

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act, because I firmly believe that Congress should provide meaningful relief from the tax burden on Rhode Island's married couples.

However, we can and should improve upon this measure as it makes its way through the legislative process. In particular, the benefits of the bill must be targeted more directly to lower- and middle-income families who are currently penalized for being married. Further, the underlying bill does little to adequately adjust the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT), which increasingly affects the middle class. As a result, too many middle-income families remain unprotected from having most of the promised benefits of the bill taken away.

I have additional concerns that this Congress has yet to finalize its work on a budget framework this year. We also have little perspective on how this legislation will fit into our other collective commitments to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and reduce our national debt. Congress needs to enact a budget that honors our commitments and our continued need to invest in education, law enforcement, the environment, health care and national defense, before enacting a large tax cut.

For these reasons, I will support both the Democratic alternative and the motion to recommit. The substitute not only takes a large step toward eliminating the marriage penalty, but also would provide substantial tax cuts to all working families in a responsible budget framework. Specifically, this measure would create a new bracket for married couples, increase the standard deduction for married couples and adjust the AMT. Finally, the motion to recommit seeks to provide an immediate tax cut to boost our economy and help those families who need assistance now.

Again, while I support final passage of this legislation because I believe hardworking Americans deserve some relief from the marriage penalty, I hope that this flawed bill will be improved in the Senate to ensure lower- and middle-income couples benefit as well. And more than anything, I urge my colleagues to focus on crafting a budget and tax cut framework that rewards hard-working taxpayers, while ensuring that our debt is paid down, Social Security and Medicare remain strong, and our national priorities like education and health care are not shortchanged.

MARRIAGE PENALTY AND FAMILY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday March 29, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H.R. 6, the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. This bill will not only do away with the unfair tax burden on married couples, but it will also double the per-child tax credit from \$500 to \$1,000. For the 25 million married couples saddled with the marriage penalty, for low and middle income parents, and for their children, this relief will not come a minute too soon.

No one should be penalized for being married. No family should be penalized for having a stay at home parent. Yet without this critical legislation we would miss an opportunity to do right by the people who sacrifice everyday to not only make a home for their family but also to pay their share of taxes. Following up on our passage of H.R. 3, this bill is another big step in the right direction.

Relief from the marriage penalty, a greater child tax credit and lowered marginal tax rates, will mean real help for real families. When fully phased in, a married couple with 2 children earning \$35,000 filing jointly will save over \$1,800 dollars a year. That's real money to invest in their children's education, pay the bills, and save for the future.

This bill is pro-marriage, pro-child, and pro-family. Not just young married couples and families, but older ones, too. The numbers don't lie. H.R. 6 would give 6 million seniors marriage tax penalty relief in 2002 and increase to 9 million seniors in 2010.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act of 2001. Vote to support our nation's families.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROLYN CRAYTON, THE FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF BOTH THE KEEP MACON-BIBB BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION AND THE MACON, GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mrs. Carolyn Crayton, the founder and executive director of both the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission and the Macon, Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival. She has dedicated herself to commu-

nity service, ensuring that our communities stay clean and beautiful.

She has worked tirelessly since 1964 as the Founder and Executive Director of Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission. Carolyn has been the recipient of the Keep America Beautiful's Leadership Award and the Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson Award. She was also awarded the Queen Mother's Award, which was presented by the Keep Britain Tidy Group, this being the only time this honor was awarded outside the United Kingdom. Carolyn was invited to appear on Good Morning America in 1984, as one of several people who have made a difference in their community. In 1988, she received the Georgia Clean and Beautiful Woman of the Year Award, which is now named the Carolyn Crayton Award.

Carolyn is also responsible for founding the Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival. Carolyn's dedication and hard work are the reason we are able to enjoy the Cherry Blossom Festival and all the beautiful cherry blossom trees. She and her organization are responsible for their presence in the State of Georgia. She has received a Certificate of Merit from the Georgia Garden Clubs of Georgia and the Ladies Home Journal Heroine Award. Carolyn has done such a wonderful job with the production and management of the Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival, she was named the Festival Director of the Year in Georgia in 1995. One year later she was inducted into the International Festivals and Events Association's Hall of Fame. In 1999, she received the Deen Day Smith Award.

Unfortunately, Carolyn is retiring this year. I would like to recognize and commend her for all the hard work she has done for the State of Georgia, more specifically Macon. She has selflessly given her time and effort as an active community leader and should be an example to all of us.

Carolyn and her husband Lee are dear friends and I am very proud of the great contribution they have both made to the State of Georgia.

CONGRATULATING CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, March Madness means many things to many people. In the quest for college basketball's holy grail, March represents the time when champions are crowned in all divisions. This week, I am proud to congratulate the Cloud County Community College women's basketball team from Concordia, Kansas. This past Saturday, the lady Thunderbirds won the National Junior College Athletic Association national title.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

For this team, this program, and this community, the championship is indeed a great honor. At times, it is easy to get wrapped up in all of the hype surrounding college athletics, but I think Cloud County coach, Brett Erkenbrack, said it best: "Great team, a tremendous bunch of young ladies, and a great crowd."

Cloud County is the first Kansas team to win the women's title in the 27 year history of the NJCAA tournament. The team includes three players selected to the All-Tournament Team, including Paulette Valentine, N'Keisa Richardson, and the tournament Most Valuable Player, Miklannet Tennal.

The talented players on Coach Erkenbrack's team fought a difficult road on the way to earning the National title, defeating the number 5 and number 1 seeds, as well as enduring an overtime victory in the semifinals.

