

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.

□ 1015

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about legislation that is about to be completed out in Washington this month, and for a change it is good news. The legislation will balance the budget, restore Medicare, and lower taxes on American families. And as my colleagues know, when we get to this idea of lowering taxes I sometimes think the folks on the other side of the aisle have forgotten 1993. The discussion was not about lowering taxes. The discussion was about which taxes to raise and how high to raise them. Now we are to a point where we realize that curtailing the growth of Washington spending, how much money Washington takes out of the pockets of our American families, by curtailing that growth of Washington spending we can both balance the budget and lower taxes.

And what do we hear? We hear we want to give tax cuts to people who do not even pay income tax, and we are into this big argument about these tax cuts and who they are going to.

Mr. Speaker, I want to cut through all the Washington rhetoric and talk about a family of five that I see in church on Sunday morning. They have got two kids at home and one headed off to college. They do not understand all this Washington rhetoric and the Democrats beating up Republicans and vice versa, but they know for the two kids that are staying home they get \$500 for each one of those children, and they know for the one that is headed off to college they are going to get \$1,500.

They are not rich. They are the folks who get up every morning and go to work, and they are the backbone of this great Nation. A balanced budget, restored Medicare and lower taxes, that is a bright future for this country.

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WANT THEIR KIDS TO HAVE A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOO

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans say that they are for tax relief to help working Americans, but which Americans are they willing to help? The Republicans' tax plan gives two-thirds of their tax breaks to the top 20 percent of earners and absolutely nothing to the lowest 20 percent of American earners. The Republicans would help the rich get richer and leave crumbs to the working families who are struggling the hardest. The Republicans say that low-income working families do not deserve a tax break because they do not pay much in taxes. But in fact low-income working families pay more of their income in taxes than any other group. These working families pay payroll taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, and gas taxes. They pay property taxes on their

homes, and in some States, sales tax even on the food for their tables. They want their kids to have a brighter future too. So let us give them a tax break too.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL MOSTLY HANDOUTS TO THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning we have heard a lot of 1-minutes on what the tax bill may do. Well, let me tell my colleagues what the American people believe. Recent public opinion surveys indicate that Americans have figured out that the Republican bill is mostly handouts for the wealthy. The Wall Street Journal/NBC poll released on June 26 revealed that Americans prefer the Democratic tax alternative to the GOP by a 2 to 1 margin, 60 to 31 percent. USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll released on July 1: 52 percent of Americans think the Republican tax plan favors the rich. Even the GOP pollsters are finding the same result.

According to Monday's Washington Times, a poll conducted by three Republican pollsters financed by the Republican Party found nearly half of those surveys, 48 percent, said they believe the proposed Republican tax plans are biased toward the wealthy. In yesterday's Houston Chronicle there was a great editorial cartoon that was also in the Atlanta Constitution. It had a multiple choice. Own a yacht? Own a private jet with eight seats or more? Have a wine cellar bigger than a football field? If the answer is yes, congratulations; that person qualifies for a middle-class tax cut under the Republican plan.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of capital gains tax relief for Americans of all ages.

When I was home in eastern North Carolina for July 4, people, both young and old, expressed their appreciation that Congress has finally voted to give them a capital gains tax reduction. These people are not wealthy. They are just good hard-working Americans who are doing their best that they can to pay their bills and save for the future. Capital gains tax relief will help them buy a family home and save for their children's education. A break in this excessive tax will also help senior citizens who rely on their savings for their livelihood.

□ 1030

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who supported a reduction in the capital gains tax. I hope we can work together to continue to provide

Americans with the tax relief they so rightly deserve.

TAX CUTS SHOULD BENEFIT THE WORKING MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to tax cuts the question is not whether Congress should pass a tax cut. Most Democrats and Republicans agree that we should. The question is, Where do we target the tax cuts?

Mr. Speaker, we ought to pass a tax cut that will primarily benefit working middle-class Americans struggling to pay their bills, send their kids to school, and save for their retirement. Let us put more money in the pockets of working families. They need it the most.

Under the Democrat tax bill, a working family would be entitled to a full \$1,500 HOPE scholarship for college, a tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance, a \$500 per child tax credit to help them raise their children, and a capital gains tax cut for the sale of a home.

Mr. Speaker, the median income in the United States is \$32,264. The Democratic tax cut plan, which is aimed directly at this group, would give the greatest benefit to the most people.

TAX CUTS AND WORKING PEOPLE

(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, the Republican philosophy with respect to working families is very simple. We believe that those people who work for a living, trying to support their families, ought to be able to keep more of the money that they earn. We do not believe they should be obligated to send a bigger and bigger piece of their paycheck back to Washington so politicians and bureaucrats can decide the best way to spend it. That is our legacy to the American people.

The legacy of our friends who continue to stand up day after day deriding tax cuts for the rich is entirely different. If they come to a town hall meeting in your neighborhood and talk about tax cuts for the rich, ask them who they mean by the rich. They are talking about working families earning \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year. There are a lot of rich people in this country that they want to take money from to send back here to Washington.

We Republicans are going to put that money back in the pockets of the families who earned it. That is our legacy. Their legacy, the last time they controlled this Chamber, was the largest tax increase in the history of the United States. We are content to let the people decide which is the better course.