

families of Long Island's First Congressional District and throughout our Nation should have their tax dollars back. We have accomplished this while we protected and locked away Social Security and Medicare funds and reduced our national debt by a historic rate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KILPATRICK addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IRRESPONSIBLE TAX CUT MEANS SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, here we go again, another round of voodoo economics, and another huge tax cut for the rich.

Passing this \$2 trillion tax cut before voting on the budget is irresponsible and will jeopardize the future of Social Security, Medicare, and public education. This bill is like taking a vacation before you pay your rent and utility bills.

I encourage my colleagues to consider the terrible situation in my home State of Florida where massive tax breaks for the rich have come at the expense of much-needed services for the poor, year after year after year. Yesterday, Florida Governor Jeb Bush called for even more tax breaks for the rich while continuing to overlook the most pressing issues facing Florida residents, for example, a \$1 billion hole in the Medicaid program that funds health services for poor pregnant women, children, the elderly, and the disabled; a school crisis that includes teacher retention problems and budget cuts that eliminate some of the most innovative teaching programs; a senior population whose health care is at risk because they cannot afford to pay for their prescription drugs; and the Nation's oldest veterans' population with nowhere to bury them with the dignity they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, mark my words. The rest of the country will face the same problems we have in Florida if President Bush's tax cut becomes a reality. The Bush tax cut is like the Reagan cuts that devastated our economy with huge debts, skyrocketing unemployment, and high interest rates. We have

been down this road before, and it took us 20 years to get out of this mess that the Reagan tax cuts put us in.

One of the immediate effects of his plan was the homeless problem. By cutting housing and community-based programs, Reagan eliminated the most critical programs for the people at the bottom of the economic ladder. As a result, this country witnessed record numbers of homeless people, and our deficit grew by leaps and bounds. We will see the same problem with health care and senior programs if these tax cuts are allowed.

My constituents do not deserve to relive this nightmare again. I would like to remind my Republican colleagues that the American people did not vote for the Bush plan.

□ 1830

We would not be in this mess if the coup had not taken place in Florida. There is no mandate for the Bush plan; I can tell my colleagues coming from Duval County, where 27,000 votes were thrown out, 16,000 of them African Americans, 16,000 African Americans, 27,000 votes thrown out.

The sad thing is that this election is not about a few hundred votes. It is about thousands of votes, thousands of votes that were thrown out in the State of Florida. We must commit ourselves that this will never happen again in this history of this country. The last time it happened was in 1877, and Florida was involved in that coup also.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of people think it does not matter what party is in charge. Clearly, today it is an example of it does matter what party is in charge. The parties are not all the same. Some look out for the wealthy and the others look out for the working people and the poor people of this country.

I am happy to be a party of that party, that cares about Medicaid and education and looks at it as investing in our future and not doing away with the surplus, that we take most of it out of health care, health care.

I tell my colleagues it is not a free ride in this country, and the American people, we will fight this fight again and we will welcome President Bush Monday when he comes to Florida.

#### INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING AND HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today is International Women's Day. Women of the world have very little to celebrate. Tragically, the new President withdrew family planning counseling across the developing world, where family planning had begun to have a structural effect on life for men, women and children.

The average family size where people have had access to family planning assistance has been reduced in a very short period of time from six to four. Now, we see the closing of clinics.

Mr. Speaker, what troubles me most this evening is the effect on the spread of AIDS. Just this week, we learned that India is about to experience the same tragedy that has overtaken Africa, as AIDS spreads like wildfire across the Indian continent.

When we in this country think of AIDS, we think of it as a male disease, but worldwide, 50 percent of those or almost 50 percent of those with AIDS are women. Seven percent of the people with AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa. Ninety-five percent of the AIDS worldwide are orphans. Eighty percent of women with AIDS worldwide are in sub-Saharan Africa.

If this epidemic moves, as it now seems to be, to India, what we will be seeing is the engulfing of continents where most of the world's people live with AIDS. How do we stop that? We know that the drugs, the expensive drugs, are simply not going to millions upon millions of poor people.

Family planning is a preventive low cost way, not only of planning family size with all of the effects that has on development, but it is a way to stop the spread of this deadly disease. Integration of AIDS treatment and detection and prevention with family planning is a critical way to go at this epidemic.

In the same place, counseling for family planning, counseling about AIDS prevention can be the most essential one-stop health service in the world today. It eases significant costs.

And perhaps most poignantly, we can begin to prevent mother-to-child transmission of AIDS, the most tragic consequence of this epidemic.

Did we know that girls, little girls, are far more likely to become infected than little boys? It is probably because it is far easier to take advantage of little girls.

Preventing AIDS and controlling childbirth must take place in the same orbit and in the same place. We, of course, have made that much more difficult at a time when we should be embracing ways to conquer the AIDS epidemic.

On this International Women's Day, I call upon the administration to look for ways to increase both AIDS funding and family counseling. Family planning counseling, and certainly the availability of contraceptives, the way we have thought necessary in this country, the double standard that we have used to make contraceptives available here but deny it in developing countries is having tragic effects well beyond anything we imagined.

This evening I cannot stand here and say that there is an answer to the world spread of AIDS. I can say that this country has within its grasp the tools to keep this epidemic from completely overwhelming developing countries.