

PUT FAMILIES FIRST RATHER THAN SPECIAL INTERESTS

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

Ms. DELAURO Mr. Speaker, House Republicans continue to work overtime on behalf of the special interests rather than the hard-working families who need our help.

Look at health care reform. House Republicans are insisting on a bad idea rejected by the Senate: Tax shelters to help the rich pay their medical bills. Giving tax breaks to the healthy and the wealthy could doom the type of health reform that working families need.

These health care tax breaks hurt working families. They will expose millions of families to increased health care costs. Estimates say that health care premiums will rise as much as 60 percent.

Once again, I urge the House Republican leadership to reject these tax breaks for the wealthy. Simply adopt the Senate bill which President Clinton has said he will sign and which puts families first, rather than special interests. That is what we need, health care relief for working families in this Nation.

MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS A GOOD IDEA

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

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I must respond to the gentlewoman's comments about the medical savings accounts. I happen to think they are a terrific idea for families in America. They are the one way in the future, with all of the costs we have associated with health care, that a moderate income family in the United States can save money. If we adopt it, they will be able to still choose their own doctor and not be forced into an HMO or another organized plan.

I have very, very strong convictions about that. I think this is the most innovative and creative thing to help health care in the United States that is under consideration today at all. I really feel that that is a very important thing.

I want to consider one other point during this 1-minute, though. When we are talking about these gas prices going up right now, I am told by those involved that one of the primary reasons that the gas prices in this country are going up is because there is uncertainty about whether the U.N. sanctions against Iraq will be lifted or not. We should be opposed to that.

This administration, the Clinton administration, should make it unequivocally clear that we will veto in the United Nations any effort to lift the oil embargo and allow people to purchase

Iraqi oil. I think once that is done, stability will return to the oil prices in the world market and we will see the gas prices go back to their normal way again.

This President needs to make that statement now. He has not made it.

IMPROPER USE OF COMMITTEE STAFF

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, today I want to alert the House to a call I have made, along with eight of my fellow freshmen Democrats this morning, to ask the Speaker, we have asked Speaker GINGRICH to rescind and repudiate a request that was made in the name of the office of the House majority leader to all the subcommittees in this House. That request was a partisan effort to use House staff improperly.

The request, very simply, was sent to all House committee staffs asking them to look for specific material that could be used to attack organized labor or the Clinton administration. In an unprecedented institutionalized effort to use House staff to do the bidding of the leader's office, the Republican leadership has shown again that they are not about putting the House in order, they are not about using the House for what it is intended, the furtherance of the people's business. It was, in fact, waste, fraud, and abuse on the highest level.

RAISING MINIMUM WAGE WILL DESTROY SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I have been very interested over the last several days to listen to Members of the Democratic Party telling us how committed they are to raising the minimum wage, and it is very interesting because one would wonder why, when the President of the United States himself has said this is a bad idea, and when Members of his administration have said this is a terrible way to treat poor people, why the Democrats in the House of Representatives are so insistent upon it.

Now we find out why. It is because they are doing the bidding of the union bosses who are making absolutely certain that they get this kind of debate going, because the union bosses have contract negotiations coming up this fall, and they would like to see the Federal Government raise wages by 20 percent so that they can use that as the base of what they do in their negotiations.

And guess what? Every American will suffer as a result of that because that will set off an inflationary spiral that will be a tax on every American

family, but particularly low income families. If my colleagues think that kind of callous disregard of the American family is a good idea, then listen intently to the Democrats, who claim they want to raise the minimum wage.

The fact is in raising the minimum wage what they are doing is undermining small business in the country, and they are undermining the basic income of the American family. It is a shame and they should be called for what they are doing.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE MORE IMPORTANT THAN REPEALING GAS TAX OF 1993

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today requesting the Republican leadership, NEWT GINGRICH, to schedule the minimum wage bill for the House to vote on. I am not here on behalf of any union, I am here on behalf of a lot of people in my district and all over this Nation that work every day at \$4.25 an hour. What do I ask for them? I ask we raise that minimum wage in a 2-year cycle for 90 cents. That means \$1,800 a year more for those people.

Now, their answer, the Republicans' answer, is no, we are going to cut the gas tax 4.5 cents. We will repeal the part of the gas tax that was in the 1993 deficit reduction package. Well, how much will that give to my people? To most of my people that is \$45 year. They want to give \$45 a year to help my people get through the hard times, buy a pair of shoes for the kids.

I say let us give them the minimum wage. Let us give them really something that will benefit them. \$1,800 a year is a lot better than \$45 a year.

ASSAULT ON WORKING FAMILIES AND GAS TAX CUT ARE SEPARATE ISSUES

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, every American has the right to a livable wage. The Republicans have offered what they say is an alternative to increasing the minimum wage. They want to talk about cutting the gas tax and they claim that this will benefit the working poor.

This is a sham. The 4-cent gas tax is not designated to help working folks; it is calculated to bail out the oil and gas industry. The industry increased gas prices. If the prices are too high, the industry should reduce them.

Rising prices at the gas pump should not be offset with a tax cut that will cost the U.S. Treasury more than \$4 billion this year. Republicans claim that they want to balance the budget, but then they go out and cut programs that the working poor depend on. The

Republicans' assault on the working families should not be confused with a gas tax cut. They are separate issues.

We should keep the minimum wage debate clean and we should vote to increase the minimum wage. If a tax cut is necessary, then we should do that also, but they are separate issues.

AMERICANS DESERVE AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, hard working Americans deserve a raise. They deserve an increase in the minimum wage. Many of our colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle do not want to provide that increase in the minimum wage because they say that, in fact, people who earn the minimum wage earn much more than that because they get food stamps, they get AFDC payments, they get medical benefits.

The question I have to ask is, Why should the taxpayers have to subsidize these people's jobs? Why should the marketplace not provide a livable wage so that these people can support their families, can support their children without the taxpayers subsidizing this through the welfare system?

When we increase the minimum wage we save a substantial amount of money for those individuals because we no longer have to subsidize their jobs as much as we did before we increased the minimum wage. We ought to make sure that, in fact, we are not asking the taxpayers to subsidize jobs where employers simply choose not to pay the minimum wage.

It is not that they cannot afford to, they just know that they do not have to pay it because the welfare system will subsidize that job. That ought not to be allowed. That ought not to be done anymore. We ought to in fact require those people to pay people for the hard work that they engage in.

RAISING MINIMUM WAGE WILL COST JOBS

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

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, let me just say in response to the gentleman who just spoke, Republicans are in favor of helping the working poor, but we are in favor of doing it in a way that will truly lift their take-home pay, to lift their wages. Raising the minimum wage will not have that effect.

The fact is economists, 90 percent of them, agree that raising the minimum wage will, in fact, cost jobs; it will cost the jobs of those that we most want to help, the low-skilled worker. The last time we raised the minimum wage, in 1991, only 17 percent of the new benefits

went to people living under the poverty level. That is not the effective way of helping those who are the working poor.

Raising the minimum wage will not only cost jobs, it will be inflationary, costing those whom we want to help more in their goods and services that they need to purchase. It is the wrong way to help those who are the working poor. There is a better way of doing it. We can do it.

I suspect the gentleman who just spoke supported the increased funding for EITC 2 years ago, and there is a better way of doing it, as we take that proposal that has had the support of Republicans and Democrats and focusing it upon those who are truly in need, the working poor, the families with children. We want to help them, but we want to help them in a way that will not hurt the economy and take jobs away from the most needy.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: The Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on House Oversight, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceeding.

The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 358, nays 51,

answered "present" 1, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 139]

YEAS—358

Ackerman	Doyle	Klink
Allard	Dreier	Klug
Andrews	Duncan	Knollenberg
Archer	Dunn	Kolbe
Armey	Edwards	LaHood
Bachus	Ehlers	Lantos
Baesler	Ehrlich	Largent
Baker (CA)	Emerson	LaTourette
Baker (LA)	English	Laughlin
Baldacci	Eshoo	Lazio
Ballenger	Evans	Leach
Barcia	Ewing	Lewis (CA)
Barr	Farr	Lewis (KY)
Barrett (NE)	Fattah	Lightfoot
Barrett (WI)	Fawell	Lincoln
Bartlett	Fazio	Linder
Barton	Fields (LA)	Lipinski
Bass	Flake	LoBiondo
Bateman	Foglietta	Lofgren
Becerra	Foley	Lowe
Bentsen	Forbes	Lucas
Bereuter	Ford	Luther
Bilbray	Fowler	Maloney
Bilirakis	Fox	Manton
Bishop	Frank (MA)	Manzullo
Bliley	Franks (CT)	Markey
Blute	Franks (NJ)	Martinez
Boehlert	Frelinghuysen	Mascara
Boehner	Frisa	Matsui
Bonilla	Furse	McCarthy
Bonior	Gallegly	McCollum
Bono	Ganske	McCrery
Boucher	Gejdenson	McDade
Brewster	Gekas	McHale
Browder	Geren	McHugh
Brown (OH)	Gilchrest	McInnis
Brownback	Gilman	McIntosh
Bryant (TN)	Gonzalez	McKeon
Bunn	Goodlatte	McKinney
Bunning	Goodling	McNulty
Burr	Gordon	Meehan
Burton	Goss	Metcalf
Buyer	Graham	Meyers
Callahan	Green (TX)	Mica
Calvert	Greene (UT)	Millender-McDonald
Camp	Greenwood	Miller (FL)
Campbell	Gunderson	Minge
Canady	Gutknecht	Mink
Cardin	Hall (OH)	Mollohan
Castle	Hall (TX)	Montgomery
Chabot	Hamilton	Moorhead
Chambliss	Hancock	Moran
Christensen	Hansen	Morella
Chrysler	Hastert	Murtha
Clayton	Hastings (FL)	Myers
Clement	Hastings (WA)	Myrick
Clinger	Hayworth	Nadler
Clyburn	Hefner	Neal
Coble	Herger	Nethercutt
Coburn	Hinchey	Neumann
Coleman	Hobson	Ney
Collins (GA)	Hoekstra	Norwood
Collins (MI)	Hoke	Nussle
Combest	Holden	Obey
Condit	Horn	Olver
Conyers	Hostettler	Ortiz
Cooley	Houghton	Orton
Costello	Hoyer	Owens
Cox	Hunter	Oxley
Coyne	Hutchinson	Packard
Cramer	Hyde	Parker
Crane	Inglis	Paxon
Crapo	Istook	Payne (NJ)
Creameans	Jackson (IL)	Payne (VA)
Cubin	Jackson-Lee	Pelosi
Cummings	(TX)	Peterson (FL)
Cunningham	Jefferson	Peterson (MN)
Danner	Johnson (CT)	Petri
Davis	Johnson, E.B.	Pomeroy
Deal	Johnson, Sam	Porter
DeLauro	Johnston	Portman
DeLay	Jones	Poshard
Dellums	Kanjorski	Pryce
Deutsch	Kasich	Quillen
Diaz-Balart	Kelly	Quinn
Dickey	Kennedy (MA)	Radanovich
Dicks	Kennedy (RI)	Rahall
Dingell	Kennelly	Ramstad
Dixon	Kildee	Rangel
Doggett	Kim	Reed
Dooley	King	Regula
Doolittle	Kingston	Richardson
Dornan	Klecza	