

LoBiondo	Peterson (MN)	Thompson (CA)
Markey	Phelps	Thompson (MS)
McDermott	Pickett	Tierney
McGovern	Ramstad	Udall (NM)
McNulty	Rothman	Visclosky
Moran (KS)	Sabo	Waters
Oberstar	Slaughter	Weller
Pallone	Stupak	
Pascarell	Taylor (MS)	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Carson Tancredo

NOT VOTING—43

Bliley	Goodlatte	Sanders
Boucher	Hayes	Schaffer
Chambliss	Hinchey	Serrano
Conyers	Kasich	Sherwood
Crane	Klink	Sununu
DeFazio	Lazio	Sweeney
DeLay	Martinez	Towns
Dickey	McCollum	Vento
Doolittle	McIntosh	Walden
Doyle	Meeks (NY)	Watts (OK)
Engel	Miller, George	Weiner
Eshoo	Murtha	Weygand
Fattah	Owens	Young (AK)
Franks (NJ)	Price (NC)	
Gilchrest	Ryun (KS)	

□ 1049

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would note for the RECORD that yesterday I was unavoidably detained because I am a United Airlines customer. There were flights that were considerably delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of the rollcall votes yesterday evening.

MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2000—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the veto message on the bill (H.R. 4810), to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. ARCHER moves that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the veto message on the bill H.R. 4810, an act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001.

(For veto message, see proceedings of the House of September 6, 2000 at page H7239.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) is recognized for 1 hour on the motion.

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

This is simply a procedural motion to move to consider the veto message which will be subject to debate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered. The motion was agreed to. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the further consideration of the veto message of the President on the bill (H.R. 4810) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 103(a)(1) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we make one last attempt to end the marriage tax penalty for 25 million married couples. Since 1995, a growing bipartisan majority in the Congress has tried time and time again to end this gross unfairness in the Tax Code. But each time, President Clinton and a majority of the Democrats in Congress have just said no. In the past 6 years, President Clinton has blocked marriage tax penalty relief more often than Tiger Woods has won golf's major championships.

President Clinton's latest veto leaves a Clinton-Gore legacy of denying 25 million married couples relief from the marriage tax penalty for 8 years. It means that married couples will have to wait longer for relief. It means that they will have to vote for new leadership in the White House if they want justice and fairness in the Tax Code.

This bill does bring fairness to the Tax Code. It gives the most help to those middle- and lower-income Americans who are hit hardest by the marriage tax penalty. By doubling the 15 percent bracket, and, Mr. Speaker, we all know that is the lowest income tax bracket that affects primarily lower- and middle-income people, and the earned income credit income threshold, which affects the very low-income people, we erase the marriage tax penalty for millions of lower- and middle-income workers. This is especially important to working women whose incomes are often taxed at extremely high marginal rates, some as high as 50 percent by this tax penalty.

Despite all of this unfairness, I expect we will still hear some excuses from the Democrats today why we cannot do this. They will say that stay-at-home moms and dads and people who own homes or donate to charitable organizations should not get relief, and this is their idea of targeting. Their plan actually denies relief to these important parents, and I accentuate those who itemize, who have home mortgages or pay taxes on their homes, who have itemized deductions get no relief. They do not want them to get any relief, but

that is wrong. Raising a child is the single most important job in the world and we are right to provide these families with relief.

Another excuse we will hear is that our bipartisan plan is too expensive. Too expensive for whom? Too expensive for the U.S. Treasury, which is expected to vacuum in 4.5 trillion surplus dollars over the next 10 years from the American taxpayers, or too expensive for President Clinton who, just yesterday, said he needed to spend that money for more government programs.

Last week, Vice President GORE talked about a rainy day fund, but the President's deluge of spending will soak that up like a super sponge. I would note to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who undoubtedly will call this bill fiscally irresponsible that the ranking Democrat of the Budget Committee, the gentleman from South Carolina, voted in July for this exact same package. No one can say that he is fiscally irresponsible.

In his January State of the Union, President Clinton stood in this exact Chamber and asked Congress to work with him to fix the marriage tax penalty. We have done that. He vetoed it. So here we are today making every effort to override that veto. When he spoke, there were no preconditions, there was no quid pro quo, no wink and a nod. In fact, there was only boisterous applause and cheers from both sides of the aisle. But 8 months later, when most American families were on vacation or getting their children ready to go back to school, he quietly vetoed the bill.

Now is our chance to right this wrong and finally put an end to the marriage tax penalty for 25 million married couples. We should all vote to override the President's veto.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the rhetoric of the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means as he would have us to believe that the Democrats do not want to give relief as relates to the marriage penalty. Now, he knows that I know that we Democrats have come forward with a bill that true, it does not cost the \$300 billion over 10 years, as his does, but it takes care of the marriage penalty, the same way we tried to take care of the estate tax abuses that we found in the Tax Code.

The difference between the so-called Republican solution is that it is not concerning itself just with relief for those people who have an additional tax burden because they are married, it goes beyond that and it is a part of this tremendous, huge billion dollar, trillion dollar tax cut that they conceived in the last session which could not get off the ground. When it was vetoed, they did not even bother to override the veto. So if we were to take the cost of this bill far beyond that of marriage

penalty, we will find plus \$200 billion that does not even relate to the problem that we are addressing. The same thing was true when they tried to do something with the estate tax. No, my Republican colleagues do not want to pass laws, they want to pass bills that are going to be vetoed.

□ 1100

They almost made certain that they have the veto before they bring it to the floor, because the President of the United States has already publicly said if they want to negotiate a solution to the tax penalty, sit down and talk.

But if it was not so close to the election, this thing would be hilarious, because the first time the Republican leadership has an opportunity to go to the White House and to talk about working out a solution to legislation so we can get out of here, do they talk about the marriage penalty? No. Do they talk about estate tax relief? No. Do they talk about a general tax cut for everybody so people can have their money? No.

What do they talk about? Well, listen. Stay tuned in. There is a new Republican plan, and the plan is to set aside a part of the surplus to pay down our national debt. And when does it come in? Three weeks before the conclusion of the legislative session.

So this is poppycock. They are holding the marriage penalty bill hostage because they want to vote on the President's veto. He had the courage to veto this bill because it is irresponsible. We have to sustain the President, and then find out what is the next rabbit they are going to pull out of the hat before we conclude.

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

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), a respected gentleman from the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I thank the chairman for his leadership, and my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), for his strong leadership in enactment of this bill.

I urge every one of my colleagues to override this veto. At a time when every Member of Congress is going around the country, particularly the candidates for president, and saying they are family-friendly, it is unbelievable to me that any Member could turn around and vote against ending a tax penalizing married individuals.

Some Members here have already turned their backs on working families, small businesses, farmers. When we tried to protect their families from the legacy destroyed by death taxes, we were unsuccessful. We will debate and discuss that. But I urge them not to do that today to married individuals.

As a society and as a civilization, we cannot afford a government that punishes marriages. I ask every one of my

colleagues to search their hearts and souls and think about this upcoming weekend as they return to their communities, their churches, and their friends by standing up for the institution of marriage, standing up for families, giving them the relief they deserve, and overriding the President's political veto of this bill.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the sovereign State of Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying that there is not anybody on this floor who does not want to help middle class families. When the Contract with America was brought out here with all the fanfare in 1995, the marriage tax penalty was in it. When the first tax bill came to the Committee on Ways and Means, I offered an amendment to remove the marriage tax penalty in the Committee on Ways and Means. Every single Republican on the committee voted against it.

The only reason we could say they did it, I suppose, was kind of "NIH," not invented here. They did not have their name on it. So they came back the next year after they had done the polling and realized they had made a mistake, and they have been trying ever since, but they always wrap it in a humongous tax cut.

Now, none of us believe that we will leave this session without a cut in the marriage tax penalty. I will be willing to bet anybody on this floor that when we sign off and leave here about October 1, we will have agreed with the President on a middle-class tax cut on the marriage penalty.

What is amazing is what the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) just talked about, the meeting that happened in the White House yesterday. The Speaker of the House came and said, "We have a plan: 90 percent goes for debt relief, and 10 percent goes for investment." If we take all the taxes that have been pushed by the Republicans and are pushed by Mr. Bush of \$1.7 trillion, and we only have \$5.5 trillion, if we have a calculator in our pockets, which the Speaker ought to have, we realize that that is 31 percent of the projected surplus that is going for tax cuts. We cannot do it in 10 percent. It is 3 times as much as we left on the table.

So either the Republicans on the floor are walking away from Mr. Bush and his tax cut, which I think most of them are, or they simply are trying to put a fraud out on the people that they can do 90 percent for bringing down the debt and 10 percent, and there is no money left for investment, no money for social security, no money for Medicare, no money for education, none of the issues that we ought to be doing with the surplus.

The American people are faced in this election with a choice: Will we have a big tax cut, or will we invest in the future? Most Americans are interested in protecting their retirement, their social security, their Medicare, which is really security in health areas. They are interested in educating their kids to deal with this economy so we do not have to bring in, under the H-1B visa, hundreds of thousands of people from around the world because we say our own kids are not qualified to take the jobs in this economy, we have to give the high-paying jobs to people outside the economy.

