

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

the other side of the aisle to stop taxing older Americans and start giving them the relief they richly deserve.

THE RUPERT MURDOCH TAX BREAK

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

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, there is an expression that most of us have heard: "If it walks like a duck and it sounds like a duck and it quacks like a duck and it smells like a duck, then it is probably a duck." But we might want to change that in this Chamber to say that "Maybe it is NEWT GINGRICH."

My, my, my—a special tax break for Rupert Murdoch, \$63 million, and then blaming it on Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN. All of us might think so, but no one in America believes it.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. GINGRICH, no one in America believes that it was Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN. You know it was you. You know what was involved. It would not have happened without you, and it is wrong. It is business as usual in this Chamber, and it is wrong.

I urge the President to veto this legislation. He needs to veto it. It is not what the American people want. It is the absolute wrong way we ought to be conducting ourselves in this Chamber.

CUTTING TAXES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to remind the previous speaker that it was Senator CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN who was primarily responsible for that whole matter.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago the Democratic majority in the House muscled through the largest tax increase in U.S. history without one Republican vote.

Buried deep in tax language, the Democrats even included a cut in Social Security benefits for senior citizens. That's right, every senior citizen making \$34,000 is rich according to the Democrats definition and guess what? They all got a cut in 1993.

I am proud to say that tomorrow we will restore Social Security benefits to their prior level and lessen the squeeze on the middle class.

Instead of finding clever ways to take more money from our senior citizens and middle-class Americans—we are restoring benefits, lowering taxes, encouraging investment and savings, and letting Americans keep more of their hard-earned money.

I have a question for my Democratic colleagues. Can you justify the current tax burden on our senior citizens? Can you justify the tax burden on working families? If the answer is no, then support our tax reduction package.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUNNING of Kentucky). The Chair wishes to remind the Members that reference to Members of the other body is not encouraged and is not tolerated in the House.

CUTS IN PROGRAMS PAVE THE WAY FOR TAX BREAK FOR RUPERT MURDOCH

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I have learned over the years as a journalist hat where there is smoke there is fire, and I have learned as a Congressman that sometimes when there is a fire, it can quickly become an inferno.

We began talking at the beginning of this new Congress about the fact that there was something smelly about a \$4.5 million book deal for Speaker NEWT GINGRICH being offered by Rupert Murdoch. Now we find out that it was indeed that same Rupert Murdoch who gets \$63 million in special tax advantages hidden away in a bill that came through conference and was brought out on this floor last week.

I ask the Members, let us take a look at what we are doing. We are being asked to cut Stafford loans which would cause 4.5 million students' tuition to go up 20 to 30 percent, but we would give \$63 million in tax breaks to Rupert Murdoch. We are being asked to cut work-study programs that pay 75 percent of the wages for students, 700,000 students, who are willing to work their way through school, but we have \$63 million to give away to Mr. Murdoch.

Mr. Speaker, as we are taking money from women, infants and children, we seem to have money for Rupert Murdoch, a friend of the Speaker.

REPEAL OF CLINTON PENALTY TAX ON SENIOR CITIZENS IS PART OF TAX RELIEF BILL

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, President Clinton and the liberal Democrats passed the largest tax increase in American history—\$240 billion.

The 1993 tax bill included a provision that increased—from 50 to 85 percent—the tax on Social Security benefits received by senior citizens. Why the President chose to increase taxes on people who have worked hard and paid taxes all their lives is beyond belief. Ironically, this is the same President who used Social Security as his excuse to oppose the balanced budget amendment.

Liberal Democrats chose to raise taxes on our senior citizens instead of cutting their own spending. Republicans plan to repeal this onerous tax

on seniors and at the same time balance the budget.

We do not have to tax seniors to reduce the deficit—we can and will cut our own spending. We must repeal the Clinton penalty tax on senior citizens. If you support seniors, then support the Republican tax relief bill.

TAX CUT PROPOSAL IS IRRESPONSIBLE

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

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, Republican Members of this House joined me and almost 70 other Democrats in supporting the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

We came together out of a shared belief that we can't continue to saddle the American people with a national debt that saps our productive capacity, hinders job growth, and causes so much of our wealth to be used just to service the national debt.

We heard a lot during that debate about our responsibility to future generations, about the need for fiscal discipline, an about the need to make tough choices.

Well, what happened?

Here we are in April, and the leadership's idea of fiscal discipline is a 5-year, \$188 billion tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, this tax cut is not the kind of tough choice that this deficit cries out for. It is not disciplined.

And it is plain bad economics.

Make no mistake: with this poorly times tax cut, the House is ready to repeat age-old Washington mistake of borrowing from our children to pay for what is popular right now.

I urge my colleagues to reject this costly and fiscally irresponsible proposal.

AN ODE ON TAX RELIEF

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, as we debate tax relief this week—I would like Members to consider the message of this poem—sent to me by a constituent:

Tax his cow, tax his goat
Tax his pants, tax his coat,
Tax his crops, tax his work,
Tax his tie, tax his shirt,
Tax his chew, tax his smoke;
Teach him taxes are no joke.
Tax his oil, tax his gas,
Tax his notes, tax his cash;
Tax him good and let him know—
After taxes he has no dough.
If he hollers, tax him more
Tax him 'til he's good and sore.
Tax his coffin, tax his grave,
Tax the sod in which he lays.
Put these words upon his tomb;
"Taxes drove me to my doom."
And after he's gone he can't relax;
They'll still be after inheritance tax!