

future of mining and the thousands of jobs it produces for American families.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

(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, let us tell it like it is. When monks and nuns who take a vow of poverty give \$140,000 to a presidential campaign, ladies and gentlemen, when a welfare worker who makes \$20,000 a year gives the entire \$20,000 to a presidential campaign, something is funny.

If that is not enough to freeze your stir fry, when an Assistant Secretary of Commerce responsible for international trade raises 3.5 million Chinese dollars for a presidential campaign, this is not China-gate, this is sewer-gate. This is not about Democrats, this is not about Republicans. This is about national security and Communists, Communists who may have compromised big people in high places in our Government.

But let me say this, Congress. These Chinese Communists did not provide all those bucks because they are enamored with and love America. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I say, let the dragon chips fall where they may.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT LIKENED TO OLIVER STONE IN TAX CUT DEBATE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, White House figures showing that the tax cut package mainly benefits the rich have as much credibility as an Oliver Stone movie. Like Oliver Stone, the Treasury Department has decided to make stuff up.

It is even worse than that. Like Oliver Stone, the Treasury Department uses tax numbers in a way that deliberately is designed to deceive. Again like Oliver Stone, the Treasury Department is counting on the fact that most people will not be able to tell the difference between what is the truth and what is fiction.

I am talking about the Treasury Department's fraudulent use of family economic income, a new, ingenious way to make middle-class families look rich. Family economic income, you ask? What is that?

Now you begin to see what I am talking about. Oh, sure, imputed rent income, unreported income you never knew you had, unrealized capital gains you never knew you had. Stuff like that. It is so dishonest it would make even Oliver Stone proud.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 886

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman

from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) be removed as a cosponsor of my bill, H.R. 886.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

PREVIEW OF SPECIAL ORDER COMMEMORATING LIFE OF BETTY SHABAZZ

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this coming Thursday I will lead a special order on the life of Dr. Betty Shabazz. Her tragic death from burns to her body cannot overwhelm her triumphant life. Betty's life teaches that it is possible to rise against all the odds. She became a devoted mother and grandmother and a distinguished educator and bearer of the legacy of a great man.

Like her husband, Malcolm X, Betty Shabazz was not defeated by life's cruel terms but used them to become a better, deeper, stronger person. Malcolm left behind racial bitterness and embraced orthodox Islam and universal human rights. Like Malcolm X, Betty Shabazz took the best of her old life and created a new reality, of devotion to family, educational excellence, and human rights. Please join me in celebrating the life of Betty Shabazz this Thursday in a special order.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(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, I have seen information from the 1996 Statistical Abstract of the United States, and on page 461 is a table of statistics that shows the median household income in 1994, the latest year of which figures are available, was \$32,264. An American household earning \$32,264 is about as middle class as middle class can be.

So the question I have is should middle-class households, such as one earning \$32,264 a year, be given tax relief? Should Washington spend a little bit less money so that families with incomes of about \$32,000 a year can have a little more?

I think we should. I think we should let middle-income families keep a little more of what is already theirs, their hard-earned money, and that tax relief package that was passed by Congress was designed exactly for the middle class.

My mind keeps going back to the single mother working at an aircraft company in Wichita, KS. She has three children. She is working hard trying to keep the three kids in school, properly clothed, never going hungry, living in a good home. Should she be able to keep more of her hard-earned money? I think so. Yes, Mr. Speaker, she should.

TIME TO BAN LAND MINES

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we have to assume greater responsibility for and take greater leadership against the proliferation of land mines throughout the world. Land mines were responsible for one-third of all the casualties in the Vietnam war. Likewise in the Persian Gulf war, they were responsible for one-third of the casualties. Already there have been 284 casualties due to land mines in Bosnia.

But it is not just professional military forces that suffer from these horrible instruments of death. Last year over 26,000 people were killed or maimed by land mines. That is one person every 20 minutes. Most of these victims were not members of the military. Most of them were children. Many of these children are victims of wars long ended, of conflicts long forgotten, but land mines can stay active for over 50 years, Mr. Speaker. They will kill children whose parents are not even born yet. And even though some countries have more active land mines in their territory than people, we continue to plant 2 million more land mines every year. It is time to ban them.

CYPRUS PEACE TALKS

(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, this week Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, have agreed to meet in upstate New York to start serious bilateral peace negotiations.

It has been 23 years since the Turkish invasion of the Island of Cyprus, and a significant military presence on both sides still remains. It is my hope that the discussions will concentrate on the removal of Turkish troops, the restoration of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and the implementation of a constitutional democracy.

Just as neighboring Greece, the birthplace of my grandparents, is the birthplace of democracy, it is very important that Cyprus serve as another cradle of democracy in southeast Europe.

Today marks a positive first step forward. Opening a line of communication can only lead to greater understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I wish both sides well and hope for a lasting and peaceful resolution for the people of Cyprus.

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A TAX SYSTEM THAT REWARDS AMERICAN VIRTUES

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, in the huge best seller, "The Book of Virtues," by William J. Bennett, the author compiles a collection of moral tales for children. Children are taught through these stories that they should live their lives with concern to moral virtues. The lessons they are taught include such virtues as self-discipline, responsibility, courage, perseverance, and honesty.

Mr. Speaker, those are the very virtues that are so often the hallmark of people who have worked their way up from the bottom and have realized the American dream. They are the virtues that so often bring about prosperity and economic security.

Mr. Speaker, in my view designing a tax system that rewards those virtues, that rewards hard work, that rewards playing by the rules, thrift, diligence, is exactly the kind of tax system that our country needs. The Republican tax cut is a step in that direction. It rewards the virtues that we all admire. It is a statement about how we live our lives.

Let us make a change in that direction, Mr. Speaker, and pass the tax relief package and encourage the President to sign the tax relief package before the Congress.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY STANDS FOR LOWER TAXES

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, President Reagan was an admired figure for many reasons. One of the reasons he is admired is because he called for tax cuts during the 1980 Presidential campaign and he delivered on his promises after he became President. He did not suddenly discover that the economy was in worse shape than he thought and use that as some kind of an excuse not only to cancel the tax cuts but actually increase taxes, which is what we saw in 1992. It is time to take a cue from Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party stands for lower taxes, and my constituents decided to send me to Washington because they expect Republicans to deliver some long overdue tax relief to American workers. Now is the time to deliver. The tax bill that the House is considering contains tax relief for all taxpayers, with middle class families getting the biggest break of all. Regardless of income, the Republican Party thinks our constituents should keep more of it. That was Ronald Reagan's philosophy, and I could not agree more.

BE CAREFUL OF GENERALIZING AMERICANS OF PACIFIC OR ASIAN ANCESTRY

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, this morning the other body started its hearings on alleged violations of certain individuals and companies about our campaign laws, and I want to commend my good friend, the Senator from the great State of Hawaii, Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA, for reminding his colleagues and Members of this institution to be careful of generalizing the issues and the implications. Sometimes the media in its feeding frenzy is questioning the integrity and the honesty of the entire Asia Pacific community in our Nation, that their honest contributions made in our national and local elections sometimes are being questioned simply because these Americans are of Asian or Pacific ancestry. Let me give my colleagues a little bit of history about the sacrifices of the Asia Pacific community, and it is sealed in their blood.

The Japanese-Americans of the 100th battalion, 442d infantry combat troops, after fighting our enemies in Europe: 9,000 Purple Hearts, 560 Silver Stars, 65 Distinguished Service Crosses, and only 1 Medal of Honor.

I ask my colleagues, let us be careful of generalizing people and the composite view of our Nation here in our country, and I thank the Speaker for giving me this chance.

IT IS TIME FOR THE NEA TO SAY GOODBYE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the White House has been sending signals that the President will veto the Interior appropriations bill if the National Endowment for the Arts is phased out. The NEA, my colleagues will remember, is that bureaucratically bloated \$100 million-per-year Federal agency that purports to decide what does or does not constitute quality taxpayer-funded art.

Can the Republic survive without government art? I think it probably can, but the President apparently does not. He feels so strongly about this pet program that in order to save it he is willing to jeopardize the funding of such Federal entities as the National Park Service, the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center and the Holocaust Museum, all funded in the Interior bill.

Mr. Speaker, let us not create a legislative log jam to satisfy the elite special interests in the arts community. Let us say goodbye to the NEA once and for all, and let us hope that President Clinton does not stand in the way.

PASS A TAX BILL THAT PUTS MONEY BACK IN THE POCKETS OF AVERAGE AMERICANS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to tax cuts the question before

this House is a simple one: Who should benefit? President Clinton and the House Democrats believe that the middle class should. That is why the bulk of benefits from the Democratic tax proposals go to families who need it most, hard-working, average, middle class families. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle disagree. Their tax proposal helps big business and the wealthy at the expense of the middle class, and the American people know it.

In a recent Gallup Poll 52 percent of those surveyed say the Republican proposal will benefit the rich while only 8 percent said it would favor the middle class, and 61 percent said the Republican Congress is out of touch with the American people.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the message the American people are sending us. Let us get back in touch with the American people. Let us pass a tax bill that puts back money into the pockets of average American middle class families.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR CAPITAL GAINS AND ESTATE TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a letter from Dr. Lester Spell, commissioner of agriculture and commerce for the State of Mississippi. Dr. Spell is a statewide elected official elected on the Democratic ticket, and he asks that Congress provide relief from the capital gains tax and reduce the death tax. Commissioner Spell has this to say about capital gains taxes: "This tax has a negative and unfair effect on agricultural families and non-agricultural families."

About the estate tax, Commissioner Spell says: "This tax destroys the hope and enthusiasm of free enterprise and entrepreneurship."

He goes on to say: "This year Independence Day would be much more meaningful to all Americans if Congress would reduce capital gains taxes and move to eliminate the death tax."

Mr. Speaker, the House-passed tax cut is good for average Americans. Over 75 percent of the tax relief goes to families between \$20,000 and \$75,000 in annual income. I am glad capital gains and estate tax relief are part of this package, and I commend Commissioner Lester Spell for pointing out the bipartisan support for these provisions.

THE FAMILY ECONOMIC INCOME CONCEPT

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, maybe some of my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle