

FAIR PAY ACT

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans are trying to give huge tax breaks to the rich, working people struggle to make ends meet. While the Republicans attempt to deny the minimum wage to women trying to move from welfare to work, the challenge for working women to achieve pay equity becomes more difficult.

For Hispanic women, the challenge is greater still. Tomorrow, June 21, will mark the day when Hispanic women earn what white men earned the year before for comparable work, and Hispanic women, they pay payroll taxes. That is taxes.

We know that discrimination is wrong, but employers continue to get away with wage discrimination despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act 30 years ago.

Today I rise in support of the Fair Pay Act, which requires employers to pay equal wages for compatible work.

While the Republicans try to keep women from even earning the minimum wage, the Democrats are fighting to provide fairness for working women.

ANY EXCUSE IS A GOOD EXCUSE

(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, any excuse is a good excuse if one does not want to do something. Let us see. What is today's excuse for voting against tax relief?

Well, the tax relief is going for the wealthy. We cannot give the rich a tax break. Well, who are these so-called rich? Liberals say that if one makes more than \$40,000 per year, one is rich. Well, that is bad news for the aircraft workers in Wichita, the air capital of the world, bad news because this will be the third weekend this month that single mothers have gone to work to work overtime, the third weekend they will miss spending time with their three children. They are just working to make ends meet, and somehow, somehow they thought being rich would be just a little bit better.

No tax relief for the wealthy. Mr. Speaker, any excuse is a good excuse when you do not want to do something.

□ 0915

SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN ALBANIA

(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, since 1992 Albania has evolved into a democracy. Inspired by their dynamic leader, Speaker of Parliament Arbnori, who spent 25 years in prison struggling for

democracy, they were able to set communism aside. Mr. Speaker, those great triumphs are now in danger. The Communist Party in Albania vowed to disregard the outcome of the June 29 elections unless the Communist Party wins.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great tragedy, and this is a danger for the entire free world. Albania can become the next Bosnia. Congress must ensure free and open elections in Albania. Congress must support Speaker Arbnori, and in addition, the Congress of the United States should support admitting a free, open, and democratic Albania into NATO. The Albanians have set communism aside. Congress must join to help the freedom fighters in Albania.

REDUCE TAXES ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, most people on Main Street in my district in central New Jersey understand who the real job creators are. They know that the little shops just starting out, small businesses struggling to get by, and people who have decided to work out of their homes are aware of where most of the jobs are. More jobs are created in those areas than anywhere else in the economy.

The kicker is that these small businesses, mom and pop enterprises that are slowly built up over a lifetime, sometimes cannot get passed on to their children when they die. For all these reasons we need tax relief for the real engines of our economy, small businesses: death tax relief, capital gains tax relief, and the new home office tax deduction for people giving it a go on their own. Let us pass this kind of tax relief this year. That is why I am here. That is what the American people expect.

TAX RELIEF FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the American people want tax relief. They want lower taxes, but Mr. Speaker, the American people want a tax cut that goes to the people who need it most, American working families. The Republican tax bill is a boom for Wall Street, but a bust for Main Street.

The Republican tax bill gives little relief to the working people, people struggling to pay a mortgage, a car loan, their credit card bills, and send their kids to college. The Republican tax bill gives most of the tax breaks to the wealthiest people in America. Almost 60 percent of the Republican tax credits goes to the the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans, people who on average earn \$250,000 a year.

That is not right, it is not fair, and it is not just. That is not what the American people want. Democrats want a tax cut for the middle class, for working families. These are the people who deserve tax relief. Let us not give away the store to millionaires like Rush Limbaugh and other yacht-owning junk bond traders and Rolls Royce drivers. Say no to the Republican tax break bill.

BIG HAT, NO CATTLE; NOT MUCH BEHIND THE DEMOCRATS' RHETORIC

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I am told in Texas they have a saying that means "All talk but no action." In classic Texan, they say, "Big hat, no cattle." To me that means there is not much behind the rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, I am from the great State of Nevada, but I am pretty sure that the people of Texas are talking about the Democrats when they talk about taxes. Sure, they are all for them, they say, but when it comes to giving the middle-class families some real tax relief, all of a sudden the middle-class tax cuts get magically transformed into tax cuts for the wealthy. Middle-class taxpayers in my district are starting to scratch their heads when they hear that some people in Washington think they should not get tax relief because suddenly they are the rich.

