



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1997

No. 107

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Reverend Bruce Mackenzie, First Congregational Church, Boulder, CO, offered the following prayer:

Oh God of a thousand names and faces, give light to our minds and hearts, fill our inmost depths with Your healing presence, wash what is soiled, heal what is painful, bend what is rigid, and lead us to fullness of life.

Today we offer special gratitude for our Nation: for its freedoms that allow each of us to express our faith in varieties of ways and yet encourages respect for those who express their faith in different ways, and for its continuing concern for our whole Earth and the sharing with equity the resources of the world.

Oh God with the vision of Your future, break us open to new ways of loving and caring for all Your children, so that Your kingdom may come on Earth. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will note that today is the Chaplain's birthday and everyone in the House should offer him a happy birthday.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five 1-minute speeches from each side.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND BRUCE MACKENZIE, GUEST CHAPLAIN

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, it is my personal privilege and honor to welcome this morning to the House of Representatives my pastor from Boulder, CO, the Reverend Bruce Mackenzie who just delivered the opening prayer. He is the senior minister at the First Congregational Church in Boulder. He is my pastor and my friend; he married me and my wife Laura some years ago. He has led our congregation in Boulder, CO now for 27 years and will be retiring from that post next month, leaving a grateful, if grieving, congregation.

He certainly exemplifies the kind of inspirational leadership that we wish for in our religious as well as our civic life. His entire congregation shares in this honor this morning and wishes him well in his retirement. We have all been the beneficiaries of his caring and joyful leadership.

A WARNING TO JAILERS OF CUBAN PRISONERS: THEY CAN RUN BUT THEY CANNOT HIDE

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, the Cuban tyrant is engaged in a Stalinist crackdown which is pretty typi-

cal of him, but it is nevertheless extraordinarily brutal. I have at this point six pages in my hands of names of opposition leaders and independent press people who have been arrested in the last 4 months alone, renowned leaders such as Vladimiro Roca, Marta Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne Carcasses, and Rene Gomez Manzano have been arrested; youth leaders such as Nestor Rodriguez Lobaina, Heriberto Leyva Rodriguez, and Rafael Fonseca Ochsa.

As I say, I have six pages and they are growing the list by the day.

I just want to send a word to the jailers of these prisoners. To each of them who go so far as to lay a hand on any political prisoner in Cuba, take note: It does not matter how long it takes, it does not matter how many times they say that they are following orders, it does not matter where they go, the Cuban people will make certain that they will be found, and they will be taken to justice.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1585. An act to allow postal patrons to contribute to funding for breast cancer research through the voluntary purchase of certain specially issued United States postage stamps, and for other purposes.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE WEALTHY CONTRIBUTORS WHO HELPED THE REPUBLICANS WIN CONTROL OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, Republicans have manipulated their tax bill to deliver as many tax breaks to the wealthy as possible, a new analysis

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H5781

shows. The Treasury Department this week released an analysis demonstrating that Republican tax breaks for the wealthy explode in cost in the out-years, posing a serious threat to the balanced budget which Republicans pretend to care so much about. The Treasury analysis found that the GOP tax package doubles in cost in the second 10 years to a staggering \$790 billion, with nearly three-quarters of the tax cuts going to the wealthy.

It is time, Madam Speaker, for Republicans in Congress to come clean with the American people about their priorities and admit that their plan delivers tax relief not to the hard-working middle-income families who deserve it, but to the wealthy contributors who helped them win control of this Congress.

LONGSTANDING CAMPAIGN DEBTS REASON FOR MISTRUST OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, it has recently been reported that a former Presidential candidate still has a campaign debt that was incurred in the 1980's, years ago.

At the conclusion of my first campaign for a seat in the Congress, I was saddled with a campaign debt. I promptly borrowed money and paid those to whom my campaign was indebted. To have done less, Madam Speaker, would have been inexcusable and without defense. Responsible people simply do not casually ignore debts.

Campaign reform is consistently discussed on Capitol Hill. Perhaps the time has come to direct attention to the propriety of paying off campaign debts rather than ignoring them.

Frequently we ask incredulously why the American people do not trust Members of Congress. Longstanding campaign debts that remain unpaid and ignored is one glaring reason.

ALBANIA COULD BECOME THE NEXT BOSNIA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is in turmoil. A new law limits the flying of the Albanian national flag. Infuriated Albanians gathered by the thousands in protest. In Macedonia police opened fire on their crowds, killing 4, wounding 70, and they have locked up 400 Albanians that have yet to be accounted for. Macedonia's actions are a clear violation of international law, and after all this the State Department has turned and looked the other way.

Shame on the State Department.

Albanians are being systematically persecuted. Albanians are subject to the next possible killing fields of the world. Madam Speaker, Albania needs help. Albania could become the next Bosnia.

The State Department should do its job, and I urge Congress to pass House Concurrent Resolution 36 sponsored by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN].

STOP TWISTING THE TRUTH ABOUT TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, David Gergen writing in this week's U.S. News & World Report says, and I quote, and David Gergen is a former Clinton administration adviser, he says it is time for the left to stop twisting the truth about tax relief.

Why is that important and why do we agree? And let me explain, because seniors in my district are starting to become confused because our liberal friends are talking about this imputed income scheme where we can take people with one income level and impute their income up to a different level.

Let me give my colleagues an example of a couple in my district. Their real income is \$8,700 a year, but their home is paid for; of course they could rent that home out. They also have accrued value and some pension plans and other things, but they are living on \$8,700 a year. Using the imputed income scheme of the Democrats we can take their income up to about \$40,000 a year. So the question they have is if the Democrat tax plan passes, will they pay taxes on \$40,000 a year or will they pay on \$8,700 a year?

Madam Speaker, there is a big difference. Seniors are confused. We owe them the truth. I hope that we can pass our plan.

CAUSAL CONNECTION BETWEEN NO ACTION ON CAMPAIGN FI- NANCE REFORM AND FAST AC- TION ON TAX BREAKS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. FARR of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to point out something that I think is pretty obvious around here, and that is the President was here earlier this year asking that this House deliver a campaign finance reform bill to him by July 4. We did not do it. We have had no hearings, we have had no votes, we have had no discussion; we have had a lot of effort to try to get a campaign bill on the floor.

Yet at the same time the tax bill, which gives incredible breaks to very wealthy people, moves through here

like a knife through butter. Why is that? Why do we not move for campaign reform for the people but we can move very quickly for tax breaks for the rich? I think there is a causal connection.

Madam Speaker, just wait and see this next election period why we have not passed campaign reform under the Republican leadership and why there are big tax breaks for the rich under the Republican leadership.

THOSE WHO PAY 80 PERCENT OF THE TAX BURDEN SHOULD GET SOME TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, when was the last time that we heard a liberal talk about who pays what share of the tax burden?

Now let us think about that for just a minute. I am very curious to know if anyone can think of a single instance in the past 84 years where a liberal Democrat has talked about who pays what share of the tax burden.

According to the IRS, and C-SPAN viewers can check these figures for themselves, the top 1 percent of income earners in this country pay 29 percent of the income taxes. Again, the top 1 percent pay 29 percent of the income tax burden.

How about this one? The top 25 percent of income earners pay 80 percent of the income taxes.

Madam Speaker, I leave it to my colleagues to decide. Are the wealthiest Americans paying their share? And do my colleagues think that maybe those who pay 80 percent of the tax burden ought to get some of the tax relief? My colleagues should decide.

□ 0915

WORKING AMERICANS DESERVE THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, the other day I talked to a hard-working woman in my district. Sue has two children under the age of 18. Unfortunately, she is divorced and her ex-husband is not too reliable on his child support payments. Sue is a hard-working woman with a full-time job. She made \$200 a week on her first job, and then got a better job that paid her \$7 an hour, where she grosses \$14,500 a year.

Every payday Sue pays her State taxes, Federal taxes, and her Social Security, FICA. When she filed her taxes, she received the earned income tax credit. She said the EITC helped her get caught up on her bills. It also in 1 year allowed her to buy tires so she could drive back and forth to work.

Sue has never received public assistance. Because Sue received the earned