

calculate the supposed wealth of American taxpayers today.

Here is how it works. Instead of using the adjusted gross income in tax computations, the administration uses a complicated formula known as the Family Economic Income, or FEI, which adds to one's income the fringe benefits they receive every year: Keogh deductions, most nontaxable cash transfer payments, the buildup of the IRA, your pension.

Here is the real catch. The FEI even adds something known as imputed rental income, or what a family would earn if they were to rent out their home. What? Yes. If you had to rent out your home, that is part of your family income.

To say the least, this is an unusual and rather inaccurate definition of a family's income. To say the most, the administration is engaging in political gamesmanship, designed solely to demagog an issue that otherwise only serves to assist middle-income Americans.

Madam Speaker, put simply, by employing the imputed income calculation, the administration is able to considerably overstate income levels for most households today, making middle-class taxpayers appear to be much richer than they themselves would ever, ever recognize.

For example, employing the administration's new income formula, 1.7 million union members, 2.4 million teachers, 8.1 million government workers, and 4.2 million mechanics, repairmen, and construction workers are now considered rich by the administration and therefore are undeserving of a tax break.

The problem is that the Clinton administration chooses to employ this odd income calculation to change the idea of who is wealthy. They are working hard to mislead the public and turn a positive situation into a negative political game.

The bottom line is this: The Republican tax plan accurately targets America's middle-income class. In fact, 76 percent of the relief provided in the Republican plan will go to those Americans who make less than \$75,000 a year. Although the President has worked hard to distort this fact, it remains difficult for anyone to argue that these Americans are rich and that they are undeserving of a tax break.

Madam Speaker, the Republican Congress has passed real tax relief for all middle-class taxpayers at every stage of their lives, from child tax credits to estate tax reform. We are doing the right thing.

Meanwhile, the President is trying to change the debate with this new "imputed rental income formula." But the truth is in the numbers; and no amount of imagined, imputed income will turn hard-working middle-class Americans into what the President calls the evil rich.

Middle-class Americans deserve a tax break today. The Republican Congress wants to give that to them. For the millions of Americans who do not con-

sider themselves rich, for the two-earner families who struggle to provide a nice home and a good education for their children, for all the middle-class Americans, I implore the President today to put politics aside, stop the distortions, join the Republican Congress in providing some much-needed and much-deserved tax relief to middle-class Americans.

TAX BILL MUST PASS CLEAR TESTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, as the press now starts to report and to analyze the Republican tax cut legislation, the reviews are coming in from across the country and from independent journalists. What we now see is a recognition that what the Republican bill does is provide for a forced feeding of tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country.

As Time magazine's journalist Jonathan Alter noted, the Republican bill showers millions of dollars on the richest 1 percent of Americans.

As the Wall Street Journal noted, it allows the IRA provisions to create opportunities primarily for upper income Americans to shift large chunks of their assets into tax-free accounts, where they would be beyond the reach of Uncle Sam forever.

The Washington Post notes that the Republican tax bill is heavily tilted toward the better off, and the Democrats are right for calling the Republicans on this.

They go on to note that the plain facts are that the bill would not only benefit the better off but would cost the Government revenues it cannot afford.

Yesterday, the Post quoted a number of economists supporting different political parties which reached agreement that the Republicans are relying on numbers that mask the extent of the size of the Republican tax proposals favoring high-income households which would mushroom over the years to come.

What we now see as the conventional economic analysis suggests that the permanent benefits of the tax cut will favor high-income individuals, and it will do so by denying the \$500 tax credit to families who pay thousands of dollars in payroll taxes but the Republicans have determined somehow are welfare families and not entitled to the \$500 tax credit. Unfortunately, for thousands of working families in America today, they pay more in payroll taxes than they pay in income taxes; and yet the Republican proposal would not share the child care tax credit with them.

What we now see is someone like Gary Bauer, the conservative head of the Family Research Council, saying, "The family tax credit ought to go to

any working families that pay income or payroll taxes. That is not welfare."

Gary Bauer has it right. The Republicans have it wrong. These families are entitled to share this. But why can't they share in the tax cuts, the family child credit tax cut? They cannot share in that because the Republicans are so busy providing capital gains tax cuts to the wealthiest people in this country, the vast majority of which goes to the top 2, 3, 4 percent of the taxpayers in the United States.

These are not the people who need relief from taxes. The people who need relief from taxes are people who are trying to raise their children, educate their children, provide shelter for their children and are doing it on a few thousand dollars a year. Yet the Republicans say they cannot do that. They cannot do that because they want to get rid of the alternative minimum tax that suggests that corporations ought to pay something for the privilege of doing business in America.

When they get done with all of their deductions, where they can eliminate their obligation to pay taxes, there ought to be something they pay in this country. By giving away capital gains tax, by doing estate tax relief for the wealthiest people in this country, there is no money left. There is no money left for hard-working families in this country that, unfortunately, earn between \$15,000 and \$30,000 a year; and the Republicans are going to deny them a tax cut.

The bill should be changed in conference, it should be fair, and it should take care of working families. It does not do that now.

A BLOODY SHIRT ON TAXES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I have taken this time to continue with the debate that my very good friend from Martinez, CA, Mr. MILLER, was engaged in; but I have a completely different view. Actually, it was put forward very well by a former adviser to President Clinton.

Yes, he served also in Republican administrations; but he most recently in his public service was an adviser to President Clinton. I am referring to the editor-at-large of U.S. News & World Report, who in this week's U.S. News & World Report on the back page has an editorial, which I would commend to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as this debate proceeds.

The editorial is entitled "A Bloody Shirt on Taxes: It's time for the left to stop twisting the truth about tax relief."

Now, the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] was referring to many

people who have said that this package that we have put forward is nothing but a sop for the rich. But if we look at the facts, I am very happy to say that many Democrats in this House know full well that this tax package is, in fact, very, very helpful to middle and lower income wage earners in this country.

There are a few points that Mr. Gergen makes in this piece which I would like to share with my colleagues. He says, the central liberal charge is that the bills adopted by the GOP-led Senate and House would give as much tax relief to the top 1 percent as to the bottom 60 percent combined. Sounds horrific, doesn't it? What they ignore, as Jim Glassman of U.S. News & World Report noted, is the top 1 percent also pay more in taxes than the bottom 60 percent combined, a lot more. IRS records show that the top 1 percent shoulder 29 percent of the Nation's total tax bill, while the bottom 60 percent pay some 9 percent.

Recognize that we singled out the top 1 percent for tax hikes in that 1993 bill that the President moved through. It also would not be terribly unfair to include them in at least a modicum of tax relief today.

He goes on to talk about this issue of funny money, which my friend from Florida, [Mr. STEARNS] mentioned earlier, this imputed income whereby if someone paid off their mortgage, they in fact have what would be the rental income included as income to them, and it is actually obviously money they would never see.

Mr. Gergen writes that stripping away the funny money, the Census Bureau shows that the top 20 percent really starts with households earning \$65,124 a year. That means that the criticism that has come from the left, Madam Speaker, is they are pretending that families that make \$65,124 are categorized as rich.

Then a very important item that needs to be mentioned, one that I have been working on since the opening day of this Congress and, frankly, for a number of years, is this issue of capital gains.

When I mention how Democrats have joined with me in cosponsoring very important legislation, H.R. 14, to bring about an across-the-board reduction in capital gains, it is because they know that the average family of four would see an increase of \$1,500 per year over a 7-year period in their take-home pay.

Mr. Gergen says another shell game on the left involves proposed reductions in capital gains and estate taxes. Liberals say it is selfish for people who invest in stocks or save for their children to receive tax relief. But they ignore the fact that these funds have already been taxed, when they were first earned. To tax earnings a second time at rates as high as 55 percent, which is the case with inheritance taxes, borders on confiscation.

