to three-quarters of them are em-
ployed. Our plan for financial assis-
tance to working men and women, to
allow millions of millions of Ameri-
cans who work at minimum or low
wage or small employers who are the
largest employers, and most of those
people who do not have health insur-
ance are not covered but they do work,
we are providing in this tax relief pack-
age a responsible package. It is reck-
less in my opinion not to provide those
working men and women with at least
a minimal chance of getting some
health coverage.

So somehow we have a difficulty be-
tween determining what is reckless and
what is responsible. I think what the
Republicans, the majority and myself,
have done is a responsible action. I
think we have a history of a President
and a party in Washington in business.
I think the examples are clear and the
financial statements speak for them-

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT TAX CUT
PROPOSALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under
the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-
uary 19, 1999, the gentleman from Mas-
achusetts (Mr. OLVER) is recognized
during morning hour debates for 5 min-
utes.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, it is sort of
irony that I should be following the
gentleman who just spoke because I am
going to be speaking about the same
thing. That was not specifically
planned, but I am glad that it comes
out that way.

Mr. Speaker, we are told this week
that the main business of the Congress
is proposals which have now passed
both the House and the Senate to pro-
vide for an $800 billion tax cut. Any
time the Congress is thinking about
tax cuts, it behooves everyone in
America to hang on to their wallet, to
sit up and take notice, to pay very
close attention to who is being given
tax breaks and why. But also how that
differs from who the proponents are
saying is going to get the tax breaks.

This week is no exception at all. The
Republican leadership says that their
tax cut is for the middle-class. For the
middle-class in America, working
Americans. For the middle-class. Well,
that is clearly not true if we look at
what has passed the House and the Sen-
ate. The House passed its bill 2 weeks
ago. And starting at the wealthiest end
of Americans, at Bill Gates, at the
wealthiest end and come down to an
annual income of $300,000 a year, that 1
percent, just over a million Americans
who have incomes between $300,000 a
year and Bill Gates, that richest 1 per-
cent is on average going to get $54,000
of tax breaks. It turns out to be 45 per-
cent of the total of all the tax reduc-
tion being proposed goes to the 1 per-
cent of the wealthiest Americans.

If we take 6 million Americans, 5 per-
cent starting at the top of the scale
down to the one person who is $125,000 a
year. I think it might be instructive to re-
member that every single Member of the
Congress, every Member of the House
and every Member of the Senate has
income greater than $125,000 a year,
that 5 percent will average $15,000 a
year in tax cuts and gets 61 percent of
the total reduction.

Mr. Speaker, if we start at the other
end and come all the way up, all the
way up from the lowest income Ameri-
can to people making under $125,000 a
year, all 95 percent of them, all 120 mil-
lion taxpayers, they will receive less
than the 1 percent whose income is
over $300,000 per year. It turns out that
those people, who include the broad
middle-class income from $25,000 a
year to $65,000 a year under the House-
passed bill, would get less than half as
much in total tax reduction as the 1 per-
cent richest portion of the popu-
lation.

Let me put that in slightly different
terms. If we were to take 100 people
that we know, one person whose in-
come is over $300,000 a year and the
rest whose income comes down from
that point, and we have $100 to give out
in tax reduction, 100 people and $100 in
tax reduction, that one wealthiest per-
son, that single one is going to get $45.
Forty-five of the dollars that it is pos-
sible to give out under the circum-
cumstances. Ninety-five people, the 95
starting from the lowest income up to
incomes that covers the broad middle-
class, they are going to get a total of
$39 divided among them.

If we look at it in terms of families,
a family making $50,000 a year would
get less than $1 a day in tax reduction.
A family making $50,000 a year, two
people working, second jobs whatever
it happens to be but under $50,000 a
year, at $50,000 a year they would get
less than $2 a day in income. Yet the
person who is making $1 million a year,
that person would get $70,000 in that
year, $200 a day in tax breaks.

The Senate-passed plan is a little bit
different. The wealthiest 5 percent in
the Senate plan gets almost the same
amount as the 95 percent, the 120 mil-
lion people whose income is less than
$125,000 a year. And, again, I would
urge my colleagues to remember that
the portion of the population that is
getting most of the tax break includes
every Member of the House and the
Senate of the United States. I have to
ask, does anyone think that that is a
fair way to distribute tax reduction in
this country?