

FRANCE SAYS NO TO AMERICA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. France once again says no to America. This time no money for NATO expansion. Unbelievable. President Chirac is an ingrate. Chirac should visit the cemetery at Normandy. Thousands of American soldiers died to liberate France from Nazi rule. Then the American taxpayers spent billions to rebuild France and all of Europe, and after all this France does nothing but complain.

First of all, they complain about NATO, then they refuse to allow American war planes to land on their way to Libya. Complain, complain, complain. Now they want us to pick up the tab for their cost of protecting Europe. Beam me up. I say Chirac and France should shove their complaints up their assets, and we should stop funding and paying for the liberation of France.

SALUTING GEN. CHARLES LINK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, one of the great privileges of serving on the Committee on National Security is the opportunity to meet and work with people who have dedicated their lives to their fellow Americans. Today General Fogleman, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, will preside over the retirement of one such person, Gen. Charles D. Link.

With his retirement from active duty, the military loses a true strategic, out-of-the-box thinker, a visionary, and a warrior. With his work on the Roles and Missions and the Quadrennial Defense Review, General Link has outlined the path the Air Force will follow for the next several years. This then is his legacy. But General Link is not to be one easily forgotten.

He has been an inspiration to the troops and a respected leader within the service. From his days as a 17-year-old enlisted person fixing jets to his days as the commandant of the Air War College, he has mastered and mentored the art of war from the air. In the last several years he has been rightfully acknowledged as the strongest and most articulate proponent of air power. An exemplary accomplishment and, as is his way, a magnificent example of a life well-lived.

Those who have taken up arms in the fight for and defense of this Nation are the ones that have delivered us our Constitution and the way of life that it has provided. Chuck Link is a shining example of this proud American spirit. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing General Link a long and prosperous future as he ends his 40 years of mili-

tary service to a free and prosperous United States of America.

NO RELIEF SEEN FROM REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PROPOSAL

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, thousands of young Americans across this country will get absolutely no relief from this Republican tax bill. No, all they will get is a tax increase. That is right. This bill imposes a new tax on educational opportunity, and it is wrong.

Universities across our country often provide incentives to talented graduate students as teaching or research assistants by reducing their tuition at the same time they offer services as teachers and researchers for the future of our higher education system. Currently this assistance is not taxed. But the Republicans propose to tax it, to tax educational opportunity, at the same time they provide one tax break after another for the rich and the famous.

Taxing educational opportunities penalizes the very people that we need to be helping. These are young people who are struggling to get by on \$12,000 or \$15,000, and suddenly they will face a very substantial tax increase. Let us reject the Republican tax hike on educational opportunity.

TIME FOR RELIEF FROM UNCLE SAM'S PERPETUAL TAX BITE

(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, what is the difference between Mike Tyson and Uncle Sam? The answer is not much, but keep your ear to the ground.

The amazing thing is that Big Mike got disqualified for taking too big a bite out of something he was not supposed to, but Uncle Sam bites you year after year, only there is no referee around to stop the foul play. Well, there is the IRS, but needless to say the IRS is not much help.

Mr. Speaker, Uncle Sam has been chomping on the pocketbooks of American taxpayers for a long time. A lot of taxpayers have been taking to bobbing and weaving away from the painful jaws of Uncle Sam to protect themselves from the massive tax bite. Taxpayers have been crying out for some relief for a long time, but Uncle Sam never seems to learn any lessons. He just wants to take a bigger bite out of our hides, and he does not care how much it hurts.

It is time to tell Uncle Sam "No mas!" and let the IRS know that Uncle Sam's tax biting days are over. It is time for some tax relief for American taxpayers.

DEMOCRATS UNITED IN SUPPORT OF TAX BREAKS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are united in support of tax breaks for working families. At the end of last month, the President unveiled his alternative to the Republican tax scheme and the President's proposal provides significantly more relief for middle income families.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me who benefits with the Republican approach to cutting taxes. Their tax breaks focus on big business, special interests and wealthy families, while limiting tax cuts for education and families with children.

I just want to say I want to balance the budget and I want to give tax cuts back to the American people, but I want to do it in a manner that is fair to the middle class. The Republican plan falls extremely short of this goal, and I am going to continue to urge my Republican colleagues to abandon their sinking ship and support the Democratic tax alternative. The facts are on our side, and the American people are with us on this issue. They have woken up to what the Republicans are trying to do. The Republican leadership needs to wake up, also, and listen to their constituents on the tax issue.

IN OPPOSITION TO REPUBLICAN TAX PLAN

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of being promised one thing and getting another. The Republican tax bill is a perfect example. The Republicans will try to tell you that they are providing tax relief to the middle class. This is only true if you think that making over \$100,000 is middle class.

The fact is that most of the huge Republican tax break will go to the richest people in this country. The people who are really middle class, 60 percent of all families, will only get a third of the tax relief. The working poor will get nothing.

It gets worse. College students will be hit with new taxes as they struggle to get an education. Teachers are being told that they will face new taxes on their pensions. And Bill Gates, he will save millions. Is this fairness? Is this what American working families deserve?

WE ARE ALL EARS

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, lend me your ear. It looks as though the Democrats have been

taking lessons from Mike Tyson. I say that because Uncle Sam's tax bite is too big and the American family is suffering.

Just take a look at this chart. The tax bite has progressively evolved into the Mike Tyson tax. Back in 1950 when my parents were starting out and trying to live the American dream, the tax bite was only 6 percent of their budget. Did you hear that, Mr. Speaker? Six percent of the family budget was sent to Washington, DC.

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Well, trying to live the American dream has gotten a little bit harder over the years. The family budget has been turned on its ear. The tax bite today, which can only be called the Mike Tyson tax bite, is now 23 percent of the family budget. The Government has only, it is 23 percent, the Government has earmarked 23 percent of the family budget for Washington bureaucrats.

Let us throw the IRS out of the ring and declare victory for the American family. Let us give the American dream a fighting chance.

A TAX BILL THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF WORKING FAMILIES

(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, Democrats want tax cuts and tax relief for working taxpaying families. However Republicans in the Congress have passed tax bills that shortchange working families and instead shower tax breaks to the very wealthy.

A new Treasury Department analysis revealed that the Republican bill is light on relief for working families and heavy on tax breaks for the rich. According to the Treasury analysis, only a third of the tax breaks, only a third, go to the middle 60 percent of all families. Who is that? Families making between \$17,000 and \$93,000 a year.

By stark contrast, the Democratic alternative offers those same families 66 percent of all of the tax cut relief, and those are the working families in this country we want to help.

Republicans also skimp on the tax breaks for college students in their budget. Their bill only gives half of the \$1,500 college tuition credit for the first 2 years, does virtually nothing for juniors and seniors.

Mr. Speaker, that is why Democrats continue to fight for working families. We are going to ensure a tax bill that meets the needs of working families in this country.

UNION SUMMER VIOLATES FEDERAL WAGE AND HOUR LAWS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Last year Mr. Speaker, the AFL-CIO offered approxi-

mately 1,000 3-week summer internship jobs to college students, who received a weekly stipend of \$210 for their work. They called it the union summer. From press accounts it appeared that some of the students worked an average of 76 hours per week for an hourly rate of \$2.76 per hour. This arrangement, if true, is a violation of the Federal wage and hour laws.

In October 1996, I requested the Department of Labor to investigate these alleged violations. The Department of Labor said they are looking into the matter, but after numerous letters and telephone calls over the last 8 months, the Department refuses to provide me with specific information about the case.

A new union summer program is under way right now in 1997, with thousands of college students participating around the country. The Department of Labor should do everything in its power to ensure that appropriate Federal wage and hour laws are fully enforced, regardless of the identity of the employer.

I am continuing to press the Department of Labor to promptly report on its investigation because I fear that similar transgressions, if left unchecked, could occur again with this union summer program this summer.

THE GIFT OF LIFE

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

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, 2 years and 2 months ago today, I was told that I had 2 months to live. Fortunately on July 10, 1995, 2 years ago today, I underwent a successful liver transplant that saved my life. I was extremely lucky and fortunate that someone out there thought enough to give me the gift of life and donated their organs.

I have spoken on the floor many times, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of organ donation, but often people just do not think about organ donation until they are faced with a friend or a loved one that desperately needs a transplant, and I am no exception.

Mr. Speaker, today in the United States there are over 50,000 people waiting for an organ. Eight people a day will die because there just are not enough organs to go around, and that is why it is so critical that people are educated and made aware of the importance of organ donations and the second chance that it gives thousands of people every year.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago I received the gift of life, so please talk to the family, the loved ones, and give someone else the miracle, the gift of life, and become an organ donor.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS FORCED TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTING NUCLEAR WASTE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

(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, a new scheme is emerging. Under H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, American taxpayers will be forced to pay for the transportation of nuclear waste across this country. At a time when we are trying to reduce the burden on taxpayers, now they will be forced to pay huge sums for the construction of an expensive interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain, NV. And, Mr. Speaker, taxpayers will also be liable for the cost of cleanup of any accident that occurs during transportation, not the nuclear power industry.

A DOE contractor report concluded that if an accident were to occur in a rural area during transportation cleanup, costs to the taxpayers could range between \$176 million to \$19.4 billion. A cleanup in an urban area would cost considerably more, perhaps \$9.5 billion just to raise and rebuild the most contaminated square mile.

This is a pivotal time in Congress when we are trying to balance the budget and give tax breaks to hard-working Americans. Why then would we want than to shoulder the burdens of H.R. 1270?

SUPPORT EDUCATION AND MIDDLE-CLASS TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on my colleagues in this House and the negotiators on the tax bill to put support for educational opportunities and tax relief for middle-class families at the top of their priority list. As a former two-term State school chief, I know firsthand how important education is to our children's futures.

In this modern economy, high school diplomas are no longer enough to ensure workers can achieve economic success. We must support opportunities for lifelong learning. Education is a journey, not a destination.

Unfortunately, according to the Education Department, the Republicans' tax bill would shortchange 186,000 North Carolina students out of relief from educational expenses. In addition, the tax bill the House passed would actually raise taxes on some college students and penalize retired teachers, and that is absolutely wrong.

Today, college students from across this country are rallying here at the Capitol to protest tax policies that shortchange them. We must heed their call and pass meaningful tax relief for education.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to support educational opportunity for all of our children and meaningful tax relief to middle-class families.

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR A FAMILY OF FIVE

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1