all sorts of provisions that had never been seen in full by any Member of this House reported out at 8:45. We were called back at approximately 10:30. It was passed at 1:55 a.m. in the morning, in the dark of night because in my opinion the majority wanted to hide this bill. They wanted to take credit for the tax cut, but they wanted to hide the specifics of the bill.

It was signed by the President. The White House Press Secretary, Ari Fleischer, stated, ''This certainly does deliver tax relief to people who pay income taxes.''

Now, my friend, the gentleman from Texas, not the gentleman who just came on the floor but who previously spoke, a new Member of the House, reiterated that mantra, that everyone who paid taxes was going to get a reduction.

Let there be no mistake, these statements are blatantly and unabashedly wrong. As the Tax Policy Center has reported, more than 8 million lower- and middle-income taxpayers who pay billions of dollars in taxes a year will receive absolutely no tax reduction under the GOP tax bill. That figure, Mr. Speaker, includes 1.8 million taxpayers who pay more than $1,000 in income tax. They will receive no relief.

In the unkindest cut of all, 6.5 million minimum-wage families with nearly 12 million children will not receive the $400 per child increase in the child tax credit in the GOP bill. Why did that happen? It happened because they said that they were going to leave their bill at a $350 billion cut. Why? Because they needed to get some Republican members of the Senate to vote for it, and they could not get them to vote for any number larger than that.

So who do they look to to cut out? Did they look at Warren Buffett? Frankly, did they look at the gentleman from Maryland (STENY HOYER)? I could have afforded it. No, they did not look at us. They did not look at the wealthy; they looked at the poorest Americans and cut them out of this bill.

As a matter of fact, most of us probably did not know that, and the President has now said he is going to fix it. But frankly, he did not offer it in his tax bill. The Republicans did not offer it in their tax bill that passed the House. It was a Democratic amendment offered by Senator LINCOLN, adopted, and was in the conference. We all thought it was going to stay in the conference, but it was dropped in the dead of night without any Democrats in the room and unbeknownst to most Members.

Mr. Speaker, we could have extended the child tax credit to all families, as we sought, simply by limiting the reduction in the highest marginal income tax rate to 35.3 percent rather than 35 percent. We needed to pay for it, and we could have done it.

Now, that same gentleman from Texas observed that we needed to reduce the taxes because we needed to get the economy moving. We had a plan. It was fast-acting, fair to all Americans, and fiscally responsible. It did not harm us in the long term.

That plan was not allowed to be offered. The plan that was offered, however, was not fair, was not fast-acting, and is not fiscally responsible. In fact, we have gone from $5.6 trillion purported surpluses that the President told us we had to a, now, almost $3 trillion deficit, and we are going to be facing what they say is a $44 trillion deficit in the future. That will be a substantial tax increase for many children in America and many children unborn who will have to pay the interest on that incredible debt that we are incurring.

But lo and behold, in the clearest possible demonstration of the majority's values and priorities, the GOP has shown once again that when push comes to shove, it will fight for the Bush class over the working class every single time. The GOP's mantra really ought to be, leave no millionaire behind.

Mr. Speaker, on April 26th, President Bush stated in his weekly radio address: ''My jobs and growth plan would reduce the tax rates of everyone who pays income tax.''

And on May 29th, after the GOP tax bill—which included the provisions of the President's plan in full or in part—had been passed by Congress and signed by the President, White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer stated: ''This certainly does deliver tax relief to people who pay income taxes.''

Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake: These statements are brazenly, blatantly and unabashedly false. As the Tax Policy Center has reported, more than 8 million lower and middle-income taxpayers who pay billions of dollars a year in income taxes will receive absolutely no tax reduction under this GOP tax bill.

That figure includes 1.8 million taxpayers who pay more than $1,000 in income tax. What do they receive? No tax relief whatsoever. Nothing. Not a thing.

And the unkindest cut of all, 6.5 million minimum-wage families, with nearly 12 million children, will not receive the $400-per-child increase in the child tax credit in the GOP bill.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: We could have extended the child tax credit to all families—as Democrats sought—simply by limiting the reduction in the highest marginal income tax rate to 35.3 percent rather than 35 percent.