I think I understand what so many of them start questioning, whether some of the people who claim to be for middle-class tax cuts are really sincere. Big hat, no cattle. I think Texans are onto something here.

REPUBLICANS WILL PROVIDE TAX BREAKS AND TAX CUTS TO THE RICHEST IN AMERICA

(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, let us be clear about the bogus arguments of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The fact of the matter is that if you do not pay Federal taxes, income tax or a payroll tax, you are not eligible for a child tax credit in the Democratic proposal. If you do work and pay taxes, in fact you are eligible for the child tax credit.

Let them not pull the wool over people's eyes, while they want to provide tax breaks and tax cuts to the richest 1 percent of the people in this country, those who make over \$247,000. That is where the bulk of their tax break goes.

What they have done is they have cut back on the child care tax credit for working families; two people in the workplace who have to be there for economic reasons, they have cut back

that child care tax credit. They have cut back the education tax credit, the HOPE scholarships to allow working families to get their children to school, in an effort to provide a tax cut to the richest 1 percent of the people in this country. It is wrong and we should not let it happen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question de novo of the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 336, nays 49, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 218]

YEAS—336

Aderholt	Chambliss	Frelinghuysen
Allen	Christensen	Frost
Andrews	Clement	Furse
Archer	Clyburn	Gallegly
Army	Coble	Ganske
Bachus	Coburn	Gejdenson
Baesler	Collins	Gibbons
Baker	Combest	Gilchrest
Baldacci	Condit	Gilman
Ballenger	Cook	Gonzalez
Barcia	Cooksey	Goode
Barr	Costello	Goodlatte
Barrett (NE)	Cox	Goodling
Barrett (WI)	Cramer	Gordon
Bartlett	Cummings	Graham
Barton	Cunningham	Granger
Bass	Danner	Greenwood
Bateman	Davis (FL)	Hall (OH)
Bentsen	Davis (IL)	Hall (TX)
Bereuter	Davis (VA)	Hamilton
Berman	Deal	Hansen
Berry	Delahunt	Harman
Billray	DeLauro	Hastert
Bilirakis	DeLay	Hastings (FL)
Bishop	Dellums	Hastings (WA)
Blagojevich	Deutsch	Hayworth
Bliley	Diaz-Balart	Hefner
Blumenauer	Dickey	Hill
Boehlert	Dicks	Hilleary
Boehner	Dingell	Hinchee
Bonilla	Doggett	Hinojosa
Bonior	Dooley	Hobson
Bono	Doyle	Holden
Boswell	Dreier	Hooley
Boucher	Duncan	Horn
Boyd	Edwards	Hostettler
Brady	Ehlers	Houghton
Bryant	Ehrlich	Hoyer
Bunning	Emerson	Hunter
Burton	Eshoo	Hutchinson
Buyer	Etheridge	Hyde
Callahan	Evans	Inglis
Calvert	Everett	Istook
Camp	Ewing	Jackson (IL)
Campbell	Farr	Jackson-Lee
Canady	Fattah	(TX)
Cannon	Fawell	Jefferson
Capps	Flake	Jenkins
Cardin	Foley	John
Carson	Ford	Johnson (CT)
Castle	Fowler	Johnson (WI)
Chabot	Frank (MA)	Jones

