

REPORT ON RESOLUTION IN THE MATTER OF CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, from the Committee on Resources, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-801) together with dissenting views, on the refusals of Mr. Henry M. Banta, Mr. Robert A. Berman, Mr. Keith Rutter, Ms. Danielle Brian Stockton, and the Project on Government Oversight, a corporation organized in the District of Columbia, to comply with subpoenas issued by the Committee on Resources, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2000

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 564, I call up the bill (H.R. 4865), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to House Resolution 564, the bill is considered read for amendment.

The text of H.R. 4865 is as follows:

H.R. 4865

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act of 2000".

**SEC. 2. REPEAL OF 1993 INCOME TAX INCREASE ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.**

(a) RESTORATION OF PRIOR LAW FORMULA.—Subsection (a) of section 86 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Gross income for the taxable year of any taxpayer described in subsection (b) (notwithstanding section 207 of the Social Security Act) includes social security benefits in an amount equal to the lesser of—

"(1) one-half of the social security benefits received during the taxable year, or

"(2) one-half of the excess described in subsection (b)(1)."

(b) REPEAL OF ADJUSTED BASE AMOUNT.—Subsection (c) of section 86 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

"(c) BASE AMOUNT.—For purposes of this section, the term 'base amount' means—

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this subsection, \$25,000,

"(2) \$32,000 in the case of a joint return, and

"(3) zero in the case of a taxpayer who—

"(A) is married as of the close of the taxable year (within the meaning of section 7703) but does not file a joint return for such year, and

"(B) does not live apart from his spouse at all times during the taxable year."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subparagraph (A) of section 871(a)(3) of such Code is amended by striking "85 percent" and inserting "50 percent".

(2)(A) Subparagraph (A) of section 121(e)(1) of the Social Security Amendments of 1983 (Public Law 98-21) is amended—

(i) by striking "(A) There" and inserting "There";

(ii) by striking "(i)" immediately following "amounts equivalent to"; and

(iii) by striking ", less (ii)" and all that follows and inserting a period.

(B) Paragraph (1) of section 121(e) of such Act is amended by striking subparagraph (B).

(C) Paragraph (3) of section 121(e) of such Act is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B).

(D) Paragraph (2) of section 121(e) of such Act is amended in the first sentence by striking "paragraph (1)(A)" and inserting "paragraph (1)".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000.

(2) SUBSECTION (c)(1).—The amendment made by subsection (c)(1) shall apply to benefits paid after December 31, 2000.

(3) SUBSECTION (c)(2).—The amendments made by subsection (c)(2) shall apply to tax liabilities for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000.

**SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF TRANSFERS TO HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND.**

There are hereby appropriated to the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1817 of the Social Security Act amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of the enactment of this Act. Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund had this Act not been enacted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The amendment printed in the bill is adopted.

The text of H.R. 4865, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 4865

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act of 2000".

**SEC. 2. REPEAL OF 1993 INCOME TAX INCREASE ON SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.**

(a) RESTORATION OF PRIOR LAW FORMULA.—Subsection (a) of section 86 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Gross income for the taxable year of any taxpayer described in subsection (b) (notwithstanding section 207 of the Social Security Act) includes social security benefits in an amount equal to the lesser of—

"(1) one-half of the social security benefits received during the taxable year, or

"(2) one-half of the excess described in subsection (b)(1)."

(b) REPEAL OF ADJUSTED BASE AMOUNT.—Subsection (c) of section 86 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

"(c) BASE AMOUNT.—For purposes of this section, the term 'base amount' means—

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this subsection, \$25,000,

"(2) \$32,000 in the case of a joint return, and

"(3) zero in the case of a taxpayer who—

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(1) Subparagraph (A) of section 871(a)(3) of such Code is amended by striking "85 percent" and inserting "50 percent".

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**SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF TRANSFERS TO HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby appropriated to the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund established under section 1817 of the Social Security Act amounts equal to the reduction in revenues to the Treasury by reason of the enactment of this Act. Amounts appropriated by the preceding sentence shall be transferred from the general fund at such times and in such manner as to replicate to the extent possible the transfers which would have occurred to such Trust Fund had this Act not been enacted.

(b) REPORTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate shall annually report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate the amounts and timing of the transfers under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, it shall be in order to consider a further amendment printed in House Report 106-795 if offered by the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) or his designee, which shall be considered read, and shall be debatable for one hour, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) each will control 30 minutes of debate on the bill.

□ 1445

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the bill H.R. 4865.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?