

FEDERAL WORKERS UNDER ATTACK BY TERMS OF PENDING TAX BILL

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the most egregious, unfair aspect of the tax bill that will come before us deals with the people who process our Social Security tax, who patrol our borders, who operate the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and who in fact do so many services that we take for granted—the Federal employees, a quarter of a million of whom have been cut, requiring those left to perform much more difficult work.

But the most egregious aspect of this is that we are going to take \$12 billion from their retirement plan, which means that the average Federal employee will pay \$760 more per year in taxes in order to provide a tax cut for the average American of \$124. I want to repeat this. The average Federal employee will pay \$760 more in taxes to provide a tax cut of \$124 for the average American. And these are employees who were guaranteed 8 years ago that their retirement system would never be changed.

Mr. Speaker, this is an egregious assault not only on the integrity of the Congress but on the security of our Federal employees.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE EXTENSION OF GRAZING PERMITS FOR RANCHERS

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced H.R. 1375, legislation that would stop the U.S. Forest Service from hurting hard-working, law-abiding ranchers that graze their herds on forest system lands.

My bill would extend Forest Service grazing permits until the Agency completes its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Half of the Forest Service's 9,000 grazing permits issued on 90 million acres of Federal land will expire by the end of 1996. Some of these permits have already expired, and ranchers—by no wrongdoing of their own—have been denied their right to graze their livestock due to bureaucratic red tape. This is a punitive action and is patently unfair.

The ranchers I know hold up their end of the bargain; they are good standards of the land, they fulfill their obligations, and they have every right to expect the Government to get its job done. They ought not be punished because our Nation's environmental laws are unreasonable and inflexible. My bill would extend their grazing permits until the Forest Service completes its NEPA documentation, so that no rancher is denied a permit because of bureaucratic delays.

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TAX ON FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAYING FOR TAX CUT

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, the debate this week is not about whether we ought to have a tax cut for the average American or for the seniors or for the hard-working folks back home. This debate is about whether we ought to give most of the tax break to the wealthiest people in America who make up to \$200,000 a year. I say no.

To raise the money for this tax break, the Republicans have once again gone after the middle class, this time in the form of Federal employees who only make an average of \$30,000 a year. They raised \$12 billion by raising the pension contribution of Federal employees by 2.5 percent, which means that the average Federal employee making \$30,000 will have to pay \$750 in new taxes, because that is what it is, a tax on Federal employees.

So let me see if I have got this straight. In order to get a tax deduction of \$500 per child, the Federal employee under the Republican plan will have to pay \$750. I do not think that makes good sense.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is not about a tax break for the folks back home; this debate is about whether we ought to give a tax break to the wealthiest.

TIME FOR TAX RELIEF AND DEFICIT DEDUCTION

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, for weeks our colleagues from the other side of the aisle have accused Republicans of coddling the rich with tax cuts while ignoring the deficit. It is time for the truth to be heard. H.R. 1215 will not only provide badly needed tax relief for middle class American families and incentives for economic growth, but will provide the first down payment on our goal for balancing the budget by the year 2002.

This bill provides a \$500 per child tax credit to America's families. The need for this is obvious. In 1950, \$1 out of every \$50 the American family earned went to the Federal Government. Now the average family of four sends \$1 out of every \$4 to Washington. It is time for the Federal Government to take its hands out of the wallets of American families and let Americans spend the money they earn.

H.R. 1215 not only provides essential tax relief for American families; it also provides \$62 billion more in deficit reduction over 5 years than the President offered in his fiscal year 1996 budget. It is time for deficit reduction and tax re-

lief for the hard-working taxpayers of America.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, shame, shame, shame. Remember the debate about the FCC rule that allowed major broadcasting first to sell their firms to minorities and women in exchange for tax credits in an effort to create diversity in the media? Remember our Republican friends who screamed no to that kind of affirmative action? They claimed they were against any preferences?

Well, it is business as usual. They went into the back room and they slipped a dirty little deal in the conference report. They allowed one token minority deal, and guess who surfaces again? NEWT GINGRICH's friend, Rupert Murdoch, is going to get \$63 million in tax breaks. You know, the same Murdoch of the \$4.5 million book deal with Speaker GINGRICH?

The President must veto this dirty little deal. Let us take a clean bill to the floor to provide health insurance to the self-employed and small business persons, without giving more tax breaks to the rich. For the Republicans it is business-as-usual, cut children, babies, seniors, students, working people, but they are taking care of NEWT GINGRICH's rich friends.

THE VICTIM IS TRUTH

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, over the last several months we have seen an assault on the truth from the liberal Democrats so vicious, so extraordinary, so mean, that it defies description.

All I can ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is have you no shame? Have you no confidence in your philosophy and beliefs to let the American people know the truth? From outright lies on the School Lunch Program and the school loan program to the scandalous muckraking regarding the Committee on Ethics, Democrats have willfully disregarded honest dialog.

Republicans have not cut the School Lunch Program; everyone knows that fact. Republicans have had no plans to cut the school loan program; everybody knows that fact. Republicans are defending the middle class; everyone knows that. When it comes to the supposed secret deal regarding Rupert Murdoch that was just referred to by the gentlewoman from California and some others out here today, everyone

knows that that deal was done by a liberal Democrat in the other body on behalf of the Chicago Tribune. It is shameful to suggest that it has something to do with Republicans in this institution. It is in fact a liberal Democrat who did it.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to a Democrat attack on Republican leaders and policies, there is only one victim, and that victim is the truth.