When we get down to this tax cut, it is part of an overall package. We are going to cut it and make a negotiation at the end.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would simply say, that is wishful thinking.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time to me.

I rise to express my support for the 25 million married couples in the country who will be negatively affected by the President's veto, and strongly urge that we override that veto.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats agree. Congress and the President agree. It is wrong to tax 25 million couples at a higher rate just because they are married. So why are we forced to override a veto to right this wrong? The answer is simple: partisan politics.

The President and the Democrats say they can't support the effort to resolve this injustice because it "doesn't help the right people." Here are the "wrong people" it would help:

Nearly a million low-income working families who would receive up to \$421 more a year from raising the phase-out level of the Earned Income Credit.

25 million taxpayers at all levels who would save up to \$1,450 in federal taxes because the standard deduction for married couples would be made equal to two individuals.

Millions more middle-income families who would save hundreds of dollars each year because the 15 percent tax bracket for couples filing jointly would be increased to twice that of single filers.

Millions of married taxpayers at all levels would be treated fairly for the first time in nearly 40 years. These couples have been paying extra taxes every year since their wedding.

The Democrats and the President have said they can't support this reform because it provides some relief to the taxpayers who pay 65 percent of the nation's taxes. These are the people who have funded the surplus that we are now blessed with. And when this fairness legislation is in place, they will still pay 65 percent of the nation's taxes.

The Democrats and the administration clearly believe the federal budget surplus is their money. They cannot conceive of allowing the people who have already provided this surplus to pay less in future years. Instead, they would spend it on mammoth new federal programs,

run by Washington bureaucrats. Or they would tell taxpayers now to spend their own money in order to qualify for any reduction in the taxes they pay.

It's time for Congress to recognize that this money belongs to the taxpayers. At the very least, we should pass this legislation to provide tax justice to 25 million families.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), a respected member of the Committee on Ways and Means who has fought very hard for this legislation.

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, we are hearing a lot of rhetoric, particularly on the other side today, but what is the issue today? There is one issue: that is, do we override the President's veto of our effort to wipe out the marriage tax penalty that affects 25 million married working couples who suffer higher taxes just because they are married?

In fact, 25 million married working couples on average today pay higher taxes of almost \$1,400 a year just because they are married under our Tax Code.

I have an example here, Shad and Michelle Hallihan, two public school teachers from Joliet, Illinois, who suffer the marriage tax penalty. They have an average income each year of about \$65,000. That is their combined income. They are homeowners. They have a child, little Ben. They suffer the marriage tax penalty, about \$1,400.

In the South suburbs of Chicago, \$1,400 is real money. It is one year's tuition at Joliet Junior College; it is 3 months of day care; several months' worth of car payments; it is a home mortgage payment, a month or two for many, many families; but it is real money for real people.

That is what this is all about, is do we allow folks like Shad and Michelle to keep their money, or do we send it to Washington, particularly on this issue of tax fairness?

I was so proud. After several years of working, my chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), has been concerned about this issue since he first came to this Congress. Many have been working on this issue for a long time. This House and Senate voted to wipe out the tax penalty for people like Shad and Michelle Hallihan this year, and we did it the year before. Unfortunately, the President vetoed it.

We want to help everyone who suffers the marriage tax penalty: those who itemize, those who do not.

I was proud to say that every House Republican voted to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. Fifty-one Democrats joined with us to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. We doubled the standard deduction for joint filers, for married couples, so they earn twice as much in the same tax bracket.

We also widen the 15 percent tax bracket. We help those who itemize, we help those who do not itemize. The bot-

tom line is, we help 25 million married working couples.

As I mentioned earlier, Shad and Michelle make about \$65,000 a year, their combined income. They are middle class public school teachers. They suffer the average marriage tax penalty. When AL GORE called for the veto of this legislation, he said that people who own a home, who make about \$65,000 a year, who pay the average marriage tax penalty of \$1,400, are rich, and that if people itemize their taxes, like Shad and Michelle Hallihan, because they are homeowners they do not deserve any marriage tax relief because they are rich.

So that definition of rich says if one pursues the American dream, gets married, has a family, buys a home, and then has to itemize their taxes, they are rich and they do not deserve marriage tax relief. They should still suffer the marriage tax penalty.

That is wrong. I believe, and I think the majority of this House believes, that if one really wants to be fair, we should help everyone. Couples making \$65,000 a year like Shad and Michelle Hallihan, who happen to be homeowners and happen to itemize their taxes, deserve tax relief just as much as anyone else when it comes to the marriage tax penalty.

Let us override the President's veto. I invite more Democrats to join with us. Let us be fair to people like Shad and Michelle Hallihan. They are not rich, they are middle class.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago there was a man from Michigan whose advice to elected leaders was, "Say what you mean and mean what you say." Of course, that man's name was Gerald Ford. He led this Republican House as a Republican leader, but it would not hurt if those who followed him heeded his words today, because yesterday, in a complete turnabout, a complete about face, the Republican leadership suddenly announced their hunger to join Democrats in working to pay down the national debt.

Of course, that was yesterday. Now, it is less than 24 hours later and we are back at it again. Here they go again, they are trying to pass another piece of their \$1 trillion tax cut package, a \$1 trillion tax cut package. It is the mother of all tax cuts, and it would rob America of its resources that we need not only to pay down the debt, but to strengthen social security and Medicare, as well.

Our message to Republicans is that it is time to mean what they say.

Should we do something about the marriage penalty? Of course we should do something, and the example that was just given, they are absolutely right, that couple should be given a marriage penalty tax relief act.

But the bill that we are now discussing would only give tax relief to couples who face a marriage penalty. Only about half of that goes to those people. The other half of that bill, which is a monstrous bill in terms of the dollar amount, would go to, Members guessed it, the wealthiest people in our country who have no marriage penalty problem.

That is why Democrats crafted a fiscally responsible marriage penalty relief plan. It is a plan that would help people in Macomb County, in St. Clair County, middle class families that I represent. I am talking about folks just like the couple that we have just seen up here who work hard for a living, pay their mortgage payment, pay their car payment, but do not have a lot left over or anything left over to save with at the end of the month.

We can give those people a hand, and we can do it without taking money out of Medicare and social security, and without risking the premise of reducing the national debt. But we cannot do it if we pass this Republican plan. That is why the President is standing so steadfast against it.

It is time that we focused our attention on helping middle-class families, not just those who are reaping enormous amounts of wealth in this country who have no marriage penalty problem, but who would get half of what this bill is all about.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this proposal, and to sustain the President veto.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would briefly respond to a statement made by my friend, the gentleman from Michigan, which is not accurate. That is that the Democrats would take away the marriage penalty for those who itemize. Their plan does not, I repeat, does not provide any help for those people who have homes and mortgages and taxes and want to itemize rather than take the standard deduction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, Shane and Penny Fox were married in 1997. Shane is a graphic designer for a charity, and Penny is a legal secretary.

In 1997, their taxable income was \$47,000. When they went to file their joint income tax return as required by law, they paid \$8,691 in income taxes. But if they had remained single, they would have paid \$7,055, so these two people with a combined income of less than \$50,000 a year paid \$1,636 just because they were married.

I participated in that wedding ceremony. I read the Scripture where it says that God says that a marriage is a holy union. Yet, the official policy of the Federal government, of Congress and the administration, is to discourage marriage. It is to say, they should

not get married. Marriage is not the right thing to do economically.

That does not make sense. That is public policy being made in Washington that discourages people from getting married. What type of government penalizes people because they say, "I do"?

□ 1115

Did they realize when they said for "better or worse" it meant the Federal Government would come along and penalize them \$150 a month just because they got married?

The tax is immoral, and sometimes we have to eliminate taxes because they are immoral. Anytime we say marriage is wrong by the Federal Government, it is an immoral tax, and it has to go.

Do my colleagues know what? Under the Gore-Clinton plan of so-called marriage tax relief, because they bought a home, they would not qualify for their plan. It discourages homeownership.

It is very, very simple. Marriage is good, it is a holy union, but not to the Federal Government, and certainly not to these two who have been penalized \$1,607 just because they said "I do."

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), distinguished Member of the Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today we waste more precious time on yet another bloated tax bill. This motion to override the President's veto, as the chairman has correctly pointed out, will fail. He knows that. The Republican leadership knows that as well. Yet we persist in this play-acting.

The Republican leadership must give the appearance of doing something, anything in this do-the-wrong-thing-for-special-interests 106th Congress. What do I mean by that? The reason we do not reach a compromise on this is not because of those who are penalized under the marriage penalty but those who are not penalized, the wealthiest in America. That is why we do not come to agreement with the President. That is why we do not come to agreement on both sides, not because of the couple discussed by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO). We can all agree on that.

The Washington Post got it right recently when it said of these Republican tax bills, and I quote, "It is not clear which, if any, will be sent to the President. But that does not matter in a mock Congress. It is the show that counts."