Now, Madam Speaker, we know full well that we are in this together, and I

think Gergen's closing paragraph is a very telling one.

This country does face serious challenges in addressing the growing income gap between those who are affluent and everyone else. Clearly, we should be working harder to ensure that children of poor and middle-class families have an equal chance at the starting line of life. Just as clearly, those who have the most should give the most back. But the way the left is trying to twist this tax debate, bullying successful Americans as a way to score political points trivializes the real issues and divides us as a people. We don't need another bloody shirt.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to read this editorial, and I will send it around to everyone.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEDAL OF HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCHALE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHALE. Madam Speaker, for the last 2 nights I have joined millions of Americans in watching the Rough Riders on Turner Broadcasting. When Teddy Roosevelt served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, he argued vigorously that the United States should intervene in Cuba and be prepared for possible war with Spain. In what was for Teddy Roosevelt characteristic language, he said, "I had deeply felt it was our duty to free Cuba, and I publicly expressed this feeling; and when a man takes such a position, he ought to be willing to make his words good by his deeds. He should pay with his body."

So, in that spirit, Teddy Roosevelt resigned his office and offered to serve as a lieutenant colonel with the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, what history now calls the Rough Riders.

On July 1, 1898, in what Roosevelt would call for the rest of his life his crowded hour, he placed his body on the line. He backed up his words with his courage. Leading two vicious bloody assaults on Kettle Hill and the San Juan Heights, Teddy Roosevelt made history and led his men with extraordinary valor.

The fighting was brutal. Four hundred ninety Rough Riders went into battle that day; 89 were killed or wounded, the heaviest loss suffered by any regiment in the cavalry division.

From the beginning to the very end, Theodore Roosevelt was at the forefront of battle, leading by example, encouraging his men, oblivious to danger, firing his revolver at point-blank range and killing the enemy with his own hand, this future president of the United States displayed extraordinary valor under the most difficult of combat conditions.

Gen. Leonard Wood, Roosevelt's commanding officer, recommended Roosevelt for the Medal of Honor with the following citation: Colonel Roosevelt led a very desperate and extremely gallant charge on San Juan Hill, thereby

setting a splendid example to the troops and encouraging them to pass over the open country. In leading this charge, he started off first. He then returned and gathered a few men and led them in the charge, an extremely gallant one, and the example set a most inspiring one to the troops in that part of the line.

Madam Speaker, by universal consensus among the officers and men who witnessed Roosevelt's bravery, he had earned our Nation's highest military decoration. But he never received it.

During the weeks after the battle for San Juan Heights, Roosevelt watched with mounting frustration as his men suffered and died from tropical disease. Angered by Roosevelt's public statements that the Rough Riders should be brought home as quickly as possible, Secretary of War Alger refused to sign Roosevelt's Medal of Honor citation.

As a result, Col. Theodore Roosevelt was denied the recognition he had earned in battle. Edith Roosevelt, after Teddy's death, said that the failure to receive the Medal of Honor was one of the most bitter disappointments of his life.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to tell you that it is not too late to correct that injustice. Later this week I will be introducing legislation with my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM], authorizing the Medal of Honor for Col. Theodore Roosevelt, First United States Volunteer Cavalry, for extraordinary bravery under enemy fire. Members wishing to be original cosponsors should contact my office.

A century of political retry bugs and injustice can now be corrected by the posthumous recognition of Teddy Roosevelt's courage.

AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM: A SOURCE OF PRIDE AND INSPIRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, let me begin by saying that I would like to be a cosponsor of the legislation being submitted by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MCHALE], and I very much endorse his very eloquent comments. I know Teddy Roosevelt has been an inspiration for me, not so much in my political career, but as well as a young man growing up and seeing how somebody like him could overcome adversity and take the risks that he did. So I congratulate the gentleman and the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM], on your endeavor, and I would like to support you in that.

Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to talk about our Nation's space program. As all Americans know, our Nation's success in the arena of space has