

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people say there is not much difference between Democrats and Republicans. But when it comes to taxes, it is clear that there are two quite different philosophies at work which guide the thinking of each side.

Democrats believe that the tax system is primarily a way to redistribute wealth; that is to say, take what belongs to one person and give it to someone else.

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Republicans, on the other hand, believe that the tax system is merely what is necessary to raise revenues for the constitutionally required functions of the Federal Government, which is principally to provide the common defense.

Democrats believe that a system that redistributes wealth is more fair than a system whereby people are entitled to the fruits of their labors to the maximum extent possible.

Democrats speak constantly of the fact that the wealthy, never defined, do not need a tax cut. Of course, by that logic a rich person does not need to be paid for any work that he performs. But they fail to recognize that the money earned by the wealthy or the middle class or whomever belongs to them. After all, they earned it.

#### REPUBLICANS THROW IN THE TOWEL ON SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND PAYING DOWN DEBT

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a sad day for our Nation, a sad day because the Republicans threw in the towel. They gave up and they capitulated.

Rather than make the tough choices to save Social Security, to save Medicare, and to pay down a \$5 trillion debt, Republicans simply gave up and did what they thought was the easy thing to do, provide for an irresponsible tax cut that forecloses the financial future for many, many, many Americans who must rely on Social Security, who must rely on Medicare, and to the next generation that is hoping to have low interest rates, hoping to have a good economy so they can buy a house and form families and raise their children.

But, no, rather than pay down the debt, the Republicans would rather risk high interest rates for the whole Nation and for small businesses. We tried this once in 1980. It has taken us 20 years, I repeat, it has taken us 20 years to dig out of that debt that the Republicans gave us in 1980.

Now, for the first time in history, we have an opportunity to save Social Security, to save Medicare and to pay

down the debt. But the Republicans have given up and thrown in the towel. How little courage they have.

#### REPUBLICANS BELIEVE IN TAX CUTS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of Americans who believe that there is not much difference between Democrats and Republicans. Well, there certainly is here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

For example, let us consider taxes. The Democrats, under President Clinton, passed the largest increase in U.S. history back in 1993. The liberals have not stopped praising that tax increase ever since. The liberals are actually happy to raise taxes because that means more revenues for big government and more money to spend on their special interests.

Republicans believe that the government is too big and that Washington politicians have too much power. Republicans passed tax cuts last time and it is our goal to pass additional tax cuts this year. Let us get rid of the unfair marriage penalty, for example. Let us get rid of the death tax. Let us reduce taxes on all Americans.

The difference between Democrats and Republicans here in the House: The Democrats believe that the bureaucrats here in Washington know best how to spend taxpayers' money. Republicans think that the American people are smart enough to know how to spend their own money.

#### WHEN WE PAY DOWN THE DEBT, AMERICANS GET A REAL BONUS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, every summer, particularly in election years, Republicans run down to the well and they give us their usual, a big tax break, as though that were the answer to all the problems. They insult the intelligence of many American people.

First, as usual, when we look behind the rhetoric, what we see is a tax break that basically benefits the very wealthy. But this year it is even worse because this is a fiscally irresponsible tax break that undermines our economy and creates higher deficits.

We on the Democratic side of the aisle have an alternative. We believe, number one, we need long-term solutions, not short-sighted and short-thinking solutions. We need solutions that, number one, protect Social Security. We need solutions that, number two, can pay down the debt.

When we pay down the debt the American people get a real bonus, they

get lower interest rates, which helps them with buying houses and buying cars. That is what really matters. We need to pay down the debt, help families, help small businesses.

And, third, we need to strengthen Medicare. Now, we will not hear the Republicans say a thing about Medicare. We can strengthen Medicare and provide a prescription drug benefit for our senior citizens. That is the long-term solution, not the short-sighted solution the Republicans are offering.

#### REPUBLICANS WANT TO GIVE BACK MONEY TO TAXPAYERS; DEMOCRATS WANT TO SPEND IT

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrats, the liberal editorial pages, the President, they are all singing off the same sheet of music with remarkable harmony these last few days. They have called the Republican tax cut proposal "risky." I am not surprised.

But for Republicans, what is far riskier is keeping the Federal budget surplus in Washington, D.C. "Trust us," these liberal politicians will say. "We won't spend it." "Really," they say, "we will use it for debt reduction. Trust us, we won't spend it. Trust us, we won't spend it."

Now, I really do not know what to say to people who think that politicians in Washington can be trusted not to spend this pot of money. If the choice is between giving the money back to the people who earned it or spending it, the Democrats will spend it. Republicans will not spend it. They want to give it back to the people who earned it. It is their money in the first place.

#### DEMOCRATS WANT TO PAY OFF THE DEBT

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the last Speaker would say that if the money from the so-called surplus is left in Washington that Americans should not trust us because "we" would spend it. The last I heard, the Republicans were the "we". The Republicans are in the majority.

If the Republicans are so fractionalized, if they are so disorganized that basically they are saying we should take the surplus and get it out of here as quick as we can and stop us before we hurt the Nation any further, then I understand the argument.

But if it is that no matter what economist we might listen to, no matter what American we might talk to, the