

Group for the roles you have played in helping me better understand the barriers confronting the African-American advertising agencies. They have been an invaluable resource to me and my staff as we have worked to shape legislation to ensure that African-Americans and African-American advertising agencies are included in the mainstream of advertising industry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the leadership and service displayed by Tom Burrell and the Burrell Communications Group. Tom Burrell's courage, vision, leadership, and creative contributions to the advertising industry have been a continuing source of inspiration and self-esteem for African-Americans.

I look forward to continuing to work with him and the African-American advertising industry as we move forward into the 21st century. I salute and thank Tom Burrell and the Burrell Communications Group for 25 years of positive images of African-American culture in American media. I am confident that the next 25 will be even more fruitful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BUYER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BUYER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS DESERVE HONOR, RESPECT, AND RECOGNITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this evening we have heard many moving words about bringing America together, about justice for all. I want to speak about bringing justice to another group of people. Today, Congress, after waiting for 50 years, has an opportunity to restore to Filipino World War II Veterans the respect and honor they so richly deserve.

Today, Representative BENJAMIN GILMAN, the distinguished chairman of the House International Relations Committee, joins me in introducing a resolution in the House of Representatives to recognize the brave service of these veterans and their contributions to the victory of the United States in World War II.

Joining us as original cosponsors are a representative number of Members from both sides of the aisle, including Representative BOB STUMP, the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Representative G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, the ranking Democratic member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who support recognition for the Filipino World War II Veterans. Senators INOUE and AKAKA are also introducing this concurrent

resolution in the Senate. Many more Representatives have also joined us as cosponsors of H.R. 1136, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act.

It is truly hard to believe that soon after World War II ended—the war in which Filipino soldiers died defending the American flag in the epic battles of Bataan and Corregidor and through four long years of enemy occupation—the 79th Congress in 1946 voted to rescind the benefits and recognition that were promised to these soldiers.

It is even harder to believe that Filipino World War II veterans have been kept waiting for over 50 years for the recognition they deserve. Many have already died, and in 15 years, there will no longer be any of these veterans alive.

The bullets in World War II did not ask if their target was an American or Filipino soldier. Both Filipino soldiers from the United States mainland fought side-by-side against a common enemy. We must act now to redress the wrongs these Filipino veterans have suffered.

This concurrent resolution will finally recognize the contribution of the brave Filipino World War II veterans. I urge my colleagues to join with Representative GILMAN and me to correct this injustice.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HILLIARD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for a 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. KELLY] is recognized for a 5 minutes.

[Mr. KELLY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP] is recognized for a 5 minutes.

[Mr. WAMP addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TIME TO TAKE BACK THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, is your tax bill too high? Do you worry about paying your bills. Hardly a day goes by without a call or letter from a constituent or a friend telling me how they struggle from day to day to make ends meet and how they worry about their future and their children's future.

It is wrong, simply wrong, that so many families are working harder and longer, but continue to have less and less to show for it.

I have to wonder why more people are working two jobs and why more families are forced to have both parents work, yet everyone has less money in their pockets.

I have the answer—it's the Washington tax trap. The longer and harder you work, the more taxes you pay. The more taxes you owe. The bottom line is that Washington ends up with more, and you end up with less.

Think about what the tax trap has done to society, to families, and to working parents. When I was a child, the largest investment most families made was in their home. Guess what, now it's paying their tax bill.

In 1950, taxes took just a fraction of our income. Today, almost half of what you earn goes to the Government. Half. That is more than a person spends on food, clothing, and shelter combined.

The tax trap is punishing working parents who are trying to balance career and family, and the children who are in daycare because both parents have to work are feeling the pain of high taxes.

In the America that I grew up in, if you worked hard and played by the rules, you still had enough money left over from your paycheck to put something away for the future, and enough for those little extras that made life special. That was the American dream.

The American dream was also about making a better life for the next generation—so that children would have more opportunities, more choices, and be better off than their parents.

But now, for the first time in our history, an entire generation of Americans is losing hope and confidence in the future.

And all blame for this uncertain future lies right here in Washington. For decades, Washington, DC has told America that everything is OK—don't worry, Washington can solve all of your problems.

But at the same time Washington has been spending our children's inheritance and creating a national debt that now undermines our future.

For too long, Washington has increased the debt by spending more than

it takes in, to pay for a growing bureaucracy—a bureaucracy that includes 160 different job training programs, 240 education programs, 300 economic development programs, and 500 urban aid programs.

A bureaucracy that pays over 1,900 union employees at the Social Security Administration using money from the Social Security trust fund.

How does Washington afford all this? By taking more of the money that you earn. Take Bill Clinton. He wasn't in office 100 days before attempting to raise taxes. By comparison, Republicans spent their first 100 days trying to cut taxes. After all, it is your money.

