

group has achieved this success without receiving a single penny of government funding. Instead they have relied on the generosity of private groups and individuals who are committed to the principle of equal justice under the law for all citizens.

Mr. Speaker, access to the legal system by all our citizens is a cornerstone of American democracy. The Indianapolis Legal Aid Society is setting an example for us by recognizing the need and taking private initiative to address it effectively and efficiently. I am very proud today to honor them for their fine achievements.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR CLAUSE WILL MOVE OUR ECON- OMY IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Federal Government policy has a major impact in the way that employers treat their workers. It is important that Federal policy encourage workers to take the high-skill, high-wage road. For the good of our Nation, employers need to invest in the training benefits and long-term productivity of their workers.

But, Mr. Speaker, the independent contractor provision would move our economy in the wrong direction. It would encourage employers to abandon their commitment to their workers by moving them off the payroll. It would strip them of their health care and pension benefits. Employers who abandon their workers would obtain a competitive advantage over socially responsible companies. This is very unfair to the companies that respect their workers and invest in their skills and benefits.

That is why business organizations such as the Information Technology Association of America oppose the independent contractor clause. With its 11,000 member companies the ITAA says the independent contractor provision will harm legitimate businesses and result in the growth of businesses with no employee benefits.

Mr. Speaker, that is the wrong direction for America. The independent contractor clause needs to be deleted from the final budget bill.

LIBERALS ARE UNWILLING TO GIVE THE MIDDLE CLASS A BREAK

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the liberals are simply unwilling to give the middle class a break. They are playing the class warfare card again. They seem to do it all the time; it is happening again. Thanks to the wonders of something called the family economic income, middle-class families are de-

finied as rich, and then of course the government should have the right to take away half of what one earns because the politicians should be allowed to spend that money instead of us.

Mr. Speaker, I think we ought to let the American people keep the money in their own pockets, decide how they want to spend it, not the politicians up here in Washington, and all of this is in the interest of fairness, so to speak. But if the family economic income argument is not working, then the liberals turn to their other rhetorical shenanigans. They want to turn a tax cut into a program, and get this:

They want to give a check to people who are not paying any income taxes.

This tax cut is supposed to be a cut for people who actually pay taxes. It is supposed to help particularly the middle class.

The American people in this country are overtaxed, particularly the middle class. Let us give them a break, and let us do it now.

REPUBLICAN SHIP OF STATE SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I read some alarming news lately about a ship spinning wildly out of control. Power was mysteriously cut but nobody could say who pulled the plug. The ship's commander was suffering from nervous palpitations. Rumors spread that he could not fulfill his duties or that his whole crew might have to abandon ship.

People said, "They've been up there too long, it's time to bring them down."

Were these the reports of the Russian spaceship *Mir* floating high above? No, it was the Republican "ship of state" right here on Capitol Hill spinning out of control, losing power, a nervous captain at the helm. Like the cosmonauts in outer space, the Republicans are far removed from people here on the ground.

How else can we explain the GOP tax bill, a bill with tax cuts for the wealthiest but nothing, zero, for parents working full time to stay above the poverty level? There is only one explanation for tax cuts that are upside down. They must have been written in the weightless atmosphere of outer space.

In the last Congress, the Republicans had a Contract With America. Today they have lost contact with Earth.

REPUBLICAN TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT FOSTERS THE AMERICAN DREAM

(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, every parent wants to leave their children

better off than they were. But as our Government makes it more and more difficult for people to leave the product of their hard work to their loved ones, this American dream is becoming almost impossible.

As hard-working men and women reach retirement, they are forced to sell their farms or small businesses because they cannot afford the death tax. Our Taxpayer Relief Act fosters the American dream by lowering this tax and other tax burdens on the shoulders of working men and women.

Clearly the best thing we can do for future generations is to help strengthen our economy, and we can do this by giving every homeowner, every inventor, every farmer and small businessman incentives to invest in America's neighborhoods and workplaces.

The Republican Taxpayer Relief Act is good for American families, and I urge my colleagues and the liberal Democrats on the other side to stop the distortions, stop the rhetoric, and start supporting real tax relief for the American people.

TAX FAIRNESS FOR WORKING AMERICANS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have made it clear that they want to offer tax relief to working families. The President has made it clear that he wants to offer tax relief to working families. The American people have made it clear that they know the Republican tax plan favors the wealthy.

Now the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means tell us that he will not offer a \$500-per-child tax credit to all working families, but he wants huge tax breaks for the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans just do not get it. When they signed the Contract With America, they promised a \$500-per-child tax credit to working families. Now they are breaking their promise to millions of working Americans. Police officers, nurses, teachers, firefighters, they pay taxes.

Mr. Speaker, the American people need to know are the Republicans going to make good on the contract they signed or is this just another case of promises made, promises broken?

REPUBLICAN AGENDA IS THE ANSWER TO AMERICANS' YEARNINGS FOR FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, if we look across the sweep of history, we will notice that the human struggle has been a continuous struggle for greater freedom. From the Magna Carta to the Constitution of the United States, the

struggle for greater freedom has been an unending battle against governments in power who fail to resist the temptation to abuse their power. People struggling against government tyranny is a theme that resonates throughout history and across the globe. Political freedom, economic freedom, and religious freedom; the focus of the struggle changes, but the direction of the goal and the inspiration for the cause have always remained the same.

