

## TAX CUTS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, last week Congress passed the biggest tax relief package since the start of the Reagan administration. Every American taxpayer is going to get a refund check in the mail this summer. Over the coming years, rates will decline, the death tax will be repealed, the marriage tax penalty will be partially fixed, we will be able to put more in our retirement plans, and be able to deduct more for the cost of college education. This is real help for real Americans.

But the American taxpayers deserve to know that there were a lot of big-spending liberals who thought they did not deserve these tax cuts. Even though we have been running multi-billion dollar surpluses for several years, some people in Washington did everything they could to stop this tax relief. In fact, the only way to get it done at all was to use what we call "budget reconciliation," which cannot be filibustered in the other body and requires only 51 votes since they could not get to 60.

But budget reconciliation only lasts for 10 years. Before the 10 years is up, Congress must extend the tax relief. I hope that Congress will do that. In the meantime, I hope all the big spenders in Congress who voted against this cut will donate their \$300 refund check back to the Treasury.

#### WE NEED THE PRESIDENT'S VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NOT JUST A VISIT TO ANOTHER NATIONAL PARK

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, Americans of all political stripes place a very high value on the protection of our environment and public lands.

President Bush recently visited the Everglades National Park in Florida, and previous to that he visited Sequoia National Park in California. These photo opportunities are intended to portray an image of a President who cares about the environment. But these Presidential visits are inadequate; and they are also inaccurate because, while the President visits two of our most treasured parks, he and his administration are planning to throw open the door of the public lands of this Nation to increased drilling, mining, logging, road building and contamination of these very public lands.

Madam Speaker, these public lands are every bit as important as the national parks that the President has vis-

ited. His administration continues to threaten the very stewardship of those public lands and opportunities for American citizens to enjoy them not only throughout the summer months but year around. His administration continues to threaten the Sierra Nevada Conservation Plan, which is about the integrity and the survival of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and the forest in those mountains in California.

Madam Speaker, the President refuses to move forward on the Giant Sequoia National Monument proposal.

Mr. President, what we need is your vision for the environment, not just another visit.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address the Chair as they address the House.

#### HELP IS ON THE WAY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, national tax freedom day, that day that we start working for ourselves instead of the tax collector, fell on May 4 this year, and that is the latest date in history according to the tax foundation.

Many Nevadans found this to be not only unbelievable, but unconscionable. It is unconscionable that the typical and average American family pays more than 38 percent of its income in taxes. That is more than it spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined.

Madam Speaker, over the past 8 years, personal income of Americans has grown by more than \$2.8 trillion, yet nearly half of all this new wealth went to pay tax bills. Is it any wonder why Americans feel they are working harder than ever but cannot seem to get ahead? Thankfully, this Congress listened to Nevada families and their pleas for help in paying this crushing tax burden, and soon Nevadans will be getting some much-needed relief in the form of a tax rebate check; and may I say, it is about time.

Madam Speaker, Nevadans, and indeed all Americans, should not be working for Washington; Washington should be working for Nevadans and Americans. Mailing out those tax rebate checks is simply the first step in putting working Americans ahead of government bureaucracy.

#### AMERICA'S FIRST FEMALE PROM KING

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, a high school in Washington has crowned America's first female prom king. No joke. Now, I do not care what anyone's sexual preference is, but enough is enough. What is next: beauty pageants for cross-dressers? Think about it. America has guns, drugs, rape, and even murder in school, and now a lesbian is a prom king.

If that is not enough to titillate J. Edgar Hoover, prayer and God are still not allowed in America's schools. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. A Nation that allows lesbians to be prom kings in our schools, but denies the Lord access to our schools, is a Nation headed for stone-cold disaster.

I yield back one ray of hope there is a new policy at Ferndale High School: all future prom kings shall be male. Hallelujah.

□ 1415

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, high school seniors from all over the United States will be graduating and receiving their diplomas at this time of year. Recently I have been named chairman of the Subcommittee on Research in the Committee on Science. I have told the administration as we talk about national security that I think probably the second greatest threat to national security is where we are going in our performance in science and math education in our schools. We now rank below any of the other G-7 countries of the industrialized world. We have got to be more aggressive in moving ahead in our efforts to interest and performance with science and math education.

In my subcommittee, we will be holding hearings this week on legislation that will help us do a better job in this area. Science teachers need to be encouraged. But also we need to encourage the parents and the teachers of those students in the first 3 or 4 years of school if we are to be successful. This world is getting more complicated with biotechnology, information technology and other science based technology. Those kids are going to be better served if they have a better math and science education.

