

noncustodial parents. One such child, Mikey Kale from Nevada, was abducted by his biological father and taken to war-torn Croatia. Mikey was just 6 years old at the time and his parents were recently divorced.

Their divorce decree gave sole legal custody to Mikey's mom, but his father, who had visitation but no custodial rights, was able to obtain a passport for Mikey and subsequently and successfully abduct him, kidnapping him to Croatia.

Fortunately, Mikey Kale made it back to his mom. Yet, it is an inconceivable but irrefutable fact that once a child is taken from the U.S., it is nearly impossible to get that child returned. Clearly, prevention is the key for protecting our children from international parental child abduction.

I have an amendment today on the floor to help safeguard against these family tragedies, an amendment to make it more difficult for would-be child abductors to obtain passports for children by ensuring certain requirements are met before the issuance of a passport for a child under the age of 14. I urge all of my colleagues to support passage of this amendment, an amendment to protect America's children.

GOP TAX PLAN

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the massive tax cut of the Republican Party nearly three-quarters of \$1 trillion is totally irresponsible. It stands in the way of strengthening Medicare and Social Security, and threatens the progress we have made in eliminating the deficit and reducing the national debt. Republican tax breaks means higher deficits, higher interest rates, and lower economic growth.

The Republican bill also declares class warfare against middle-class families. Citizens for Tax Justice finds the GOP tax plan unfairly targets its benefits towards the richest. The wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers would receive 45 percent of the benefits from this tax break. It ultimately would receive an annual average tax cut of \$48,000 in 1999 dollars. Mr. Speaker, 384 times as much as the bottom three-fifths of taxpayers.

In addition, by failing to include a reasonable and effective school construction initiative in the tax bill, the Republican Congress proves they are more concerned about big tax breaks for the wealthy than providing relief for American school districts. The single focus by Republicans on a big tax break for the rich senselessly blocks common sense tax incentives that would provide crucial aid to America's school.

Republican priorities put wealthy Americans above the needs of our children.

DEATH TAX DESERVES TO DIE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, the death tax deserves to die. This unfair tax discourages savings and investment, destroys family-owned businesses and has a chilling effect on capital formation and job creation.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the death tax is imposed on income that has already been taxed once and maybe twice. While every American has a duty to pay their taxes, it is simply wrong for the Federal Government to tax the same money again and again.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is committed to eliminating the death tax. Over the next decade, our tax relief plan would reduce the death tax until it is entirely phased out.

I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up for the average American, small business owners, family farmers, and other over-taxed Americans by supporting this common sense tax cut.

THE RICH GET RICHER

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, today this people's House is going to vote on a tax cut: the rich get richer.

The Republican leadership says their tax cut is for the middle class, but that is clearly not true. Under their plan, 100 million taxpayers whose income falls below \$65,000 a year, added together, get less than half the tax relief given to 1.25 million taxpayers whose incomes starts at \$300,000 a year and ends at Bill Gates.

In fact, under the rich-get-very-much-richer-plan that the Republicans will pass today, the richest 1 percent of Americans will get more in tax cuts than the 95 percent of taxpayers, all 120 million of them put together whose income falls below the income of a Member of Congress. It is pure propaganda to assert that this plan is for working Americans, the middle class, that needs a tax cut.

In a Congress where cynicism is the norm, this is the most cynical action I have seen in more than 8 years in Congress. But, it is written in the scriptures: as you sow, so shall you reap.

SHARE OF TAX PAYMENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED UNDER GOP PLAN

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to look at this graph. The folks on this side of the

aisle say the tax cut is for the wealthy, but let me show my colleagues: the yellow line is before tax cuts, the red is after tax cuts. If one is making \$10,000 to \$20,000, one is only paying 2 percent of the overall taxes for this country and that is the same before or after our tax cuts, and if one is making \$100,000 and above, one is paying 46 percent of the tax burden of this Nation, before tax cuts or after tax cuts.

So our proposal that these folks are saying are for the wealthy makes no difference in how much these folks pay after or before our tax cuts. So in the main, one has to realize that the burden of this tax is going to those folks that are very wealthy, who are making between \$100 and \$200,000. So when we hear on that side of the aisle that this is tax cuts for the wealthy, I say that the wealthy are going to continue to pay 46 percent of the tax burden before our tax cut or after our tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Democrats, can someone on this side of the aisle tell us what part of the tax burden they should pay?

BUREAUCRATIC NINCOMPOOPS DRAFTING FOREIGN POLICY

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that Russia is helping Iran to build a missile capable of hitting America. Let us check this out. America spends billions on Star Wars to protect us from a missile attack. Then America, out of the goodness of our heart, helps the Russian space program by giving them billions that they cannot raise for themselves.

In addition, America gives billions of dollars in foreign aid to Russia. Think about it. Then Russia turns around and gives American foreign aid money to Iran to build missiles targeted at American cities. Beam me up. I ask, I ask, what bureaucratic nincompoop is drafting these foreign policies? It must be Boris Yeltsin.

I yield back the madness of this stupid foreign policy.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CINCINNATI'S JOHN ROMANO

(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, I want to take a moment this morning to note the tragic and untimely passing last week of a good friend and a good man, John Romano, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a victim of Hodgkins Disease at the young age of 41 years.