Three years ago, against unanimous Republican opposition, Bill Clinton, forgot that it was your money, and imposed the largest tax hike in American history.

I want to know—what is so wrong about asking Washington to live within its means?

What is so wrong about demanding that Washington not spend extravagantly at the expense of our children? Is it fair to punish working families who are trying to save for the future?

It's time to end the tax trap and give the American family some well-deserved tax relief.

But, I don't want to stop there. Our entire tax system needs an overhaul. The current system is economically destructive, impossibly complex, overly intrusive, unprincipled, dishonest, unfair, and inefficient.

We need to look toward the future and develop a tax system that will make that future a success. And I don't care if it is a flat tax, a sales tax, a round tax, or a square tax—I just want it to be based on the principles of freedom. That is, it must be fair and simple, reduce bureaucracy, encourage savings and investment, be efficient, drive the economy, create opportunity for all, and put more money in your pocket.

Americans don't want, don't need, and don't deserve an intrusive IRS any longer.

America was made great because we, as a Nation, strived hard, sacrificed often and worked together to be the best.

And we will continue to be a great Nation if we embrace a vision that will abandon the failed systems of the past and be led by the opportunities of the future.

With this vision we can enact policies that encourage economic growth, raise wages, promote savings, and return hope and optimism to every American.

Unending dreams and limitless possibilities—that's what the American dream is all about. It's up to us to take it back. It is our destiny.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WALKER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WALKER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REPUBLICANS GOAL IS TO END THE TAX TRAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I represent probably the most diverse district in the State of Illinois. I represent part of the city of Chicago and the south suburbs, industrial communities like Joliet, and Rockdale and La Salle, Peru, and many bedroom communities and farm towns, too.

As I travel throughout my district, I look for things that are always in common, even though my district is so very diverse, and one thing that I have always noticed is that there is hardly a day that goes by that a young working mother or working father does not come up to tell me how difficult their life is right now and how concerned and fearful they are for their future.

They ask questions about why so many families are struggling to keep their heads above water. Why is it that Americans are working harder and working longer yet they have less to show for it? Why is it that more people have to hold two jobs just to make ends meet?

The answer can be summarized in three words, the tax trap. It is simple to explain. The harder you work, the more taxes you have to pay. The more taxes you have to pay, the longer and harder you have to work. And you end up working harder and longer and Washington ends up with more, but you end up with less.

Today, almost half of what you earn goes to Washington and the government in one form or another. Half. And the tax trap is particularly difficult on working women who are trying to balance a career and family obligations

just to pay all the additional taxes. Every year you send more of your hard-earned income to support a Washington bureaucracy that is growing and that leaves less for you and for your family.

Did you ever wonder why Bill Clinton and his liberal friends are asking you to sacrifice a little more so Washington can spend a little more? Should we not demand that Washington spend less so that you can keep more? After all, it is your money.

Against unanimous Republican opposition, Bill Clinton imposed the largest tax hike in American history, \$264 billion, to be exact. Yet he still expects Americans, after that, to save more and to give more. But we know it just cannot happen that way.

Let me state this clearly. The cost of Bill Clinton's tax policies to the typical Illinois family in higher taxes and lower earnings is \$2,600. And all of us have felt that tax crunch. That is why we have so many people in this country who are so afraid of the future.

And in many ways I share that fear, because when I think of this, I think of parents with children in high school who have the dream of sending their children off to college, but they fear they cannot afford the interest on the student loan.

Then I think of the newly married couple who wants to buy their piece of the American dream, their own home, but they are afraid they cannot afford to because mortgage rates are becoming higher and higher.

I think of American seniors, people like my own mom and dad, who are depending on Medicare but are afraid it will not be there in just a few years when they will really need it.

These are real people with real concerns and real fears, and for them I ask, what is so wrong about asking Washington to live within its means? What is so wrong about demanding that Washington not spend extravagantly at the expense of our Nation's children? Is it fair to punish working families who are trying to save for their future?

The Washington liberals and the bureaucrats will tell you to just work a little harder for Washington. Well, maybe the Washington bureaucrats need to work a little harder. I say it is time that you stop working for Washington and start working for yourselves. It is time to end the tax trap and give the American family some well-deserved tax relief. It is time to return your power and your money and your influence to where it belongs, with you, the citizen and the taxpayer.

As Americans, we cannot settle for less. As Americans, we cannot accept second best. As Americans, we cannot lower our expectations. This could be the greatest economy in the world, but we will only restore that greatness if we enact policies that encourage economic growth, raise wages, encourage savings, and return hope and optimism to the work force.