Here we are at the show. Just like last week's debate on the estate tax where we could give millions of Americans relief, but the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), my friend, the chairman for whom I have a great respect and affection, we are not doing it, because of the thousands that the President will not include in the bill and that we will not include in the bill.

We are being forced to participate in this show once again today. Mean-

while, the clock keeps running. There are less than 20 days left on the legislative calendar, and we still have not approved 11 of the annual spending bills that keep the Federal Government operating.

The prospects for a Patients' Bill of Rights, a meaningful prescription drug benefit for seniors, a minimum wage increase, a middle-class tax relief grow bleaker by the day.

We agree that the marriage penalty must be remedied. Our bill offers \$95 billion in relief over 10 years. But instead of reaching compromise, the perfectionist caucus says do it my way or take the highway.

The leadership once again forced us to genuflect at the altar of Republican ideology, tax cuts for those who need them the least. That is where we differ, not on the couple that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) just referred to.

This bloated tax bill would cost an estimated \$292 billion over the next decade. It would squander our surplus while not helping this couple who would pay higher interest rates because of the deficits that would result in the squandering of the resources. It would strip us of our ability to strengthen Social Security and Medicare and, as I said, a prescription drug benefit.

Pay down the debt and invest in our children's future. The Republicans' special-interest political agenda is preventing, not facilitating, tax relief for working families. Let us sustain the President's veto, and let us get down to meaningful compromise that will affect millions of Americans that need it most.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume again to respond to, I think, an unintended inaccuracy on the part of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). He said we are ready to fix the marriage penalty for those people who own their homes and itemize. They have never included that in one of their proposals. But they say they are ready to fix it for middle-income people. I would like to see that fleshed out in one of their proposals. They have resisted it over and over and over again. It is unfortunate that they want to cut out these people that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) just talked about. We will continue to pursue that.

I also want to say to the gentleman from Maryland I never said we were not going to override this veto. I am still hopeful that there will be 40 percent of the Democrats who will be enlightened enough and fair enough to do this.

Then, finally, I will say that Vice President GORE in his tax relief has said he wants to help stay-at-home moms and stay-at-home pops. Yes, we do that also while we fix the marriage penalty. What is wrong with doing it in the same bill? Why do the Democrats suppose what their own presidential candidate wants to do as a separate item?

This is a very good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER). This Tax Code is so perverse, it even taxes sex; marital sex, that is.

Now, let us put the hay where the goats can reach it. If one does not get married, one pays less taxes, one gets rewarded. If one gets married, one pays more taxes, one gets hit over the head. To me, that is unbelievable.

Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, we have so many unwed mothers in America, so many kids on the street, kids without guidance, kids without stability, kids without fathers, government paying the bills, and Congress expecting schools to straighten them out, to discipline them and to raise them? Beam me up.

Now, let us tell it like it is. I think there is too much partisan politics here today, and we should be dealing with the people's business.

Let us look at the facts. Our Tax Code subsidizes illegitimacy, but taxes the institution of marriage. Our Tax Code promotes sexual promiscuity, but taxes the institution of marriage. Beam me up.

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to see this is the right thing to do. I will vote to override this anti-family, anti-child, anti-mother, anti-wife presidential veto. We are relegating people to the bottom end of the ladder, and the only hope we are giving them is go to the next rung.

This is not the way to do it. The President is wrong. We should override this veto.

I proudly join forces with the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER). If the truth be known, there are more Democrats deep down in this election year that would like to vote with him, and they should.

I yield back all the broken homes in America and all the kids in jail that need not be there.

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

Mr. Speaker, I was so moved by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), the previous speaker. But just let me say this, it seems as though the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, in his remarks to this august body, referred to the tax proposals of the Vice President of the United States. It may be parliamentarily proper to do that, but I do not think we want to hear anything about Vice President GORE's tax proposals on this floor because I will be tempted, tempted to bring up Governor George W.'s tax proposals. But because of my affection for my Republican friends, I would not want to offend or embarrass them and to have them to run away from them on the floor. So let us confine ourselves to our legislative responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN),

a senior member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, earlier, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), my colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means, said that the real issue is overriding the veto. He, I think, exposed what this is all about for the majority party. The real issue should be marriage penalty relief.

My suggestion is that, if people really want such relief, my Republican colleagues withdraw this effort that is doomed to failure and they do what we have never done on the Committee on Ways and Means, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) has said, sit down and work out a marriage penalty relief bill on a bipartisan basis. They never tried to do that.

The majority of us favor marriage penalty relief. We can do it on a bipartisan basis. But, instead, we have a bill here that goes way beyond that. It is too broad. It is part of a package that is much too large; and as a result, the package is weighted too much in favor of the very wealthy. No one on the majority side has ever answered this fact: according to CBO, almost half of the tax cut in this bill goes to couples that pay no marriage penalty at all.

So let us sit down and do what we should do and work out, if we are serious, a marriage penalty relief bill. My Republican colleagues do not have a political issue with this because the majority of the public understands what they are after, and that is a 30-second ad instead of a 5- and 10-year tax relief bill.

So I close by saying this, we are ready on the Democratic side to sit down with my colleagues, if they are serious about policy and do not want what they think is a good political move, and put together a marriage penalty relief bill. I hope they will do that after the veto is sustained.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH), another respected Member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), the chairman of the committee, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I say in response to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, this is a bipartisan way to fix a problem. The Constitution provides for veto override.

This need not be a partisan ballot. Indeed, when people get marriage licenses, they do not record political affiliations. But when they fill out their tax returns and they are penalized to the tune of \$1,400 a year, that is a concern whether one is a Republican, Democrat, libertarian, vegetarian, independent.

It comes to this simple philosophy: let married couples and their families

keep what they earn to save, spend, and invest. This need not be partisan.

We in the legislative branch have the constitutional ability to override the President of the United States. We invite our friends on the left, join with us, stand for families, not for disguising targeted tax cuts as spending programs, but straight up, allowing American families to keep more of what they earn. That is true compassion. That is why we must override this presidential veto.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KLECZKA), a member of the committee.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I have two points I would like to share with the body today. The first is that I am somewhat confused. I read here in the Congress Daily that the Republican leaders went over to the White House yesterday, talked to the President, and they told the President that they are going to set aside their tax cuts in favor of debt reduction. Any surplus coming in would be used for debt reduction, a plan that the American public supports.

Well, that was yesterday. Now today they come back to the floor of the House and try to override this bill they call the marriage tax penalty.

□ 1130

Well, let me talk about that for a moment. If in fact we provide relief to those lovely couples that the Republican colleagues are bringing out on the posters, that would cost, over a 10-year period, \$95 billion. In the whole scheme of things, that is affordable. The Democrats support that. Republicans support that. The President, in his State of the Union standing behind me, supports that.

Then, why are we not doing it?

Because the bill before us, Mr. Speaker, costs \$290 billion. Well, wait. Marriage penalty is only \$95 billion. Where is the other \$200 billion going?

Seems as the bill made its way through the process, the Republicans added a little rider, they slipped in a little amendment. And that amendment expanded the tax income for the 15 percent bracket. The effect is that the bulk of the \$200 billion added to the bill goes to the wealthy. But the Republicans still call it marriage penalty tax relief bill.

Well, my colleagues, that is a hoax. It is not marriage penalty tax relief. The bulk of the bill goes to people who do not even pay the marriage tax penalty. So what we have here is a sham, a hoax, a Trojan horse.

On one day, out of one side of their mouths, they go to the President and say, no more tax cuts, we were wrong, the American public does not buy it; they want debt relief. Then, they come before the House floor and cry alligator tears for these young, married couples when they know the bulk of the \$290 billion goes to their rich friends. That is what is going on around here.

The American public has said, Congress, if in fact there is a surplus, and know full well this is all projections, it is a guess over the next 10 years, but if the guess is right, reduce the national debt on my kids and grand kids, which today is over \$3 trillion.

That is where the emphasis should be, and that is what this Congress should be up to. But it is an election year, so what we have to do is try to sell a bill to married couples which really does something else to help in the election process.

I urge my colleagues to not override the veto. Let us get back to what they said yesterday. Let us pitch debt reduction relief.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, maybe we can clarify this a little bit. What we are talking about in terms of the standard deduction, what our Democrat friends are saying is that they will support an adjustment in the standard deduction but they will not support what we do with the elimination of the marriage tax penalty, which is to say that we also take care of those who itemize.

Now, 40 percent of the taxpayers itemize; and that is because 40 percent or more have homes or have a condominium. And, as a consequence, all of the examples we have seen here today, the posters on the floor, are of those people who, frankly, itemize their deductions. And because they itemize, they will not get any relief unless we pass the Republican bill. Under the Democrat proposal, they do not get relief from the marriage tax penalty.

Now, on average, this is \$1,400 per individual.

Now, the President says these are the rich. But it is just not the case that everybody that owns a home or everybody that owns a condominium and, therefore, itemizes is rich. That is not true. I wanted to point out that.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York and our ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to override the President's veto of the marriage penalty tax relief.

