

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.

Our Washington bureaucracy did not make us great, America was made great because we as a Nation strived hard, sacrificed often, and worked together to be the best. It is our goal, the Republican goal, to end the tax trap. It is our goal to help Americans earn more money and to keep more of the money they earned so they can do more for themselves, their children, their family and their community, and save more for their children and their future. And, frankly, to be able to give a little more at the collection box on Sunday.

Unending dreams and limitless possibilities, that is what the American dream is all about. It is up to all of us to take it back.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, today we send more money to the tax collector than we spend combined on food, clothing, and shelter. In 1950, taxes just took a fraction of the working family's income, but today almost half of what the working person earns goes to the government in one form or another. Half.

Mr. Speaker, in the America my parents grew up in, if you worked hard and played by the rules, you had enough money left over from your paycheck to put something away for the future and you still had enough for those little extras that help make life special, at least your material life, like maybe taking your family on a vacation, for example.

That was what the American dream was all about. The American dream was also about making sure that children had more opportunities, more choices, and a better life than their parents.

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And they should have those things. Then why is it for the first time in our history an entire generation of Americans has lost hope and confidence in their future? Why have we lost the vision of dreaming dreams and of unlimited possibilities?

The answer for too many people lies in Washington, DC. For decades, Mr. Speaker, Washington has told America that everything is OK, while it spent our children's inheritance and undermined their future. For too long, Washington has spent more than it takes in and spent our hard-earned tax dollars unwisely just to pay for a growing Washington bureaucracy. A bureaucracy that includes 160 different job training programs, 240 education programs, 300 economic development programs and 500 urban aid programs, just to mention a very few.

How does Washington afford all of these overlapping programs? By raising our taxes through the roof. Just ask

our President. He was not in office 100 days before attempting to take even more of the hard-working people's hard-earned dollars.

By comparison, Republicans in Congress spent our first 100 days trying to desperately give tax relief to those same people but it was vetoed by the President. It should not surprise anyone that more and more American families find it difficult to make ends meet; that more and more Americans are forced to live paycheck to paycheck; and, that too many Americans want to put something away for the future but are not able to do it.

We should not be surprised by Bill Clinton's response. Against unanimous Republican opposition, Mr. Clinton imposed the largest tax hike in American history, \$264 billion, yet he thinks if we take that money to pay for more and more government programs, somehow this will make people's lives better off.

It just cannot happen that way. The cost of Mr. Clinton's policies to the typical American family in higher taxes and lower earnings is \$2,600 and all of us have felt that crunch; especially those who work for a living. Clinton's tax trap costs a lot of money and higher taxes means less savings and a more uncertain future, and that is why we have so many people in this country so afraid of the future and I share that fear.

These are real people with real concerns and real fires, and for them I ask every Washington bureaucrat, every Washington lawyer, every Washington lobbyist and frankly every Washington liberal, what is so extreme about asking Washington to live within its means? What is so extreme about demanding that Washington not spend extravagantly at the expense of our children?

Is it right to punish working families who are trying to save for the future or just trying to get ahead? Of course it is not. The liberals and the bureaucrats will tell you to work just a little harder for them. I say it is time we stopped working for the government tax collector and that next extra overlapping government program and start working for ourselves. It is time to end the tax trap and to give the American family some well-deserved tax relief. It is way past time to return power, influence, and money where it belongs: back to America's working families.

TROOPS IN BOSNIA SHOULD COME HOME BY CHRISTMAS

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, six months ago, 20,000 top United States combat troops were sent to do guard duty in Bosnia. We also support our troops in every possible way and want them back safely before Christmas as promised.

I have consistently opposed sending our fighting forces to foreign lands un-

less the objectives are clear and achievable and the timetable and the exit strategy are stated and fully understood by everyone. None of these details were presented to the Congress.

It is easy to send people to trouble spots, but it is seldom easy to get them out safely in a timely manner and an honorable manner.

President Clinton pledged that this was a temporary mission and that they would be pulled out and brought home in one year. The year is barely half gone. The costs are more than anticipated and rising. What are we now hearing from the highest levels of the administration? The word is filtering down that it may take more time, that our troops may have to stay longer in Bosnia to accomplish their objectives. Objectives which have never been clearly stated and, I believe, never even understood by those who gave the orders that sent them there.

We in Congress must be vigilant in the coming weeks and months. We must not allow our service personnel to become permanent occupation troops in Bosnia. If 1 year is not enough, will 2 or 3 or even 5 years suffice? Not likely. Our Nation should keep its word and our troops should be brought home this winter as promised.

WHO REALLY SPEAKS FOR THE CHILDREN?

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when talking about children, there are significant differences between Democrats and Republicans. Republicans do not believe it takes Washington bureaucrats and spending to raise a child.

But after 30 years of a failed welfare system, a rapidly failing public education system, and a deteriorating justice system, Republicans have a different answer. What it takes to raise a child successfully today is quite simple: two responsible parents. What children need is not more Government spending but a mother and a father who care about them.

When talking about children, Republicans begin with three principles:

First, that the moral health of a nation is no less important than its economic or military strength. The fact is, you cannot have a healthy moral environment to raise children in America when 12-year-olds are having babies, 15-year-olds are killing each other, 17-year-olds are dying of AIDS, and 18-year-olds are graduating with diplomas they cannot read. If we are to restore the moral health of America, this behavior has got to stop.

Second, it is the results, not the rhetoric, that counts. Anyone can sound compassionate, but the truly compassionate are those that go out and find ways to make the lives of our children more happy and healthy.