I commend these graduating students throughout the Nation for what they have achieved so far but encourage them to study a little more math and science, as they enter college or the job market. It will pay big dividends.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule

XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

**COMMENDING CLEAR CHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS AND AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND EFFORTS FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN**

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 100) commending Clear Channel Communications and the American Football Coaches Association for their dedication and efforts for protecting children by providing a vital means for locating the Nation's missing, kidnapped, and runaway children, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

**H. CON. RES. 100**

Whereas children are the Nation's greatest asset for the future and are essential for the Nation's strong and vital growth;

Whereas more than 800,000 children disappear each year in the United States, and the problem of missing, kidnapped, and runaway children potentially affects every community in the Nation;

Whereas the United States is committed to the protection of its children;

Whereas the American Football Coaches Association is a leader in the protection of children and has provided 60 million Inkless Child Identification Kits for use by parents;

Whereas these kits allow parents to keep vital information, current photographs, and fingerprints readily available to provide to law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas the American Football Coaches Association displays outstanding dedication to the children in communities throughout the Nation; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That the Congress commends the American Football Coaches Association for its dedication and efforts to protect children and locate the Nation's missing, kidnapped, and runaway children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 100.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 100 which recognizes the American Football Coaches Association for its dedication and efforts to protect children by providing inkless child identification kits for use by parents. In the past 4 years, over 4.2 million identification kits have been passed out at college football stadiums. As a member of the American Football Coaches Association and a former football coach, I have participated in this program myself and know that the kits can be useful tools for parents. My former university, the University of Nebraska, has participated in this program since the program's inception in 1997. In the spring of 1999, 60,000 ID kits were distributed to Nebraska's school children in grades kindergarten through the fourth grade.

Statistics about missing children in the United States are staggering. According to the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 750,000 children were reported missing last year. Approximately 450,000 of these children ran away, an additional 350,000 were abducted by a family member, and over 4,500 were abducted by a stranger. This works out to be about 2,100 children missing each day. In 1999, the last year with statistics available, almost 3,000 cases of on-line child exploitation were prosecuted.

No place in America is immune from child abductions or exploitation. Earlier this year in a high profile case, a teenager in my district was kidnapped by an escaped fugitive in the parking lot of a shopping mall in Kearney, Nebraska. Fortunately, this kidnapping ended peacefully with the kidnapper's surrender, but many children are not as lucky.

If the worst happens and a child is abducted or decides to run away, parents need to have tools to help police locate and identify their children. Because less than 2 percent of parents have a copy of their child's fingerprints to use in the case of an emergency, the American Football Coaches Association created the National Child Identification Program with the goal of fingerprinting 20 million children. The program provides a free inkless fingerprint kit for each child. The inkless ID kit allows parents to take and store their child's fingerprints in their own home. The card remains in the parents' possession. But if it is ever needed, this card will give authorities vital information to assist them in their efforts to locate a missing child.

To fund the program, the coaches association has teamed up with local and national businesses and media. In my previous occupation, I signed several hundred football helmets to auction off to raise money for this worthy cause.

I believe we must approach the protection of our Nation's youth from a variety of angles. These kits are a start, and they may open the doors of communication for parents to talk to their children about the rules of safety advocated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and discuss ways to address family problems. I also am a longtime supporter of youth mentoring projects. I believe mentors can provide youth a positive role model and a line of communication with a caring adult. Quality mentoring programs can prevent youth from ever running away from home in the first place.

I am pleased to support this resolution that commends the work of the American Football Coaches Association for its efforts to locate missing, kidnapped, and runaway children through the distribution of the inkless fingerprinting kits. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution and join the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and its author, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), in commending the American Football Coaches Association for its important work to help make our children safer.

The American Football Coaches Association has provided 60 million inkless child identification kits for use by parents. These kits allow parents to keep vital information, current photographs, and fingerprints readily available to provide to law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation in the event of an emergency. The program is expected to reach several million children this year, making it the largest identification drive ever conducted.

At a time 800,000 children become missing each year in the United States, more needs to be done to address this horrible issue. Our law enforcement agencies and personnel continue to need the help of parents when children are missing. Efforts like those of the American Football Coaches Association and other public-private partnerships are essential if we are to ensure that no child becomes missing and suffers from the separation of their parents.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for yielding me this time.