

you do not need a trade association, you do not need anyone between you and information about the U.S. Congress.

If you would like more information on the first tax cut in 16 years and first balanced budget agreement in 29 years, all you have to do is enter Speakernews.house.gov and you can get all the information at no cost, without paying anybody. Because you, as a citizen, deserve to know what your Congress is doing.

TAX CUTS: A WINDFALL FOR THE RICH

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the word is getting out to most Americans that the Republican bill being considered today provides tax cuts to the rich and not for the working middle class. But today I read in the New York Times that there is another huge tax break for the wealthy that most of us did not know about.

Buried in the estate tax section of the big tax cut bill is an obscure provision that would cost the Government \$9 million a year in lost revenue and give a bonanza worth thousands of dollars to about a thousand wealthy taxpayers.

A tax lawyer in New York, who spoke on the condition that his name may not be used, said his client, who he would not identify, stood to save at least \$100,000 in taxes if this provision in question became law.

Who knows what other tax breaks for rich individuals or corporations are in the Republican bill we will consider today? I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this windfall for the rich at the expense of working Americans.

H.R. 1270 WILL DESTROY ENVIRONMENT

(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, here we go again. Wake up America. The headline news from a June 20th New York Times article reads: "Doubt Cast on Prime Site as Nuclear Waste Dump." The article states that "researchers have found that rain water, which could dissolve nuclear waste, has seeped from the top of the mountain to 800 feet into its innards, where high-level waste would be stored, in just 40 years, much faster than scientists had predicted."

The scientists had originally believed that it would take hundreds of thousands of years to travel the same distance. The article goes on to say that the find "raises the possibility that radiation would be spread into the environment much sooner than they anticipated."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1270 will destroy the environment and endanger lives.

Do not waste your votes. I urge my colleagues to oppose this very bad bill.

FISCAL YEAR 1998 TAX BILL

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Voltaire once said that the purpose of politics is to take as much money as you can from one group of people and give it to another.

It seems to me that that is exactly what my Republican colleagues have taken a page from, taking money from the low-income working class families so that they can give it to the rich, taking milk out of the mouth of babes so that the richest 5 percent of the people in our country get a break. Denying working families the opportunity to send their sons and daughters to college so that the rich, the wealthiest 1 percent of families, can boost their incomes by an average of \$27,000 per year.

If this is what America is about, then I say, "Gimme a break." That is why I support the Rangel Democratic alternative which will allow millions of Americans to realize real savings.

I also urge my colleagues to continue to do more, and that is why I have introduced a measure that will give working families with children up to age 18 additional relief and would further target capital gains credits for these families.

EPA IN OUR WALLETS AGAIN

(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, the EPA is once again in our wallets. The EPA is forcing American companies and workers to cough up \$60 billion for new clean air regulations. To boot, EPA's own scientists say these regulations are not justified. Now if that is not enough to file your chapter 7, Congress never approved them. Beam me up. Talk about a government coming at us. IRS one day, EPA the next.

Wake up, Congress. The people did not elect the EPA. They elected a Congress to run our Government. I say fire these fat-cat bureaucrats of the EPA who are so dumb they could throw themselves at the ground and miss. After all, we can hire regulators a lot cheaper from Korea to screw our country up.

I yield back the balance of any more of this pollution.

□ 1015

AMERICA IS OVERTAXED

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, American people are certainly not undertaxed. From the moment you wake up to the

moment you go to sleep, and even while you are sleeping, you are being taxed.

When you have your morning coffee, you pay a coffee tax. When you take a shower, you pay a water tax. When you get in a car to drive to work, you pay a gas tax and a property tax. While you are at work, you are accruing an income tax. You pay electricity taxes all day and when you get home at night and turn on your TV, you pay a cable tax. Even when you flush the toilet, you are paying a tax.

Americans are tired of paying so much in taxes for a government that is so lacking in accountability and responsibility. Today we have a tax reduction bill. It does not go as far as I would like, but it is the first step toward getting government off the backs of the people and probably the only tax relief bill we will get past the veto pen of Bill Clinton.

Mr. Speaker, support real tax relief for all Americans today.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE WEALTHY VERSUS TAX RELIEF FOR THE NATION

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today the American public will witness the difference between the two parties. Today the Republicans will put on the House floor a tax bill that will provide the overwhelming amount of benefits to the top 1 percent of the taxpayers in this country, taxpayers earning in excess of \$250,000, that will get \$27,000 in tax relief while the lower 60 percent of the taxpayers in this country will get only 12 percent of that relief.

What does that mean? That means that millions of American families who work every day, go to work, pay their taxes, starting police officers, school teachers and others with children, will not get the benefit of this tax bill. Why will they not get the benefit of this tax bill? Because the Republicans have decided that this should be tax relief for the wealthy as opposed to tax relief for the Nation. They have decided that this tax relief should be directed at those who need it the least and it should be taken from those who need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, that is the difference that will be debated on this floor today. That is why this legislation eventually will be vetoed by the President of the United States.

THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GROVER AND LORENE HOBBS

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago this Saturday, Grover Hobbs and Lorene Fincher were married in Heard County, GA. After Grover

served 7 years as a gunner in World War II, he went to work for Lorene's father, where they first met.

After they wed, they lived on a small farm in Harrisonville, GA, and every day Grover commuted to Hapeville, GA, to work for Ford Motor Co. During this time, Lorene worked at Callaway Mills until she decided to quit in order to raise their three children. In 1975, Grover and Lorene sold the farm and went to work for Milliken Mills until their retirement in the late 1980's.

In addition to working hard and raising a great family, the Hobbsses helped to found the Harrisonville Baptist Church in which, as a church service, they regularly visit the local nursing home.

It is extremely heart warming, Mr. Speaker, to see two people so devoted to church, their family, and of course to each other. Their commitment truly personifies what marriage ought to be. I would like to extend the warmest of congratulations to Grover and Lorene Hobbs for years past and years to come of a happy and healthy marriage on their 50th wedding anniversary.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL OFFERS BONANZA FOR AFFLUENT, CRUMBS FOR WORKING CLASS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans will stand here today and say that they are bringing tax relief to the middle class. They complain that the Democrats are being less than honest about the Republicans' attack on working families. Well, Mr. Speaker, even the Wall Street Journal, no friend of the Democrats, agreed with us.

Here it is in the Wall Street Journal. The Republican bill is, and I quote, "a bonanza for the affluent, crumbs for the working class." It "shamefully short changes the working poor." The Wall Street Journal says that under the Republican plan, Bill Gates will get a \$4,000 tax break for education expenses, while a new police officer making \$23,000 will be denied a tax credit for his kids.

Mr. Speaker, if the Republicans are not listening to the American people and they are not listening to the Wall Street Journal, it seems obvious who they are listening to, to their campaign contributors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF HOUSE AND SENATE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY DISTRICT WORK PERIOD

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 176 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 176

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, any rule of the House to the contrary notwithstanding, to consider a concurrent resolution providing for adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), 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.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 176 provides for the consideration in the House of a concurrent resolution providing for the adjournment of the House and Senate for the Independence Day district work period. All points of order are waived against the resolution and its consideration.

As Members are aware, section 309 of the Budget Act states that the House cannot adjourn for more than 3 calendar days in July if it has not completed actions on all appropriations bills. In addition, section 310 requires that reconciliation legislation if directed by the budget resolution, be completed before such an adjournment.

Ordinarily, these two potential points of order against an adjournment resolution for the Fourth of July District Work Period are waived by unanimous consent. In fact, we attempted to work with the minority to reach an acceptable unanimous consent agreement. When we were in the minority, we consistently allowed these unanimous consent agreements. This year, however, the minority rejected our request.

It is true that the Congress has not completed its work on the appropriations bills and the reconciliation legislation, and I guess I can understand the despondency of the minority. The past few days have not been enjoyable for those who support high taxes and big government solutions.

However, these are extraordinary times for those of us who support the axiom that the Government is too big and spends too much. In fact, I would say that this Congress, more than any other, has led the way in exhibiting fiscal sanity.

No, the appropriations bills and the reconciliation legislation are not yet complete. However, balancing the budget is more difficult than the practice of past Congresses, which simply passed irresponsible debt on to our grandchildren.

America was headed for a future in which interest on the debt would surpass spending on the defense of our Nation, a future in which Medicare would go bankrupt by 2002, and a future which had taxpayers giving more and more of their hard-earned money to support a bloated Washington bureaucracy.

Our Nation could have lost control of its destiny, but this Congress took action to save Medicare, pass a balanced budget and provide massive tax relief for our families. These are truly historic accomplishments.

Independence Day is a time to celebrate the birth of this Nation and the perseverance of the Founding Fathers who fought the heavy hand of government and oppressive taxes. The budget passed by this Congress reduces the oppressive taxes on American families and balances the budget.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution simply allows us to go home to our friends and neighbors to listen to what our constituents have to say about issues that are important to their lives. As we celebrate the birth of our Nation with them, I believe they will be very pleased to celebrate the triumph of lower taxes, less Government and more freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] for yielding me the customary half hour, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is one more way for the Republican leadership to go on vacation before their work is done. It is one more way for my Republican colleagues to get out of their responsibilities to the people of this country, and I think it is a bad idea. Normally adjournment resolutions are privileged, but in the rare cases when Congress fails to get its work done, the Budget Act kicks in and exposes these adjournment resolutions to points of order.

According to the Budget Act, Mr. Speaker, the House cannot adjourn for more than 3 days unless it passes all its appropriations bills and unless the reconciliation bill has been signed into law. Mr. Speaker, we all know the appropriations bills are nowhere near finished.

The first part of the reconciliation bill passed the House only last night and the second part of the reconciliation bill will be considered for the first time later today. The Senate has just started debating the reconciliation bill and the conference committee has not even met yet. In other words, Mr. Speaker, if you are waiting for these spending bills to be finished, please do not hold your breath.

Mr. Speaker, the American people sent us to Congress to act responsibly and the Congressional Budget Act gives us some very specific responsibilities. Section 300 requires that Congress complete action on reconciliation legislation by June 15 and pass all 13 appropriations bills by June 30. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has not even come close. The appropriations bills may not seem urgent now, but unless the House does its work and unless the House gives the Senate enough time to do its work, we will be approaching another September 30 without all appropriations bills being signed. If we fail