But lo and behold, in the clearest possible demonstration of Republican values and priorities, the GOP has shown once again that when push comes to shove it will fight for the ''Bush class'' over the working class every single time. The GOP's mantra really ought to be—Leave no millionaire behind!

While minimum wage workers and their children get left out in the cold under the Republicans' tax bill, the Grand Old Party ensured that 184,000 taxpayers with incomes of more than $1 million would receive an average tax cut of $93,500.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the Republican vision for America, apparently that's what passes for compassion. And if you don't agree, well the GOP vilify you, charging that you're practicing class warfare.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest.

Class warfare is precisely what the Republican Party has been practicing on working men and women in this country on issue after issue after issue.

The failure to provide the Child Tax Credit to minimum wage workers while fattening the bank accounts of millionaires is only the tip of the iceberg.

In this report session of the 108th Congress, the Republican majority passed a budget resolution that betrays our values and fails to meet our needs. It would take hot lunches out of the mouths of poor children; force the elderly out of nursing homes as the result of Medicaid cuts; and slash veterans' health care.

This Republican majority had to be dragged kicking and screaming not once but twice to extend unemployment insurance benefits—even as we face the highest unemployment rate in nine years and the loss of nearly 3 million private-sector jobs since George W. Bush took office.

This majority passed a Welfare Reform bill that would force mothers with children under the age of 6 to double the number of hours they must work every week. It passed a medical malpractice bill that would compound the pain of patients with the worst injuries while failing to reduce physicians' insurance premiums.

And it loaded up legislation such as the Defense Authorization bill—legislation that traditionally is overwhelmingly bipartisan—with extraneous, partisan measures that would harm the environment and strip Federal workers of their rights.

And of course, this majority has refused to close tax loopholes for offshore corporate tax havens.

It has refused to consider Democratic legislation to raise the minimum wage, which has not been increased since 1997.

And it even has refused to give the Members of this House the opportunity to vote on a Democratic amendment to increase funding for Homeland Security by $2.5 billion—a pittance compared to the costs of the GOP's unaffordable and unfair tax bill.

Meanwhile, this Republican majority refuses to address the most pressing unmet needs in America today:

The 41 million Americans who have no health insurance;

The millions of children who are eligible for Head Start but have no seat at the table; and

The millions of seniors who need and deserve a prescription drug benefit under Medicare.

On issue after issue after issue, this Republican majority has sided with powerful special interests over the interests of working Americans.

Mr. Speaker, that is certainly not the Democratic Party's vision for America. And we will never stop fighting for a positive agenda that meets the needs of all our citizens.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1474, CHECK CLEARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–138) on the resolution (H. Res. 256) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1474) to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute

checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 760, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2003

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108–139) on the resolution (H. Res. 257) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 760) to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DEMOCRAT TAX CUT INCLUDES WORKING AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, when we were here in the House the other day to vote on the third tax cut of the President, the majority leader stated that we were going to be back and they were going to be back with another tax cut.

Well, we have a tax cut. It is on behalf of working families and their children, so I would like to take the majority leader up on his offer to have another tax cut immediately following the first three tax cuts that they have passed, and bring up this tax cut that he said we were going to have, one right after we got back from session. We were going to have another tax cut. Not even was the ink dry, but we were beginning to work on another tax cut.

I found it a little ironic that night when I heard the majority leader say that, because I thought this was going to be the jobs and growth tax cut. Why do we need another tax cut if this was going to be so effective? Maybe it will produce the same results the first tax cut did, which has resulted in 2.75 million Americans losing their jobs, 5 million Americans losing their health care, $1 trillion worth of foreclosed corporate assets, and 2 million Americans walking out of the middle class into poverty.

But they want to do another tax cut; so, as we say in Chicago, I've got you one. That is, I have a tax cut for middle-class, working-class families and their children, the Rangel-DeLauro-Davis bill. It focuses our priorities on working families and children. It makes good economic sense, and it makes good moral sense. It reflects, most importantly, our values.

