

WORKING FAMILIES

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, before I speak on the issue of working families and what is happening to working families in my district and what I think is happening to working families all over the Nation, I yield briefly to the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] to make some additional comments about the Wisconsin welfare reform plan and Republican plans to truly reform welfare, to stop talking about reforming welfare and actually start doing it.

WISCONSIN'S WELFARE REFORM PLAN

Mr. RIGGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that just when I thought we were hopefully going to have a constructive debate on welfare reform, the gentleman from Wisconsin marches off the floor. He has taken his ball and apparently he is going home. If he was still here, my response to him would have been baloney, double baloney, and triple baloney, or see your baloney and raise you one, because the reality is he is not going to support welfare reform in any form or in any version.

He not only has voted with the Democrats twice against our welfare reform proposals, but he is actively now attempting to thwart and to delay and to obstruct the efforts of the Wisconsin State legislature and the Governor of Wisconsin, Tommy Thompson, the Governor of his own State, to obtain a reasonable welfare reform waiver from Washington, the big government bureaucracy back here.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is he talks about taxpayers and working people, but the current welfare system is fundamentally unfair to working American families. It pays for non-work, it reinforces personal abhorrent behaviors and values which harm parents, children, and families. It is another classic "Let's rob Peter to pay Paul" scenario.

The Washington liberal establishment, make no mistake about it, despite all his populist rhetoric the gentleman from Wisconsin is very much a part of that Washington liberal establishment, and they refuse to accept the fundamental reforms demanded by a majority of Americans.

Where has the Democratic Party in the last 3½ years that President Clinton has been President and the leader of their party, where have they been on welfare reform? They did not put forward a welfare reform proposal in the last Congress when they had control of both the legislative and executive branches of Government. The gentleman from Wisconsin could have been a leader in those efforts, had he had the courage of his convictions and brought forward a proposal.

So let us be real clear whose interests are being served here by protect-

ing the status quo: the current welfare system. It is the whole political constituency of dependency we have built up in this country. We are not addressing the concerns of workers whose taxes have paid for the unfair and broken welfare system, but we are, of course, seeing the consequences of preserving a system which the President and his liberal allies in the Congress are desperately fighting to protect.

What we believe, and I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, we believe that we ought to respond to the demands of hard-working American men and women. That is why we have passed welfare reform that restores individual dignity by requiring able-bodied recipients to work in exchange for their benefits, encouraging personal responsibility by discouraging illegitimacy, and toughening child support enforcement, putting time limits on welfare benefits, because we want welfare to be a safety net, not a permanent trap into dependency, empowering those closest to the problem, States and local communities to address welfare needs with innovative and flexible solutions, that is the very essence of W2 or the Wisconsin plan.

I just would remind Members again and remind the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], if he wants to walk his talk, in 1992 candidate Clinton appealed to working families. This was one of the things that allowed him to posture himself as the centrist new Democrat. He appealed to working families with a promise to end welfare as we know it; yet since his election and during the last Congress when the Democrats had sole control over this House, lock, stock, and barrel, or should I say House Bank and Post Office, going back to my first term in office, the President aligned himself with the Washington liberal elite and has repeatedly vetoed legislation that would end welfare as we know it.

It is too bad that the President and the gentleman from Wisconsin and their liberal Washington friends want to defend a failed welfare system rather than work with millions of hard-working taxpayers who want real welfare reform.

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THE FORGOTTEN AMERICANS

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

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, every day in this country men and women get up at the crack of dawn, pack their lunches, send their kids off to school, go to work and work harder than ever in their lives, and then realize they are taking home less money. The reason they are taking home less money is that Government is taking more of their money, and Government is taking more of their money because Govern-

ment is too big. It is too big at all levels, at the local, at the State and the Federal level. These people, who are laboring in the fields and working harder than ever in their entire lives and taking home less money because Government is too big, are the forgotten Americans.

