

my district and in the districts of many of our colleagues.

That is because the debt burden faced by the Federal Government is going to dramatically worsen in the future if the administration's tax cuts are made permanent. If the Bush tax cuts are made permanent, this problem is only going to get worse.

The Government Accountability Office projects that interest on the national debt would nearly equal all of the Federal taxes, including income and payroll taxes that we generate in 2040, not now but the taxes that we generate in 2040, if the recent tax cuts are made permanent.

Current and proposed debt and the rising level of interest that we pay on that debt, which is soon to average about \$300 billion a year, which is more than we spend on Medicaid to help make people understand what that means, we weaken Social Security and threaten benefits for today's seniors, for disabled workers and their survivors, much of which affects women disproportionately which I want to address in a moment.

The amount merely required to pay interest on the national debt ultimately will be almost twice the amount that is paid out to all Americans in Social Security benefits. That is unbelievable. The interest on the national debt will be more than twice what we pay out in Social Security benefits.

Unlike interest on the national debt, Social Security has its own dedicated taxes, and the President fails to acknowledge that these costs crowd out resources for other priorities that affect people of all ages, people over 55 and younger people as well, in health care, in education and in homeland security. I want to take a minute and just talk about the impact on women of the Bush administration's policy decisions as it relates to tax cuts and the lack of tax reform.

There are programs serving women and families that are really bearing the burden of deficit reduction. The President's budget now in front of us slashes funding for countless domestic programs.

The administration itself in child care calculates 300,000 additional children could lose assistance by 2009 from the continued freeze in funding. Between 2003 and 2004, 200,000 children have lost child care help.

In Medicaid, the administration would cut \$7.6 billion over 5 years, and the House even more.

Education and training: Investment in high school vocational education programs that can help train women and girls for higher paying, nontraditional jobs is totally eliminated.

Supplemental nutrition for women, infants and children: The cut of \$658 million could mean 660,000 fewer pregnant women, infants and children receiving WIC assistance in 2010.

I want to boil this down for another few seconds. Millionaires' average tax

cut in 2004 was \$123,592, which is more than five times the annual income of a typical single mother with children, whose median income is \$22,637. That is what their policy translates into for regular, everyday people.

More than one-quarter of single-parent families, who are overwhelmingly headed by women, get nothing from the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

These tax cuts, the bottom line, and the budget simply makes the wrong choices for women, for their families and for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) so much for this opportunity for us to help the American people understand that it is Democrats that are committed both in action, deed and rhetoric, and our actions will match our words when it comes to tax reform.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and she left me a beautiful segue into the closing of our action matching our words. That is what ought to happen, and when that does not happen, people get pretty cynical. Let me refer to some words.

In 1996, Newt Gingrich was the Speaker of this House and he said, "The current system is indefensible," referring to the tax code. He was right. "It is riddled with special interest tax breaks. Today's tax code is so complex that many Americans despair that only someone with an advanced degree in rocket science could figure it out. They are wrong. Even a certified genius such as Albert Einstein needed help in figuring out this Form 1040." In 1996, 8 years ago, the Republicans were in charge of this House, and Mr. Gingrich was our Speaker.

A year later, Mr. Gingrich said this as the Speaker of the House, "So we want to move towards a simpler tax code that takes less time to fill out, that is easier for the American people," 1997.

In the last 7 years, the Speaker's party, the Republican party, has made the tax code 25 percent more complicated than it was in 1997, moving in exactly the opposite direction.

In 2001, 4 years later, 2001, President Bush said, Americans want our tax code to be reasonable and simple and fair. He was absolutely right. That is what I want. That is what every American wants. These are goals that have shaped my plan. What plan? No plan, no plan here, no plan in the Committee on Ways and Means, no plan from the White House.

□ 2045

And then in 2004, fast forward 3 years, just last year: "The administration has made tax simplification a priority, and we look forward to working with Congress to achieve it. A simpler code is something we owe honest taxpayers, and the worst thing of all for the tax cheat."

Mr. Speaker, we agree with the President, but what did we do today? This very day, we made the Tax Code more

complicated, not to mention costing many small farmers and small businessmen more money than they otherwise would have paid with existing policy.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican friends, my Democratic friends, on behalf of the Democratic Party, I pledge that we are going to fight to reform a system that is complicated, that is unfair, and that is inefficient so that Americans will say, as painful as April 15 may be, at least it was easier to fill out, at least I think it was fair, and at least I think it will be handled in an efficient way.

Democrats are committed to reforming this Tax Code so it will be simpler, fairer, and more efficient.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

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

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mrs. BIGGERT, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, April 14.  
Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 14, 2005, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1521. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the annual assessment of the cattle and hog industries, pursuant to Public Law 106-472 7 U.S.C. 181, et seq; to the Committee on Agriculture.

1522. A letter from the Acting Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture,