

The ethanol subsidy has proved to be one of the biggest boondoggles in the history of Congress. According to the Treasury Department, the ethanol subsidy cost the American taxpayer \$5.3 billion from 1983 to 1994. Furthermore, ethanol subsidies artificially inflate the price of corn food products, costing American consumers millions each year. It is considered an environmental nightmare by many of our Nation's leading conservation groups.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the approach to repealing the gas tax by 4.3 cents is fiscally responsible since repealing the ethanol subsidy of more than 50 cents a gallon will offset the revenue loss and not add to the deficit or require cuts in education funding.

Mr. Speaker, cutting corporate welfare to pay for a cut in the gas tax is a responsible choice for the taxpayers of this country, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation I am introducing today.

TIME TO CUT TAXES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, today is tax freedom day and today we are setting a new record for tax freedom day. It is not a record that we can be very proud of, but it is a record that I think I ought to bring to your attention and to the attention of the American people, in any event, and that is that this is the latest in the year that tax freedom day has ever fallen.

In other words, the day on which we celebrate the fact that we are no longer working for the government, but we are working for ourselves, our families, is today later than it has ever been in our history.

Mr. Speaker, I think that that confirms what Americans already know in their gut, and that is that taxes are too high and the government costs too much.

Consider the following: In 1950, the average-income family of four paid less than 5 percent of its total income in taxes and one wage earner could easily support the entire family on the average income in this country. But today, Mr. Speaker, that same average-income pays about 24 percent to the Federal Government alone, 38 percent when you add in State and local taxes, and that is the highest percentage in American peacetime history.

It is no wonder that tax freedom day is falling on the latest day that it ever has in the history of our country. Part of that is the result of tax increases that were enacted in 1993, increases which, as you know, Mr. Speaker, I voted against.

What is even more disturbing is that as a result of this, middle-class incomes are being squeezed; not to support the family, but to support the government. The pressure to earn more

leaves us with less time and less energy to spend with our children or to get involved with our churches or synagogues or to be involved with our communities. When that happens, Mr. Speaker, our entire Nation suffers and our children suffer.

Mr. Speaker, the corrosive and damaging effect of taxation on America's working families must be corrected. One giant step in the right direction is a \$500 per child tax credit, a measure that was passed by this Congress and vetoed by the President. With this credit, a family of four earning \$30,000 would have its 1996 Federal income tax cut in half. The entire Federal tax burden of 4.7 million working American families at the lowest income levels would be eliminated completely.

Mr. Speaker, I am supporting the repeal of the 1993 gas tax increase of 4.3 cents per gallon. Of all the forms of taxation, the gas tax is one of the most unfair because it falls disproportionately on those at the bottom of the economic ladder.

There are those who have said that it is politically motivated to repeal the gas tax. I say if it is, so what? There is rarely a day that the sun rises that is not a good day to cut taxes in America.

TAX CONSUMPTION RATHER THAN INCOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, on the subject of tax freedom day, there is a serious proposal being advanced by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, that we do away with the Federal income tax on individuals entirely. I think this is long overdue, and let me take a moment and explain why it is so important.

Mr. Speaker, suppose instead of talking about all the loopholes that we are going to close, and all of the small changes we are going to make here, and the tweaks and turns we are going to make, suppose we remove from the American public once and for all the burden of filling out that 1040 form; the burden of partnerships and subchapter S corporations, structuring their business in such a way as to avoid having to do this or that under our IRS; and get rid of the intrusiveness of the IRS into our personal lives.

Where would we make up the revenue? Well, the proposal would be to bury the personal income tax. Do not dare keep it alive, because if we put something else in place, Lord knows we will have both. But if we bury the personal income tax and instead raise money from a national consumption tax, here is how it could work.

Mr. Speaker, we could exempt food and rent and medicines. As a result, we really would not tax the poor at all. For all other goods and services in our

country, we would have a tax rate of under 19 percent.

Now, is 19 percent high? Sure. Would I rather have it lower? Of course I would. But, Mr. Speaker, if we could abolish the personal Federal income tax, and all the time that it takes to fill out that form, and all of the lost energy that businesspeople spend structuring deals to avoid taxation instead of inventing and promoting and selling, would it not be worth it?

How much is a 19-percent increase in the price of a good because of a sales tax? It is about a year and a half under President Carter's administration. It is about a year and a half of the inflation we had then. But once it is in, it is done. We are not talking about increasing it any more. And we would in one moment liberate the American taxpayer.

One other advantage is the underground economy would pay tax for the first time. Drug dealers do not fill out their 1040 listing their occupation "drug dealer, drug lord," but they do buy things. So we would tax people who consume. And we would create an incentive for those who save and invest.

Mr. Speaker, I used to teach economics, and a very simple rule of economics is people do less of that which you tax. Right now, we tax production of income. If, instead, we tax consumption, people will save and invest and that will make our country competitive for years to come.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. FOLEY] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

On this day we acknowledge those people who have made a difference in our lives and we remember them with admiration and gratitude. We are thankful, O gracious God, that we do not have to walk the road of life alone or meet the challenges of our day by ourselves, but rather our lives are enhanced and made full by the support and blessing of those near and dear to us. For families whose nurture to us is overwhelming, for colleagues who help point the way, and for friends whose affection and trust surround us, we offer these words of thanksgiving and appreciation. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. SCHROEDER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2202. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 168(b) of Public Law 102-138, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana, Mr. LANTOS of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO ADVISORY BOARD ON WELFARE INDICATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 232(c)(2) of Public Law 102-432, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment to the Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators the following Members on the part of the House: Ms. Eloise Anderson of California, Mr. Wade F. Horn of Maryland, Mr. Marvin H. Kesters of Virginia, and Mr. Robert Greenstein of the District of Columbia.

There was no objection.

TAX FREEDOM DAY

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

Mr. CHABOT. Finally, Mr. Speaker, finally. Today finally is the day that the average American can stop working for the Government and finally start working for his or her family. For the average working American, every dime from every working hour of every working day from January 1st until today has been devoted entirely to paying taxes to the Government. Today, tax freedom day, finally arrives, but only after the Government has taken a bigger piece than ever before out of the hide of the taxpaying citizen.

We need to stop bilking the taxpayers and we need to let families keep more of what they earn. Those insiders who defend the current tax system and the huge burden that it imposes on working families practice cruelty in the name of compassion. Those who deny working parents tax relief while shouting tax cuts for the rich are practicing distortion in the service of big government.

Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. On this tax freedom day, let us pledge that never again will the Government take so much time out of the lives of its citizens. Instead of vetoing tax relief, let us veto some taxes.

GAS TAX REPEAL

(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, the Republican leadership continues to put special interests first and working families dead last. Now they want to cut education to give a windfall to big oil.

I support repealing the gas tax. But it must help consumers rather than the oil companies. In the last week, the wholesale price of gas has fallen by 4.4 cents. But the retail price is up two-tenths of a cent. The money should go into the pockets of consumers through lower prices at the pump. But Republicans are willing to let the money go into the bulging bank accounts of big oil instead.

My Republican colleagues are falling all over themselves to shell out this windfall to big oil. Could it be because 90 percent of the \$2.1 million oil and gas companies gave in campaign contributions went to Republicans? Is that why they want to cut education rather than cutting corporate welfare to pay for the gas tax?

We can repeal the gas tax. But let's put working families first by making sure they get the benefit rather than getting the shaft.

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow afternoon, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH, chairman of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, will

be having a public hearing on the Superfund Program.

The purpose of this hearing is to stress the urgent need to put politics aside and reform the Superfund Program for the sake of public health and the environment. Since 1980, only 291 of the 1,289 sites have been cleaned up.

President Clinton, State and local governments, businesses large and small, environmental groups, and local communities alike agree that the current program is not doing its job to clean up hazardous waste sites quickly and effectively. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates that the average time for cleanup per site is between 12 and 15 years, at a cost of over \$31 million.

Moreover, as each day passes without fundamental reform, cleanups continue to be impeded by significant bureaucratic delays and endless legal battles. Legislation is needed to address these concerns.

This must stop. Mr. Speaker, Americans expect these sites to be cleaned up without further delay and unneeded expense.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN VOTERS

(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, there were 2 very interesting stories on the news wire today. First of all, Majority Leader DOLE was addressing a convention in a western State and he said very strongly: Do not send Washington another PAT SCHROEDER. Hey, thanks, BOB. I am hoping we do not send the White House a BOB DOLE, but that is OK.

And then I also read on the wire today that Speaker GINGRICH gave a speech and said that he felt that the Democrats' advantage with women voters was just artificial and he was going to lead a public relations campaign to turn this around.

Hang on, women. Who knows what will happen. First we saw him with little animals. Now it is going to be interesting to see what we see him with in this whole campaign. But I must say, once women got the right to vote, we also have the right to read and we also have the right to drive cars and all sorts of things.

I think it is going to take more than a public relations campaign to paint over the record the people on the other side have built up. There is a reason.

THE LIBERAL RECORD

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, this past year-and-a-half we have heard a lot of complaining from the