy (NY)  
 Gilman McCollum  
 Gonzalez McCrery  
 Goode McDermott  
 Goodlatte McGovern  
 Gordon McHugh  
 Goss McIntosh  
 Graham McIntyre  
 Granger McKeon  
 Green (TX) McKinney  
 Green (WI) McNulty

Meehan  
 Meek (FL)  
 Meeks (NY)  
 Menendez  
 Meehoff  
 Mica  
 Millender-McDonald  
 Miller (FL)  
 Miller, Gary  
 Miller, George  
 Moakley  
 Mollohan  
 Moore  
 Moran (KS)  
 Moran (VA)  
 Morella  
 Murtha  
 Myrick  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Nethercutt  
 Ney  
 Northup  
 Norwood  
 Nussle  
 Oberstar  
 Obey  
 Olver  
 Ortiz  
 Ose  
 Oxley  
 Packard  
 Pallone  
 Pascrell  
 Pastor  
 Payne  
 Pease  
 Pelosi  
 Peterson (MN)  
 Peterson (PA)  
 Petri  
 Phelps  
 Pickering  
 Pickett  
 Pombo  
 Pomeroy  
 Porter  
 Portman  
 Price (NC)  
 Pryce (OH)  
 Quinn  
 Radanovich  
 Rahall  
 Ramstad  
 Rangel  
 Regula  
 Reyes  
 Reynolds  
 Riley  
 Rivers  
 Rodriguez  
 Roemer  
 Rogan  
 Rogers  
 Rohrabacher  
 Ros-Lehtinen  
 Rothman  
 Roukema  
 Roybal-Allard  
 Royce  
 Rush  
 Ryan (WI)  
 Ryan (KS)  
 Sabo  
 Salmon  
 Sanchez  
 Sanders  
 Sandlin  
 Sanford  
 Sawyer  
 Saxton  
 Schaffer  
 Schakowsky  
 Scott  
 Sensenbrenner  
 Serrano  
 Sessions  
 Shadegg  
 Shaw  
 Shays  
 Sherman  
 Sherwood  
 Shimkus  
 Shows  
 Shuster  
 Simpson  
 Sisisky

Tauzin  
 Taylor (MS)  
 Taylor (NC)  
 Terry  
 Thomas  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thornberry  
 Thune  
 Thurman  
 Tiahrt  
 Tierney  
 Toomey  
 Towns  
 Traficant  
 Turner  
 Udall (CO)  
 Udall (NM)  
 Upton  
 Velazquez  
 Vento  
 Viscosky  
 Vitter  
 Walden  
 Walsh  
 Wamp  
 Waters  
 Watkins  
 Watt (NC)  
 Watts (OK)  
 Waxman  
 Weldon (FL)  
 Weldon (PA)  
 Weller  
 Weygand  
 Whitfield  
 Wilson  
 Wise  
 Wolf  
 Woolsey  
 Wu  
 Wynn  
 Young (AK)  
 Young (FL)

NAYS—3

DeLay Goodling Paul

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Barr Wicker

NOT VOTING—26

Bateman Coburn Mink  
 Becerra Cooksey Owens  
 Bereuter Hilliard Pitts  
 Berman Houghton Scarborough  
 Brady (TX) Johnson, Sam Spence  
 Capps Kennedy Talent  
 Clay LaFalce Weiner  
 Clyburn McNis Wexler  
 Coble Minge

□ 1331

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 231, I inadvertently missed the vote. Had I been present on the floor I would have voted "aye."

Mrs. CAPPES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall 231, passage of H. Con. Res. 331. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on May 25, 2000, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall votes: No. 229, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 511, Providing for the Consideration of H.R. 3916, to Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to Repeal the Excise Tax on Telephone and Other Communication Services; No. 230 on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 511; and No. 231 on Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Con. Res. 331, Commending Israel's Redeployment from Southern Lebanon. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 229, and "aye" on rollcall votes 230 and 231.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, JUNE 1, 2000, TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight, June 1, 2000, to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, JUNE 1, 2000, TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight, June 1, 2000, to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, JUNE 1, 2000, TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2001

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight, June 1, 2000, to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

TELEPHONE EXCISE TAX REPEAL  
ACT

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 511, I call up the bill (H.R. 3916) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 511, the bill is considered read for amendment.

The text of H.R. 3916 is as follows:

H.R. 3916

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPEAL OF EXCISE TAX ON TELEPHONE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to facilities and services) is amended by striking subchapter B.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 4293 of such Code is amended by striking “chapter 32 (other than the taxes imposed by sections 4064 and 4121) and subchapter B of chapter 33,” and inserting “and chapter 32 (other than the taxes imposed by sections 4064 and 4121).”

(2)(A) Paragraph (1) of section 6302(e) of such Code is amended by striking “section 4251 or”.

(B) Paragraph (2) of section 6302(e) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking “imposed by—” and all that follows through “with respect to” and inserting “imposed by section 4261 or 4271 with respect to”, and

(ii) by striking “bills rendered or”.

(C) The subsection heading for section 6302(e) of such Code is amended by striking “COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND”.

(3) Section 6415 of such Code is amended by striking “4251, 4261, or 4271” each place it appears and inserting “4261 or 4271”.

(4) Paragraph (2) of section 7871(a) of such Code is amended by inserting “or” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking subparagraph (C), and by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

(5) The table of subchapters for chapter 33 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter B.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to amounts paid pursuant to bills first rendered more than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment printed in the bill is adopted.

The text of H.R. 3916, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3916

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPEAL OF FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS EXCISE TAX.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to facilities and services) is amended by striking subchapter B.

(b) PHASE-OUT OF TAX.—Paragraph (2) of section 4251(b) of such Code (defining applicable percentage) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—The term ‘applicable percentage’ means—

“(A) 2 percent with respect to amounts paid pursuant to bills first rendered on or after the 30th day after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph and before October 1, 2001, and

“(B) 1 percent with respect to amounts paid pursuant to bills first rendered after September 30, 2001, and before October 1, 2002.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 4293 of such Code is amended by striking “chapter 32 (other than the taxes imposed by sections 4064 and 4121) and subchapter B of chapter 33,” and inserting “and chapter 32 (other than the taxes imposed by sections 4064 and 4121).”

(2)(A) Paragraph (1) of section 6302(e) of such Code is amended by striking “section 4251 or”.

(B) Paragraph (2) of section 6302(e) of such Code is amended—

(i) by striking “imposed by—” and all that follows through “with respect to” and inserting “imposed by section 4261 or 4271 with respect to”, and

(ii) by striking “bills rendered or”.

(C) The subsection heading for section 6302(e) of such Code is amended by striking “COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND”.

(3) Section 6415 of such Code is amended by striking “4251, 4261, or 4271” each place it appears and inserting “4261 or 4271”.

(4) Paragraph (2) of section 7871(a) of such Code is amended by inserting “or” at the end of subparagraph (B), by striking subparagraph (C), and by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C).

(5) The table of subchapters for chapter 33 of such Code is amended by striking the item relating to subchapter B.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) REPEAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (c) shall apply to amounts paid pursuant to bills first rendered after September 30, 2002.

(2) PHASE-OUT.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to amounts paid pursuant to bills first rendered on or after the 30th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous matter on H.R. 3916.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today Congress will vote to repeal the 102-year-old Federal excise tax on telecommunications services. This is a bipartisan bill introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI). It repeals an excise tax which is regressive and hits low-income families and people on fixed incomes like older Americans the hardest and it is a tax that has truly outlived its usefulness. The telephone tax is a showcase example of bad tax policy and its endurance over the century proves again that once the Government gets its hands on the taxpayers' money, it is hard to get it back to the people.

In addition to helping people today, repealing this tax will help avoid a potentially big tax increase in the future.

It used to be that each household had only one phone, and that was it. But today homes have at least one phone line, many have two. Mom and Dad and maybe one of the kids has a cell phone or a pager, and the family might have a computer and use e-mail. So they are paying this tax on a number of telecommunications services, not just on their one telephone anymore.

The point is, as more Americans use more and more telecommunications services, this tax must surely not continue to grow. That is why I am pleased that we are taking this action today to repeal a tax first levied in 1898. As the old saying goes, Better late than never.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

First I would like to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Ways and Means, for yielding to me and allowing me to manage this bill. I would like to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), the chairman of the committee, for bringing this bill up in an expeditious fashion.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Texas has mentioned, this tax is a tax that should have been repealed years ago. It started in 1898 to actually pay for the Spanish-American war. It had been repealed and reinstated numerous times over those years, but the fact of the matter is this tax is a tax on telephone service communications between Americans.

When it was first instituted in 1898, 102 years ago, there were, believe it or not, 1,356 telephones in America. It was clearly a luxury tax. It was a method that very wealthy people used to communicate with each other probably more as a novelty than as a real source of communication. The fact of the matter is today that 94 percent of the American public of 270 million people now use telephones. Now they pay a 3 percent tax. As we know, this tax hits across everybody, low-income people, moderate-income people, the rich; but everybody pays the same percentage. This is probably one of the most regressive taxes that the Federal Government has. It should be repealed, particularly in a time of surpluses.

I might also mention that there is another aspect of this as well. As we know, we have numerous different modes of communication in America and throughout the world today. We have the Internet, we have cable modems and everything else. At this time the IRS and the Treasury Department is having a very difficult time on how to apply this tax. Some can use the Internet with cable modems to avoid the tax, and others who use the basic telephone service end up paying the tax. As we know, average low-income Americans are the ones that do not have access to the Internet. And so again this tax is even more regressive,