In 1950 the average family in America paid 2 percent of their income for Federal income taxes. Today it is 26 percent. If we add State and local taxes, it is around 40 percent. Just think of that. Forty cents of their dollar earned goes for taxes.

While taxes increase, your take home pay decreases. The more Government takes, the more Government taxes, the less freedom we have. We work from January 1 through May 7 just to earn enough to pay taxes. Just think of that. The American worker has to work more than 4 months just to pay taxes. In fact, if a husband and wife are working, one of them is working almost solely to pay for taxes.

If Government taxes you 10 percent, then it controls 10 percent of your life. If Government taxes you 20 percent, then it controls 20 percent of your life. If Government taxes you 30 percent, it controls 30 percent of your life. If Government taxes you 50 percent, it controls 50 percent of your life.

How does Government control our lives by taxes? It does so by making choices for you that you cannot afford to make for yourself. Big Government chooses to spend money on welfare for immigrants while you worry where you are going to get money to pay for your kid's braces.

At the same time President Clinton claimed that the era of big Government was over, he increased your taxes in 1993 with the biggest tax increase in American history. The American family is hurting because taxes are too high.

The Republican-controlled Congress set out to free the American family from this tremendous tax burden. The Republican Congress passed the \$500-per-child tax credit so that American families could decide how to spend their own hard-earned dollars, as opposed to Washington, but it was vetoed by President Clinton.

If President Clinton had not vetoed this bill, 1.3 million families in Ohio and the same number in Illinois would have been eligible. That means that these households in Illinois and Ohio would have had an extra \$1,000 per year to spend on clothing, education, food and shelter. But people who like big Government do not trust Americans to make those decisions because they want Government to spend money that rightfully belongs to the hard-working Americans.

The Republican Congress passed the \$2,500 interest deduction on student loans so that families could better afford to send their kids to college, but President Clinton vetoed that, also. The Republican Congress passed a meaningful welfare bill so that the

hard-working Americans could take home more of their money, and the President vetoed that bill, also.

So who is the friend of the working person in America, the forgotten American, the one who is lost in the shuffle of big taxes, the one who is lost in the cloud of big Government? Certainly the friend of the working person is not the ones who insist on taxing more and more. The friend of the working people insists that Government is too big, it is too intrusive, it is too invasive, it takes too much money, it is robbing the American family of the ability to support themselves.

Mr. Speaker, we have reached a point in American history where the debt is so big because of a runaway liberal big Government mentality, with a \$5 trillion debt that, according to a chapter in the budget called Generational Forecasts, if we do not put a rein on Government, by the time children born after 1993 go into the work force, they will pay between 84 and 94 percent of their income in taxes. That is no future for Americans. That is no future for our children.

This Government is too big. It has to shrink. This Government has to lower the taxes on the working people. This Government has to allow working people to keep more of their money. The message is this: The forgotten American, the one who works hard, the one who asks for nothing but freedom, the one who wants to raise his children in a society where he can afford to send them to college, the forgotten American covered by a sea of redtape and taxes, deserves a break. He deserves freedom in government, he deserves freedom from government, he deserves these Republican proposals to allow him to keep more of his hard-earned dollars.

VISIT OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU AND TRIBUTE TO ALONZO SUDLER, JR.

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I first want to compliment the comments of the prior speaker, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO]. I think they are well taken in regards to the working man and woman and how much we need to do to make sure that our pro-people and pro-economy philosophies that the gentleman just outlined certainly need to be adopted in this Congress, and I compliment the Congressman for his hard work in moving that agenda forward for America's workers.

Today was a historic day in the Congress, Mr. Speaker. We had a visit from the new prime minister of Israel. Unlike prior visits which have been certainly important to the country, I had a more personal involvement today because Binyamin Netanyahu, the new prime minister, and I share the same

alma mater. We went to the same high school.