The Concordia community also rallied around their home team. Attendance at the championship game was the biggest of the tournament and beat last year's mark by over 25%. This is a story of teamwork, preparation, and hard work, combined with a supportive community and families all pulling together for a championship run. It is a great story to tell and a story worth repeating.

Congratulations again to the Cloud County Women's Basketball team. They truly are champions.

RECOGNIZING EVAN DOBELLE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HARTFORD COMMUNITY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2001

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a true leader in the First Congressional District of Connecticut, and a good friend of mine, Dr. Evan Dobelle. For the past six years, Dr. Dobelle has served as the President of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. In those six years, he has expanded that role of president of the private college to that of an effective leader in the surrounding urban community—transforming the outlook and prosperity of both the school and the community. It is now with bittersweet enthusiasm that I must wish Dr. Dobelle well as he embarks on his newest endeavor to become the President of the University of Hawaii.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Evan Dobelle began his commitment to the community in his twenties, serving two terms as the Mayor of Pittsfield, MA. At age 31, Dr. Dobelle was selected United States Chief of Protocol for the White House and Assistant Secretary of State with the rank of Ambassador under the Carter Administration. Before assuming his position at Trinity College, he served as Chancellor and President of City College of San Francisco, and president of Middlesex Community College in Lowell, MA. He holds a bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in education and public policy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's in public administration at Harvard University.

In 1995, Evan Dobelle came to Hartford to serve as the eighteenth president of Trinity College; a school synonymous with rigorous academics, but also known for its location in economically depressed area of Frog Hollow. It is a picture of pristine academia located within the heart of one of Hartford's forgotten neighborhoods. With Trinity, Evan faced one of his toughest challenges. Not only did he have to enhance the quantity and quality of applicants, and increase Trinity's endowment, Evan was responsible for improving relations with the neighborhood surrounding the gates of Trinity. Recognizing the benefits that both the community and the school had to offer one another, Evan embraced the surrounding neighborhood and called upon both the community and the college to work in partnership for mutual improvement. While successfully achieving the goals outlined for enrollment and endowments, Dobelle also used his innovation and leadership to play a vital role in orchestrating and executing the Learning Corridor, a \$250 million neighborhood redevelopment project, consisting of four public elementary schools, a boys and a girls club, a center for family services, a limited housing renovation, and effectively satisfying the third requirement of his presidency and creating a national model. It is for this accomplishment he will be remembered so fondly for by the people of the city of Hartford.

The Learning Corridor redevelopment project has been one of the most celebrated and successful ventures the City of Hartford has seen. It is due largely in part to the dedication and leadership of Dr. Evan Dobelle. In his six years as president of Trinity College and a resident of the City of Hartford, Evan Dobelle has become an inspiration to his adopted community in Hartford.

Dr. Dobelle has gone beyond the call of duty and done a tremendous job not only for Trinity College, but the entire city of Hartford. I commend him for his excellent work, and wish him the best, as I know he will give nothing less than that to the students of the University of Hawaii and its surrounding communities.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 83) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2011:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to this budget resolution. In particular, I object to its cornerstone: an enormous tax cut that is skewed towards the wealthy and based on unreliable ten-year surpluses projections. Furthermore, it usurps funds

that should go to other critical priorities—including long-term debt reduction, creating a stable defense, improving education, providing affordable health care and strengthening Social Security and Medicare.

What is most important to me and many of my colleagues is that we enact a budget based on principles, not politics. I believe we should start by honoring our promises, and I remain committed to paying down the national debt, while providing responsible tax relief and ensuring our most pressing needs are met.

The Administration's budget calls for a \$2 trillion tax cut (including the resulting increased interest costs) that disproportionately benefits the wealthiest one percent of our society. However, the budget fails to explain how our other national needs can be funded. When properly accounted for, the \$1.4 trillion "reserve," which the budget resolution delineates as available for "additional needs," would not even cover the costs of maintaining current programs, let alone support the initiatives the President himself proposed during his campaign.

We would all like to reward hard-working Americans by returning some of their tax dollars, but we also have an obligation to pay down as much of our publicly held debt as we possibly can. We ought not pass these bills onto our children, as the Bush Administration and this budget resolution propose.

Further, we should use our current prosperity to enhance those federal programs relied upon by some of the most vulnerable members of society. Our senior citizens, as well as younger generations, deserve to know that the Social Security system will be strong and viable, whether they need it now or in twenty years. We must reform and strengthen Medicare, without slashing benefits or increasing costs for seniors. And we must provide an affordable prescription drug component for all seniors.

This budget resolution would cut appropriated federal programs that are absolutely vital to our nation's small business, worker, health, environmental protection, and housing needs. The Bush budget also shortchanges our vast transportation and infrastructure needs, decreases funding for critical law enforcement programs, and cuts budget authority for the benefits our veterans need and deserve. And at a time when an energy crisis is threatening large portions of our country, why would the Administration propose to cut our energy budget below current levels?

Furthermore, the Small Business Administration (SBA) would receive a cut of over 46 percent in its overall budget. Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 95 percent of the jobs in the state. They bring new and innovative services and products to the market place and provide business ownership opportunities to diverse and traditionally underrepresented groups. Many of these small businesses rely on the valuable loan assistance and technical training programs offered by the SBA. These cuts could severely impact Rhode Island's small business community, just when we need their contributions the most.

I support a more balanced approach to our federal budget that allows for a significant tax cut, but also takes into consideration a wide