

percent of it, and that means they will be more productive. And they will advocate for the same things we do. And the center for political gravity in Europe, for example, shifts to the right. When it does that, they are a closer friend to us, and they become more allies than they are today. And they have been good allies over the years, but we can improve that with the fair tax policy.

So H.R. 25, fairtax.org, embedded tax costs of 23 percent, reducing the cost of everything we sell by 22 percent. We repair our balance of trade; that minus \$503 billion a year in balance of trade goes to a plus number. We slow the loss of unskilled jobs or lower-skilled jobs going overseas, and we promote capital formation that grows our economy on the high-tech side. And we lower the taxes on middle-income America, and untax the poor and the senior citizens on fixed income.

It does everything that a tax policy can do. Additionally, the costs of compliance gets reduced by 95 percent. Forty-five States in the Union today have a sales tax in place. They already have the collection system there. They already have the audit system in there. So only five States have to put in place a sales tax system. They will grumble and groan about it a little bit, and they will be the five States to oppose this, and yet the best thing overall for America.

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So, when they do collect those taxes, it will just be the State treasurer sends the check to the U.S. Treasury. It is that simple, and the audit systems are there now, and we can contract with them to continue to do the audits as they have, and we also want to pay 1/4 of 1 percent to the States for collecting the tax and to the retailer for collecting the tax.

Have you ever had the government send you a check for collecting taxes before or did you just send it in and be glad you can keep the little bit that is left? We change that. So April 15, that day when people stay up all night long pulling their hair out to make sure they can file the forms, make sure they can meet their tax obligations, and there are millions of Americans that go to borrow money to pay their taxes on that day or the day after, April 15 is the worst day on our calendar, and it can become just another day when this Congress passes the fair tax, H.R. 25.

The time is right. The majority leader understands this. He has been a supporter of the fair tax for a long time. We know we need to bring tax reform. We know we need to bring a dynamic energy into this economy. No one, no one in their right mind, that is, would advocate that we would take the internal revenue code we have today and modify it and amend it and try to somehow get tax reform out of this monstrosity of pages and produce something that provided equity for the American people. It is not possible with that monstrosity.

If we went to the flat tax, as Steve Forbes advocated some years ago and as Dick Arme, who was the majority leader in this chamber, advocated some years ago, that postcard, if you put your taxes on, still keeps the IRS intact, still requires an audit. That postcard is your income tax the way it looked 90 years ago when this monstrosity first began. If we could cut it back to that with a flat tax, it would still grow into another monstrosity again. Over time, we can eliminate the IRS, we can eliminate the tax code, and by the way, we must amend the Constitution so that income tax is unconstitutional again and repeal the amendment that established and legalized the income tax, and the American people will be ready to do that; they will get confidence in.

We will pass the bill and introduce a constitutional amendment and watch this dynamic economy jump, but the piece that is most important is a \$1 trillion anchor on our economy imposed by the IRS today. That \$1 trillion anchor can be cut.

H.R. 25 cuts that anchor chain. That anchor can stay in the bottom of the ocean, and we can sail this ship of our economy free, and we can take these people that are now involved in the regulatory sector of the economy, the IRS workers and all those people who are so busy working for tax avoidance or tax compliance, I mean, we have got this whole competition going on out here. They can all go to work in the private sector producing a good or service that has value, that they can cash a check for, and they can go out, too, with the money they earn, keep all the money they earn, spend it at the retail level, decide when they pay their taxes.

It is freedom; it is fair. It is fairtax.org. It is time this Congress moves. It is time we have a conference to debate and discuss this and get off the dime on what is the best policy. This is the best policy. I believe that should be settled with the American people. We need to move forward and get past this indecision.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the chamber tonight, and I look forward to some action on this issue and many others as this time unfolds.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARDIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 3:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. TAUZIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for the week of April 19 on account of medical reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSOLE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MURPHY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 27.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, April 27 and 28.

Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, April 27 and 28.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and to include extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$2,917.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on April 22, 2004, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1274. To direct the Administrator of General Services to convey to Fresno County, California, the existing Federal courthouse in that county.

H.R. 2489. To provide for the distribution of judgment funds to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

H.R. 3118. To designate the Orville Wright Federal Building and the Wilbur Wright Federal Building in Washington, District of Columbia.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 26, 2004, at noon.