

We are now preparing, next week, to take the money from the cuts and give the Nation's billionaires billions in tax relief.

These policies will hurt low- and middle-income people.

The only consistent pattern in the contract is its inconsistency.

If we really want work, let us make a way.

SEVENTY PERCENT OF PEOPLE IN AMERICA THINK TERM LIMITS IS GOOD IDEA

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, last night the House voted on term limits. I am proud of the Members on this side of the aisle and on the other side of the aisle who joined together to vote in a positive way on this constitutional amendment, 227 Members of this body, including 80 percent of the Republicans, voted "yes."

I think the press could have reported this a little more fairly. Not that we failed, because we really did not fail. If my colleagues will remember, there was a very meaningful debate on the constitutional amendment, and 80 percent of the Members on the majority side voted in favor of it. Only 70 percent of the people in this country think it is a good idea.

□ 1030

And it was first time that we have had term limits out of committee on the floor for a vote. The Constitution is a very sacred document, but there is time to amend it with term limits, and that time is coming. Even this vote should have been shown as a victory for the contract.

THE CROWN JEWEL OF THE CONTRACT?

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, every day the Gingrich gang defines themselves more and defines who they are for and who they are not. Now the Speaker says that the tax cuts that we are taking up are the crown jewel of the contract. Yes, they sure are, for the rich.

In fact, today we begin that where they are talking about even allowing the average American citizen to be able to bail out on their citizenship to save tax money. What do you think? Term limits for citizenship if you can save your tax dollars?

I find that outrageous. Of course, you see why they think that is a crown jewel.

But then you look at this other symbol—this is a diploma—one of the most important things any American family

can have for their young people. It means jobs; it means a future.

In order to get these crown jewels for the crown, you have to take money away from student loans so there will be fewer of these. That is not the America I know. I hope people wake up and find out what this is really all about. Every day I think they are getting a better clue.

REJECTING TERM LIMITS IS A BAD IDEA

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] brought that prop of a crown because I truly believe that represents what went on in this Congress last night when we rejected term limits. We crowned ourselves that we are here for life, that we disregard the peoples' wishes and we have made ourselves potentates in a body of the people and for the people.

I came here as a grandson of Polish and Irish immigrants. My parents both worked for a living. My father was a football coach, my mother worked for an eye doctor. They instilled in me the values of hard work and citizenship. I hear repeatedly from the other side that we are taking away the safety net from the people. The net that we must provide is for the people like Kelly Largent, the 10-year-old who is on the House floor today, son of the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LARGENT], who wants to survive in America because this is the greatest place on Earth. They do not need government handouts, they need freedom, the ability, the way to work and respect for this Nation. That is the only way we are going to get ourselves out of our deficit. That is the only way we are going to grow our way out of the poverty level, not by continued handouts.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS CANNOT AFFORD DRASTIC INCREASES IN THEIR DEBT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is at it again. They are now hitting the middle class with cuts in student aid to give tax breaks to the wealthy.

I visited with students and administrators from Oberlin College, Lorain County Community College, and Hiram College in my district. The message is loud and clear: Students and parents simply cannot afford drastic increases in their debt.

The Republican proposal to eliminate the Stafford Program will increase the average student debt burden up to 50 percent.

This proposal sacrifices our Nation's educational future for tax breaks for the wealthiest few. Republicans also plan to eliminate campus-based aid, such as the Perkins Program, the Federal work-study, and supplemental educational opportunity grants.

It is morally reprehensible, Mr. Speaker; the Gingrich Republicans want to cut student loans for the middle class in order to give tax breaks to the largest corporations and to America's wealthiest few.

THE SENIOR CITIZENS EQUITY ACT IS INCLUDED IN NEXT WEEK'S TAX BILL

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

Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a small reminder to this House about some of the provisions in the tax bill that we are going to vote on next week.

Amid all of the white-hot rhetoric about child tax credits, capital gains tax cuts, and the rest, a lot of people seem to have forgotten that this legislation is really going to help a lot of our Nation's seniors.

The Senior Citizens Equity Act is part of this tax bill, and let me just remind my colleagues about how it is going to help them.

The bill raises the Social Security earnings limit so that older Americans who work are not penalized for making a little extra income.

It makes it easier for folks to buy long-term health care insurance, or to cash in their life insurance policies to help cope with the daunting costs when they are faced with a terminal illness.

Best of all, this bill repeals the onerous Clinton Social Security tax increase that the President rammed through this House 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, the fur is really going to fly when the House debates this tax cut bill. But I urge my colleagues not to forget that this bill does more than cut taxes. It helps senior citizens. And for that alone, it deserves our support.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO GIVE TAX BREAKS TO THE RICHEST 1 PERCENT

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, let me get this straight: This Contract on America, first we cut back on child nutrition programs while we give tax breaks to the richest 1 percent in this Nation, those making \$200,000 or more; now we are going to completely eliminate the tax obligation to any billionaire who wants to renounce his U.S. citizenship, but at the same time we are going to deny college loans to middle-class working kids who want to pick themselves up by their bootstraps, improve

their communities, and improve their country.

You know, Americans who thought they voted for the American dream on November 8, 1994, instead have found what they have is NEWT GINGRICH staring down Freddy Krueger in "Nightmare on Elm Street 2000," slashing and slashing, only the programs that invest in middle America. This contract has not created one single job outside of the bureaucracy that it is going to expand. It has not lifted the standard of living for average American taxpayers or their children or future generations.

