

# AT LEAST THE REPUBLICANS ARE CONSISTENT

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our Republican friends are continuing their pattern. Now it is an assault on college student loans and financial aid in order to get money to finance tax breaks for the rich.

Just the other week we saw them taking school lunches out of the mouths of America's children in order to get money to finance tax breaks for the rich, and now we see them assaulting working people. They would not raise the minimum wage. They want to eliminate OSHA, which protects the standards in the workplace and the safety of American workers, and now they want to repeal Davis-Bacon, which assures construction workers a prevailing fair wage.

There is a rally today at 1 p.m. in front of the Capitol to protect the Davis-Bacon Act which will protect construction workers, and I hope my colleagues will attend.

Once again we see the same pattern. At least the Republicans are consistent: Assault the middle class, help the rich. Next they will go after Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Medicaid in a block grant? Who is kidding whom?

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans just want to cut, cut, cut, cut the middle class and help their wealthy friends.

## RESTORING SOCIAL SECURITY CUTS

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, it will come as no surprise to most Americans that the American family and our senior citizens are overtaxed. It is certainly no surprise to my mom who is 83 years old. She is not surprised that senior citizens are taxed too much and protected too little. Yet, when the liberal defenders of big government want to find more money to fund their bureaucratic programs, they turn to those in our society who can least afford it, our senior citizens.

We have all heard the shocking numbers. Taxes for a family of four have gone up from \$1 out of every \$50 in 1950 to paying \$1 out of every \$4 to the Federal Government today and that many average income working seniors face tax rates double those that millionaires face. Taxes that high are simply not fair. Yet when President Clinton and the Democrats passed the largest tax increase in history disguised as a tax hike on the rich, they actually taxed our seniors by cutting Social Security.

This week we have the opportunity to do what is responsible and fair for

our seniors. We have the opportunity to protect the American dream. We have the opportunity to restore Social Security cuts, and I ask that we do so.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky). The Chair reminds all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests in the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is a violation of the rules of the House.

## LET'S CHANGE THIS JEWEL OF DENIAL

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is a flaw in the jewel. We will begin debate today on a bill that will cut taxes, and the winners who will receive the majority of the cuts are families with incomes over \$100,000. The losers will be deficit reduction, summer jobs, school lunches, and education funding. The Speaker calls this the crown jewel of the contract. Well, this crown jewel in 1999 will cause us deficits of over \$200 billion.

There is a flaw in this jewel. Unfortunately, to pay for this jewel many young people will lose. Thousands of teenagers will be denied a summer job, school children will be denied a meal, legal immigrants will be denied services for the \$66 billion welfare reform to the cracked crown jewel, seniors will be denied by cutting energy assistance, safe and drug-free schools will be denied \$500 million, college students will be denied \$13 billion to help pay for the flawed jewel. The contract was a deal with the rich including unpatriotic families who are leaving our country and taking their billions with them.

Let us change this jewel of denial.

## IT IS TIME TO GIVE BACK MONEY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. SHADEGG. My colleagues, we are engaged in a great debate, a great debate which could only occur inside the beltway. The American people have no doubt about tax cuts. To listen to my colleagues on the other side, they simply do not get it. There is one fundamental message in America today. It is that the Federal Government is too big, it taxes too much, it spends too much, and it regulates too much, and the American people have no debate about that issue. My opponents, when they talk about deficit creation and how this tax cut will create deficits, it

is shocking. They created this deficit over the past 40 years, and now they want us to continue to pull an outrageous sum of money out of the pockets of the American people to pay for the deficit they created. Amazing.

It is time to give money back to the American people. We have increased the tax burden on American families twelvefold since 1950, the year I was born. Enough of that outrage. I say to my colleagues, "They say they know better how to spend your money. I say you, as the American people, know how better to spend your money. I call on my colleagues to support this tax cut today."

## TRADING TOMORROW'S CAPS AND GOWNS FOR TODAY'S CAPITAL GAINS

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

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle have decided to pitch caps and gowns for capital gains.

They have decided it is more important to grant a 50-percent capital gains tax cut to the wealthy rather than giving today's young adults a chance to build a better tomorrow.

Where I come from, high school students used to be able to count on a good-paying job in the mines or steel mills.

No more. Now their brighter tomorrows are dependent on high-technology industries. And if they want a chance to even get in the front door, a college degree is a must.

The \$20 billion cut in student loan and grant programs proposed by the Republicans would close that door and end any chance many hard-working, middle-class families have of sending their children to college.

It is a poor tradeoff and wrong in my book.

Republicans do not seem to understand if you block the path to a college diploma today, there will be no new source of capital gains tomorrow.

## CUT TAXES NOW

(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, the debate on the contract's tax cuts proves one thing: The Democrat Party believes that taxpayers exist to serve the Government monster and they believe that the privilege of making and keeping your own money is a favor Washington hands out from time to time. That is the difference between the minority party and the new Republicans: We believe that the taxpayers come first—not the Government.

Mr. Speaker, the total tax burden on a family with a median income of \$50,000 is about \$26,000, an incredible 50

percent of their earnings; 50 percent of the money earned by the people in my rural district goes to pay for those who will not work. It goes to dumbed-down schools, and it feeds Uncle Sam's fat bureaucrats.

