

I believe that anyone that looks at the Republican proposal as of today would conclude that their plan fails on both parts. It unbalances the budget, and it is unfair. In fact, the Republican tax plan should be called the Unbalanced Budget Act, because like the mistakes of 1981, when Congress exploded the deficit with specified tax cuts and unspecified spending cuts, this plan would provide huge tax cuts not balanced by any spending cuts. This would be the Unbalanced budget Act.

On the issue of fairness, I would simply say that trickle-down economics was unfair in the 1980's, and trickle-down economics is unfair in the 1990's. The fact is that the gap between working low-income and middle-class American families and the wealthiest Americans has increased. The Republican tax plan would make that situation even more unfair.

□ 1030

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF HON. HAMILTON FISH

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is the first anniversary of the untimely death of one of our outstanding colleagues, Congressman Hamilton Fish.

As ranking member on the Committee on the Judiciary, Congressman Fish was known as a champion of civil rights and as a Representative of New York's Hudson Valley for 24 years, he was known as a compassionate and effective spokesperson for the interests of his district.

Our crime bill of 1992 included Ham's initiatives to grapple with the challenge of providing safe and secure environments for our young people. It is expected that our Committee on Appropriations will approve continued funding for the institute now named in Ham's memory which seeks solutions for juvenile violence in our Nation's schools.

Congressman Hamilton Fish continued to work with this institute until a week before his passing. It is a fitting and living memorial to a remarkable legislator and to a good friend.

TAX RELIEF

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me really tell you how to spell relief: a tax plan for teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses, waiters, waitresses, bus drivers, a tax plan for working people. There is something that is very curious about the Republican statistics and analysis of why they want to give 67 percent of their tax plan to the wealthy. They reject the Treasury Department's independ-

ent analysis, the Treasury Department that serviced Presidents Bush, Nixon, and President Reagan, which says that categorically the Republican plan has a fairness problem.

America, listen to this debate. It is not frivolous. It is real. If you want a tax plan that addresses a child tax credit for working people who they say do not pay taxes, but yet when you take someone who works every day, they might be working for the janitorial service but they are working every day paying payroll taxes or FICA taxes, you know what we mean. They do not get a child tax credit. Spell relief with a Democratic tax plan for nurses, working people all over America.

TRUTH AND THE TAX PACKAGE

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, sometimes you have to wonder if those on the other side who are talking about the tax package are misinformed or simply uninformed. Maybe they have not read the bill. Maybe they are so uncomfortable with the idea of tax cuts that they are attacking the bill out of habit more than conviction.

Whatever the case, it seems that the rhetoric I am hearing has no connection to reality. If a person were to call me and say, hello, I make \$500,000 a year, how would your tax proposal affect me, I would have to give him bad news. Would he be eligible for \$500 per child tax credit? No. Would he be eligible for the education tax credit? No.

That is interesting. I thought that those were the two biggest provisions that were included in this tax package. They are. Not a penny of it goes to high income people. Just from this fact alone, we can see that the charges that this tax cut package goes primarily to the rich are false.

A FAIR TAX PLAN

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, if Americans are looking for a fair tax plan, they should be looking to the Democratic tax plan and not the Republican tax plan. The Republican tax plan in the second 5 years explodes the deficit.

We just saw the figures from the Treasury which shows that in the last 5 years, there is a second 5 years, over 50 percent of the benefits go to people who are high income earners in this country. That is not a fair tax plan. What we have to do is deliver a tax plan that is fair to all Americans, that means people who are working as well.

I also want to compliment President Clinton because yesterday he recognized and supported the notion of some sort of means testing for Medicare. I

thought that this was a brave, bold move because we have to recognize that it is inevitable that in the years to come we are going to have to make some changes to Medicare. We should not have the hamburger flippers at McDonald's subsidizing those who have done very well. I think that this is a change that is going to come and it is best to be done through the IRS. It is best to be done in a worthwhile fair manner.

TAX CUTS AND EXCUSES

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the liberal Democrats, the ones that gave us the largest tax increase in the history of this Nation in 1993, go through more excuses why they are opposed to tax cuts than Victor Newman on "The Young and the Restless" goes through wives.

Another striking parallel is that these liberal Democrats change excuses with as little shame as Victor has when he changes wives. One excuse is as good as another, it seems. It kind of makes you wonder if these liberal Democrats can be trusted to honor their agreement to tax cuts. After all, sooner or later they will come up with a new excuse why the middle class should be denied a long overdue tax cut.

The excuse does not even have to be a good one, as long as they can act like they are morally outraged. Sure, we can make up new definitions of who the rich are so that millions of middle-class families can kiss their tax cuts goodbye. Or we can falsely claim that letting people keep more of their own money is some kind of lucky tax giveaway. Or we can complain that people with no taxes to cut are not going to get a tax cut. Excuses, excuses.

AMERICANS WERE PROMISED TAX RELIEF

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, talk about little shame or no shame, I rise today to remind my Republican colleagues including the last speaker and others this morning of a promise that they made to the American people just a few short years ago; do they remember? The Contract With America, item No. 5 of that contract promised a \$500 per child credit to all, all of America's families who work and who pay taxes.

Now my Republican colleagues want to deny the child tax credit to millions of families who earn less than \$30,000 a year. These parents are carpenters, dental assistants, rookie police officers, kindergarten teachers, but the Republicans call them welfare recipients.

These are working parents. They are not on welfare. They work hard every

single day and they pay taxes, usually more in payroll taxes than in income taxes, and more in payroll taxes, I would imagine, than the wealthiest one 1 or 2 percent that our Republican colleagues would like to reward.

Democrats believe these are the parents who deserve the tax relief. Remember, my friends, the contract that you signed.

SUPPORT THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PROPOSAL

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, 2 million low- and middle-income Americans are waiting to see if this Congress will eliminate their tax burden. That is right, Mr. Speaker. According to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, 2 million Americans will no longer pay income taxes at all if the Republican House-passed tax cut proposal becomes law; not 2 million rich Americans, as my Democrat friends from the other side of the aisle would have us believe, but 2 million struggling low- and middle-income Americans who barely make enough to support their families but still are forced to pay income taxes. Our tax cuts help 2 million Americans that most need it by taking them off the income tax rolls completely.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the Republican House tax cut proposal that will truly benefit all Americans.

OUR QUEST FOR TAX RELIEF

(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, I feel like our quest for tax relief is like a few lines from the song by the Lord of La Mancha: To dream the impossible dream, to right the unrightable wrong, to bear with unbearable sorrow.

It has been 16 years since we have had tax relief, and still we hear so many reasons why we have to vote against the tax relief plan.

When you do not want to do something like vote for tax relief, any excuse is a good excuse: too much for the rich, even though the rich are considered a family of four where each parent is making \$32,000 a year; not enough income tax relief for those who are considered poor, even though they pay no income tax.

There will be only one tax relief package to vote for, it will be the agreement between the Congress, the President, and the American people. There will be no excuse for voting against tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, let us dream the impossible dream. Let us give tax relief to working Americans.

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2003.

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

There was no objection.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 192 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 192

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2003) to reform the budget process and enforce the bipartisan balanced budget agreement of 1997. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by Representative Barton of Texas or his designee and a Member opposed to the bill; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST], my colleague and friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this rule and today's debate reflect the essence of an agreement reached on June 25 as the House moved to pass legislation implementing the historic budget agreement. That agreement was to allow an up or down vote prior to July 24 on H.R. 2003, which had been offered as an amendment to reconciliation by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON], the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. MINGE], and some of our other colleagues. This rule fulfills that agreement. Promises made; promises kept.

Today this House will vote on H.R. 2003, a budget process reform proposal advocated by a bipartisan group of Members. This rule is limited just to

provide for the agreement and it does not allow amendment. Not only is this customary for legislation that deals with entitlement and tax legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, but it also captures the moment at which the actual agreement was made to bring this forward to allow the House to consider H.R. 2003 as presented on June 25.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate in the House to be equally divided by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON] and an opponent. We have discussed in the Committee on Rules that the time will be divided in such a way as to accommodate Members from both sides of the aisle on both sides of the issue and for all of the committees with an interest. Managers will yield floor time appropriately. In addition the rule provides for the customary motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, as I have outlined, Members understand that we have gone through an unusual process here to get to this point. All three of the primary committees with jurisdiction over this legislation, that is, the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Rules, have agreed to waive their right to weigh in on this proposal in the interest of granting H.R. 2003 its unfettered vote as promised.

For something of this magnitude and complexity, that in itself is rather extraordinary under Republican leadership. In addition, in doing this Members should be aware of a process that has been under way for some time in the Committee on the Budget, the Committee on Rules, in the policy committee and among various groups of individual Members to reach deliberative and consensus solutions on how best to reform our budget process. In other words, we are focusing on this anyway, and we are now taking this extra step because of this arrangement with the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BARTON] and the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. MINGE].

I think we all agree that there is a very real need for review and reform of the process of our budget. But that effort should be done, in my view, in a deliberate and inclusive way that takes full advantage of the expertise that can be found within our committee system which has served this institution and this country so well over the years. I have always argued that changing the budget process must lead to an improvement in the process, not just a different, equally flawed approach. Change for change's sake is not going to get us anywhere.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, I am a little bit familiar with the problems of our current budget framework. Not only is it complicated and hard to understand, but it frankly does not work very well and it does not hold elected officials accountable enough, of course. Moreover, I agree with the proponents of the legislation before us today that