I support real marriage tax relief, but this bill is fiscally irresponsible. This bill would cost \$292 billion over 10 years, \$110 billion more than our House version.

Despite its appealing name, more than half the tax cut would benefit couples who not only do not pay marriage penalty but actually get a marriage bonus. And we are not talking about the ones who may have a second home.

Now, having been married for over 30 years, as much as I would like to get a bonus for having been married that long, I would like to work our tax policy differently, Mr. Speaker, and just correct the problem of the marriage penalty and not the marriage bonus.

Let us deal with that marriage bonus. Let us reward people, stay-at-home moms or stay-at-home fathers, in a separate piece of legislation and not confuse the issues. We are talking about marriage penalty relief.

In addition, the Republican bill allows many couples are denied tax relief because of the interaction between the alternative minimum tax with the increase in the standard deduction in the bill. About half the total tax cuts in this bill would benefit only the top 10 percent couples who have incomes over \$92,500.

We did have an alternative plan. A Democratic proposal gave \$10 billion more in marriage penalty relief to couples and it was not burdened by all the other problems this bill has. But the Democratic bill also cost half as much as this bill even though it added \$10 billion more to marriage penalty relief.

My Republican colleagues have designed a bill to give the tax breaks to the highest income couples even if they do not suffer from the marriage tax penalty.

Tax relief is important but so is protecting and strengthening Social Security, Medicare, investing in education, providing for a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, and also making sure our national defense is paid for, paying off the debt accumulated during the 1980s and early 1990s.

We have to balance it, and that is why we need to correct the marriage penalty. The Democratic alternative provides for a middle-class tax cut and still protects our vital national priorities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) will control the time for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4810, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, and in opposition to the President's veto.

I became an early cosponsor of this legislation because I believe the marriage penalty is the most indefensible thing about our Nation's current Tax Code.

The current Tax Code punishes married couples where both partners work by driving them into a higher tax bracket. The marriage penalty taxes the income of the second wage earner at a much higher rate than if they were taxed as an individual. Since this second earner is usually the wife, the marriage penalty is unfairly biased against female taxpayers.

Moreover, by prohibiting married couples from filing combined returns whereby each spouse is taxed using the same rate applicable to an unmarried individual, the Tax Code penalizes marriage and encourages couples to live together without any formal legal commitment to each other.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that 42 percent of married couples incurred a marriage penalty in 1996, and that more than 21 million couples paid an average of \$1,400 in additional taxes. The CBO further found that those most severely affected by the penalty were those couples with near equal salaries and those receiving the earned income tax credit.

This aspect of the Tax Code simply does not make sense. It discourages marriage, is unfair to female taxpayers, and disproportionately affects the working and middle class populations who are struggling to make ends meet. For all of these reasons, this tax needs to be repealed and I support the veto override.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I sat in this Chamber with many of my colleagues listening to a very long State of the Union speech. It was long for a lot of reasons, but one of them was that there were a lot of applause lines. Many Republicans and Democrats, in fact, stood during one of those, as I did, when the President talked about ending the marriage penalty tax.

This is a bipartisan bill. It was a bipartisan bill in both the House and the Senate. It is not one side trying to jab the other. This is not a tax cut for the rich. It does not help any special interests except for working couples.

What is wrong with that?

Many of these couples, in fact, are struggling to try to make ends meet. They are living from paycheck to paycheck.

We need to override this veto. We need to override this veto for American families in all 50 States. I hope that my colleagues would join me in voting to override that veto later this morning.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the very distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, about 9 years ago, a constituent alerted me to the fact that he was paying about \$1,200 more in taxes for having gotten married than he and his spouse had been paying as singles. He understood the reason for it that, when two people get married, they oftentimes have only one mortgage or rent to pay and they can economize in other ways and when they have children they get a deduction for each child and that there is some rationality to the Tax Code. But it did not seem quite fair.

We introduced a bill and it did not get too far. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) had another bill that he got through the Ways and

Means Committee. Our bills cost only about \$9 billion a year to fix the whole problem.

What this bill does though, under the guise of fixing the problem, is to put us further in debt to the tune of about \$200 billion more over 10 years than is needed to fix the problem. Most of this bill just gives deep tax cuts that are not targeted and do not produce the desired effect.

The reality is that almost as many people get a marriage bonus as get a marriage penalty. Why do we need to give any further incentives to get married? This is not the way that we should be using scarce resources.

What we ought to be doing is paying down the debt. We, the baby boom generation, got the benefit of the debt. We should not be passing our bill on to our kids. We should put first things first, pay off our debts and put our money aside to pay for our retirement, so our kids don't have to.

Let us fix the marriage penalty but do it in a responsible manner. Let us not squander the surplus. Let us provide for the future.

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

Mr. Speaker, I hear the word "target," let us "target."

The Tax Code targets everyone who works and earns a check or earns an income. So when we talk about relief, we should also look at everyone who works and earns an income, whether they be employed or self-employed.

The purpose of the marriage penalty relief bill is to try to establish some fairness in a Tax Code that many people feel is unfair, that many people and almost all of us know is very complex and is very costly to the individual to abide by.

So what we were trying to do here and we were successful in the bill but we were not successful with the President's signature was to establish a standard deduction that is equal and fair to each individual, whether they are single or whether they are married.

A single person has a \$4,400 deduction. We were creating a \$8,800 deduction for a married couple rather than current law that is about \$7,300.

We were taking the approach that the first dollars earned as adjusted gross income, whether it be single or whether an individual or a couple be filing as a married couple, that the first dollars earned would be subject to the 15-percent tax rate. For a single individual, the first \$26,000 would be subject to the 15-percent rate. And I am using round numbers. For a couple, the first \$52,000 would be subject to the 15-percent bracket.

Equal. Fairness. There is nothing wrong with that. And why those who do not support that or why the President did not support that I do not know. I know the excuses, but I do not know the reasons. The excuses were that we are helping the rich, we are helping those no matter what their income level.

What we were doing was establishing fairness on the bottom rung of the ladder. And as they climb the ladder of income, they climb the ladder of progressive tax rates, marginal rates. We have five marginal rates, 15 percent being the lowest. Then it goes to 28 and to 31 and to 34 and to 39.6. And then, as they reach that plateau, they begin to itemize. They even lose their itemized deductions based on their income.

I regret that we have opposition to this bill that supports a measure that would actually prohibit the itemized deduction of homeownership. We should encourage homeownership. That is part of the American dream is to own a home.

We should encourage people to save. Part of these reductions and part of letting people keep more of their earned income could lead to the possibility that some of them would save. Some of them may even put it into a savings account for their children for education purposes.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, we should encourage marriage. Marriage. When we have a tax code that discourages it, that is wrong.

So I ask my colleagues to swallow the pride of supporting a President who does not quite understand the measures of this bill and support the American people, whether they be single or whether they be married.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, through the first 11 months of this fiscal year, our Nation ran a \$12 billion surplus. That is available for every American to read. It is a published report of the Bureau of Public Debt. So there is no surplus. The only surplus is in the trust funds.

□ 1145

For the past 4 years, for 3 of those 4 years, I have heard the same Congress that controls the purse strings tell our veterans, the very people who gave us the opportunity to even have this debate, that their budget is frozen, for 3 of the past 4 years. In 1994, the last year that the Democrats controlled Congress, there were 404 ships in the United States Navy. After 6 years of Republican control, we are down to 315. Why? Because there is no money. Well, if there is no money for the veterans, if there is no money for the survivors' benefit pension offset, if there is no money for dual compensation for people who are crippled while they become military retirees, why is it that we can afford to give away \$200 billion to people who already get a tax benefit the day they get married?

The Democrat plan would free up those \$200 billion to take care of our veterans, to take care of our military retirees, to build the United States Navy back up. It is now the smallest it has been since 1933, while the Repub-

licans controlled both Houses of Congress.

Those are my priorities; and, quite frankly, I am not going to steal it from the Social Security trust fund. I am not going to steal it from the military retirees trust fund. I am not going to steal from it the Medicare trust fund, and I am not going to stick my children with my bills.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) makes some very well-phrased comments. Neither are we going to steal it from Social Security or from Medicare or from any trust fund; but what we have done, in the appropriation process, is to increase funding in all levels that he has spoken of so that we can honor the promises we made to our veterans and so that we can replenish the funding needed for our defense.

He mentioned there is no surplus. Mr. Speaker, we have a positive cash flow, though, and this positive cash flow is real.

I went into business at the age of 18, and at the age of 18 I went into debt. Mr. Speaker, I am still in debt; and I do not have enough funds in my account to pay all of my debt, but what do I have to do? I have a positive cash flow that allows me to meet my obligations, and through the years I have had positive cash flow in some years and not in others; but those years that I did, I was able to give myself a little bonus, and what we are talking about here with this positive cash flow is leaving some of it as a bonus for those who earned it and paid it into the Government, paid into the Treasury, a positive cash flow, one that can be used to meet our obligations and one that can be used also to give relief and a bonus to our people across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say I agree with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) about the priorities he noted, which is why we are increasing in record levels VA health care funding and we are increasing our spending on military readiness, which is something that is long overdue; but that is a debate for another day.