BUSINESS AS USUAL IN CONGRESS

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress this January 4 with the hope I could change things, but it is business as usual here in Congress. Last week on a voice vote the House passed a bill that would allow tax deductions for health insurance for the self-employed, something I support. But hidden in the conference report, unknown to me, was a very special provision that will give tens of millions of dollars in tax breaks to one very rich publisher.

There is an old saying that says to the winner goes the spoils, and if that saying is true, then Mr. Rupert Murdoch, the Speaker's own publisher, made out like a bandit. While the Republican Congress has been busy cutting student loans and school lunches, Mr. Murdoch's friends have been cutting him a sweet deal, to the tune of \$63 million.

But the sweet deals do not end there. If you are a billionaire, then this 100 days have been better than the Twelve Days of Christmas. The Republican Santa Clauses have been busy giving away tax presents to the few dozen wealthiest people in this country. If you have the means to leave the country, renounce your citizenship, move to a mansion, you can save on U.S. taxes. Must be nice, huh? Only middle-class families have been saddled with the bill to pay for these billionaire tax breaks.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, well, as one of my heroes once said, there you go again. I think this is all in the definition. We have heard from the Democrats that we intend to give the tax cuts to the rich. The problem is your definition of the rich is anybody that works for a living.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot from the limousine liberals on the other side of the aisle about fairness. What they need to explain to us is what is so fair about the current system. The Clinton administration's own statistics show that Americans are working harder and getting less for it.

Is that fair? Is this what the President meant when he talked about his comprehensive plan to get our economy moving again?

We are going to begin working this week to restore fairness to the Tax Code. We will restore \$25 billion in Social Security cuts engineered by Clinton and the Democrats, make it easier to buy that first home, or put your children through college, make it easier to adopt, and encourage capital formation. And we will pay for these tax reductions by cutting wasteful and unnecessary government spending. Our philosophy is simple: The taxpayer is not responsible for the deficit; Washington is. Let us face up to it.

A MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUT?

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, \$200,000. \$200,000. \$200,000. \$200,000. Is that middle class? Is that the middle-class tax cut we are talking about? No, that is the Republican tax plan we are talking about. To help families who make \$200,000 because they are middle class and they need a tax cut.

Well, I can tell you, you can buy a lot of hamburger helper and generic cereal if you make \$200,000 a year. But we are going to pay for it. We are going to pay for some of it by going after the kids on school lunch programs. We are going to pay for some of it by going after students who get college loans. We are going to pay for most of it by sticking it on our children and our grandchildren because we are going to let the deficit grow, and this tax cut is going to explode to nearly \$700 billion over the next 10 years so people in this House can go to the American people and say yeah, we do not like taxes.

I do not like taxes either. I hate taxes. But even worse than tax and spend politicians are borrow and spend politicians, because at least people who pay their bills now can look you in the eye and say I am not going to stick it to your son and daughter. The Republicans will.

SUPPORT H.R. 2115, THE TAX RELIEF BILL

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak in favor of H.R. 1215, the tax relief bill, because of an individual named Don Bulaski from my district. I think it is important we get money back into his hands, back in the hands of Americans and out of the hands of the bureaucrats here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to restore the penalty on Social Security that was put on by the big government party last August in the world's largest

tax increase. One way we can do that is raise the earning limits. Don Bulaski is a retired Boeing engineer and he wants to get back active in the community and participate, but he cannot take a paycheck over \$940 without having his Social Security benefits penalized. Under the H.R. 1215, the tax relief bill, we would raise that earnings limit, allowing him to be more productive, to take the wisdom he has learned with 35 years of work and bring it into the community, helping other people get their job better.

How many other Americans are out there that want to contribute to this society, that want to make America better by being better, by working, by restoring the reason and wisdom that we need?

So I stand in support of H.R. 1215, the tax relief bill. Mr. Speaker,

FIFTY-THREE PERCENT OF THE REPUBLICAN TAX BREAKS IN 10 YEARS BENEFIT BIG BUSINESS, CORPORATE AMERICA

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, who gets the benefits in the tax bill? Well, in 10 years 53 percent of the benefit goes to big business and corporate America. The Republicans under the guise of rhetoric say its for the American family, the working family, in 10 years over half of benefits are going back to corporate America. This constitutes the shift of tax liability.

Thirty years ago corporations paid nearly 25 percent of the total tax bill in this country. Today they pay less than half that amount. And with this Republican bill, with the next \$638 million in tax breaks over 10 years, will provide big business with 53 percent more of the tax cuts in H.R. 1215, the GOP tax bill. The tax bill before the House this week will shift the taxes to the middle income and poorest families in America. This is why people are angry. That is why they are mad as hell and are not going to take it anymore. And under the rhetoric to protect families the GOP, have been force feeding legislation through this session which takes away the ability of working families to help themselves and to get benefits when they are down and out and transferring tax breaks to the big corporations. And, to top it off, the lions share of the individual tax breaks go to the wealthy.

Who is responsible for Rupert Murdoch last week? I do not know, candidly. But I can tell you who is responsible for what is happening this week, and that is the radical Republican majority in this House.

THIS IS THE WEEK FOR ADDRESSING TAX INEQUITIES

(Mr. ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1