

I thank the Fresh Air Kids, their parents, their educators, the local media, the local elected officials, and fresh air boosters everywhere for making southeastern Massachusetts a better place to live and a safer place to breathe.

I look forward to many, many years of working with them and, once again, to the Fresh Air Kids, I say welcome to Washington, and I am very proud of you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER) at 2 o'clock p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know, O gracious God, that the pace of living is brisk, and we know too that we need to have time to meditate on Your good gifts to us and to reflect on how we can interpret these gifts in our daily lives.

May we use the gift of faith so our lives develop meaning and purpose; may we use the gift of hope so we can anticipate a new and brighter day; may we use the gift of love so that we know others with trust and affection and share with them our feelings and experiences. May Your gifts of faith and hope and love, O God, that have nourished us along the way be with us this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas [Mr. LAMPSON] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

LET US GIVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY THE TAX RELIEF THEY DESERVE

(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, our liberal colleagues have used every trick in the book to avoid giving the American people a tax break. After failed attempts at scaring welfare recipients and working taxpayers, now they are trying the same on senior citizens. Well, the truth is the Republican Taxpayer Relief Act will greatly benefit seniors in their retirement years because we believe that those who have worked hard, played by the rules, and saved for retirement should be rewarded, not threatened and not penalized.

Opponents of the capital gains tax relief say, "You're rich if you put money into mutual funds or contributed to a company retirement plan or built a small business with your own sweat and labor." But more than half of all taxpayers claiming capital gains have incomes less than \$50,000, and many are seniors who are able to live a better life by converting their lifelong investments. In fact nearly 80 percent of assets other than homes are owned by the elderly and seniors.

No more excuses, my colleagues on the left. For the first time in 16 years, let us give the people of this country a tax break they deserve.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from cosponsorship of H.R. 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

WORKING FAMILIES NEED A BREAK

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, in Congress we are working on giving Americans an \$85 billion tax cut. The question is who should reap the greatest benefits from these tax cuts? Should it be the wealthiest corporations and the wealthiest Americans? Well, that is what I believe my Republican colleagues suggest. Or should it be the middle-class families who are struggling to obtain their dreams and could greatly benefit from these tax cuts?

The Republican tax plan gives tax breaks to America's most profitable corporations and wealthiest individuals while leaving middle-class families with little help. According to a Treasury Department analysis, 63 percent of the Republican tax cuts will go to the top 20 percent of the wealthiest Americans.

The Democrats' tax plan provides for middle-income families by giving a break to those families making less

than \$75,000 a year. It also provides a \$500-per-child tax credit to middle- and low-income working families.

The Republican plan denies millions of these families such tax breaks. I believe that is wrong. Working families need a break.

PINOCCHI-NOMICS

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I feel like we are surrounded by a bunch of Pinocchios. It appears we have two different groups of Pinocchios. On the one hand we have got some liberals who are calling millions of middle-class families rich by using something called family economic income. Family economic income is a magic formula that some ingenious bureaucrat at the Treasury Department dreamed up that means your income is actually 50 percent or more higher than people think it is. On the other hand we have got some liberals who want, now listen to this one, who want to reduce the income tax burden on people whose income tax burden is already zero. Their ideas of a tax cut is to, and now I am not making this up, is to increase the tax burden on the actual taxpayers to give tax decreases to those who pay no taxes. It is hard to know which group is growing the longest noses.

I do not know how to decide which arguments are more absurd, the family economic income liberals or the tax cut to the welfare crowd. Mr. Speaker, this is Pinocchi-nomics.

NEW DEFINITION OF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IS GOP EXTREMISM AT ITS ABSOLUTE WORST

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, if there is any doubt about the Republicans' dedication to helping the rich at the expense of the average working American, one need only look at the new definition of independent contractor in the GOP's tax agenda. The definition has been drastically broadened to allow employers to reclassify longtime employees as independent contractors. By so doing, employers would no longer be obligated to provide health and pension coverage as well as a host of other labor protections to millions, and I repeat millions, of Americans who are now entitled to such benefits; and to add insult to injury, individuals reclassified as independent contractors will be hit with a tax increase. They will be forced to pick up the Medicare and Social Security taxes that employers were formerly responsible for paying.

On top of all this, Mr. Speaker, there are reports that Speaker GINGRICH, in an effort to placate the conservative forces that almost brought him down, may once again be gearing up to shut down the Government in the name of tax breaks for the rich.

Mr. Speaker, the GOP just does not get it. The American people are not interested in tax breaks for the rich and Government shutdowns. They are interested in job security and health care. The GOP should let honest people make an honest living and leave the definition of independent contractor alone.