What we are here to talk about today is the marriage penalty, which I think is a no brainer. I cannot believe that we have to debate this thing. We have 75,000 married couples in South Dakota who pay higher taxes because they choose to say "I do." These are regular working people.

I will give an example of just what I am talking about. There is a young couple that came into my office. The husband makes \$46,000 a year. The wife makes \$21,000 a year. They are married. They are in their early thirties and they have two young children under the age of 4.

Last year, they paid \$1,953 more for the price of being married. That is wrong, and anyone can see how unfair this is. These people are not rich. They do not drive fancy cars and take glamorous vacations. They have to make car payments and mortgage payments every month. They have to pay doctor bills when one of the kids has an earache and they have to pay for day care.

This is common sense tax relief for working South Dakotans and for working Americans, and I hope all Members of this House can see the value of this legislation and the message it sends to the American people and the people of this Nation that we value marriage, we encourage marriage, we do not want to penalize people because they choose to get married. We need to repeal this law and stop punishing married couples in this country for having made a commitment to each other. Overriding this veto and repealing the marriage penalty and the tax law is the right thing to do for this country.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting how quickly we dismiss the statements of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) regarding the trust funds and the desire of many of us to change the manner in which we have been addressing the trust funds. Today, again, we have a simple question; and I have a simple question to pose. If one believes that providing a tax cut as large as possible is more important than eliminating the national debt and protecting Social Security and Medicare, then vote to override the veto of this bill. However, if one agrees that eliminating the national debt and protecting Social Security and Medicare is more important than any new spending or tax cuts, then vote to sustain the veto.

I am for marriage penalty relief. We could come to this floor this afternoon and in very short order develop a fiscally responsible compromise which would bring meaningful support and tax equity to millions of Americans. Sadly, we choose this morning to continue a charade.

I continue to be amazed at the level of inconsistency in the leadership of this House reflected from one message of the day to the next. On one day this House loves to congratulate itself on its commitment to debt reduction. The next day it is tax relief for small businesses. Another day we swear our support for lockboxes for Social Security and Medicare and then we promise huge tax cuts not only for middle- and low-income married couples but we also sneak in wider tax brackets to benefit the higher-income folk.

Now, I think most of these are worthy and, in fact, should be among our highest priorities; but it is just not possible to have ten different number

one priorities. It takes leadership. The Blue Dogs looked at the whole picture early this year and realistically balanced each concern with the other. We decided that our number one priority should be eliminating our national debt so that we can meet our commitments to Social Security and Medicare in the future. We should talk about tax cuts after we have agreed on a long-term plan to set aside enough of the surpluses over the next 10 years to eliminate the debt and deal with the challenges facing Social Security and Medicare.

I would congratulate my colleagues from the other side of the aisle for coming around to the Blue Dog position on debt reduction, at least in their rhetoric yesterday. Unfortunately, the leadership's conversion to the cause of debt reduction appears to have been a short-term plan of convenience and not a serious long-term commitment to paying off the debt. The fact that we are voting today on this fiscally inconsistent tax cut makes me seriously doubt the seriousness of the Republican leadership's rhetoric about debt reduction.

If the leadership of this House were serious about debt reduction yesterday, they would not be coming to the floor today with this override. We should be working on a fiscally responsible tax cut. I urge my colleagues to vote to sustain the veto so we can get to work on a fiscally responsible marriage tax penalty relief.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

(Mr. WAMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk this fall about who is for the powerful and who is for the people, and I have a populist thread that runs deep to my core and most folks know I come right from the center of this floor, from this body to the microphone to speak from time to time; and I have to say that this is where the rubber meets the road because this is a people's issue. This is a populist issue. It is about average people, 110,000 of them in my district. They will pay \$1,400 per couple less in taxes. Since they are married, they should not be taxed unfairly.

This is where the people are heard. This is an issue where the rubber meets the road. I clearly believe we are on the side of the people here on repealing the marriage tax penalty. Our Tax Code is too complicated. That debate is for another day, but we have to come back to that. It is also unfair. This tax is unfair. We need to eliminate it. This is where the rubber meets the road.

There was a comment about protecting Social Security. My side, for 2 years, has kept us out of Social Security. That is a success. We deserve the credit for that. There is no question that we pushed the envelope there and we stayed out of Social Security. We

are now talking about what do we do about staying out of Social Security and giving the people some of their money back. We hear targeted tax cuts. This is targeted for couples who are married. What better way to target tax cuts than to people who are married? My goodness, my goodness, there should not be any question about this.

This is a people's issue, and on this one we are on their side. We are doing what the people need, married couples, low income, middle income, all folks, married couples. What better way to target tax relief. Vote to override the President's veto. Vote with the majority side here. Vote for the people and repeal and override the marriage tax veto.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the distinguished ranking member, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, as one who celebrated her 37th wedding anniversary last week, I certainly do not support marriage penalty, but I do support the Democratic alternative and urge my colleagues to sustain the veto and congratulate the distinguished ranking member for his extraordinary leadership on this.

Mr. Speaker, we all agree that couples should not be penalized by the tax code when they decide to marry. That is not the issue. The problem with the Republican marriage penalty bill is that its tax cuts go well beyond marriage penalty relief by widening the tax brackets of higher income tax payers. Half of the relief in the Republican proposal goes to people who do not pay any marriage penalty today. As a result, their proposal costs an astounding \$182 billion over the next ten years, consuming nearly one-fourth of the surplus.

Such substantial costs will leave less money to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, provide a prescription drug benefit to seniors, pay down the national debt, and provide other essential government services. I support President Clinton's veto of this fiscally irresponsible Republican proposal because enacting a tax cut that reduces our ability to address these important priorities will harm families, businesses and communities across the country.

Democrats have a sensible alternative that costs almost half as much as the Republican bill, while still providing marriage penalty tax relief to a majority of Americans. The Administration has indicated that President Clinton would sign the Democratic alternative if it came to his desk. Marriage penalty relief could be signed into law right now if the Republican leadership would support this alternative.

Despite what Republicans claim, Democrats do not oppose tax cuts, and we have not opposed marriage penalty relief. However, we do emphasize the importance of both fairness and fiscal responsibility when providing tax relief. Fairness that ensures family security and fiscal responsibility that protects our nation's

priorities. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the override of President Clinton's veto.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of our time to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), our distinguished minority leader.

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the ending of the marriage penalty, to say that the Democratic alternative did that for people that actually have a marriage penalty, and our problem with this bill is that it extends about 60 percent of its benefits to people that earn above the middle class and have many more means than the middle class and, frankly, do not have a marriage penalty.

Our problem with the bill, and the President's problem with the bill, and the reason the bill was vetoed, is that it goes ahead and does a lot of things that have nothing to do with the marriage penalty.

We are all for getting rid of the marriage penalty. For about \$100 billion over 10 years, we could do that for the people that have a problem. We could be carrying on a discussion today about a bill that the President would sign that would end the marriage penalty, but that is not what was chosen to do. So we are wasting time today, again, working on a bill that has been vetoed that will never see the light of day. I go door to door in my district; I went door to door last weekend and people talked to me about all kinds of issues, prescription medicine and Medicare, a Patients' Bill of Rights, helping public education and trying to get smaller classroom sizes.

And they talk about tax relief; but they want tax relief that is affordable, reasonable, feasible, and is targeted at the people that really need it. They do not think we need tax relief for people that earn \$130,000, \$150,000, \$200,000 a year. They earn \$30,000 a year or \$40,000 a year; and they would like the tax relief limited and targeted at them. They also want us to save the vast majority of the surplus to pay down the debt and to take care of Social Security and Medicare.

Now yesterday in a meeting in the White House, the Speaker and other Members of the Republican leadership came in with a new budget, and the new budget is that we are going to save 90 percent of the unified surplus to pay down the debt. Now, there are two problems with this. One, we are back to the unified surplus. I thought we were putting Social Security in a lockbox. If we are exposing the unified surplus to some new goal setting, 90/10, it could mean that in some years we would enter the lockbox and start spending Social Security money.

□ 1200

I cannot imagine that we would want to do that.

The second thing is, here we are on the floor today spending an hour trying

to override a veto on a \$300 billion tax cut. If you add up all the tax cuts that the leadership has brought to the floor and passed, you are well above 10 percent of the surplus. So the action today is inconsistent with the theory that was propounded just yesterday. We want to do these bills.

I say to my friends on the other side, let us stop the posturing. Let us stop the putting out bills that are not going anywhere. People in your districts and in mine want us to do something now, this year, to end the marriage penalty. We can do the marriage penalty before these next 3 or 4 weeks are up, if we will only target it at the people that actually have a marriage penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote to sustain this veto. Let us sit down in a spirit of bipartisanship and let us get the job done for the American people.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to assert that our families need some help in America, and this is the way to give it to them.

