

holding of unconstitutionality of the line item veto last week.

This bill is similar to one that passed the House but was not taken up by the Senate in 1993. It will provide a very useful tool for getting at wasteful items in appropriations bills, and I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsorship.

STOP THE TAX RIP-OFFS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad fact that simply to mention today's date is to utter a phrase that most Americans find repugnant: April 15, tax day. The words just sort of lie there, cold and hard and ugly. We take a perfectly good month like April and we spoil it with this tax ritual, because the amount of money that the Federal Government takes away from working families is a scandal, the amount of money that the Federal Government spends and wastes is a scandal, and the arrogant, bureaucratic system by which the Federal Government takes that money is a scandal, too.

We have to change the system, Mr. Speaker. We have to get back to the idea that the bureaucrats work for the taxpayer, not vice versa. The presumption ought to be in favor of the taxpayer, not in favor of the Government. The presumption ought to be against Government boondoggles, like the National Sheep Industry Improvement Council. Not a single sheep is being improved but the taxpayer is being fleeced.

We need to end corporate welfare, we need to stop the government rip-offs, and we need to give the American people tax relief. Let us cut taxes now.

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE ROBINSON

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jackie Robinson, Jackie Robinson, the man, the native Georgian. On this day 50 years ago this son of America, this citizen of the world, broke the color line in professional baseball.

He was a good athlete. He succeeded on the field and he was superb off the field. He was able to catch and hit. He was able to steal bases. He was able to run. But his greatest contribution was not baseball, his greatest contribution was to the cause of social justice. Through his actions he inspired hundreds to walk in dignity, to march for pride, to stand up for America by sitting in places where African-Americans had never been able or allowed to sit before.

For his action on the field, he opened doors that had been closed for generations. This one man, this one man,

Jackie Robinson, continues to inspire men and women, young and old, to strive to do their best.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we salute, we pay tribute, to a great American: Jackie Robinson.

IT IS TIME TO SLASH THE OPPRESSIVE TAX CODE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time to take a cue from Lorena Bobbitt. It is time to slash. We need to slash away at the crushing tax burden that is holding back the American economy, dashing the hopes and dreams of middle class families, and robbing millions of new college graduates of opportunities.

We can adopt the audacious strategy of boldness and with one stroke we can slash tax rates across the board, giving tax relief to all working Americans. Or we can adopt a more calculated strategy, and with systematic thrusts we can slash first the death tax, then slash the tax on capital gains, and then, just to be sure, slash the rates on personal income to complete the task.

Today, on April 15, is a reminder, it is the season to slash and cut. We must get to work now and slay the giant job-killer, an oppressive Tax Code that threatens us all.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WOULD PROTECT CORPORATE AND SPECIAL INTEREST TAX LOOPHOLES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as we debate today, millions of Americans across the country are still laboring over their taxes. No one can argue that the current system is simple or fair. But today, under the guise of offering relief to average taxpaying hard-working wage-earning Americans, this Congress is going to consider a constitutional amendment that would make it impossible to close the loopholes and make other needed changes in the Internal Revenue Service and the Tax Code.

It would be more properly titled "The Corporate and Special Interest Loophole Protection Amendment." It would not allow us, except with a two-thirds vote, to close the loophole that allows 71 percent of the profitable foreign corporations in America to pay not a penny of tax in this country, and 31 percent of the largest, most profitable U.S. multinationals to pay not a penny of tax in this country.

Foreign firms filed claims on our precious minerals last year. A foreign company got \$13 billion of gold for \$13,000. We would not be able to charge them anymore without a two-thirds vote under this ridiculous amendment.

AMERICANS NEED A TAX CUT

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to increase the take-home pay of American workers. What could be done? We could cut the tax on job creation that would improve economic growth, create new jobs and more opportunities, or we could reform the Tax Code in a way that will give businesses a greater incentive to invest in new machinery and equipment that would improve productivity and raise wages. Or we could encourage greater investment in education and training, so workers could have more skills, be more productive, and earn higher wages.

But the best way to increase the take-home pay is to do so directly. This is not rocket science. Raise take-home pay by allowing workers to keep more of their money that they earn.

Mr. Speaker, millions of workers live paycheck to paycheck. A tax cut would allow that paycheck to go a little bit further, especially for those just getting by. It is time to give American workers a break. They need a tax cut.

NO EXTENSION FOR BUDGET COMMITTEE ON BUDGET RESOLUTION DAY

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

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, today is tax day, the deadline for all Americans to submit their Federal income tax returns. But there is another deadline today. April 15 is the day by which the House is statutorily required to have approved a budget resolution. The IRS generously allows taxpayers to file an extension if they cannot complete taxes by today. The House should not be so kind to the Committee on the Budget.

The American people sent us here with a mission to restore fiscal sanity to the Federal budget. Today only the Blue Dog Coalition has prepared a balanced budget proposal. Unfortunately, the Committee on the Budget has refused to tell the American people what steps it would take to eliminate the deficit by 2002.

In the absence of a budget resolution, the House has been brought to a grinding halt. Important legislation cannot move forward without knowing how much money is available. Decisions on priorities ranging from education to transportation have been put on hold.

The Committee on the Budget does not warrant an extension on Budget Resolution Day. Show us your plan and let us decide if it makes sense for the American people.