TOO MUCH POWER IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, when our Founding Fathers were debating the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787, one of the most important subjects they discussed was concerning our freedoms. Some thought too much governmental power was the threat to freedom. Others thought too much power in the hands of the majority would be a threat to the freedom of minorities. Yet others thought that too much power in the hands of factions or what we call today special interest groups was the greatest threat to the general public. Men such as Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wrote extensively about these threats to freedom. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were right about all three of these threats to freedom.

Today I would like to call special interests or special attention to the threat to freedom that Thomas Jefferson feared the most: Too much power in the hands of Government. When the Government takes between one-fourth and one-half of everyone's income, that is too much power in the hands of Government. Let us heed the words of Thomas Jefferson and reduce the power of Government by passing the first tax package in 16 years, one that guarantees a \$500-per-child tax credit, allowing families to keep more of what they earn.

TWO HUANGS DO NOT MAKE A RIGHT

(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, John Huang says he never broke the law, he never raised campaign money for the Democrats while he worked for the Commerce Department. The gutless wonder now says, "My wife did it." That is right. John Huang says that Jane Huang was the one that raised the half million dollars from the Indonesian landscaper that ended up having to be returned because the landscaper never filed his taxes. In addition, Jane

Huang raised \$12,000 from John Huang's old boss at Lippo.

And after all this, John Huang says, "Hey, behind every good man is a good woman. I did nothing wrong."

Jane Huang says, "I did nothing wrong."

Tell it like it is. Two Huangs do not make a right. If there is any consolation, my colleagues, John Huang could have blamed Jane Doe, not Jane Huang.

I yield back the balance of this Communist intrusion into our political process.

THE TIP OF THE EGG ROLL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to talk about Chinagate figure John Huang because he had a real tough job. As the president of his holding company, Hip Hing, a subsidiary of Lippo Group, he had to work many, many long hours. See, when one's only asset is a vacant parking lot, we would not believe the pressures they are under. Nevertheless he had the time to get deeply involved in Democrat politics, and when he donated \$50,000, no one raised an eye about how a vacant parking lot attendant could afford such largess. Of course they did not know he was reimbursed by his parent company, the one-half Chinese Communist government owned Lippo Group, but now even Democrats admit this was an illegal donation and apparently only the tip of the egg roll.

PROVIDE TAX RELIEF TO THE FAMILIES WHO NEED IT THE MOST

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

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a tax relief package that works for working Americans. By the way, the method of calculating income by the Treasury Department was indeed devised by the Reagan administration.

The tax reconciliation bill denies tax relief to millions of working families who pay Federal taxes but who earn less than \$30,000 a year. These folks would be unable to claim the \$500-per-child tax credit even though they pay Federal taxes.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about nurses, teachers, junior police officers who are trying to raise their families on limited incomes. We are talking about small business owners, family farmers, hourly wage earners. We are talking about people who put a significant percentage of their salaries toward paying Federal payroll taxes. We are talking about people who need tax relief. We are talking about people who get nothing under this tax plan.

Let us not pass up this golden opportunity to provide tax relief to families that need it most. It is time to restore the full \$500-per-child credit to working families.

THE WHITE HOUSE BLAMES IT ON THE SYSTEM

(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, if compromise of our national security and corruption of the electoral process itself were not involved, I would find great humor in the attempts to change the subject by the other side. Everyone knows how absolutely brilliant children can be at changing the subject, how inventive our kids can be at shifting responsibility and finding excuses for their behavior.

It is like a child playing with a dog in a way that he is not supposed to, pulling his tail or poking the dog where he hates to be poked, and then when the dog reacts by barking or biting, the child indignantly blames the dog.

Well, Mr. Speaker, what we have is the White House in clear violation of the law and then turning around and blaming the system for making them break the law. The system somehow required the Democrat National Committee to take foreign money. The system somehow required the White House to turn the White House into the mother of all fundraising operations. The system somehow required the DNC to accept drug money from drug traffickers.

Great example for our kids, Mr. Speaker; break the law then blame it all on the system.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAX BREAKS FOR MILLIONAIRES AND NOTHING FOR DANIEL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Republicans continue to try to sell their huge tax break for the rich by promising tax relief for middle-class Americans. But under the Republican plan millions of working Americans get no tax cuts, they only get empty promises. Let us take an example:

Daniel is a police officer. He works hard and supports his wife and four children on his \$26,000 salary. He pays thousands of dollars in taxes. What does Daniel get from the Republican tax bill? Nothing, zero, zip. Democrats want to give Daniel and millions of other working families a tax cut.

What do Republicans say about Daniel? Daniel, the police officer? They said Daniel is on welfare. Billions of dollars in tax breaks for millionaires, nothing for Daniel, nothing for millions of hardworking families. That is the Republican tax bill, that is the Republican tax plan.