For a third time President Clinton and Vice President GORE have vetoed a bill to eliminate the marriage penalty tax because they say it is risky.

My question is: What is risky about helping married couples keep more of their own money.

Marriage is a cherished institution in America and we should promote it, not discourage it.

Right now, married couples pay more in taxes than two single people living together. That's just not right. Washington must stop penalizing the cornerstone of our society—the American family.

We should encourage marriage—not penalize it.

In my district alone, this bill would end the marriage penalty for over 150,000 Americans.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. GORE should stop playing election year politics. This bill is just too important.

A vote to override the President's veto is a vote for American families.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the Majority Whip.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is really fascinating at times how short people's memories are or the lack of sense of history. When the Republicans became the majority in 1995, we had 40 years of the Democrats control of this body. For 40 years, they ran up the debt on this country.

For 40 years, they had budgets as far as the eye could see that were going to run deficits and increase the debt on our children and grandchildren. When we came in, we told the American people that we would balance the budget,

that we would give some tax relief, and we would start paying down on the debt.

We were told by this side of the aisle and Washington pundits and Washington media that that is impossible, we cannot balance the budget and cut taxes and pay down on the debt. I am very proud to stand before my colleagues and tell my colleagues that the budget is balanced, and it has been for a couple of years, that we stopped the raid on Social Security that was going on for 40 years.

They were taking the Social Security surplus and spending it on government programs. We did that last year. And we will do it again this year.

We stopped the raid on Medicare surplus. They were using that for big government programs. We have a big surplus, and for the last couple of years, we have actually not talked about it, we actually paid down over \$350 billion on the public debt.

We started this year with a budget that said that now that we have this surplus, we have got to keep it out of the hands of the Washington spenders, and we need to return it to the American people, because they are the people that paid it and it is their money and they are overtaxed. That is the definition of a surplus.

We said that we would take, and I remind the minority leader, at that time we would take 85 percent of the surplus and pay down on the debt, and take other 15 percent and give some of that tax money back to the American people, and we do it in many ways. Repeal the death tax, well, the President vetoed that.

One of the most important reasons is why we are here today is to give some relief to married people, and there is a surplus, there is a \$70 billion surplus. Not counting the Social Security surplus, we have a surplus that does not count the Social Security surplus or the Medicare surplus, and we can take 90 percent of that and pay down the debt.

The institution of marriage is the foundation of our communities and our government. Marriage is something that we ought to be honoring and we ought to be respecting. It is time to repeal the destructive immoral tax currently imposed on married couples, a tax that this administration refuses to lift.

The President had the opportunity to end this unfair tax earlier this summer, and with the stroke of a pen, he could have extended fairness to the millions of American families who are burdened by this tax. Unfortunately, the President placed a higher value on retaining Washington spending than he did on extending relief for struggling young families during the last vote on this issue.

A very strong bipartisan majority of the House embraced the simple common sense of ending a tax that discriminates against people starting families. All of us understand that

when we tax something we get less of it. Why in the world would the Clinton administration retain a policy that forces married couples to pay a financial penalty? How can they call a family that is making \$43,000 a year rich? Their definition of middle class is anybody that does not pay taxes.

Why do Democrats offer an alternative that says it is fine, we can take advantage of the marriage penalty tax and repeal it, but if we have a home and pay a mortgage or we itemize deductions, we do not get the benefit of repealing the marriage penalty.

The support in this House for ending the marriage penalty clearly shows that the American people want and need relief from that tax. A country founded on freedom should not maintain a Tax Code that arbitrarily places an extra burden on husbands and wives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and the President to support this effort and to end the unfair tax on married couples.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is supposedly about the marriage penalty, but like last week's debate on the estate tax, it is really about priorities and fiscal discipline.

It will never be possible to design a tax system that is perfect. Often people of good will disagree about objectives and interpretations. Most of the people I represent, however, and a majority of Americans want us to do the job right. They know we can do better. The President is correct in resisting a series of tax cuts that favor those who need help the least until there is at least equal attention to the plight of those who need our help the most.

There are some serious marriage penalties in the tax code and in other areas of federal law, but this bill would not fix them. Lower-income workers, who benefit from the Earned Income Tax Credit, face a sharp reduction in benefits when they marry. This bill does not begin to address that problem. Nor does it try to distinguish between the slightly less than half of America's couples who are affected by the marriage penalty and the other half, who receive a marriage benefit. This bill lowers taxes for many, while overlooking those who need our help the most.

This bill does nothing to ease a difficulty that fully 50 percent of families will face by 2010—the risk that using the child care and education credits will force them into the Alternative Minimum Tax. This is a very real problem, especially for larger families who simply will not get the tax relief they were promised.

These problems can all be fixed, and the cost would be lower than the unfocused proposal the President rightly vetoed. We could have tax relief for those who face the biggest problems, while still reserving funds to provide health insurance to some of America's 11 million uninsured children; to offer prescription drug coverage to the one-third of older Americans who have no insurance for this expense; and to pay down the national debt.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I will vote to override the President's veto of H.R. 4810, the Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act.

Elimination of the marriage tax penalty has long been my priority. Some argue it is overly generous because it widens the 15 percent tax bracket for all married couples. I see nothing wrong with increasing the 15 percent

bracket for married couples from the current income level of \$43,850 to a level of \$52,500. No one can claim that those couples are rich. Because our tax structure is progressive, obviously widening the income covered by the 15 percent will impact on all the upper income levels. The issue is whether the lowest tax bracket group should be increased.

I want the Republican and Democratic leadership to get together and work out a marriage tax bill that will be signed by the President. I voted for the Democratic proposal in July. The differences between the two proposals are not so wide that they cannot be bridged. My vote is meant to send a message that repeal of the marriage tax penalty is due. Eliminating one of the most unfair provisions of the tax code is long overdue. If increasing the lowest tax bracket make it too expensive, then let's compromise that, so it costs less. But let's pass the repeal of the marriage penalty.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to express his support to override the President's veto of H.R. 4810, the Marriage Penalty Tax Elimination Reconciliation Act. This bill will have a positive effect, in particular, on middle and lower income married couples.

At the outset, this Member would like to thank the distinguished Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), for introducing this legislation.

It is important to note that H.R. 4810 passed the House on July 20, 2000, by a vote of 271 to 156, with this Member's support. The Senate also passed the same reconciliation measure. In turn, the President vetoed H.R. 4810 on August 5, 2000.

While there are many reasons to support overriding the President's veto of H.R. 4810, this Member will enumerate two specific reasons. First, H.R. 4810 takes a significant step toward eliminating the current marriage penalty in the Internal Revenue Code. Second, H.R. 4810 follows the principle that the Federal income tax code should be marriage-neutral.

First, this legislation, H.R. 4180, will help eliminate the marriage penalty in the Internal Revenue Code. In the following significant ways:

#### STANDARD DEDUCTION

It will increase the standard deduction for married couples who file jointly to double the standard deduction for singles beginning in 2001. For example, in 2000, the standard deduction equals \$4,400 for single taxpayers but \$7,350 for married couples who file jointly. If this legislation was effective in 2000, the standard deduction for married couples who file jointly would be \$8,800 which would be double the standard deduction for single taxpayers.

#### THE 15-PERCENT TAX BRACKET

It will increase the amount of married couples' income (who file jointly) subject to the lowest 15 percent marginal tax rate to twice that of single taxpayers beginning in 2003, phased in over six years. Under the current tax law, the 15 percent bracket covers taxpayers with income up to \$26,250 for singles and \$43,850 for married couples who file jointly. If this legislation was effective in 2000, married couples would pay the 15 percent tax rate on their first \$52,500 of taxable income, which would be double the aforementioned current income amount for singles.

Second, H.R. 4810 will help the Internal Revenue Code become more marriage-neutral. Currently, many married couples who file jointly pay more Federal income tax than they would as two unmarried singles. The Internal Revenue Code should not be a consideration when individuals discuss their future marital status.

Therefore, for these reasons, and many others, this Member urges his colleagues to vote to override the President's veto of H.R. 4810, the Marriage Penalty Tax Elimination Reconciliation Act.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when we considered this bill the first time, I voted for it—although I was very reluctant to do so—in the hope that the Senate would improve it sufficiently to make it acceptable.

However, that did not happen. So, I could not vote for the conference report on the bill and will not vote to override the President's veto.

I support ending the "marriage penalty," but my initial support for the Republican leadership's bill was reluctant because I thought that bill was not the right way to achieve that goal. That was why I voted for the Democratic alternative, a measure that would not have been vetoed.

In some areas the Republican leadership's bill did too little, and in others it did too much. It did too little by not adjusting the Alternative Minimum Tax. That means it would have left many middle-income families unprotected from having most of the promised benefits of the bill taken away. The Democratic substitute would have adjusted the Alternative Minimum Tax. It did too much because it was not carefully targeted. It did not just apply to people who pay a penalty because they are married. Instead, a large part of the total benefits under the bill would have gone to married people whose taxes already are lower than they would be if they were single. In other words, a primary result would not be to lessen marriage "penalties" but to increase marriage "bonuses."

