

declared war, as the Constitution requires. That makes this war both immoral and illegal.

Not only has the bombing done no good, it has made the situation much worse and the world more dangerous. Serb troops are not dying; American troops are not dying, but innocent civilians are being killed by the hundreds on both sides.

There are just too many uncanny accidents. The refugee problem, which was minimal before the bombing, is now catastrophic as a result. Congress should not fund this war and if we do, we have become an accomplice and morally responsible for the killing and the spread of this conflict that will surely occur if this bombing is not stopped.

MAKING EDUCATION A PRIORITY

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, over the past 2 weeks I had the opportunity to hold a series of town meetings in my district in central New Jersey. Everywhere I went I heard the same message, from parents, from teachers, from students. We need to invest in education.

In Plainsboro, educators talked to me about the importance of having teachers who are well trained in academic subjects like science and math. In Clinton, I spoke with parents who want their children to be taught in small classes, where they can get personal attention from teachers. In Freehold, I heard from high school students who are concerned about how to pay for college.

The budget resolution that was passed by the House yesterday does not do enough for these New Jerseyans. It will not help hire more teachers. It will not help districts modernize their schools. It takes money away from higher education.

Madam Speaker, if we are going to prepare our children for the future, we have to do better. We have to make education our top priority.

WORKING AMERICANS KNOW BETTER HOW TO SPEND THEIR MONEY THAN THE GOVERNMENT DOES

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Madam Speaker, today most taxpayers throughout America will do their civic duty and file their Federal income taxes. For Washington State residents, the average total tax burden will rise from \$10,307 in 1997 to \$10,634, making Washington the State with the tenth highest per capita tax burden in our country.

I believe this is too much, that working Americans know better how to

spend their money than the government does. So I am pleased today, with Senator JOHN ASHCROFT and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) to introduce the Working Americans Wage Restoration Act.

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This bill will allow American workers to deduct their share of Federal payroll taxes. It is unfair to workers that these payroll taxes are taxed twice in the same income. They are taxed once as a portion of gross income for Federal income tax purposes, and for the second time for the payroll tax contribution to the social security trust fund.

By allowing workers to deduct in their income taxes their share of social security contributions, the Working Families Wage Restoration Act will eliminate this double taxation, and allow workers to keep more of the money they earn.

URGING BRITISH AIRWAYS TO RETAIN FACILITIES IN JACKSON HEIGHTS, QUEENS, NEW YORK

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers employed by British Airways in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York. These workers are being subcontracted out of their jobs without fair contract negotiations with their employer, British Airways.

Over the next 3 years, British Airways intends to close its Queens facilities, thereby eliminating 500 jobs in Jackson Heights, Queens, alone. British Airways announced their decision in the midst of a contract negotiation, and has demanded the right to unlimited subcontracting, to send jobs overseas.

British Airways states they are closing the Jackson Heights facility as a cost-saving measure. I know their profits have been constantly rising in recent years. As the largest civilian employer in the Borough of Queens, in the city of New York, our economy will be devastated by the closure of this facility. Yet British Airways will continue to increase their profits and form a valuable alliance with American Airlines under the Open Skies Agreement.

I am a strong supporter of our workers. On April 8, I attended a rally in support of the British Airways employees at the British Consulate. Madam Speaker, I ask Members, all my distinguished colleagues in the House of Representatives, to join me in calling on British Airways to keep jobs in Queens, in the United States, rather than outsourcing these jobs to other countries.

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL TAXERS AND SPENDERS BLOCK REPUBLICAN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE TAX CODE?

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, last night was a depressing, demoralizing, and most of all expensive night for millions of Americans. It was a terrible night for productive citizens, because for the producers, those who work and pay the taxes, last night was the day of reckoning that had finally come.

Americans were skipping their bowling night, cancelling bridge parties, throwing their movie guides into the trash. Last night was a night instead to do battle with a harmless sounding form known as the 1040.

Of course, for many of us, the old 1040 is the least of our problems. There is the Schedule A, Schedule E, Schedule Z451MDUM and all the rest. Deductions and exemptions and special cases and three-pronged tests, depending on whether you are right-handed or left-handed or like chocolate chip cookies, it is just too much, even for the accountants, even for the IRS.

How much longer will the taxers and spenders continue to defend the special interests, the status quo, and block the efforts of Republicans to pass a lower, simpler, flatter Tax Code?

PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

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

Mr. KLECZKA. Madam Speaker, information on the most personal aspects of our lives continues to be spread across the landscape. Once taken for granted, our wall of privacy is steadily crumbling.

Today I am reintroducing the Personal Privacy Information Act. This legislation attempts to restore some control over the use of our personal information. The bill prevents credit bureaus from giving out social security numbers, and prohibits the sale of any information that includes anyone's social security number unless they have written consent to do so.

A merchant who requires a social security number on a check used for a purchase or a cable company who demands a social security number on an application for service will be prohibited from doing so.

Further, this bill prohibits any State Department of Motor Vehicles from selling drivers' photographs or drivers lists containing social security numbers. Lastly, marketers will not be able to sell consumer purchasing experiences or credit transactions without prior approval.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is designed to curtail the rampant invasion of our privacy. What we buy and

where we buy it is no one's business but our own, and the unauthorized use and abuse of our social security number must stop. I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor and to support this legislation.

MEDICARE

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Madam Speaker, normally when I hear people talk about March madness, I assume they are talking about the NCAA college basketball tournament. However, this year I am afraid this expression is better applied to Democrat party plans to actually expand an entitlement that is already going bankrupt. This is clearly an example of political madness.

The fact is, Congress worked together with the President last year to take the first step toward reforming a program that was within 4 years, just 4 years, Madam Speaker, of going bankrupt.

The reforms we passed together on a bipartisan basis, although essential, merely postponed Medicare bankruptcy until the year 2010. It is around 2010 that baby boomer bankruptcy is going to hit big time. If this madness persists, we can kiss talk of budget surpluses good-bye, we can forget about proposing any new government programs, and worst of all, we can forget about giving the middle class some long overdue tax relief. It is now April. This March madness talk of expanding Medicare must end.

GOOD TAX POLICY: THE HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION

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

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, there will be a lot of rhetoric today, since it is tax day, about the Tax Code, and surely we can do better. It ought to be simplified.

But there is one facet of it that I think is good public policy. That is the home mortgage interest deduction. It is simple, straightforward, far-reaching, and over 24 million Americans benefit from the home mortgage interest deduction. I believe that whatever happens with the Tax Code, we ought to continue that as a matter of public policy, because all of the things that we all know as American citizens that we derive from home ownership are a good goal for this government. So I would urge that we continue to support the home mortgage interest deduction.

THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES HUGE TAX INCREASES

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, April 15 and lights are burned late across America as people have completed the agonizing task of paying their taxes, and believe it or not, at a time when taxes are at an all-time high in America, the President has proposed to increase taxes \$172 billion on the American people. Believe it or not, at a time when surpluses are projected out as far as the eye can see, the President has proposed increasing taxes on the American people \$172 billion.

The Republican majority fought and won a balanced budget in order to discipline spending and to prevent tax increases. We have now created a level of economic growth unprecedented, and this is the opportunity to now lower the tax burden on our hardworking citizens.

I oppose the President's tax increases, and I support disciplining spending in order to reduce the tax burden on our folks.

EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S CHILDREN

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, we cannot prepare our children for the future with an educational system from the past. We cannot lift our students up by sending them to schools that are falling down. These are simple facts which must be addressed, and they must be addressed now.

Communities like the ones I represent in Brooklyn and the Lower East Side of New York are in need of resources to build and improve schools. In fact, the Sunset Park Community of Brooklyn does not have even a high school.

The result of the problem can be seen in dropout rates among minorities which is 13 percent among blacks and 29 percent among Hispanics. Unfortunately, Republicans want to ignore these realities. They want to spend the budget surplus on expensive tax cuts, instead of helping our children prepare for the future. They do not want to join Democrats in fixing schools, providing technology, and hiring more teachers. They want to leave the future of America's children to chance.

A STAND AGAINST THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO RAISE TAXES

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

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the issues that all working families have on their minds, taxes. Americans pay too much of their hard-earned money in taxes. Almost

everything we do today is taxed: everything we wear or eat, medical expenses, our homes, our savings, our income. When we die, the government will again take another bite out of everything we have accomplished in our lifetime.

I have been working to reduce this astounding tax burden on the American people, and believe we are working in the right direction with the year 2000 budget that we passed yesterday. It was just inconceivable that the President requested \$172 billion tax increases in his budget proposal this year. It is no secret that working families are having a hard enough time these days without having to make do with less.

Some of the Members of this Congress stand against the President's efforts to raise taxes. I am one of those. In a day when we are running a surplus and beginning to pay down the massive debt, it is the government in Washington that needs to tighten its belt, not the American taxpayer.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MORTGAGE INTEREST DEDUCTION

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today I join with the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. MARGE ROUKEMA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PHIL ENGLISH), co-chair of the Real Estate Caucus, in celebrating the achievements of the mortgage interest deduction in America.

Today the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) is introducing her resolution opposing any further restrictions on mortgage interest deductions. Despite the fact that there is no current proposal on the table to cut back the homeowners deduction, this is an important effort that serves as a device for all of us to pause and remember how important this tax incentive is for the country.

Currently 67 percent of the households in America live in homes that are owner-occupied. Even more amazing is the fact that 67 percent of foreign-born naturalized citizens who have been in this country for at least 6 years also now own their own homes. The greatest growth in home ownership today is among minorities and first-time homebuyers.

Madam Speaker, I believe home ownership remains invaluable in our society, both in terms of our economy, but also in terms of how we think and organize ourselves as a society. I want to lend my support to the efforts of the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA) today, and urge other Members of the Congress to sign onto this legislation.