While he was born in Israel and is now Israel's prime minister, he was taught at a Montgomery County school, Cheltenham High School, in my district. I think people should know that his focus of seriousness of purpose, of vision for the future is one of peace and progress, and someone who certainly has good values and good morals and principles for the community and having the world's interest at heart as well as this country. Binyamin Netanyahu is certainly a credit to Israel and to the relationship with our country.

It was interesting to note in his speech today, which I think was very important, that he says that we can have peace in the Middle East and in our lifetime but we need 3 pillars of that peace.

The first, security, and end to terrorism; two, reciprocity, to make sure that we in fact have on both sides, whether it be Israel or whether the Arab neighbors, that there be peaceful resolutions and to have agreements actually held up to and actually abided by; and, third, having a strengthening of the democracy and of human rights in that region of the world.

I was also happy to hear from the prime minister that he is working on trying to make sure that they have a free market economy in Israel and one that would reduce taxes, that would lead to deregulation and of Israel's economic self-reliance. That is certainly taking a page out of the majority House leadership, I think, from this year, and that is certainly an example we can live up to.

I also want to take a moment of the time of my colleagues tonight to talk about an American hero, someone in my district who recently died, Alonzo Sudler, Jr. This gentleman was the chief pharmacist of our largest hospital in the district, Abington Memorial Hospital. He was married for 45 years to Winifred and loving father of Julia and Steven and the grandfather of twins Alexandra and Zachary. He was a great father and a great husband but beyond that a great community leader. He was involved with the Red Cross, involved with all community activities, and a humble man who cared deeply about his neighborhood, about his family, and about progress in Montgomery County and in Pennsylvania. He gave all this free time back to the community and his family. There is nothing he would not do for others.

For me, he was an American hero, who died prematurely at the age of 71. There are many more years I would liked to have had time to spend with him. He was like a father figure to me in teaching me lessons about life. He was almost a pastor in many respects because of the lessons he taught to younger people about how they should lead their lives.

To Alonzo Sudler and his family and to those who will hear about him, I

hope that we all can live our lives in his image and in his memory. I ask God's blessings on his family and we remember them tonight.

REVISITING THE 104TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1994 Republicans were elected to the House in great numbers, 73 new Republican freshmen. They came to Washington with lots of reforms in their mind. But since then they have been called extremist, mean-spirited, callous, fanatical and so forth and that has become their label. Yet when we see what their agenda really was, this thing called the Contract With America, what was it designed to do? It was designed to reduce the size of government, to cut wasteful spending, to lower taxes, to balance the budget, to reform welfare, and to increase personal freedom.

The folks I talk to back home in the grocery store checkout line, they do not consider these things extremist ideas. They think that they are commonsense ideas and reforms that we need to do.

Let us look at this in a little more detail. Do you think it is extreme to try to balance the budget the way you and I have to in our household at the end of each month? Do you think it is a good idea to do something about the \$20 billion that we spend each month just in interest on the national debt? Do you think we should pass this legacy on to our children? Or do you think we should do something about it? And do you think, Mr. Speaker, that it is extreme to try to balance this budget in a 7-year period of time, so that you do not pull the rug out from under anybody? Do you think that lowering the rate of spending is extreme, so that one day the revenues that come in, tax dollars, and our spending will be equal? I do not believe that is extreme, Mr. Speaker.

What did the Democrats do when they controlled this House? They say what we are trying to do is extreme. They increased domestic spending \$300 billion. Years and years of overspending, on tilting the scale toward big bureaucracy, has left us with 163 different Federal job training programs, 26 different Federal food and nutrition programs, and 180 education programs. A lot of duplications in that, Mr. Speaker. I think we can do something about it.

Let us talk about taxes. Under the Democrat rule, we had a tax increase of \$245 billion, a gas tax increase of 4.3 cents a gallon, a tax on Social Security, and a tax on small businesses and partners. What do the Republicans want to do, these so-called freshman extremists? They want to cut taxes. One of them is a \$500 per child tax credit. Do you think that your friends and neighbors and your people that you see