

This is from a new survey by the Pew Research Center for the people and the press. In contrast to harsh criticism often heard from U.S. bashers, both here and internationally, this survey of 66,000 people in 44 countries over 2 years reveals that the majority demonstrates strong preferences in seeing democratic governments formed in Muslim countries. Also majorities in 33 of the these 44 countries believe people live better in a free market, even if it leads to wealth and income disparities.

According to this survey: "This is not to say that they accept democracy and capitalism without qualification, or that they are not concerned about many of the problems of modern life. By and large, however, the people of the world accept the concept and values that underlie the American approach to governance and business." This is also good news for the people of Iraq.

FUND CHILD TAX CREDIT

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask this Congress to fund the child tax credit. For 6 million families, it would only cost \$3.5 billion. We have the \$3.5 billion, but we want to give it to the top 1 percent. All we would have to do is take the top tax bracket and instead of cutting it down to 35 percent, cut it down to 35.3 percent, and we would have enough money to give the child tax credit to working families, single parents with children, single mothers trying to raise their children.

Mr. Speaker, we have enough time in this Congress to honor Sammy Sosa and his corked bat, but we do not have enough time to honor the children in single families in this Congress.

HONORING TEXAS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to spotlight several distinguished teachers from the Third Congressional District of Texas.

Great teachers nurture our country's best hope for tomorrow, our children. Children may be a fraction of our society, but they are 100 percent of our future. These educators go beyond the call of duty and selflessly make our children better and make Texas a better place to live.

These are the teachers of the year from the third district: from Allen, Texas, Nancy Jung and Joyce Carson; from Garland, Michael Robertson; from McKinney, Sharon Guynes and Betty Rutledge; from Plano, Marilyn Caruthers and Roxanne Burchfiel; from

Princeton, Janice Bohannon and Diane Talley; from Richardson, Lisa Cunningham and Rick Urbanczyk; and from Wylie, Doug Grether.

It is outstanding teachers like these who strive for excellence and make a difference in the lives of our children. They are heroes for our children, for America, for our freedom, for our future. God bless all of them. I salute our teachers all over the country.

MIDDLE-INCOME TAXPAYERS WILL PAY GREATER SHARE OF FEDERAL TAXES

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, two stories today in the papers tell it all. One, "Delay Rebuffs Move to Restore Lost Tax Credit," a credit for 6.5 million low-income families. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) says, "There are a lot of other things that are more important than that."

The second story, the headline is, "Middle Class Tax Share Set to Rise," and it says that as a result of three successive tax cuts of the Bush administration, middle-income taxpayers will be paying a greater share of all Federal taxes by the end of the decade.

When we raise these issues, the majority here likes to say it is class warfare. There is class warfare against middle- and low-income families under the Republican majority rule. We ask this question to taxpayers of America, Whose side are you on? It is clear the Republicans are on the side, as said in the paper, of Americans who earn \$337,000 or more per year.

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(Mr. BURNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's children. Since January 7, the 108th Congress has acted on a number of bold initiatives to secure the future of all children. We have successfully passed legislation to protect children from dangerous predators through the AMBER Alert legislation. We will soon vote on a conference report to improve child abuse prevention and treatment, called CAPTA; and the House recently passed my child medication safety legislation, H.R. 1170.

We have passed sensible, economic-growth legislation that increased the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000. Many have expressed concern about the fact that credit was not extended to those who pay no taxes.

I believe that Congress has done more to assist poor children and their parents with real jobs and real opportunities. Specifically, the jobs and growth bill recently signed into law re-

moves major barriers to capital formation for individuals and small businesses, allowing these businesses to provide more jobs, more paychecks, and more economic benefits that will enrich the lives of all of the Nation's poorest children.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I believe the 108th Congress has delivered on behalf of America's children.

HIGH-INCOME TAX BENEFICIARIES

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, again two stories in the paper say it all. The Washington Post says three successive tax cuts pushed by President Bush will leave middle-income taxpayers paying a greater share of all Federal taxes by the end of the decade, according to new analyses of the Bush administration's tax policies.

As critics of the tax cuts in 2001, 2002, and 2003 have noted, the very wealthiest Americans, those earning \$337,000 or more per year, will be the greatest beneficiaries of the changes in the Nation's tax laws.

□ 1030

Also, we read in the New York Times today that the House will not consider a Democratic measure to provide an increased tax credit to 6.5 million low-income families who did not receive it in the new tax law. So the policies of the Republican majority here are becoming increasingly clear. They are fiscally irresponsible, the borrow-and-spend Republican majority.

Let us see what they have done with the tax cuts: Helped the rich, hurt the middle class and poor, and stuck our children and grandchildren with the bill. Deficits as far as the eye can see. "Let's enjoy the tax cuts now because our children and our grandchildren will be paying the bill." This is morally unconscionable and should be changed.

MIDDLE EAST SUMMIT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today is a day of history and opportunity for the world and for the war-torn region known as the Middle East. I pray for the peace of Jerusalem and was yesterday greatly encouraged when five Arab leaders pledged to actively fight what they called the culture of extremism and violence in the region. I am also encouraged by Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas who has called for an end to violence against Israeli citizens. But I was astounded this morning when the network television shows were all stressing what our President today in Jordan must demand of our ally, Israel.