When the largest expense people in my district pay is taxes—and not food, shelter, medical care, and college for their children—that is an atrocity.

Mr. Speaker, let us finally do something right for working people. Let us cut taxes now.

#### SSI AND TRAINING CUTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I heard my Republican colleague, but my name is SHEILA, and I want to be here to represent what is best for the working man and woman in America, and not to support billionaire tax loopholes. The tax-cut package being offered by the leadership on the other side certainly does not respond to them. But aside from the fact that their plan ignores deficit reduction, the fact remains that their plan still looks to cut taxes for America's upper-income brackets while imposing greater burdens on working- and middle-class families.

Now, to pay for more billionaire-friendly tax breaks, the other side wants to cut \$13 billion from student loan programs—student loans that make college dreams possible for millions of American students and their working- and middle-class parents.

Mr. Speaker, my family worked hard to capture a part of the American dream. They also worked hard to give their children a chance to succeed. Yet, if there were not Government-backed student loans, I would not have been able to go to college or get a graduate education.

I would like to think my education was a good investment for America. I have paid back my loans with interest, so I cannot understand why the other side seems bent on slashing the loan program now, just as America needs well-educated citizens and workers more than ever. But yet Rupert Murdoch can walk these Halls undercover, and the Republicans will give our tax dollars to his deal alone. I do not understand it, Mr. Speaker.

#### THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax fairness and deficit reduction proposal cuts taxes for everyone; individuals, families, and senior citizens. Most importantly, the proposal provides relief for working families. Since 1988, the working family has had their median income plunge approximately

\$2,500 while receiving a 2.5-percent increase in taxes. Over 75 percent of our tax relief proposal will focus on restoring fairness to the middle class. The remaining 25 percent will go directly to deficit reduction. The cuts are designed to lend a helping hand to the middle-class working family, the \$500 per child family tax credit, the tax credit for adoption expenses, and the tax credit for small businesses.

Republicans are committed to reducing the burden of government on the working families.

#### STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, many young people in America have made a choice, a choice to get an education, and to get a job and to pursue a career. They made the right choice that will give them a chance. The Republican Party, however, wants to take that chance from them. They want to take that choice.

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They plan to abolish and restructure four major loans and grant programs that provide aid to college students, threatening to force those students into a direction that they may not have chosen.

Last year millions of students held jobs on the work-study, got low interest rates, and did not have the burden of paying interest while they were studying, and they received grants. They will not have the opportunity next year.

In total, over the next 5 years \$13 billion will be taken away from college loans and grant programs. For what? To give the wealthiest Americans a tax break.

The closer we look at the Republican tax plan, it certainly is not fair. It is grotesque. They call these cuts in loans a savings. I call it a tragedy for America's future.

#### REPUBLICAN TAX REFORM BENEFICIAL TO SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, while H.R. 1215, the Republican tax program, helps working families, promotes economic growth, and creates jobs, it also helps millions of working senior citizens.

Current law imposes harsh penalties on senior citizens, particularly those who continue to work beyond the age of 65.

Today working seniors face higher, more punishing tax rates than millionaires in our tax system. Currently seniors who work after age 65 lose \$1 in Social Security benefits for every \$3 they earn above \$11,280.

These are not rich people. The Social Security earnings limitation has pushed many older Americans out of the work force and slowed economic growth. H.R. 1215 increases the earnings limitation by almost \$19,000 to \$30,000, thereby eliminating the bias against older Americans who want to remain attached to the work force and it does so without increasing the deficit.

#### LAST-MINUTE CHANGE IN TAX LEGISLATION TERMED "BUSINESS AS USUAL"

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I was just elected in 1994. I am a freshman, and I was in the Kentucky Legislature for 5 years before that. And, Mr. Speaker, we had a rule in the Kentucky Legislature, a hard-and-fast rule, that if language was changed in a bill when it went to conference, if language was different from the way we passed it when it came back from conference, we were told it was subject to what we call here a point of order. If we were not told what was in that change on the floor, in front of the entire body, in front of the public, in front of the people, it could not be considered.

What we have just seen, Mr. Speaker, is a change in a bill, a good bill, to provide self-employed people the opportunity to deduct the cost of their health care insurance, a bill we are all for, changed to help one person.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is business as usual, and that is not why the voters changed what was going on up here.

#### THE VOTE TOMORROW

(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, tomorrow when we take up H.R. 1215, the Tax Fairness and Deficit Reduction Act of 1995, I urge my colleagues to ponder one question: Do they support working senior citizens in this country, or do they support taxing our seniors out of the work force?

If Members support our senior citizens, they will support the tax bill. A vote against the tax bill is a vote against senior citizens who want to work, who want to be productive.

Let me tell the Members why. This tax bill does two things that will help older Americans. First, it repeals President Clinton's Social Security tax that he passed over Republican objections last year; and, second, it increases the earnings test so that more seniors will be able to work without getting taxed at a rate twice the amount that millionaires have to pay.

Mr. Speaker, the choice tomorrow is simple. Either they support our seniors or they do not. I urge my colleagues on