

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

work to ensure that taxpayers receive their refunds in the year 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) will be recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues can see, I have been filling in here. So I ask unanimous consent to hand the time over to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my distinguished ranking member.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) will control the 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have offered this motion to instruct conferees on the basis that the Y2K issue has been an ongoing issue government-wide as well as with the Treasury Department. We are very concerned.

I want to make it clear that I believe that we need more than this restored; but at minimum, we need this money restored. That is why this motion to instruct has been offered.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do not oppose this motion to instruct conferees. Obviously, at this moment we do not have an allocation that is sufficient to permit us to easily restore these Y2K funds without having to take it from some other place that might be even more detrimental. But I am certainly hopeful that it will be possible for us to restore at least this amount of the Y2K funding to the Internal Revenue Service and other Federal agencies.

So, I have no objection to this motion to instruct. But I say that with the understanding that I can give no absolute assurances to my colleagues in this body that we can accomplish this in the conference, although I am hopeful that we would be able to.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I would urge the Members to have the courage to stand up to the pharmaceutical industry and support this amendment cosponsored by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

Let us win this fight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include tabular and extraneous material on H.R. 2490.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will appoint conferees later today.

AMERICAN EMBASSY SECURITY ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). Pursuant to House Resolution 247 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2415.

□ 1050

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2415) to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. KOLBE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, July 20, 1999, amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 106-235 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in Part B of House report 106-235.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. SANDERS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. SANDERS:

Page 35, after line 9, insert the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 211. PROHIBITION ON INTERFERENCE WITH INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW RELATING TO PHARMACEUTICALS OF CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

No employee of the Department of State shall take any action to deter or to other-

wise interfere with any intellectual property law or policy of any country in Africa or Asia (including Israel) that is designed to make pharmaceuticals more affordable if such law or policy, as the case may be, complies with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights referred to in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(15)).

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House resolution 247, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1¼ minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment, cosponsored by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK), the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH), the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. HILLIARD), the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) deals with one of the great moral challenges of this century.

Millions of people in Africa and Asia are suffering from the horrible AIDS epidemic decimating their countries. Because of poverty, they are unable to afford the very expensive prescription drugs needed to combat this killer disease.

Sadly, the major pharmaceutical companies are using their enormous wealth and influence to fight legislation passed in South Africa, Israel, and Thailand which allows those countries to purchase and manufacture anti-AIDS drugs at far lower prices than those charged by the major drug companies.

These laws are consistent with international trade and copyright law. Once again, these laws are consistent with international trade and copyright laws.

Tragically, the U.S. State Department is currently working with the drug companies to punish South Africa because their government has committed the terrible crime of trying to get affordable drugs to treat their AIDS patients.

What South Africa is doing is legal under international law. And it is morally right.

Please support this amendment. Get the U.S. Government on the right side of this issue and help save millions of lives.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the case of the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) frankly is completely flawed. And though while his motives may be noble, the final result of his action will be reduction in new drugs that will save lives.