

Americans pay more in taxes than at any time since World War II. Americans deserve some of the surplus back. They earned it. It is their money. They deserve one-third of that surplus, at least, back.

If we do not return a portion of the surplus to the taxpayers, I guarantee that very soon special interests here will spend it, or they will waste it.

Americans should be allowed to take care of their own needs first before being asked to finance more government. With tax relief, individuals will be able to obtain better health care, invest in education, save for retirement, or do any number of things they are currently prohibited from doing because of the heavy tax burden. It is time to end the overtaxation in America. Support the Financial Freedom Act.

□ 1030

REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESULTS

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, a colleague of mine, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) and I were sitting, listening to the debate this morning, and the gentleman from Massachusetts commented to me what I believe to be true, and that is that it is a good thing Republicans are not under oath.

I heard three of them say things in part that were true, but they did not tell the whole truth. The reality is that the Republican budget will do nothing to assist Social Security. It will do nothing to assist Medicare.

If there is a Member of this House of Representatives who has not heard from a constituent regarding Medicare, I would like for he or she to come forward and discuss matters with me, for it is the single biggest item in my office that constituents are concerned about.

How dare my Republican colleagues not be prepared to support the military in a time of desperate need. Their budget results would allow for a \$198 billion cut in military readiness, a \$583 billion cut in domestic investment, 425,000 children denied access to Head Start. They would eliminate all funding for all new Federally funded Superfund cleanups. There would be 306,000 fewer summer jobs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this tax plan of the Republicans.

BUDGET SURPLUS CHOICES: GIVE IT BACK TO THE TAXPAYERS OR SEND IT TO WASHINGTON

(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, all the liberals who now claim to be

so concerned that the budget surplus not go back to the taxpayers and instead go towards debt reduction, a national debt many of them helped create, do have an option.

They are perfectly free to take the money that they get back in tax relief in the years ahead and return it back to Washington. Yes, send it to Washington and trust the politicians to use it for debt reduction.

Yes, I am sure that is exactly what they will do, all those liberals who say that they are upset that people could get back a little bit of what they have earned, a little bit of what belongs to them.

Why is it that all those middle-class families whom the Democrats call rich will feel quite qualified to spend it right, as the President so famously said? The choice is send the budget surplus to Washington or give it back to the people who labored long and hard to earn it in the first place. That is our choice.

Washington versus the people. It is no surprise which side the majority of Democrats are on.

DEFEAT THE IRRESPONSIBLE TAX CUT

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. I was in private practice as a CPA back in 1981 when this Congress passed the irresponsible ERTA tax bill. The result was high inflation, unemployment, high interest rates, and now we are about to do it all over again. This tax bill is ERTA on steroids.

A few moderate Republicans could vote against this bill and stop it. Let me bring to them a few facts. One-third of the tax relief in this bill goes to the 90 percent of Americans who are middle class or of modest means. The next one-third goes to the next 9 percent toward the top. And one-third of the benefits goes to the top 1 percent of the income earners.

This is not just an \$800 billion tax cut for ten years. In the second 10 years, it is over \$3 trillion. So as the baby boomers retire, as Social Security is at risk, this bill is at its most irresponsible.

I urge the defeat of this irresponsible tax cut.

GIVE HARD-WORKING AMERICANS THEIR MONEY BACK

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, is it not ironic that the party who, for 40 years, ran up the national debt to the tune of \$5.4 trillion is now hiding behind the national debt and wanting to reduce it as an excuse not to vote for tax reduction for working America?

Is it not ironic that the party who only wanted to preserve 62 percent of the Social Security surplus is now saying that Republicans who wanted to preserve 100 percent of Social Security, now they are saying, no, we cannot vote for a tax cut?

Is it not typical that the party whose President's budget cut Medicare \$9 billion now is pretending to be the protector of Medicare?

The fact is they want to repeat their performance of 1993 when they passed the largest tax increase in the history of America. They want to grow government.

Let us just think about it this way: if one went into Wal-Mart and one bought a pair of flip-flops for \$2.50, gave the cashier \$5, one deserve one's change, right? But if it is a Democrat cashier, they are going to keep the money, and they are going to spend it on their friends.

Give working America their money back, and quit holding it and paying it out to your Washington bureaucrat buddies.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). The Chair would remind Members that the wearing of badges or buttons is forbidden on the House floor during debate.

TAX BILL

(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. Mr. Speaker, a Member of the Republican Party yesterday called the vote on the tax bill today a defining moment; and, by goodness, was he right.

