

this floor by many Republican Members when he stated that "By allowing an income tax deduction for those who do not itemize, we will encourage as much as \$14 billion of charitable giving."

So our President asks us to imagine a person of modest means putting \$5 in the collection plate; that a person who does not even itemize their deductions somehow will be motivated to put more money in the collection plate if we change our tax law, but that an individual leaving \$5 million to a university to have a building named after them will not be influenced by the repeal of the estate tax.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Trust me, I was a tax professional for nearly 15 years. I never got asked, "Should I put \$5 in the collection plate or \$6? But I venture to say there are very few \$5 million gifts that are not influenced by the estate and income tax law.

Then we were asked by the President to imagine a waitress with two kids earning just \$25,000, and we were told this was the reason we should adopt the President's tax cut. Keep in mind, his tax cut would increase her income by only 2 percent. That is as stingy as a 25-cent tip.

But just to the point, that \$25,000 waitress example was a carefully selected anomaly designed to disguise what the Bush tax proposal really does. Keep in mind, there are many waitresses who make only \$20,000 a year, and under the President's proposal they get nothing, not even a 1 cent in-still tip left on the table.

If we want to design a tax cut to benefit that image that was painted for us so cleverly yesterday of someone who is bussing tables or waiting on tables making \$25 \$20,000, \$25,000 and trying to support a couple of kids, we need to adopt a completely different approach to the tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, we need estate tax relief, but we need estate tax relief that is designed not to gut the estate tax as a source of revenue, but rather, something that will make sure that the estate tax falls only on 1 percent of the estates, meaning 99 percent of Americans would not have to worry about that tax.

□ 1300

That would still allow us to generate the vast majority of revenue that is generated by that tax, and then we could afford to provide real tax relief to waitresses making \$25,000 or even \$20,000.

THE 2000 CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to first commend the President for proposing his tax relief package for permanent relief for the American people. Everybody who pays taxes gets tax relief. They have lowered the lowest rate, from 15 percent to 10 percent. That is going to help real working people in America.

But, Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about the Census, because I feel it is important to place in the record some facts regarding the 2000 Census that some of us may have forgotten over the last several days as my colleagues on the other side try to tear down the Census head count in order to build it up with a statistical adjustment.

What seems to be forgotten is how good the 2000 Census really was. The Census Bureau announced that compared to the last Census, the undercount of African Americans may have been cut in half. The undercount of Hispanics also was cut by more than half. The undercount of American Indians was reduced by more than two-thirds, and the elderly and children have never been counted so well.

The preceding Congress appropriated an unprecedented \$6.5 billion for the Census effort. Let us take a moment to see what the American people received for their tax dollars.

This 2000 Census reversed a three-decade drop in the questionnaire mail back response rate.

The 2000 Census reached more Americans, including those living in the hardest to count communities, than ever before.

The 2000 Census established a first-time-ever paid advertising campaign that focused on educating the American people on the importance of the Census participation.

The 2000 Census included more than 140,000 local, State and national partnerships to promote Census awareness and participation. The 2000 Census included a Census in the Schools program, that reached out to millions of students and parents nationwide to promote Census awareness and participation.

And for the first time, with the 2000 Census, Americans were able to file their Census forms electronically using the Internet.

There are Members of this body who are quick to focus on the limited number of people that chose not to participate in this Census. But I will point out for the record that Census 2000 found and counted nearly 99 percent of the population, more than any other Census.

This Census dramatically reduced the traditional undercount of children, the poor, and members of minority communities.

Regardless of what side of the adjustment debate a person falls, this Census was one of the best in our Nation's history. Opponents of a real head count

said it could not be done. They said we could not improve upon past Censuses. They said that the undercount would most certainly grow larger. They said we must sample and adjust people because they will not answer the call.

But we said no. We must do everything we can to get an actual head count. Get out there and advertise, educate, involve local officials, spread the word, make it easier for people to be counted. An actual enumeration is what the Constitution calls for. It is what the Supreme Court called for, and it is what public law calls for.

And now we can and should stand proud and say, it worked. An unprecedented 99 percent of our population was counted. All the efforts to get an accurate head count paid off.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to congratulate the hard efforts of those career civil servants in the Bureau who worked long and difficult hours.

I call upon my colleagues to remember and congratulate the thousands of State and local volunteers and countless others in each and every one of our districts who partnered with the Bureau to make the head count such a success.

While the news regarding the Census has been good, the political rhetoric surrounding the Census threatens to taint the entire effort.

For months now, relentless pressure has been placed on President Bush and Secretary Evans to use the controversial adjustment plan known as sampling to recreate people that may not have been counted.

My position on adjustment has not changed. Adjustment is a Pandora's box, filled with unintended consequences, legal uncertainty and inaccuracy. Some would have us to believe that this decision is simply about statistics. Load the numbers into the computer, hit enter, and that is your answer. Adjust or do not adjust.

These people could not be further from the truth. The adjustment decision has far-reaching legal, political and social consequences. Adjustment simply has too many risks and unintended consequences to be justified for any Census, and particularly because we have such a great Census taking these risks even seems more unjustified. Instead, we should all be thrilled with the incredible inroads made with the differential undercount. Significant reductions occurred in the undercount rates for African Americans, Hispanics and American Indians.

The 2000 Census head count is one we all can and should be proud of.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.