Now, the President during the State of the Union said that we would not leave our burdens to our children, that we would solve our problems today. I cannot think of anything that more reflects those types of statements, and those values embedded in that statement than that we would focus our tax cuts on our children, the children of working parents who get up every day and struggle to do right. They do not choose welfare, they choose a paycheck.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, mentioned, we have to reward work. These are the children of working families.

Now, in 1997, we had a balanced budget, a budget that was balanced with our priorities as well as our values. It expanded the earned income tax credit, it offered a $500 per child tax credit, and it provided 10 million uninsured children of working parents health care. It also cut the capital gains tax.

We also created a tax credit for higher education, and we did it while balancing our budget. We met our obligations. We invested in the long-term growth of this country's economy. We got the economy moving by balancing the budget. We did not hurt the long-term opportunities, but we invested in education, health care, and the environment.

Now this administration has chosen to have three tax cuts. What have they resulted in? $3 trillion have been added to the Nation's debt, and nearly 3 million Americans are without jobs. What a deal. What an opportunity.

Now, the first excuse for having left 12 million children of working parents out of this tax cut was, we forgot. We did not know. That is interesting. When it came to closing the tax loophole for corporations that use the ZIP code of Bermuda, we did not forget them. We took that right out. We said, that does not belong in this tax cut.

That is $30 billion of lost revenue that American working families have to make up. We did not forget them. We did not leave them behind. We remembered what ZIP code they were in. We remembered their area code. We got them right back where they belonged. Those are our pioneers. Those are our rangers, as they are known in some parts of this country.

Now, the other excuse given was, these people do not pay taxes. That is funny, because when they get their paycheck their FICA is withdrawn, their State income tax is withdrawn, their property taxes they have to pay. They pay taxes.

What is interesting, the very crowd they are criticizing was the crowd Ronald Reagan praised when he created in 1986 the earned income tax credit. Ronald Reagan was the one who signed this into law. President Clinton was the one who doubled it in 1993 and expanded it in 1997. We worked across party lines to help every child. These are America's children. We did not discriminate. We surely do not discriminate against the children of millionaires.

Where are our common values? How do we choose to give such a high priority on the depreciation of machinery, yet we cannot appreciate our children? How do we make that choice?

I know the men and women on the other side. They are good people with good values. These are not the values their parents raised them with, to choose the depreciation of machinery over the appreciation of our children.

I believe that we have a tax cut. Democrats offer one in good faith, the type of tax cut Republicans have voted for both in the other body as well as in the past. As our majority leader of the House said before the last tax bill was voted on, we are going to come back and we are going to do another tax cut. The Senate leader said that we are going to do another tax cut.

We have a tax cut. We stand ready to work with them and fulfill their obligations to get another tax cut passed, one that works and benefits our economy, the children of working families, enshrines the value of work, and holds that up; not just rewards passive income, but rewards active work.

VETERANS, CHILDREN, AND GREEDY, UNPATRIOTIC CORPORATIONS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about veterans, to talk about children, and to talk about greedy, unpatriotic corporations.

First of all, I would like to say a word about our veterans. We passed a budget in this Congress which, over the 10-year budget cycle, will underfund veterans' programs by $6.2 billion.

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And included in that budget are certain assumptions which will greatly increase the financial burdens that will be placed upon the backs of our veterans. First of all, a decision has been made that if you are a priority-eight veteran, considered high-income, and, quite frankly, in my district that could be someone who makes as little as $22,000 a year, you are considered high-income, and so you would no longer be able to enroll in the VA health care system.

Now that is fairly shameful. In the Committee on Veterans Affairs earlier today, one of my colleagues said that he was a priority-eight veteran and he really did not object to being excluded. Well, the fact is that I and all of the rest of us who serve in this body make about $150,000 a year. It is probably a little easier for us to pay for our health care than it would be for a veteran who makes as little as $22,000 a year.

Well, there are other things that this budget does. It assumes that we will charge priority-seven and -eight veterans an annual $250 enrollment fee, something that we have never done in the past. So these veterans are now going to be asked to pay an additional $250 annual enrollment fee.