

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.

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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

about are people earning about \$50,000 a year. On the other hand, when they talk about giving a tax cut to working families, they really mean giving a tax cut to people who do not pay any Federal income taxes.

The choice is simply this: We can support the Republican proposal that affirms the right of working families who pay taxes to keep more of the money they earn. Or, we can support our friends on the Democrat side, who tell those same families they are wealthy, and want to give tax money to people who do not pay taxes.

LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF REPUBLICAN TAX PROPOSALS

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to rise today to express some concern that I have about the tax cut. We have heard a lot of discussion about who is going to benefit from the tax cut. I want to give a different perspective. That is the perspective of my son, Jonathan, who is approaching his first birthday, and what this tax cut is going to mean to him.

The Treasury Department and even the Congressional Research Service, the independent investigatory research arm of this Congress, have both indicated that sure, although the tax cuts might be able to reach a balanced budget within the first 5 years, it is 10 years from now, 15 years from now the backloaded provisions of these tax cuts are due to explode the deficit again, at exactly the time when my son Johnny and many, many children throughout this country are going to enter the work force.

What kind of message are we going to be sending to them in order to score a short-term political gain right now, by offering these huge tax cuts so they are going to explode the deficit early next century, without identifying the corresponding spending reductions to pay for it?

I did not come to Congress to vote for the type of tax measure that is going to jeopardize my son's future and the future of the children in this country.

GOOD NEWS FOR AMERICANS OBSCURED BY PARTISAN RHETORIC

(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, first I would respond to my colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. KIND], and invite him to join us in the National Debt Repayment Act for the good of the future and his young child, because that would force us not only to balance the budget, but after we reach that, pay off the Federal debt, so his child may inherit a nation debt free, and they would not have to make interest payments.

But I also rise today to call attention to what is happening in Washington. When we listen to these 1-minutes back and forth, it is so partisan that people are forgetting what good is happening here for America and how much it means to our citizens.

We are on the verge of balancing the budget probably by 1999, 2 or 3 years ahead of schedule. Taxes are coming down for the first time in 16 years, the \$500-per-child tax credit, capital gains is coming down, the death tax is coming down, college tuition tax credit, all good news for America. Medicare is restored, so our senior citizens can again rest assured Medicare will be there for them in the future.

I hear all this hysterical rhetoric about who is rich and who is not, but I can tell the Members this much, the folks I see on Sunday that are sitting there with three kids and the two parents next to them, one off in college and two kids still home, they understand a tax cut means they get to keep \$2,500 more of their own money next year.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES IS COMMON SENSE AND JUSTICE, NOT WELFARE

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, the American people are probably confused. Part of the confusion may come from the fact that we have so many millionaires serving in this House and in the Senate that I think the two bodies oftentimes lose touch with average Americans.

The average family in my district earns \$22,000 a year. Under the Republican plan, most of those families would receive nothing from the \$500-per-child tax credit. If they earned \$60,000 they would receive benefits, but those who earn \$20,000 would receive nothing.

Even Gary Bower, head of the Conservative Family Research Council, has criticized the Republican plan for denying tax relief to these working families who make less than \$30,000 a year. He has said, "The family tax credit ought to go to any working family that pays income or payroll taxes."

When we provide tax relief to America's working families, it is not welfare, it is common sense and justice.

DEMOCRAT HOSTILITY TOWARD TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, some things change, some things do not. It seems that the liberals fall into the second category. The truth is, the lib-

eral view of tax relief is about as out of date as Barry Manilow.

Let us be clear. I have not thrown away all of my Barry Manilow cassettes, but I must say I do not listen to them much anymore. The problems with the liberal Democratic ideas are much more serious. They are much more serious because how they view taxes is much more than a matter of taste. It is a question of what is fair and what is not.

Tax policy has a critical effect on how many jobs are created, what kind of jobs are created, and of course, how much money we get to take home with us from working in those jobs. We would never know it from listening to the liberal Democrats. In fact, I cannot even recall the last time when they have even mentioned the importance of economic growth for the middle class, or how the tax proposal would affect economic growth.

So they are still singing the same old song about their hostility toward tax relief for the middle class; oops, I am sorry, I mean, in their eyes, the rich.

A SIMPLE DEBATE: MORE GOVERNMENT OR MORE FREEDOM

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

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, what we are debating today is very simple: Do we believe, on the one hand, in more government, or, on the other hand, in more freedom?

Throughout recorded history, from the Magna Carta to the Constitution of the United States, the struggle has been the same: freedom from government tyranny. Political freedom, economic freedom, religious freedom, the focus of the struggle changes, but the direction and the goal of the inspiration for the cause have always remained the same: The human soul desires freedom from government oppression, freedom from control of one's destiny, and freedom to worship one's God.

The Republican agenda is an answer to that yearning. Mr. Speaker, we will meet one of those yearnings if we pass, when we pass, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. The hard-working people of my district, the Second District of Kansas, are yearning to keep more of what they earn. After 16 years of wasteful government spending, it is high time that we grant them this freedom.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN IS NEITHER BALANCED NOR FAIR

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I believe there should be two goals that drive any budget plan in this Congress. One is balancing the budget in the short-term and in the long-term, and second is fairness.