The human soul desires freedom from government oppression, freedom to control one's destiny, and freedom to worship one's God. The Republican agenda is an answer to those yearnings for more freedom, lower taxes, smaller government, and the right to express our faith in the public square.

This is the direction to more freedom for all Americans.

ALL WORKING FAMILIES DESERVE RELIEF FROM TAXES

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton expressed his firm commitment to stand for children of all working families, not just the ones covered by the Republican tax bill. It is wrong, Mr. Speaker, to ignore millions of taxpaying working families, including thousands of children in Arkansas. It is not class warfare to point out that payroll taxes deducted every 2 weeks out of checks are taxes, and all working families deserve relief from whatever taxes they pay, payroll or income.

CRACK THE CHAMPAGNE AND CALL ROBIN LEACH

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, guess what? My colleagues have heard this before, but if someone makes \$54,000, they are now the rich. They just do not know it yet. Or at least that is what the Clinton administration has figured with their calculations on who should get a tax cut. With the stroke of a calculator they have created funny money. They have moved millions of Americans from the middle class to Beverly Hills, from Main Street to Rodeo Drive, from the minivan to the limo.

This new wealth in America includes a lot of people. Who are they?

Some 1.7 million union members are rich; 8.1 million government workers are rolling in dough; 2.4 million teachers better crack the champagne and call Robin Leach.

They are all rich according to the President and they just do not need a tax cut.

We should get serious. We have not had a tax cut in more than 16 years, and now we have a real chance to provide relief to our families. It is time for the left to stop twisting the truth about tax relief.

□ 1015

BASIC FAIRNESS IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour by the year 2002. We raised the minimum wage a year ago and a lot of Republicans were dead set against it. They predicted it would ruin the economy. What did it do? It boosted wages for 4 million working families, unemployment dropped, inflation has been low, the economy has been moving, but despite this good news, many of my Republican colleagues will oppose another increase in the minimum wage.

I might say, these are the same folks that want to give a tax break to the wealthiest individuals in this country, the same Republicans whose tax bill gives nearly 60 percent of the tax breaks to people making a quarter of a million dollars a year or more, the same Republicans whose tax bill includes an all-out assault on the minimum wage with language about independent contractors that actually encourages employers to pay some workers less than the minimum wage.

If a person works hard in this country day in and day out, they do a good job, they should get a paycheck that is big enough to support their family. They need a tax break that favors them and not the very wealthiest in this country. We are not talking about buying BMWs here, we are talking about being able to have people to afford to buy a used Chevy. That is basic fairness. That is what this minimum wage bill is about. That is what the Democratic tax bill is about.

HOW TO GET RICH QUICK

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend I saw this entertainer, Ed McMahon, on television. He was talking about how many of the viewers may be rich already and not even know it. I thought how similar that claim was to the ones we are hearing from Democrats today, that the American people, the average hard-working families earning between \$20,000 a year and \$75,000 a year, are somehow rich and may not even know it.

We do not have to watch the mail in order to find out whether we are

wealthy. Under the Democrats' manipulation of income, we can just call the Treasury Department now and find out whether we are rich. In fact, it is the dirty little secret of the White House and the Democrat Party: Get rich quick, call the U.S. Treasury now, find out how they have taken your \$45,000 income, and now they call you a millionaire on the House floor and suggest that you do not deserve a tax cut.

Call the number of the Treasury Department and find out about their dirty little manipulation of your income; 202-622-0120, 202-622-0120, the Treasury operators are standing by.

TWO CHOICES IN TAX CUT PLANS

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

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hardworking people in middle Michigan who want very much to receive the benefits of the tax cuts that are being proposed here and discussed in the House of Representatives. We have two choices: We have individuals who now lead the House, who were the ones that proposed in the 1980's tax breaks for the wealthy, hoping that they would trickle down to our middle-class families and each of us who have been working hard every day; or tax breaks that go directly into the pockets of hard-working middle-class people.

The tax cut that I am supporting, that was put forward by the Democrats and the President, is advocating making sure that if a person has a home and they want to sell it, and that is where most of us put our savings, they get a tax break. If they have children, they get a tax break. If they are trying to send their children to college, they get a tax break. If they have a small business and they have worked hard and put all their sweat equity into their business over the years, they get a tax break. If they have a family-owned farm, they get a tax break.

What we do not do is focus the tax breaks on the top 2 percent. I urge we adopt this program.

LOOK AT THE RECORD ON TAX CUT PROPOSALS

(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, those who are following this debate on taxes may have a hard time trying to figure out which party is being candid on their respective tax-cutting claims. My suggestion is that they simply look at the record. When we do, we see our friends on the Democrat side consistently opposing tax cuts.

Their argument is that middle-class tax cuts are giving a tax break to the wealthy. But the record shows that the so-called wealthy they are talking