

of landmines. Throughout the world hundreds of innocent civilians are maimed and killed each week by landmines, and I wonder if our colleagues know that at the current time there are over 110 million landmines buried in the earth. We also know that landmines have wounded almost 300 UN and NATO troops in Bosnia alone. It is obvious that these weapons extract a terrible toll on all humanity.

Fortunately the United States has an opportunity to ban these menacing weapons. Later this year over 95 countries from around the world will meet in Ottawa, Canada to sign a treaty banning these landmines forever. In the United States we believe all of us have the greatest economic, military, and moral influence of any Nation on Earth, and it is imperative we make a commitment to get rid of these landmines.

That is why the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EVANS] and I, along with over 160 of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle, have asked the President to join that Ottawa treaty. Our legislation has the backing of the Catholic church's Conference of Bishops, the Vietnam Veterans Foundation, and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. We ask our colleagues to join us in this important matter.

EVERYONE IN AMERICA IS RICH ACCORDING TO THE LIBERALS

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, liberals have a funny way of figuring out who is wealthy. They say that 21.2 million Americans make more than \$75,000 a year. But the Census Bureau says only 11 million people earn that much. So who are we going to believe?

Well, here is how liberals come up with numbers. They are not looking at take home pay, they are not looking at how much money is available at the end of the month to pay bills, they are adding all the things they take out of one's paycheck. Here is what they are adding, considering part of one's income:

First, one's adjusted gross income; the money taken out of the paycheck for IRA and Keogh deductions, the money taken out of the check for social security, the money taken out of the check for pensions, the money taken out of the check for life insurance. They are even adding the money one pays in rent every month.

Now I do not know about my colleagues, but the last time I wrote out a rent check it felt more like an expense than income.

Now add all these things up, and everyone in America is rich, and that is funny because most people in America do not feel very rich after they pay bills every month. That is why we Republicans are working to give working Americans, not rich Americans, tax cuts, their first tax cuts in 16 years.

WE SHOULD NOT CHARGE GRADUATE STUDENTS TAXES ON MONEY THEY DO NOT EARN

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we are hearing some creative accounting on the other side. They are saying American families who earn \$25,000 a year do not pay taxes so they should not get a child tax credit.

They do pay taxes, and they should be entitled to a credit; a rookie cop, a beginning teacher.

But let us talk about real creative stuff on their side. They want to tax people who do not have earnings. Graduate students would have to pay taxes on their tuition waivers under a little provision they stuck into this bill.

Now if someone were a graduate student, they would give you a stipend of \$300 or \$400 a month, but they get a \$5,000 relief from their tuition. The Republicans are saying, "You should pay taxes on that \$5,000 you don't get." Now what kind of opportunity is that?

This is such a bad idea that the last time this provision of law expired, I sponsored legislation to fix this problem, and even Ronald Reagan agreed that we should not charge graduate students taxes on money they do not earn. But the Republicans have stuck it in this bill to help pay for tax cuts for corporations and for the wealthy. That is outrageous.

GOVERNMENT'S POWER TO TAKE AWAY OUR DREAMS HAS GROWN TOO GREAT

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, few issues are more closely linked to the idea of freedom than taxation. America is a land of opportunity, but it can only be so if people are free from a government that stands in the way of individuals pursuing their own dreams. Families who came to America as immigrants earlier in this century may have arrived penniless, but they knew that through hard work in our country the sky was the limit. They knew that to be true because their friends and others who had come before them had proved that America really was a country where the sky was the limit.

Mr. Speaker, people came to America to escape the limits on their freedom at home, whether religious, economic, or political, and they came to pursue their dreams, but when Government takes more and more of the fruits of one's labor it becomes more and more difficult to pursue those dreams.

Quite simply, Government's power to take away from dreams has grown too great. It is time now to cut back on Government's power, it is time to cut back on taxes, it is time to bring back the opportunity that we know in this country of ours called America.

