

is not enough to tarnish our stainless, Japan and Europe at this very moment keep dumping illegal steel into America while in Pittsburgh, the once steel capital of the world, they just demolished another steel mill.

Beam me up. This policy on steel is not only unbelievable, it is stupid. I believe, Mr. Speaker, we could do with less think tanks and styrofoam and a few more factories and steel.

THOSE PAYING 96 PERCENT OF TAXES SHOULD GET TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, here is a fun trick we can play on our liberal friends, especially the ones who never tire of saying that the rich do not pay their fair share.

In fact, this is a fun trick that we can play on most Democrats, with few exceptions. Ask them how much the rich pay in Federal income taxes. After they begin to look pale and ask, what do you mean, ask them what percentage of Federal income taxes are paid by the top 50 percent of income earners and what percentage of the taxes are paid by the bottom half.

Our liberal friends will not answer that question. Of course, they do not have any idea what the answer to the question is, and of course, even if they did, they would never tell us. They would be very embarrassed to have to admit that the top 50 percent of income earners pay 96 percent of all taxes, 96 percent. The bottom 50 percent pay a whopping 4 percent.

Those same liberals then will rant and rave and feign moral indignation that those paying 96 percent of the taxes, those who are carrying almost the entire load, should get any tax relief at all.

THE DEBATE OVER TAXES IS A DEBATE ABOUT FREEDOM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we are going to hear a lot of speeches this week, countless speeches, in fact, about taxes. We will hear that the debate over taxes is about fairness, about special interests, about the struggles of the middle class, about the American dream, about compassion, and about justice.

Yes, this debate is about all of those things, but principally the debate about taxes is about freedom. It is not a difficult concept. It is not an idea that requires advanced degrees or lengthy training. It is simply this, that if we let people keep more of their own money, people will have more freedom to live their lives as they see fit, not as the government sees fit.

Letting people keep more of what they earn will allow Americans to save

more, build a better future for themselves and their families, and realize their dreams. So this week let us have a true discussion. Let us talk about finally cutting taxes in this country.

RETAIL RESPONSIBILITY—WAL-MART

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I learned recently that two large retail chains in middle America can truly make a difference when it comes to keeping violence and filth out of our young kids' minds.

I think both Wal-Mart and K-Mart should be commended for their recent stance on culture within the marketplace. These superstores may not be perfect, but they are taking an active role in not selling some of the extraordinarily violent and offensive music that could be lining their shelves and raking in the cash.

Some of the music they chose not to carry is climbing up the charts, but since so many parents have objected to its profanity and reference to suicide, these stores have pulled some albums from the shelves.

Mr. Speaker, do not get me wrong, these are mega-marts, not mega-moms or mega-dads, but they are proving that taking a small stand in the marketplace against the increasingly corrupt culture can be done, even if it means foregoing an influx of cash.

WE NEED POLICY INSTEAD OF PREENING, POSTURING, AND POLITICS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting when we return from district work periods where we have heard the wisdom of the people. Lincoln said, the American people, once fully informed, will make the correct decision.

I heard some very interesting things from my constituents this week. I would refer this House, Mr. Speaker, to the comments of the President of the United States and one of the more senior Members of this institution from Massachusetts.

The President of the United States earlier this year in Buffalo, New York, said, "We could give it, the budget surplus, all back to you and hope you spend it right, but," "but." Mr. Speaker, that speaks volumes, because given a choice, our president, sadly, believes that Washington bureaucrats need our hard-earned money more than we do.

Then, a senior Member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), yesterday said, speaking of the liberals, "It is not our responsibility to legislate anymore. It does not make sense for us to compromise."

Mr. Speaker, a legislator refusing to legislate? I hope we do not see a lot of preening and posturing and politics instead of policy.

TAX CUTS ARE AN ISSUE OF FREEDOM

(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, we have to really hand it to the Democrats. They already have their line memorized and ready to repeat over and over again.

Republicans propose tax relief that largely excludes upper income people from benefiting; again, tax relief for everyone except the rich. And what are the Democrats saying about it already? Yes, "Tax cuts for the wealthy."

Any tax relief, tax relief at all, is immediately labeled by the other side as tax cuts for the wealthy. It is an insult to the millions of middle class taxpayers who would benefit from tax relief to be demonized by liberals who oppose tax relief everywhere and anywhere.

Of course, it is an insult to those who are carrying most of the load, the people who are paying the most in taxes.

In America, the issue is not whether upper income people need a tax cut. Of course they do not. But in America, it is an issue of freedom. It is their money. It does not belong to the government, and it does not belong to liberal politicians in Washington who want to spend it on more wasteful government programs.

DEMOCRATS HAVE NO INTENTION OF WORKING WITH THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY

(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. Mr. Speaker, just listen to this quote taken from yesterday's Washington Post: "It is not our responsibility to legislate anymore. It doesn't make sense for us to compromise."

"It doesn't make sense for us to compromise?" These words come from a leader of the Democrat party, the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

It appears that the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) has let the cat out of the bag. The Democrats had no intention of working with the Republican majority. They will block all legislative efforts, and then turn around and blame Republicans, attacking the do-nothing Congress.