This contract is a sham.

HANOI IS STILL LYING

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, Hanoi is still lying. Mr. Speaker, in his 1992 campaign, President Clinton promised never to lift the trade embargo on Communist Vietnam unless and until there is a full and good-faith accounting for Americans missing in action.

But a few weeks ago American and Vietnamese diplomats toasted each other over Russian champagne to celebrate the new diplomatic ties.

According to one report, Mr. Speaker, Hanoi brutally murdered hundreds of POW's before the Paris peace agreement was reached and they have lied about it ever since. Vietnam is one of the worst abusers of human rights in the world. Thousands are being imprisoned for political or religious beliefs.

Mr. President, why did you break your promise to POW/MIA families? Are the profits of multinationals worth recognizing the Hanoi regime and breaking faith with hundreds of brave American families?

FAREWELL TO RAYMOND SULLIVAN, FORMER SPRINGFIELD FIRE CHIEF

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Raymond M. Sullivan, a good friend and exemplary public servant who recently passed away. Raymond Sullivan served as the former fire chief for the city of Springfield and fought fires for the city for 39 years.

Born in Springfield, the son of Irish immigrant parents, Raymond Sullivan lived within a mile and a half of his birthplace his entire life. Ray Sullivan was educated in Springfield's schools, and together with his wife, the former Mary Lou McCarthy, he raised three sons: Garrett, Brian, and Gerald, and one daughter, Mary Lou. He was a grandfather to seven children.

After serving his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Raymond

Sullivan joined the Springfield Fire Department in 1951, achieving the rank of lieutenant 7 years later. He served as acting deputy chief from 1982 to 1984 and as the fire chief to the city between the years of 1984 and 1990.

Raymond Sullivan was referred to by his friends who knew him both as a "fireman's fireman," and as a devoted family man.

Mr. Speaker, in a time when community service and family values are what we are striving for across America, we should stop to remember people like Raymond Sullivan who are modern day examples of both of these virtues.

Raymond Sullivan will be missed.

THE TAX RELIEF ACT HELPS SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Contract With America's Tax Relief Act. I support this bill because not only does it allow all Americans to keep more of the money that they have worked hard to earn, but also because it upholds the Republicans' contract with the senior citizens of America.

My district, which has the largest number of senior citizens in the country, has made it quite clear to me that they want the Federal Government out of their lives and especially out of their pocketbooks. The Tax Relief Act delivers on the Republican promise to do just that. This legislation allows seniors to earn more income without losing Social Security benefits by increasing the Social Security earnings limit.

The Democrats obviously don't believe in rewarding hard work. In 1993, President Clinton dramatically raised taxes by 35 percent on the recipients of Social Security. I am happy to report that this legislation repeals Clinton's tax on seniors over the next 5 years.

Some have argued that tax relief is not compatible with deficit reduction. These cynics are wrong. Balancing the budget and reducing the size of Government go hand in hand with lower taxes. Our seniors deserve direct and immediate benefits from the effort to reduce the bloated Federal Government. There is everything right with letting seniors keep a little bit more of what they earn—after all it is their money. The contract promised tax relief and through this legislation, we are trying to deliver. Let us pass H.R. 1215 for America's senior citizens.

PRESIDENT CLINTON DESERVES CREDIT

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton deserves credit for two initiatives this week, one foreign and one domestic. On foreign policy, he

deserves credit for taking a risk and entering into a dialog with Jerry Adams and Sinn Fein. This was important because stability has come to that very torturous issue with the IRA and Great Britain. While there have been some feathers ruffled with our major ally, Great Britain, this hopefully will be straightened out when Prime Minister Major comes to Washington next week.

Mr. Speaker, the President should be commended also for downsizing the Small Business Administration. By reducing its modest funding needs from \$813 million to \$529 million and eliminating 500 full-time positions nationwide, the SBA shrinks by 35 percent during fiscal 1996. The major portion of the savings would come from a progressive alteration of the fee structure for loans in the SBA's successful 7(a) program. Making taxpayers have more access to accessible loans, downsizing, this is in line with positive initiatives to shrink government.

SENIOR CITIZENS EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that provisions from H.R. 8, the Senior Citizen's Equity Act, are part of H.R. 1215, the tax bill we will be considering next week.

These provisions would lift the earnings penalty on seniors who need to continue working in our society. H.R. 1215 also includes provisions to repeal the 1993 Clinton tax hike on Social Security benefits and to provide tax breaks for older Americans who purchase long-term care insurance.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to understand how Congress could continue to allow our Nation's laws to punish work and send the message to seniors that society no longer wants the skills and experience of older workers.

Under the earnings penalty, working seniors lose \$1 of every \$3 of their Social Security benefit. FICA and State taxes bring the penalty up to a 56-percent marginal tax rate—twice the tax rate of millionaires. This is simply not fair.

I have been working to relieve seniors of this tax burden for 8 years. Seniors cannot wait any longer. It is time to retire the high tax burden on our Nation's seniors instead of retiring older Americans who need to work to remain independent, productive members of society. It is time to pass the tax bill.

TERM LIMITS IS A REPUBLICAN STRATEGY, NOT A PROGRAM

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