WHY AMERICANS FAVOR THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats want tax cuts for working taxpaying families. A lot of smoke is being created here to say, well, who is really saying the truth? Well, let us look at the Congressional Research Service report made by the non-partisan Library of Congress, by the specialists on the economics end of policy, that says the Office of Treasury provides a more comprehensive measure, more consistent with how economists would measure the bill's benefits to individuals in different income classes. What they conclude is that using measures that are more consistent with conventional economic analysis the permanent provisions of the bill the Office of Treasury estimates indicate that by any distributional measure; that means who gets what, the tax cuts under the Republican plan favor higher income individuals in the House and Senate bills with the effects more pronounced in the House bill.

Mr. Speaker, that is why Americans throughout the country favor the democratic alternative. They understand it is for working taxpaying families.

THE MIKE TYSON 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, lend me your ear.

Uncle Sam's tax bite has gotten so overbearing that not even Mike Tyson could defend himself. Taxpayers everywhere are so outraged that some are calling it the Mike Tyson tax bite. Hard-bitten taxpayers who call up the IRS to complain sure do get an earful.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time for taxpayers to bite back. Uncle Sam's relentless drive to take an ever greater bite out of the family budget is an insult to taxpayers everywhere who want to pay their fair share but think that Mike Tyson tactics are over the line.

Uncle Sam's tax bite is more than just irritating. It is downright offensive to the spirit of fair play.

It is time to put a stop to Uncle Sam's ear-istible urge to rip off a huge chunk from the family paycheck. Taxpayers and Congress should not allow such barbaric behavior to continue. It is time for the taxpayers to stand up and declare, "No mas." It is time for tax relief for working Americans.

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TAX FAIRNESS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to talk about taxes, but I want to talk about it in a little different way. I want to talk about tax fairness, because that is what this debate is really all about.

The Republican tax plan gives 60 percent of the benefits in tax cuts to the richest 5 percent of Americans. We think that is wrong. We think working families, working Americans, ought to get the lion's share of the tax benefits.

If Members look at the Republican plan, we will find something very interesting. They are willing to give a child tax credit of \$500 per child for families making over \$100,000 a year, but when we say we have a police officer who makes \$25,000 a year, or perhaps a clerk that makes \$30,000 a year, they say, no, they get the earned income tax credit so they should not get a child tax credit.

That does not make sense. They have tax breaks for dinners, lunches, for travel, corporate welfare for building roads, corporate welfare for attending trade shows overseas; there are lots of tax breaks for the wealthy. That is OK. But now, today, we have an opportunity to have tax fairness for working families. That is what we ought to do.

A TRIBUTE TO NASA

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to praise the men and women of NASA, and to applaud the vision and leadership of NASA Administrator Dan Golden.

The landing of the Pathfinder explorer on Mars and the subsequent exploration by the Sojourner rover, named after that great American hero, Sojourner Truth, demonstrates that the United States is the global leader in science, technology, and space exploration. It is especially fitting, Mr. Speaker, that the United States is making one of its most substantial achievements in space at the same time that President Clinton is expanding NATO, our most successful military alliance in contemporary history.

In 1960, at the height of the cold war, President Kennedy challenged the Nation to send a man to the Moon by the end of the decade. Spurred by strategic competition with the Soviet Union, we met that challenge. Today, however, Mr. Speaker, the cold war is over, but the challenge to inspire our people in the national interest still exists today.

If we expect to build on the successes of the Pathfinder mission and to make NATO a success well into the 21st century, we must recommit ourselves to educating our people, educating our young people, and educating those who are going off to college. A national commitment to education will enable us to produce the scientists, engineers,

astronauts, and diplomats that will ensure our national security and make future space exploration a reality.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Pursuant to House Resolution 181 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2107.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2107, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 10, 1997, the bill had been read through page 76, line 7.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, the schedule, at least as we see it for the rest of the day, would be we will have two 15-minute votes immediately. One will be on the Klug-Miller-Foley amendment, and the second will be on the Royce amendment, and then we will go on to the balance of the bill. Our goal is to finish by 2 o'clock today, and I think if we can get some time limit agreements on the balance of the amendments, we will be able to do that and finish the bill.

Other than that, following the two 15-minute votes there will not be a Journal vote, but following the two 15-minute votes we will then move to the Ehlert amendment. I believe there is 1 hour of time for that, and then we will try to keep moving, and as I said before, get this completed by 2 o'clock today.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 181, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order: Amendment No. 5 offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLUG]; and the amendment offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. ROYCE].

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. KLUG

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KLUG] on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KLUG:

Page 58, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$292,000,000)".

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 243, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 264]

AYES—173

Allen	Granger	Paul
Andrews	Gutknecht	Paxon
Archer	Harman	Peterson (MN)
Armey	Hastings (FL)	Petri
Barcia	Hastings (WA)	Pitts
Barr	Hayworth	Porter
Barrett (WI)	Hefley	Portman
Bass	Hinchey	Quinn
Becerra	Hoekstra	Ramstad
Berry	Hoolley	Rivers
Bilbray	Horn	Rogan
Blagojevich	Hulshof	Rohrabacher
Blumenauer	Inglis	Ros-Lehtinen
Blunt	Johnson (CT)	Rothman
Brown (FL)	Johnson (WI)	Roukema
Brown (OH)	Jones	Roybal-Allard
Bryant	Kasich	Royce
Burr	Kelly	Ryun
Camp	Kennedy (MA)	Salmon
Campbell	Kennedy (RI)	Sanders
Cannon	Kind (WI)	Sanford
Capps	Kingston	Saxton
Carson	Klecza	Scarborough
Castle	Klug	Schumer
Chabot	Lantos	Sensenbrenner
Christensen	Latham	Shadegg
Coble	Leach	Shaw
Collins	Levin	Shays
Condit	Lewis (GA)	Sherman
Cooksey	LoBiondo	Smith (MI)
Cox	Lowe	Smith (NJ)
Davis (FL)	Luther	Smith, Adam
Deal	Markey	Smith, Linda
DeFazio	McCarthy (NY)	Snyder
DeGette	McCollum	Stabenow
Delahunt	McCrery	Stark
DeLauro	McGovern	Stearns
Dellums	McInnis	Stump
Deutsch	McIntyre	Sununu
Doggett	McKeon	Talent
Ehlers	McKinney	Tanner
Ehrlich	McNulty	Tauscher
Ensign	Meehan	Taylor (NC)
Eshoo	Menendez	Thornberry
Fawell	Miller (CA)	Thune
Filner	Miller (FL)	Tiahrt
Foley	Moran (KS)	Tierney
Fowler	Moran (VA)	Towns
Frank (MA)	Morella	Upton
Franks (NJ)	Nadler	Velazquez
Frelinghuysen	Neal	Vento
Furse	Neumann	Waxman
Ganske	Nussle	Weldon (FL)
Gejdenson	Obey	Wexler
Gibbons	Olver	Weygand
Gilchrist	Owens	White
Gordon	Pallone	Woolsey
Goss	Pappas	

NOES—243

Abercrombie	Boyd	Crapo
Ackerman	Brown (CA)	Cubin
Aderholt	Bunning	Cummings
Bachus	Burton	Cunningham
Baessler	Buyer	Danner
Baker	Callahan	Davis (IL)
Baldacci	Calvert	Davis (VA)
Ballenger	Canady	DeLay
Barrett (NE)	Cardin	Diaz-Balart
Bartlett	Chambliss	Dickey
Barton	Clay	Dicks
Bateman	Clayton	Dingell
Bentsen	Clement	Dixon
Bereuter	Clyburn	Dooley
Bilirakis	Coburn	Doyle
Bishop	Combest	Dreier
Bliley	Conyers	Duncan
Boehner	Cook	Dunn
Bonilla	Costello	Edwards
Bono	Coyne	Emerson
Borski	Cramer	Engel
Boswell	Crane	English