The position of the majority party can be best summarized in a paraphrase of the old, "Extremism in the pursuit of a tax cut is no vice." That is the position they are taking today as a party.

The tax bill they are proposing is the largest since 1981 when supply-side economics gave us an additional \$3 trillion in debt. Both bills are based on economic assumptions which are notoriously chancy, and on budget projections that are just plain wrong.

Democrats want a modest tax cut that the Nation can afford. We want to reserve the surplus until the issues of Social Security and Medicare, I repeat, Social Security and Medicare are dealt with, and until how we see this budget process in the end goes. We do not want to go back to an era of deep deficit spending, which is exactly where the Republican Party will take us today.

Democrats cannot and will not vote for this bill, but it is only moderate elements within Republican Party today who can save us from it. We hope they will.

AMERICANS WANT, NEED, AND
DESERVE TAX RELIEF TODAY

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some of these liberal Democrats are attacking the Republican tax proposal as risky. They think it is risky, because they do not trust the taxpayer. Who do my colleagues think the money belongs to in the first place? The taxpayer.

Over in the Senate, Senator BOB KERREY said, "Cutting \$800 billion," cutting \$800 billion, giving it back to the people, "when you've got \$3 trillion coming in is hardly an outrageous, irresponsible move."

Two-thirds of the surplus should go for retirement security and Medicare, and that is what we have done, and one-third for tax relief. It is a balanced and sensible plan. Americans want, need, and deserve tax relief today.

VOTE FOR DEMOCRATIC
ALTERNATIVE TAX BILL

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today financial irresponsibility does not just tip-toe through this Chamber. It does not walk softly; it gallops. It runs amok.

Because what is going to happen is, this House is going to take up a tax bill that is the height of fiscal and financial irresponsibility.

I support paying down the national debt. I support saving Social Security. I support saving Medicare and making sure that it is secure. Then and only then, giving targeted tax cuts, tax cuts to working people, tax cuts for child care, tax cuts that are strictly targeted to accomplish certain ends. But, unfortunately, this is not the proposal before us. This is a large tax bill that ignores all of that.

I would just say to those who say we can do this safely over a 10- or 15-year period, when their investment broker tells them they know what the employment is going to be in 2004, do they take that seriously? That is about how seriously I take this tax proposal.

Vote instead for the Democratic alternative that saves Social Security, pays down the national debt, and has targeted tax cuts and targeted only.

TAX AND SPEND DEMOCRATS
WILL NOT BE HAPPY UNTIL
EVERY AMERICAN IS POOR

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

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to my Democrat colleagues repeat one after another "tax cuts for the wealthy, tax cuts for the wealthy," so many times over the past

few days that I have come to a few conclusions. These conclusions are based on what they themselves say about what is in our tax relief package.

One might be rich if one wants to save for one's child's education. One might be rich if one wants to have health insurance. One might be rich if one's company or union contributes to a pension fund. One might be rich if one wants to save for one's retirement. One might be rich if one wears a wedding ring on one's finger. One might be rich if one is a senior who wants to work. One might be rich if one cares for a senior at home. One might be rich if one has a child in day care. And one just might be rich if one pays even 1 penny in Federal income taxes.

In other words, the tax and spend Democrats in Washington will never be happy until every American is poor.

OUR MONEY IS WHERE OUR
VALUES ARE

(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, for the first time in 3 decades, the Federal Government projects a surplus. Congress is faced with using this surplus in a way that reflects our values as a Nation.

Democrats propose that we strengthen Social Security, strengthen Medicare, pay down the national debt, and provide targeted tax cuts to middle-class families.

Republicans want to use this surplus for a one-time tax break that mostly benefits the wealthy and jeopardizes our economic health.

Our money is where our values are. The Republican tax plan will force deep cuts in crime, education, national defense, and risks returning our Nation to an era of big deficits. Medicare is a pillar of retirement security that provides our parents with independence and dignity in their later years. It says that I am willing to work for my mother and father and that my children are ready to work for me and for my husband.

The Republican tax scheme saves not 1 penny for Medicare. It lets it slowly twist in the wind. This surplus should be used in a way that reinforces and bolsters our values. Anything less is irresponsible.

OUR MONEY IS WHERE OUR
VALUES ARE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2465, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2465) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is not prepared to appoint conferees at this time. Those conferees will be appointed later in the day.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2465, making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and that I may be allowed to include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2490, TREASURY AND GENERAL
GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 2490, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

□ 1045

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. OLVER

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. OLVER moves that in resolving the differences between the House and Senate, the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2490, be instructed to restore \$50 million in funding for the IRS to complete its Year 2000 compliance