

the children of every working parent in this country the greatest gift of all: the gift of economic security for their future, and for future generations of Americans.

DEMOCRATS STOOD UP AND FOUGHT FOR HARD-WORKING FAMILIES

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind my Democratic colleagues of what we can accomplish when we stand up and fight for what we believe in.

Last week our Republican colleagues were calling a tax cut for hard-working police officers and kindergarten teachers welfare. But Democrats stood tall and fought hard for tax relief for all Americans who work for a living, who pay taxes, even though they may not make a lot of money.

Today, this House will vote on a tax bill that includes a \$500 tax credit for all of America's working families. This bill also provides a \$1,500 HOPE scholarship to make college more affordable for middle-class families, and \$24 billion for children's health care, the single largest investment in health care since 1965.

All of these priorities the Democrats in the last several weeks have fought and stood tall on and have won. The Democrats said, in fact, that what they did not want to do was to provide tax breaks for the richest and the wealthiest in this country. It is middle class families who have won the benefit of the Democrats' hard work in these last several weeks.

TODAY MARKS A START IN REVISING TAX SYSTEM AND TAX PHILOSOPHY IN UNITED STATES

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, we are here today taking a step toward revising the tax system and revising the tax philosophy that has too long been headed in the other direction. We are here today to decide that American families can spend their money better than the Government can spend their money.

The only bad news in the bill for working families today is it is going to be 6 months before they begin to see what really happens when they have their money back instead of the Government having that money.

A \$500-per-child tax credit means to a family of three, a working family of three, \$125 every month that the Government has been spending that they can now start spending next year. It is going to make a difference.

This bill will make a difference as we work to make education more afford-

able. Vocational education, college education, \$5,000 in tax credits over 4 years of college; tax savings accounts, education savings accounts that are going to be tax free, that allow families to save for college. We will not be taxing the interest on student loans any more.

This is a great day for American families, Mr. Speaker.

DEMOCRATS MADE TAX BILL BETTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES

(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, I think all of us have a recollection of gathering at the family home and knowing that in the kitchen a stew is brewing. But that stew does not begin to get good until it gets stirred. Today we vote on a bill that the Democrats stirred and made well.

I want to speak to those individuals that may be in fact not where our voice can be heard. Maybe they have a black and white television set, maybe they do not have access to the C-SPAN, but let me tell them, as they go to their jobs and make \$20,000 a year, the Democrats have put together a tax bill that will help them.

Or maybe they make \$25,000. The Democrats have stirred the pot to help them, because they get a \$500-a-year child tax credit, and we respect the fact that they are out working for a living. The Democrats also gave them \$1,500 so they can start that college education in the Houston Community College, which I represent, or any community college around the Nation.

The Democrats recognize that these working families they may not be somewhere advocating and lobbying, but we recognize that they make America work. And to the small businesses, we say we count on them too, because the Democrats give them a \$1 million tax exemption that starts next year!

The Democrats stirred the pot on this tax bill, and made it fair.

□ 1030

THREAT TO FREEDOM, TOO MUCH POWER IN HANDS OF GOVERNMENT

(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, when the Founders were debating the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787, one of the most important subjects of debate concerned what they considered to be threats to freedom.

Some thought that too much government power was the greatest threat to freedom. Some thought that too much power in the hands of the majority would be a threat to the freedom of minorities.

Men like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wrote extensively about these threats to freedom, and they were right. Today I would like to call 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 nearly one-half of a family's income, government has too much power.

Today we consider whether to take a cue from President Jefferson and reduce the power of government by passing the tax relief package currently before Congress, before us now, and to return the authority to the very families that sent us here to do the job.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

(Mrs. TAUSCHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Taxpayer Relief Act and to celebrate the balanced budget agreement.

The balanced budget agreement that we are voting on to implement this week will eliminate the deficit and strengthen the foundation of our economy. It will also put more money in the hands of the American taxpayers through the child tax credit, the HOPE scholarship plan, and reductions in the capital gains tax rates and greater protection from estate taxes.

Most importantly, this agreement provides tax relief in a fair and equitable manner. Working families in America who deserve the child tax credit will be eligible to receive it. Middle-class families struggling to save enough money to put their children through college will qualify for the HOPE scholarship plan, and increased protection from estate taxes will protect more families from unaffordable tax bills when they inherit a small family business or farm.

At the same time, reckless and unaffordable tax cuts have been dropped in this agreement, protecting the budget from exploding deficits in the future. The balanced budget agreement provides a sensible path toward eliminating the deficit and providing tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the balanced budget agreement, and I encourage my colleagues to support it as well.

GREAT DAY FOR EVERY AMERICAN

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, what an incredible difference the Republican Congress makes. Just a few short years ago, we saw the largest tax increase in history proposed by President Clinton. We are going to be repealing large parts of that today, and we saw a plan for nationalized health insurance,

much of which is going to be addressed successfully with our private sector approach that is included in this bill.

Today we celebrate the first balanced budget in nearly three decades, we celebrate the first tax cut in 16 years, and we mark the transformation of Bill Clinton from a tax-and-spend liberal to custodian of the Republican legacy of lower taxes and less government. It is a great day for every American.

TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the last speaker and I probably are bookends for this Congress. Yesterday and today, 44 million people without health insurance in this country; maybe we gave health insurance to 2 million children. The other 42 million, we could not seem to address that issue, while we can give a \$95 billion tax break this afternoon.

Now, in my view, this is payday for people who pay for campaigns. There are a few bones for people who have kids and a little bit for education, but the long-term effects of this bill are for those people who contribute to campaigns.

The New York Times says the deal's long-term effects has economists uneasy because they look at what happens in the long run. I believe that we have to deal with the issue of soft money in campaigns when we come back in September. The Members of this House have to be prepared to sit and deal with that issue if we are going to change the way this country's economics go.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 871. An act to establish the Oklahoma City National Memorial as a unit of the National Park System; to designate the Oklahoma City Memorial Trust, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2015) "An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(1) and (c) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998."

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2014, TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1997

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-221) on the resolution (H. Res. 206) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 206 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 206

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2014) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to subsections (b)(2) and (d) of section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1998. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The conference report shall be debatable for two and one half hours equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. FROST]. All time yielded is for the purpose of debate only. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if I were to address the American people, I would say, Today, you can finally believe that you will get a tax cut. We will pass it. The President will sign it. You can take this tax cut to the bank.

This rule provides for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 2014, the long-awaited Archer tax cut bill. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2014 and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report be considered as read. The rule also provides for 2½ hours of debate equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out at the beginning that a balanced budget, even with this tax relief, will not solve all of our Nation's problems. However, the Archer bill is a major victory for American workers who pay the taxation that run the Government.

The American family has not seen tax relief from their excessive Federal tax burden since 1981. Taxes eat up too much of the average family budget. I am honored to represent many working families who, unfortunately, pay more in taxes than they spend on food, cloth-

ing, and housing combined. Hard working people who save for retirement or struggle to build a small business or family farm see Federal taxes eat up far too much of their savings and investments. The Archer bill will help to address those problems.

Last November, the American people gave Congress and the President a mandate to balance the Federal budget, provide tax relief for working families, create incentives for private sector job creation, preserve the Medicare program, and promote quality educational opportunities for all children.

Let us face it, Mr. Speaker, many Americans did not believe that we would deliver. Commitments from elected officials mean little or nothing to those disillusioned by broken promises of big government and high taxes.

A Washington Post columnist, David Broder, once described the President's trust deficit with the American people as even more damaging than the budget deficit. Congress is helping to eliminate both.

In November of 1994, American voters made Republicans the majority in Congress for the first time in four decades. They wanted a change, and the new Congress vowed to succeed where previous Congresses had failed. That change in leadership sent us down the path that we are on today.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority believed that keeping promises was as important a goal as balancing the budget, cutting taxes and reducing the size and scope of the overly intrusive Federal Government. Now, there is no doubt that this zeal did not always adapt well to the political realities of divided government. The American people have watched Washington's rocky moments with some understandable frustration, but they have also witnessed some momentous accomplishments, and from my perspective, the Archer tax relief legislation is at the top of that list.

As the sponsor of the bipartisan, job creating and investment encouraging capital gains tax relief bill, which I join with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Kansas City, MO [Ms. MCCARTHY] and other Democrats and Republicans, we put together the largest number of cosponsors, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], the chairman, for the tremendous work that he did in the face of the outdated class warfare rhetoric that came from some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Reducing the job killing, investment stifling capital gains tax is the single best way to promote wage growth, spur real economic growth, and ensure that we will balance the budget by the year 2002. I applaud the effort of our negotiators because they share the commitment to raise the wages of American workers and ensure that strong growth balances the budget.

At the end of the day, when the dust clears, we must look back over the past 3 years with some amazement and