But the always fair and balanced media of course will help them in that effort. Then they will attack Republicans for Republican extremism, a charge we heard thousands and thousands of times since 1995 when Republicans took over the majority in the Congress.

Once again, the media will help them fix the image in the public's mind, but the truth is now there for all to see. We thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the American people are overtaxed. They pay too much income tax, they pay too much sales tax, they pay taxes on their savings, they pay taxes on their investments, and they pay taxes when they die.

In fact, Federal taxes consume about 21 percent of national income, the highest proportion since World War II. But Mr. Speaker, help is on the way. In the coming days, the House will pass a tax bill that says to America, we think you deserve a long overdue refund for the surplus you created.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, our first priority is to save social security and Medicare for future generations of seniors. In fact, for every dollar of the surplus that we use for tax relief, there are \$2 set aside for social security and Medicare.

I am happy to say, Mr. Speaker, that just yesterday at the White House the President agreed with the Republicans in the House and Senate that we ought to lock up that Medicare and social security surplus first. That is what we intend to do.

When Members hear the talk about how our tax cuts are taking money away from social security and Medicare, remember this, Mr. and Mrs. America, we will lock up our social security and Medicare, our retirement security fund, first, \$2 for every \$1 we will subsequently give in tax relief.

We will give tax relief if people are taxed for getting married, we will give tax relief if people are taxed for trying to go to school, we will give tax relief if they are taxed for getting buried, and we will give tax relief if people just have a general income and need some across-the-board relief.

In fact, the benefits here will go to the American people in better jobs, better economic growth, better employment opportunities, and more take-home pay, and that, Mr. Speaker, is what freedom is all about.

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TITLE IX MEANS OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN ATHLETES

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

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the World Cup Soccer champions, I want to present this soccer ball to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), my col-

league, and to former Member, Edith Green. In 1972, they offered and enacted the landmark Title IX legislation, the Bill of Rights for women in education and sports.

It said that any university that secured Federal funds must open up all programs on an equal basis. Prior to enactment of Title IX, female athletes had very little and limited opportunity to compete. I know that when I was in school, there were no women's sports programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Statue of Liberty has become a symbol of freedom to the world. Now when a woman or anyone holds up a soccer ball, this has become a symbol of opportunity, of equality in sports, and really the opportunity for women to achieve great things. Thank you, Title IX. Thank you to the women and men in this body that enacted it.

THE B.E.S.T. AGENDA FOR CONGRESS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, back in January when this Congress convened, I told my constituents that I thought we ought to pursue what I called the B.E.S.T. agenda. B-E-S-T. B for balancing the budget; E for educational reforms that focus on giving local school districts and parents more flexibility in dealing with education issues; S for saving Social Security, something that is important to all of us but particularly to those of us who are baby boomers who were born after World War II; and T for tax relief and reform.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that we are pursuing this agenda and we are making tremendous progress. Our budget resolution calls for not only a balanced budget this year, but for the first time actually securing every penny of Social Security taxes only for Social Security.

Our educational reform, Ed-Flex, has already passed and is on its way to the States. Now we focus on tax relief.

Mr. Speaker, let me suggest that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) has put down his marker. Mr. ROTH has put down his marker. The President is coming up with his own tax plan. But I hope at the end of the day there will be real tax relief for working families, and I hope we would focus first and foremost on eliminating the marriage penalty tax.

LIBERAL INSIDERS WARN AGAINST TAX CUTS

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post editorialized yet again against Republican tax cuts and our proposal. Hardly a week goes by without the Washington elite and other

liberal insiders warning against the idea of letting Americans keep more of their own money.

To me that is a pretty good indication that that is exactly what we need to do.

And of course the same crowd also called Ronald Reagan's tax cuts dangerous, foolish, and irresponsible. They are now singing the same tune today.

They are also the same people who 2 years ago said that we could not cut taxes and balance the budget at the same time. And of course they are the same crowd that could not praise President Clinton enough for raising taxes by a record amount.

See, there are lots of people in this town who really do believe government can spend their money better than Americans can, and they really hate the idea that people should be able to keep the fruits of their labor and reap the benefits of saving, sacrificing, and realizing their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, of course they are against the tax cut.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate on House Resolution 242 or House Resolution 243.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it occurred to me that while we are waiting to proceed with today's agenda that here in 1999 it is the 200th year, the 200th anniversary, and it should not be a happy anniversary, but it is an anniversary of the death of George Washington.

After the constitutional convention of 1787, of course the father of our country took over the presidency in 1789. He served 8 stalwart years, during which time he established the United States presidency for what it is, an individual who will chart the course of the country without ever attaining the role of king or of tyrant or of anything but a citizen politician who would guide the ship of State, along with the two other branches of government.

George Washington established that for all time. When he retired he went back to Mt. Vernon and there, guess what? He engaged in making sure that the firefighting equipment for the entire area was intact. He pruned trees, checked the crops, made sure that the river flow was adequate for the purposes of transportation, river transportation. Did a hundred different things as an owner of property, as a farmer.