And, by going beyond what's needed to end marriage "penalties" the Republican leadership's bill as originally passed by the House would have gone too far in reducing the surplus funds that will be needed to bolster Social Security and Medicare.

Those were the reasons for my reluctance to vote for this bill. They were strong reasons. In fact, as I did then, if voting for the bill would have meant that it immediately would have become law, I would have voted against it. But I reluctantly voted for it because at that point the Senate still had a chance to improve it.

I was prepared to give the Republican leadership one last chance to correct the bill's deficiencies rather than simply to insist on sending it to the President for the promised veto. I hope that the Republican leadership would allow the bill to be improved to the point that it would merit becoming law—meaning that it would deserve the President's signature.

Unfortunately, they did not take advantage of that opportunity. Instead, they insisted on sending to the President a bill falling short of being appropriate for signature into law. I cannot support that approach.

The bill as sent to the President—the bill that is not before us again—is not identical to the original Republican bill as initially passed by the House. But it is still very poorly targeted. Half of this bill's tax relief would go to

couples who are not affected by any marriage penalty at all—and overall the bill is still fatally flawed.

It seems clear that back in July the Republican leadership decided to insist on sending the President a bill he would veto, on a timetable based on their national nominating convention. If that was their desire, they have achieved it. I greatly regret that the Republican leaders decided to insist on confrontation with the President instead of seeking a workable compromise that would lead to a bill that the President could sign into law.

If the President's veto is upheld—and I think it will be—I hope that Members on both sides of the aisle will work to develop a bill that will appropriately address the real problem of the "marriage penalty" and that can be signed into law this year. Certainly, I am ready to join in their efforts.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the veto override of H.R. 4810. With just under fourteen legislative days remaining, we are poised to vote on a measure that will only provide tax relief to a small segment of Americans, at a cost of \$292.5 billion over 10 years and at the expense of providing universal Medicare prescription drug benefits, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, and paying off the National debt during the 1980's and early 1990's. Mr. Speaker, this massive tax cut, like the Estate and Gift tax bill before it, puts our seniors and our fiscal security at risk.

H.R. 4810 is overly broad and benefits not only those subject to a penalty but also would confer tens of billions of dollars of "marriage penalty tax relief" on millions of married families that already receive marriage bonuses. Approximately half of the tax reductions from the bill's "marriage penalty relief provisions" would go to families that currently receive marriage bonuses. According to a recent Treasury Department study, roughly 48 percent of couples pay a marriage penalty and 42 percent get a marriage bonus under current tax law. Therefore, this bill, which will cost \$292.5 billion over 10 years will provide a mere \$149 in tax relief to the average family with income of less than \$50,000. Further, once fully phased in, nearly 70 percent of the benefit will be enjoyed by couples earning more than \$70,000 annually, even if they suffered no marriage penalty under existing law.

As I have said before, the most troubling aspect of H.R. 4810 might well be the plan's increase in the 15 percent bracket for married couples to twice the single level, phased in over six years. This one provision, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of the measure's cost, would provide no relief to the 61 percent of all married couples already in the 15 percent bracket. Moreover, once H.R. 4810 is implemented, nearly half of American families with two or more children can expect to receive little, if any, tax relief because an increasing number of these families would be subject to new tax liability, under the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). As we all know, the AMT tax was designed to ensure that wealthy taxpayers could not avoid income taxes through excessive use of preferences such as credits and deductions. Mr. Speaker, surely the Republican Leadership does not see middle-class families with children as tax evaders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to abandon H.R. 4810 and join me in supporting the

Rangel alternative. Offered during original consideration of this bill, the Rangel alternative would cost \$89.1 billion over ten years and provides for real relief by increasing the standard deduction for married couples filing jointly to twice the level for single filers as well as an exemption from the AMT. The Rangel substitute adjusts the AMT in an attempt to ensure that the benefits of the standard deduction change would not be nullified. Further, it grants couples a \$2,000 increase in the beginning and ending income phaseout levels for families claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in 2001 and a permanent \$2,500 increase starting in 2002.

Unfortunately, with the House's rejection of the Rangel alternative, no legislation providing relief from the marriage penalty will be enacted this year. Moreover, the Republican Leadership, by scheduling this vote today, are telling us that they would rather have a political issue than working with Congressional Democrats to craft a bill that the President could sign to give an immediate targeted tax cut to middle-class American families. Mr. Speaker, let's not squander this opportunity to work together and act fast to bring about a targeted tax cut that relieves those who actually suffer a marriage penalty while maintaining our commitment to paying off the debt, providing a Medicare prescription drug benefit for seniors, and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to override the President's veto of H.R. 4810, a bill that purportedly addresses the marriage penalty but in fact misses the mark.

I strongly support marriage penalty relief. In my view, the tax code should not penalize couples because they choose to get married. That is why I have repeatedly voted for tax cuts to alleviate the marriage penalty for hard working families.

Unfortunately, the bill vetoed by the President was inflated to nearly \$300 billion with about half the total tax benefit going to high income earners who do not even pay the penalty. As a consequence, the vetoed bill would crowd out our ability to enact other tax cuts for working families, to pay down the national debt, and to strengthen Social Security and Medicare. We can eliminate the marriage penalty without jeopardizing these other important priorities.

This override vote need not and should not be the last word on marriage penalty relief this Congress. Members of both parties have offered proposals to address the marriage penalty and there are clearly grounds for compromise. The Republican presidential candidate, for example, has offered a targeted marriage penalty proposal that would restore the 10 percent deduction for two-earner families—a far different approach from the vetoed bill. The distinguished ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator MOYNIHAN, sponsored legislation that provides more relief from the marriage penalty than any other proposal offered this year by allowing couples to choose whether to file jointly or as individuals.

In the spirit of compromise, today I am introducing the House companion to the Moynihan amendment. Under my bill, couples who currently pay more in taxes because they're mar-

ried would have the choice to file as individuals, eliminating the marriage penalty. My bill is simpler, provides more marriage penalty relief, and is more fiscally responsible than the vetoed bill.

The one-half of all married couples in this country who pay the marriage penalty deserve our best efforts to reach a compromise. They gain nothing from political posturing and override motions that will inevitably fail. These couples deserve to have a bill enacted this year. We can deliver that tax relief, and I hope the legislation I introduce today can serve as a starting point for how we can address the marriage penalty and protect other key national priorities.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the motion.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote to override the President's marriage penalty veto.

Last February, this House passed the Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act of 1999, with 51 Democrats crossing over to vote with the Republican majority.

In August, President Clinton vetoed the bill. Today, the House has the opportunity to vote to override the President's veto.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, 25 million couples every year pay an average of \$1,400 in higher taxes simply because they are married. That's enough for their children's collect expenses or a down payment on a family car.

Here's how the discrimination works: A single taxpayer earning \$30,000 annually pays \$3,000 in federal taxes. But if two taxpayers earning \$30,000 each marry, they owe \$8,400 in federal taxes—40 percent more than the \$6,000 they paid when they were single.

There is no justification for making families pay higher tax rates than single Americans. In my own district of Texas, about 66,000 married couples would benefit from the bill.

Raising a family is difficult enough. The federal government should not add to that burden with unfair taxes. That's why I support the House's override of the President's marriage penalty veto.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4810, the Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act.

Last year, leadership tried to enact a \$792 billion tax cut bill that would have seriously endangered efforts to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, pay down the \$5.7 trillion debt and invest in important priorities such as education and a prescription drug benefit for all seniors. The American people soundly rejected this fiscally irresponsible plan.

This year nothing has changed except House leadership has broken apart their big tax bill into smaller pieces. So far, the leadership tax agenda adds up to more than \$748 billion over 10 years. This amount is nearly the same as the large irresponsible tax bill rejected last year. The Marriage Tax Penalty Relief bill passed by the House and the Senate and vetoed by the President is, once again, just another vehicle for leadership to push through their tax cuts, at the cost of \$280 billion over ten years if its provisions remain permanent, while providing nothing for hard working families.

While I support tax relief for those couples who are penalized, I do not, however, support H.R. 4810. Most of the tax cut would go to

couples that pay no marriage penalty at all, in fact they receive a marriage bonus. That is why I supported the substitute originally offered by Representative RANGEL, which was fairer and more fiscally responsible. In fact, two-thirds of America's couples would get the same tax cut under the alternative bill, as they would under H.R. 4810. It would have eliminated the marriage tax penalty by increasing the basic standard deduction for a married couple filing a joint income tax return to twice the basic standard deduction for an unmarried individual, but it would not have further exacerbated the current inequities in the Tax Code by providing a large tax act windfall to couples receiving a marriage bonus, that is, paying less in taxes because they are married than they would if they were single.

