

would make things even worse. Although the Vice President claims to provide middle class tax relief, he actually provides meager relief only to those individuals who agree to live the government-approved AL GORE mandated life-style.

As a result, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday "families earning identical amounts of money would pay widely different taxes and families earning more money than others could pay significantly lower taxes."

Those who choose the GORE life-style get a tax break. Those who choose to live their own lives get nothing. For example, if one purchases a costly electric car, the Vice President gives one a tax break. If one purchases a Ford pickup truck, one gets nothing. That is not my definition of fairness. That is not my definition of freedom.

Governor Bush, however, has a different approach. He believes that all Americans are overtaxed and worthy of some relief, even those who drive Ford pickup trucks. His evenhanded plan would provide relief to virtually every taxpayer. That, Mr. Speaker, is fair.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT OF 1994

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time for us to reflect upon the damage done to American society by domestic violence.

Scratch the surface of any of our Nation's most challenging social problems, from crime in schools to gang violence and homelessness, and one is likely to find the root cause is domestic violence.

Law enforcement officials report that domestic violence calls are among their most frequent. Judges find that children first seen in their courts as victims of domestic violence return later as adult criminal defendants. Schools report that children with emotional problems often come from environments where violence is the norm.

What does this tell us? It tells us that violence begets violence, and it is incumbent on all of us to try and break the cycle. That is exactly what the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, of 1994 has helped us to do over the last 6 years.

Let us get to the President's desk now the 5-year reauthorization of VAWA. It is a vital investment in this Nation's future.

PAYING OFF DEBT PRESERVES THE POLITICAL AND SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF OUR GRANDCHILDREN

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, nearly 40 years ago, President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned "we cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage.

"We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not become the insolvent phantom for tomorrow."

This Congress has a chance to tear off a piece of that mortgage placed on our children and our grandchildren and all of our future generations by paying off America's debt. We can start this year. We can start by committing 90 percent of the surplus to paying off America's debt.

Democrats say it cannot be done, and they are wrong. Just a couple of years ago when we Republicans promised we would stop Bill Clinton's raid on Social Security, Democrats said that could not be done. But once again, they were wrong.

Paying off the debt should be our top priority. It frees up money currently spent on interest and allows us to pay for other top priorities such as prescription drug benefits, saving Social Security, and preserving the political and spiritual heritage of our grandchildren.

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO PAYING DOWN DEBT

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, government spending reigned supreme in Washington. Deficit spending ran rampant, the debt ballooned, and taxes skyrocketed. It was always spend first and worry about the debt later.

But today Republicans are changing course and saying that paying off the debt for our children's future should be at the front of the line, not at the end of the line.

Republicans are committed to paying off the national debt. We have already reduced the debt by about \$350 billion and are committed to eliminating the national debt altogether.

The Clinton-Gore administration vetoed relief on the marriage and death taxes. Remember? Republicans are not about to sit back and let the Democrats now spend that money.

As we finalize next year's budget, we are dedicated to three core principles. Let us pay down the debt. Let us make sure Social Security and Medicare are on sound financial ground for this generation of seniors and future generations. Let us give the American people substantial tax relief. They deserve it. That is what is right for the country.

REBELS IN SIERRA LEONE PROFIT FROM "BLOOD" DIAMONDS

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration has a miserable record on what is taking place in Sierra Leone. Moctar Jollah is a 27-year-old. He is from Sierra Leone. This past year, Moctar had his right hand and his ear cut off by rebel thugs in Sierra Leone. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and I met Moctar at an amputee camp this past December.

At the amputee camp, Moctar introduced us to thousands of people who were lucky to be alive. The people we met were the survivors, those who did not bleed to death as they struggled to flee the rebels who had cut off their arms, their legs, and their ears.

No one was spared the brutal, grotesque, and evil actions of the rebels. Infant babies had their arms and legs cut off. Young men in the prime of their life suddenly had half a leg. Women were raped by rebels and then had their limbs amputated, only to give birth several months later as a result of the rape they suffered.

Why did the rebels of Sierra Leone do it? They did it because of diamonds. Diamonds to profit and control and trade in Sierra Leone. The trade in conflict for blood diamonds must stop.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) has a bill, the CARAT Act, H.R. 5147. Pass the bill, stop the flow of blood from conflict diamonds.

URGING DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO END NONSENSE AGAINST MICROSOFT

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, hopefully Tuesday, September 26, marked the turning point in the misguided antitrust suit against Microsoft when the Supreme Court turned down a Hail-Mary plea by the government to hear Microsoft's appeal.

Two new studies, one from the Institute of Policy Innovation and one from the Association for Competitive Technology calculate the annual economic damages caused to our economy would range between \$20 billion and \$75 billion a year.

I would like to quote Milton Friedman, the Nobel Laureate Economist who said, "Silicon Valley is suicidal in calling government in to mediate in the disputes among some of the big companies in the area and Microsoft. The end result will be that an industry that up to now has been able to proceed at a marvelous pace with little or no government regulation is now going to have government all over it. It is going