The truth is, as we welcome this day of history and opportunity, we must be

clear that any progress toward peace must require that Palestinians first recognize Israel; second, renounce terrorism; and, third, dismantle the infrastructure of murder within their midst. Then and only then can our Nation ask our ally Israel to make the concessions necessary for the advancement of peace.

REGARDING THE LATEST TAX CUT

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush signed the new tax cut law. That law is going to give \$93,500 per year to the 200,000 taxpayers making over \$1 million a year while the majority of all taxpayers would get less than \$100 under this new Republican tax plan.

But to rub salt into wounds, there was a deliberate decision to deny every family whose income is under \$26,625 a year the child tax credit. That includes most of the working class in this country. It includes nearly all men and women in combat. Their earned income is not \$26,625, so they do not even qualify for the child tax credit and here they are putting their lives on the line for our country.

This is unbelievable. The fact is, the families of the 12 million children denied this credit do pay taxes. Millions of them pay into the Social Security trust fund. That is the money we are having to borrow to pay for this tax cut.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1302

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any RECORD vote on postponed questions will be taken later today.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN AND SUPPORTED OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IN AFGHANISTAN AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM IN IRAQ

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 177) recognizing and commending the members of the United States Armed Forces and their leaders, and the allies of the United States and their armed forces, who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq and recognizing the continuing dedication of military families and employers and defense civilians and contractors and the countless communities and patriotic organizations that lent their support to the Armed Forces during those operations, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 177

Whereas the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, which killed thousands of people from the United States and other countries in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, inaugurated the Global War on Terrorism;

Whereas the intelligence community quickly identified Al Qaeda as a terrorist organization with global reach and the President determined that United States national security required the elimination of the Al Qaeda terrorist organization;

Whereas the Taliban regime of Afghanistan had long harbored Al Qaeda, providing members of that organization a safe haven from which to attack the United States and its friends and allies, and the refusal of that regime to discontinue its support for international terrorism and surrender Al Qaeda's leaders to the United States made it a threat to international peace and security;

Whereas Saddam Hussein and his regime's longstanding sponsorship of international terrorism, active pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, use of such weapons against Iraq's own citizens and neighboring countries, aggression against Iraq's neighbors, and brutal repression of Iraq's population made Saddam Hussein and his regime a threat to international peace and security;

Whereas the United States pursued sustained diplomatic, political, and economic efforts to remove those threats peacefully;

Whereas on October 7, 2001, the Armed Forces of the United States and its coalition allies launched military operations in Afghanistan, designated as Operation Enduring Freedom, that quickly caused the collapse of the Taliban regime, the elimination of Afghanistan's terrorist infrastructure, and the capture of significant and numerous members of Al Qaeda;

Whereas on March 19, 2003, the Armed Forces of the United States and its coalition allies launched military operations, designated as Operation Iraqi Freedom, that quickly caused the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, the elimination of Iraq's terrorist infrastructure, the end of Iraq's illicit and illegal programs to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and the capture of significant international terrorists;

Whereas in those two campaigns in the Global War on Terrorism, as of May 1, 2003, nearly 330,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, comprised of active, reserve, and National Guard members and units, had deployed for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas as of May 1, 2003, some 224,500 Reserve and National Guard members of the Armed Forces had been called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas in the conduct of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as of May 1, 2003, 67 military servicemembers and other United States personnel had given their lives in Afghanistan and 140 had been lost in Iraq, while over 700 had been wounded and 8 were held as prisoners of war;

Whereas success in those two campaigns in the Global War on Terrorism would not have been possible without the dedication, courage, and service of the members of the United States Armed Forces and the military and irregular forces of the friends and allies of the United States;

Whereas the support, love, and commitment from the families of United States service personnel participating in those two operations, as well as that of the communities and patriotic organizations which provided support through the United Services Organization (USO), Operation Dear Abby, and Operation UpLink, helped to sustain those service personnel and enabled them to eliminate significant threats to United States national security while liberating oppressed peoples from dictatorial regimes;

Whereas the civilian employees of the Department of Defense, through their hard work and dedication, enabled United States military forces to quickly and effectively achieve the United States military missions in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas the commitment of companies making their employees available for military service, the creativity and initiative of contractors equipping the Nation's Armed Forces with the best and most modern equipment, and the ingenuity of service companies assisting with the global overseas deployment of the Armed Forces demonstrates that the entrepreneurial spirit of the United States is an extraordinarily valuable defense asset; and

Whereas the Nation should pause to recognize with appropriate tributes and days of remembrance the sacrifice of those members of the Armed Forces who died or were wounded in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as all who served in or supported either of those operations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) conveys its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of the members of United States and coalition forces who have been injured, wounded, or killed during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

(2) commends President George W. Bush, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, and United States Central Command Commander General Tommy Franks, United States Army, for their planning and execution of enormously successful military campaigns in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

(3) expresses its highest commendation and most sincere appreciation to the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, including the members of the organizational elements specified in section 2 of this resolution;

(4) commends the Department of Defense civilian employees and the defense contractor personnel whose skills made possible the equipping of the greatest Armed Force in the annals of modern military endeavor;

(5) calls upon communities across the Nation—