Although the President vetoed H.R. 4810 in August, leadership has insisted upon using the short period of time that remains in the 106th Congress to vote on this bill again, knowing that it will not be enacted into law as currently drafted. If leadership was serious about providing relief to married couples who incur a penalty, they would have worked for a truly bipartisan bill that all Members of Congress could have supported and the President would have signed into law. From the beginning leadership proved they were not serious about tax relief when they broke their own budget rules by first bringing up their bill in February, long before they passed a budget resolution. Their timing was purely for show, they wanted to provide tax cuts for married couples on Valentine's day. Further, they never bothered to schedule bipartisan meetings to discuss their bill, they never held a House-Senate Conference meeting, and leadership drafted the final bill behind closed doors.

Our current strong economy has begun producing surplus federal revenues, and, as you might imagine, there is no shortage of ideas for "using" the surplus. I am in favor of providing relief for those couples who are penalized by the marriage tax and I hope we can still reach a compromise on tax relief. Unfortunately, this tax relief would have made it more difficult to meet our nation's existing obligations; such as paying off our \$5.7 trillion debt, protecting Social Security, modernizing Medicare by offering a prescription drug benefit, and investing in our children's education. Surplus funds allow us to pay down the principal on this burdensome debt, thus reducing the annual interest payments which amount to approximately \$250 billion annually. In fact, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan stated, that "ongoing progress to pay off the national debt is an extraordinarily effective force in this economy," and that our first priority should be to continue to rack up annual surpluses.

Mr. Speaker, we can have tax cuts this year, but they should be the right ones, targeted at those who are currently penalized by the marriage tax. I urge all my colleagues to oppose the Marriage Penalty Tax Relief bill and sustain the President's veto of the Marriage Penalty Tax Relief Act. Then let's get back together to pass a reasonable compromise that recognizes our obligations to pay off the national debt, strengthen Social Security, modernize Medicare and invest in our children.

VACATING THE ORDERING OF YEAS AND NAYS ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 572, SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING UNITED STATES-INDIA RELATIONS

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vacate the ordering of the yeas and nays on the motion to suspend the rules and adopt H. Res. 572.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Without objection, the order for the yeas and nays on the cited motion is vacated and, pursuant to the earlier vote by voice, the rules are suspended, the resolution is agreed to, and without objection, a motion to reconsider is laid on the table.

There was no objection.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, a preliminary inquiry. Mr. Speaker, my parliamentary inquiry is how would I have this document from the Bureau of Public Debt published on June 30, 2000, how would I have this document that shows the public debt increasing by \$40 billion inserted at the RECORD at this appropriate time?

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) could ask for unanimous consent to submit the document for the RECORD.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for a publication of the Treasury Department to be inserted in the RECORD.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman repeat the unanimous consent request?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's unanimous consent needs to be repeated.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Treasury report of June 30, 2000 that shows that the public debt has increased by \$40 billion in the past 12 months be inserted at the RECORD at this point.

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, the documents that the gentleman referred to are already public records, so, therefore, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia objects.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

Under the Constitution, this vote must be determined by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 270, nays 158, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 466]

YEAS—270

Aderholt	Goode	Pascrell
Archer	Goodlatte	Paul
Army	Goodling	Pease
Bachus	Gordon	Peterson (PA)
Baird	Goss	Petri
Baker	Graham	Phelps
Balenger	Granger	Pickering
Barcia	Green (WI)	Pickett
Barr	Greenwood	Pitts
Barrett (NE)	Gutknecht	Pombo
Bartlett	Hall (TX)	Porter
Barton	Hansen	Portman
Bass	Hastert	Pryce (OH)
Bereuter	Hastings (WA)	Quinn
Berkley	Hayes	Radanovich
Biggert	Hayworth	Ramstad
Bilbray	Hefley	Regula
Bilirakis	Herger	Reynolds
Bishop	Hill (MT)	Riley
Bliley	Hilleary	Roemer
Blunt	Hobson	Rogan
Boehert	Hoekstra	Rogers
Boehner	Holden	Rohrabacher
Bonilla	Holt	Ros-Lehtinen
Bono	Hooley	Roukema
Boswell	Horn	Royce
Boucher	Hostettler	Ryan (WI)
Brady (TX)	Houghton	Ryun (KS)
Bryant	Hulshof	Salmon
Burr	Hunter	Sandlin
Burton	Hutchinson	Sanford
Buyer	Hyde	Saxton
Callahan	Inslee	Scarborough
Calvert	Isakson	Schaffer
Camp	Istook	Sensenbrenner
Campbell	Jenkins	Sessions
Canady	John	Shadegg
Cannon	Johnson (CT)	Shaw
Capps	Johnson, Sam	Shays
Castle	Jones (NC)	Sherwood
Chabot	Kasich	Shimkus
Chambliss	Kelly	Shows
Chenoweth-Hage	King (NY)	Shuster
Clement	Kingston	Simpson
Coble	Knollenberg	Sisisky
Coburn	Kolbe	Skeen
Collins	Kuykendall	Skelton
Combest	LaHood	Smith (MI)
Condit	Largent	Smith (NJ)
Cook	Latham	Smith (TX)
Cooksey	LaTourette	Smith (WA)
Costello	Lazio	Souder
Cox	Leach	Spence
Cramer	Lewis (CA)	Spratt
Crane	Lewis (KY)	Stabenow
Cubin	Linder	Stearns
Cunningham	Lipinski	Stump
Danner	LoBiondo	Stupak
Davis (VA)	Lucas (KY)	Sununu
Deal	Lucas (OK)	Sweeney
DeLay	Maloney (CT)	Talent
DeMint	Manzullo	Tancredo
Deutsch	Martinez	Tauscher
Diaz-Balart	Mascara	Tauzin
Dickey	McCarthy (NY)	Taylor (NC)
Doolittle	McCollum	Terry
Doyle	McCrery	Thomas
Dreier	McHugh	Thornberry
Duncan	McInnis	Thune
Dunn	McIntosh	Tiahrt
Ehlers	McIntyre	Toomey
Ehrlich	McKeon	Traficant
Emerson	McKinney	Upton
English	Metcalfe	Vitter
Etheridge	Mica	Walden
Everett	Miller (FL)	Walsh
Ewing	Miller, Gary	Wamp
Fletcher	Mink	Watkins
Foley	Moore	Watts (OK)
Forbes	Moran (KS)	Weldon (FL)
Fossella	Morella	Weldon (PA)
Fowler	Myrick	Weller
Franks (NJ)	Nethercutt	Whitfield
Frelinghuysen	Ney	Wicker
Galleghy	Northup	Wilson
Ganske	Norwood	Wise
Gekas	Nussle	Wolf
Gibbons	Ose	Wu
Gillmor	Oxley	Young (AK)
Gilman	Packard	Young (FL)

Abercrombie	Hall (OH)	Neal
Ackerman	Hastings (FL)	Oberstar
Allen	Hill (IN)	Obey
Andrews	Hilliard	Olver
Baca	Hinchee	Ortiz
Baldacci	Hinojosa	Pallone
Baldwin	Hoeffel	Pastor
Barrett (WI)	Hoyer	Payne
Becerra	Jackson (IL)	Pelosi
Bentsen	Jackson-Lee	Peterson (MN)
Berman	(TX)	Pomeroy
Berry	Jefferson	Price (NC)
Blagojevich	Johnson, E. B.	Rahall
Blumenauer	Jones (OH)	Rangel
Bonior	Kanjorski	Reyes
Borski	Kaptur	Rivers
Boyd	Kennedy	Rodriguez
Brady (PA)	Kildee	Rothman
Brown (FL)	Kilpatrick	Roybal-Allard
Brown (OH)	Kind (WI)	Rush
Capuano	Klecza	Sabo
Cardin	Klink	Sanchez
Carson	Kucinich	Sanders
Clay	LaFalce	Sawyer
Clayton	Lampson	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Lantos	Scott
Conyers	Larson	Serrano
Coyne	Lee	Sherman
Crowley	Levin	Slaughter
Cummings	Lewis (GA)	Snyder
Davis (FL)	Lofgren	Stark
Davis (IL)	Lowey	Stenholm
DeFazio	Luther	Strickland
DeGette	Maloney (NY)	Tanner
Delahunt	Markey	Taylor (MS)
DeLauro	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Dicks	McCarthy (MO)	Thompson (MS)
Dingell	McDermott	Thurman
Dixon	McGovern	Tierney
Doggett	McNulty	Towns
Dooley	Meehan	Turner
Edwards	Meek (FL)	Udall (CO)
Evans	Meeks (NY)	Udall (NM)
Farr	Menendez	Velazquez
Fattah	Millender	Vislosky
Filner	McDonald	Waters
Ford	Miller, George	Watt (NC)
Frank (MA)	Minge	Waxman
Frost	Moakley	Weiner
Gejdenson	Mollohan	Wexler
Gephardt	Moran (VA)	Woolsey
Gonzalez	Murtha	Wynn
Green (TX)	Nadler	
Gutierrez	Napolitano	

NOT VOTING—6

Engel	Gilchrist	Vento
Eshoo	Owens	Weygand

□ 1231

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. HINCHEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. EMERSON changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So, two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof, the veto of the President was sustained and the bill was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The message is referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Clerk will notify the Senate of the action of the House.

□ 1234

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed on Tuesday, September 12, 2000 in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: