

TEN REASONS WHY CONGRESS MUST PASS A TAX CUT

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have an apology to make this morning. I need to apologize because I at the moment can only think of 10 good reasons why Congress must absolutely pass a tax cut.

No. 1, I promised my constituents that I would; No. 2, I am not satisfied with the current economic growth rate; No. 3, cutting taxes will take power away from Washington and put more power into the hands of workers; No. 4, fundamentally I believe that people know better how to spend their own money than do politicians in Washington; No. 5, the current tax burden is 39 percent of income for an average family, and it is way too high; No. 6, I do not think it is fair that workers should have to hand over almost one-third or more of their income to the Government that wastes it on failed social programs; No. 7, higher take-home pay means workers will not have to work as much overtime, which means that workers will have more free time; No. 8, more workers will be able to take a vacation this year; and No. 9, more Americans will be able to start paying off those credit card debts; and No. 10, it is the right thing to do.

OUR VETS DESERVE THE TRUTH

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, thousands of gulf war vets have complained about nerve gas problems to no avail, and after all this the CIA now admits they had warnings as early as 1984 that Iraq had stored nerve gas in their ammunition depots that were later blown up by American troops. Unbelievable. The CIA now says they did not tell the Pentagon and it was a mistake.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe the CIA, and when thousands of gulf war vets are treated like whining hypochondriacs something is very wrong. I say these vets deserve the truth and the help of Congress.

Furthermore, I say to my colleagues, if we want to balance the budget, we could save \$30 billion in our intelligence budget by hiring Barney Fife, who will do a much better job and be a hell of a lot more honest.

THE POWER TO TAX IS NOT THE POWER TO DESTROY

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the most distinguished jurist in American history, Oliver Wendell Holmes, understood perfectly the dangers of an oppressive tax system. In a famous 1928

case Justice Holmes wrote, and I quote, "The power to tax is not the power to destroy while this Court sits."

Mr. Speaker, how many new businesses fail because the tax man seizes too much of what little profit that business makes. How many new businesses would have succeeded if they had not been burdened by tax bills they could not afford? How many businesses decided not to expand because taxes could eat away at the profits? How many businesses decided to locate overseas to escape a tax code that punishes job creation?

Justice Holmes understood even back in 1928 that when the tax burden becomes oppressive enterprises are destroyed and jobs are lost. Sixty-nine years later it is time to learn the lesson; it is time to cut taxes on businesses and let job creation flourish.

LET US PASS THE FAIR PAY ACT

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fair Pay Act. It is shameful that such a law is necessary, but it is. While my Republican colleagues have spent the first hundred days of this Congress on extended vacation let me assure my colleagues that the women of this Nation have been out there working hard for a lot less money.

Mr. Speaker, how it is possible that women have to work until April 11 to make what men earned the year before for the same work. How do we allow employers to continue to discriminate against women by paying them 72 cents for every dollar they pay their male employees.

The Fair Pay Act requires employers to pay equal wages for equal work. This bill would also prohibit wage discrimination based on race and national origin.

In 1992, Hispanic women earned half as much as white men for compatible work, half as much. This is a disgrace. It is time to send a message that we will no longer tolerate this. Let us pass the Fair Pay Act.

THE GREATEST GIFT THIS CONGRESS CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, about 30 years ago a distinguished Member of the other body wrote a book entitled "The Arrogance of Power," and since becoming a Member of Congress this year that title has haunted me, because nowhere has that arrogance been shown greater than in the oppressive tax system that the Congress of the United States has allowed to be developed over the last 30 or 40 years. We now have a tax system that rewards political friends at the expense of America's families.

Somebody asked me yesterday at a press conference what does it mean for America if we truly reform the Tax Code, and what it means is that every man, woman, and child in this country will no longer see an arrogance where Washington thinks they know better and they have more compassion and spending the money that is being earned by America's families.

We are going to abolish that arrogance in this Congress. We are going to reform taxes, we are going to give America back to the Americans, and we are going to restore the future of this financial security for our children. That is the greatest gift this Congress can give our children.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO CUT HEALTH CARE TO PAY FOR TAX BREAKS FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT LEAST

(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, 30 years ago this country made a pact with senior citizens: Work hard all your life and you will be assured of health care coverage when you need it most.

Today the Medicare Program is one of our Nation's great success stories.

Yesterday my Republican colleague the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] stated that billions of dollars in additional cuts were needed in the Medicare Program. Meanwhile, Speaker GINGRICH announced a new Republican effort to eliminate all taxes on capital gains. These are the tax cuts, my colleagues, that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans versus 37 million seniors who have Medicare.

Looks like my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are up to their old tricks, slashing Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the rich.

Democrats in this Congress pledge today to continue to stand up for our Nation's seniors. We are going to fight these Republican efforts to cut the health care of those who need it the most to pay for tax breaks for those who need it least. They are afraid to put their budget on paper; that is why they will not produce a budget. They do not want it there.

Read between the lines. It is the same old story: Medicare cuts to pay for tax cuts.

SCARING SENIOR CITIZENS IN ORDER TO GET REELECTED

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, there they go again. There they go again.

Now the Washington Post called what they are taking under here, called it medagogy. Ted Koppel in "Nightline" talked about how the Democrats were scaring senior citizens

to try to get reelected. In fact they called it Mediscare. What we are seeing are a group of people who were so afraid to save the system that the President's own Medicare advisers said was going bankrupt that they will resort to anything to get reelected.

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It was the President's task force that said we must save Medicare. So we did something radical. We said we would allow Medicare to grow at 7.2 percent. The President said, let us let it grow at 7.4 percent, and we were told we wanted to destroy the system.

Well, I agree with the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT]. Mr. Speaker, if saving Medicare is being mean to senior citizens, beam me up, because I do not understand this place anymore.

WHERE IS REPUBLICAN BUDGET?

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, what the gentleman who preceded me in the well did not say was that his party does not have a budget that explains how we make these cuts, whether they be Medicare cuts or tax cuts. Indeed, this Congress just returned from what I thought was the Easter break, but hearing the Speaker's comments yesterday promising massive tax cuts made it sound more like a political Christmas.

It was only 2 years ago that Members of the Republican Party paraded into this well to say, where is the White House budget? Well, what a difference 2 years makes. Now the conservative Democrats have presented the so-called blue dog budget, the White House has presented its balanced budget. What has the reaction been? The Republican Congressional Budget Office says it is not balanced enough, but they presented no budget of their own.

Then they say the Medicare cuts are not deep enough. They presented no budget of their own. Yesterday the Speaker promised eliminating all capital gains. That is about \$40 billion a year, the mass of the benefits going to the wealthiest individuals in the country, and yet no budget has been presented.

So here is my challenge to the other party. When you demand cuts, put a budget on the table before you come to the table.

HATCH AND KENNEDY ARE RIGHT

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

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do what is right for the children of America.

Senators HATCH and KENNEDY have developed bold new legislation in the other body designed to protect the

physical health of our children, and we in the House should also support this legislation. It has bipartisan support and deserves our support.

There are three major components to it: A block grant to allow the States to provide the health insurance coverage, which is paid for by a tax or a user fee on cigarettes that not only will pay for the program but also discourage youth from smoking in the first place. One-third of the revenues, and I say specifically to my Republican colleagues like myself who are fiscally conservative, one-third of those revenues will be used to reduce the budget deficit and stop mortgaging children's futures.

The health of our children is far too valuable to allow it to be threatened by a lack of adequate health insurance. There is no area where health insurance and preventive care brings more rewards. It is cost-effective as well as being humane, and it deserves the support, bipartisan support, such as Senators HATCH and KENNEDY have already developed.

MORE TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, when I woke up to today's papers, I read the latest idea of the Republican leadership's do-nothing Congress, which is to go ahead and give 1,400 of the wealthiest families in this country a \$4.6 billion giveaway by eliminating all estate taxes, and that is what it amounts to, over \$4 billion to only 1,400 families in this country.

This is not relief, which we want to see in estate taxes, this is a giveaway, at the same time that my colleagues say that Medicare cuts are not big enough on millions of senior citizens in this country, and with 10 million children in this country who have no health care opportunity whatsoever.

Now, to think that this is, in essence, what my Republican colleagues are headed toward in their budget describes why they do not have a budget, because there is no way to plug up those holes. Deal with the deficit, balance the budget, and take care of the needs of this Nation. Who are you for, and who are you against?

Mr. Speaker, with this policy, what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are telling us is, they are against our seniors, against our children, and for the wealthiest people in this country who do not need that type of assistance. That is simply wrong.

AMERICANS SHOULD FIGHT FOR TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, in 1980 the Federal revenue was about \$500 billion.

We then had the Reagan tax cuts, and by 1990 the Federal revenue was over \$1 trillion. It doubled in a decade. Mr. Speaker, if we could double our Federal revenue in the next decade, we would go from an income or revenue of \$1.5 trillion to \$3 trillion. We could balance the Federal budget with \$3 trillion income.

However, the opponents to tax relief say you cannot cut estate taxes, which we all know as death taxes. We are taxed all of our lives, and then now we have a tax when people die. We cannot eliminate death taxes, because that is only 1,400 people. We cannot cut capital gains taxes, because that is only the wealthy. We cannot even give tax relief to families, \$500 per child, because there is no revenue generated from that.

Well, this country can get tax relief. We are taxed too high, and we can do it and still see an increase in the Federal revenue. Do not believe all the demagoguery. Fight for tax relief. I urge my colleagues to vote for tax relief as soon as we can get it to the floor.

TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH, MEDICARE CUTS FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we have been here before. Last year Speaker GINGRICH attempted to give tax breaks to the richest citizens of this country and pay for them by cutting Medicare at \$250 billion. The American people stopped that.

This year, as April 15 approaches and Americans are rushing to pay their taxes, Speaker GINGRICH, who himself still owes the Federal Government \$300,000 in fines, Speaker GINGRICH is back. He wants more tax breaks for the wealthiest people and more cuts for Medicare.

Yesterday Speaker GINGRICH, appealing to his wealthiest contributors in the Republican Party, advocated a huge tax break for the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans. At the same time, the Republican chairman of the Committee on the Budget yesterday said he wants more Medicare cuts.

The Gingrich team is doing it again: Tax cuts for the richest 1 percent, Medicare cuts for 37 million senior citizens. That is wrong.

AMERICANS ARE OVERTAXED

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker spoke about what is wrong. What is wrong is to lie to the American people and say something is a cut when it is not a cut. The Republican Medicare proposal last year increased Medicare funding \$190 billion to \$270 billion. That is not a cut.

Now, if my colleagues on the other side say it is a cut, either they have a