Kanjorski	Molinari	Scott
Kaptur	Mollohan	Sensenbrenner
Kasich	Moran (VA)	Serrano
Kelly	Morella	Sessions
Kennedy (MA)	Murtha	Shadegg
Kennedy (RI)	Myrick	Shaw
Kennelly	Nadler	Shays
Kildee	Neal	Sherman
Kilpatrick	Nethercutt	Shimkus
Kim	Neumann	Shuster
Kind (WI)	Ney	Sisisky
King (NY)	Northup	Skaggs
Kingston	Norwood	Skeen
Klecza	Obey	Skelton
Klink	Olver	Slaughter
Klug	Ortiz	Smith (MI)
Knollenberg	Owens	Smith (TX)
LaFalce	Oxley	Smith, Adam
LaHood	Packard	Smith, Linda
Lampson	Pappas	Snowbarger
Lantos	Parker	Snyder
Largent	Pastor	Solomon
Latham	Paul	Souder
LaTourette	Paxon	Spence
Lazio	Payne	Spratt
Leach	Pease	Stabenow
Levin	Pelosi	Stokes
Lewis (CA)	Peterson (MN)	Strickland
Lewis (KY)	Peterson (PA)	Stump
Linder	Petri	Stupak
Livingston	Pickering	Talent
Lofgren	Pitts	Tanner
Lowey	Portman	Tauscher
Lucas	Price (NC)	Thomas
Luther	Pryce (OH)	Thornberry
Maloney (CT)	Quinn	Thune
Manton	Radanovich	Thurman
Manzullo	Rahall	Tierney
Mascara	Rangel	Towns
Matsui	Redmond	Trafficant
McCarthy (MO)	Regula	Turner
McCarthy (NY)	Reyes	Upton
McCollum	Riley	Velazquez
McCrery	Rivers	Vento
McGovern	Rodriguez	Walsh
McHale	Roemer	Watkins
McHugh	Rogan	Watts (OK)
McInnis	Rogers	Waxman
McIntosh	Rohrabacher	Weldon (FL)
McIntyre	Ros-Lehtinen	Weldon (PA)
McKeon	Rothman	Wexler
McKinney	Roukema	Weygand
Meehan	Roybal-Allard	White
Metcalfe	Ryun	Whitfield
Mica	Salmon	Wicker
Millender-McDonald	Sanders	Wise
Miller (FL)	Sandlin	Wolf
Minge	Sanford	Woolsey
Mink	Sawyer	Wynn
Moakley	Saxton	Young (FL)
	Schaefer, Dan	

NAYS—49

Abercrombie	Gutierrez	Pickett
Borski	Gutknecht	Poshard
Brown (CA)	Hefley	Ramstad
Brown (OH)	Hilliard	Rush
Chenoweth	Hoekstra	Sabo
Clay	Hulshof	Schaffer, Bob
DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Stearns
English	Kucinich	Sununu
Ensign	Lewis (GA)	Taylor (MS)
Fazio	LoBiondo	Thompson
Filner	Maloney (NY)	Tiahrt
Foglietta	McDermott	Visclosky
Forbes	McNulty	Wamp
Fox	Meek	Watt (NC)
Gephardt	Moran (KS)	Weller
Gillmor	Nussle	
Green	Pallone	

NOT VOTING—49

Ackerman	Gekas	Royce
Becerra	Goss	Sanchez
Blunt	Herger	Scarborough
Brown (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Schiff
Burr	Kolbe	Schumer
Clayton	Lipinski	Smith (NJ)
Conyers	Markey	Smith (OR)
Coyne	Martinez	Stark
Crane	McDade	Stenholm
Crapo	Menendez	Tauzin
Cubin	Miller (CA)	Taylor (NC)
DeGette	Oberstar	Torres
Dixon	Pascarell	Waters
Doolittle	Pombo	Yates
Dunn	Pomeroy	Young (AK)
Engel	Porter	
Franks (NJ)	Riggs	

□ 0945

So the Journal was approved.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 218. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 218.

PROVIDING SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 167 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 167

Resolved,

SECTION 1. APPLICATION.

This resolution shall apply to the investigation by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight of political fundraising improprieties and possible violations of law.

SEC. 2. HANDLING OF INFORMATION.

Information obtained under the authority of this resolution shall be—

(1) considered as taken by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in the District of Columbia, as well as at the location actually taken; and

(2) considered as taken in executive session.

SEC. 3. DEPOSITIONS AND INTERROGATORIES.

The chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee, may—

(1) order the taking of depositions or interrogatories anywhere within the United States, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena; and

(2) designate a member of the committee or an attorney on the staff of the committee to conduct any such proceeding.

SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES.

The chairman of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the committee, may—

(1) order the taking of depositions and other testimony under oath anywhere outside the United States; and

(2) make application for issuance of letters rogatory, and request, through appropriate channels, other means of international assistance, as appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. PRYCE] is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MOAKLEY], my good friend and the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within