John was a small businessman, a true entrepreneur. He was active in his community, giving much of his time. He served as a member of the North College Hill city council for over 10 years. John was instrumental in my being in

Congress here today, or even speaking this morning, and he was an important part of the career of the Secretary of State of Ohio, Ken Blackwell.

But most importantly, John was a family man who will be sadly missed by his wife, Christine, and his parents and brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews.

To Christine and the Romano family, our prayers are with you. You have lost a good man, and I have lost a good friend. And our community has lost a leader.

God bless you, John. We all know you are in a better place.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GOP TAX BILL—WHAT IS IN AND WHAT IS OUT

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I call on the Republican leadership to pull down the tax bill that they have scheduled for today, an irresponsible piece of legislation that accelerates the \$5.6 trillion of national debt we already have, and jeopardizes the future of Social Security and Medicare.

Those of us who are genuinely concerned with more tax fairness for middle-class taxpayers will not find any help in this bill; but, should the Republicans proceed with the bill, it is important to know what is in and what is out.

Tax relief with a credit for those who have children and seek child care, that is out. Tax relief for the two-martini business luncheon, that is in. Tax relief for the wealthiest people in this country to send their children to private, elite academies, that is, of course, in.

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Tax relief to repair dilapidated over-crowded public schools, that, of course, is out. Tax relief that assures one-third of the benefits of this bill go to those that earn over \$200,000, that is in. Relief for the public debt and security for Social Security, that is out.

TEN-YEAR TAX CUT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the tax cut we will take up today is spread over 10 years. Some people say it is too big. Well, during the first 5 years, the cuts amount to about 1½ percent of total Federal revenues over that period, and the bill has about \$2 billion of debt reduction, more than double the amount of tax cuts.

Just this morning, I read a quote that is very appropriate as we take up our tax cut debt reduction bill today. In a book called the Coming Charitable Revolution are these words, quote, "Governments afflict the people of the world with heavy taxation. With seem-

ing generosity, they return to the subdued masses some of that money in social aid for which the populous will be humbly grateful, and by so doing will submit and conform, giving up a little at a time what little may be left of their freedom. Are we fools? Did our fathers fight in vain?" The words of Claude Morency.

Mr. Speaker, let us give the American people back a very small portion of their own money.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECENT HISTORY WE CAN START TO PAY DOWN THE DEBT

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

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, there is a request for a \$790 billion tax cut, which I call totally irresponsible. We have an opportunity for the first time in recent history to start to pay down the debt, and if we spend \$790 billion on a tax cut the money will not be there to pay down that debt.

I had lunch recently with the chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City and two of his top economists and asked them what would be the effect if we were able to pay down a substantial portion of the national debt? The economist told me that if that were to happen, he would expect interest rates to drop dramatically, as much as 2 to 3 percent.

When I talk to Chamber groups back home they nod their heads and understand the consequence of an interest rate drop as being the ultimate tax cut. This will do more for us than any tax cut in the magnitude of \$790 billion. We have a chance to do the right thing, the responsible thing, to start to pay down the debt, and not to pass this massive, irresponsible tax cut.

GOVERNMENT TAXATION IS A FREEDOM ISSUE

(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, George Washington, the Father of our Country, spoke constantly about the importance of the American character. Indeed, his farewell address to the Nation focused on just that issue.

George Washington wanted to leave behind a people that believed in the experiment of self-government that existed nowhere else in the world, and he believed that the American experiment in self-government could easily slide into tyranny if Americans were not jealous of their liberties and ever vigilant against abuses of government power.

Our Nation was born in rebellion, after all, against taxes which people thought were unjust, and tax revolts have been a part of our history from the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794 to Proposition 13 in California in 1978.

In recent years, more and more of my liberal friends have taken to labeling calls for lower taxes as greed and irresponsible. But to Republicans, government taxation is a freedom issue. The question, the critical question, is who decides what to do with the fruits of people's labor, our government masters or the people who labor to produce them?

Constituents, it is your money, not Washington's. Return it before they spend it.

A LARGE "D" FOR DEFICIT

(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 it is important this morning to say what the Republican tax plan actually means. It means deficit, a large "D," and finish it out: Deficit. The Republican tax cut is \$864 billion. Add that to the interest loss of \$179 billion and there is a whopping deficit, deficit, no money, minus of \$47 million.

It is my commitment to say that the economy that has been strong in America has been based upon investment in human capital. That is why we see the return on our investment dollars, our stocks and our bonds, because we have the American people working. I would much rather invest in education, Social Security, Medicare, tax cuts on family farms and small businesses, to enhance human capital.

I do not want to enhance a deficit. Let us get real and vote for investment in human capital, the people of the United States of America. Let us not support a tax cut that simply means deficit with a big "D."

THE THIRD BALANCED BUDGET IN 3 YEARS

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, this House and this Congress and the President joined with us in enacting the first balanced budget in 28 years, a balanced budget which contained key middle class tax cuts. Thanks to that middle class tax cut we are enjoying a booming economy and a \$3 trillion projected budget surplus.

Of course, under the Republican budget, we set aside two-thirds of the surplus for Medicare and Social Security; one-third we use, of course, for tax relief. I would also point out under this Republican budget this year, the third balanced budget in 3 years, we are going to set aside \$6 for debt retirement for every dollar in tax relief.

I also want to point out in this tax relief package that we are working on right now, that we are addressing a question that I have raised in this House, and that is is it right, is it fair,