

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to briefly discuss the Waco tragedy that has been so much in the news over the past few days.

Before coming to Congress, I spent 7½ years as a criminal court judge trying felony criminal cases. I tried the attempted murder of James Earl Ray, several death penalties cases, and many high profile cases of all types. I believe in the death penalty as it is now used, meaning on our most horrible cases, and I believe in very long sentences for violent, hardened criminals. I am very strongly anticrime; but I must say tonight that I think this Waco tragedy was one of the most tragic episodes in our Nation's history and one of the most despicable things the Federal Government has ever done.

Eighty-six people, including 24 children, were put to death simply for attempting to be left alone, so they could practice what I and most other people felt were kooky religious beliefs. But in a free country, people are supposed to have the right to have kooky, weird or unusual beliefs as long as they are not hurting anyone else.

The Waco victims were killed apparently because federal law enforcement officials were bound and determined to conduct a raid that would make the national news. This was not about law enforcement; this was about publicity.

Now, after 6 years, we discover, as many people suspected all along, that the FBI has been lying about this sordid affair. We heard a few days ago that contrary to previous Justice Department statements, incendiary devices were placed by the Government into the Branch Davidians' home.

Today, we are told even more incendiary devices were put in there, something called military star flares, highly flammable. The federal law enforcement people bombarded this home for many weeks, hour after hour, minute after minute, with extremely loud noises, extremely bright lights throughout the night. Then they moved in the tanks.

Hundreds of officers, thousands and thousands of highly paid man-hours, hundred of millions of taxpayer dollars wasted in a massive overkill of people who were of no threat to anyone.

Then the Government attempted to do a false public relations campaign about child abuse, of which there was no proof, and illegal weapons, also not proved.

What makes all of this even worse is that the kooky leader, David Koresh, was frequently out of the Davidians' home alone and could have easily been arrested on many occasions if the ATF and others were not primarily interested in publicity in the first place.

Eighty-six people killed, 24 children dead, in what many people now say was a raid done in an attempt to justify increased appropriations.

Five or 6 years ago, Forbes Magazine had a lengthy cover story about the Justice Department. The story said that we had quadrupled the Justice De-

partment funding since 1980 and that prosecutors and federal law enforcement people were falling all over themselves trying to find cases to prosecute.

The article said they were resorting to going after honest business people who had unintentionally violated laws they did not even know were in existence, shades of the IRS.

Several months ago, Newsweek Magazine had a cover story which said on its cover, "The IRS, Lawless, Abusive, Out of Control."

Well, the same thing could be said today of the Justice Department under Attorney General Reno and our federal law enforcement agencies. Today, our law enforcement dollar is out of whack. The highest paid law enforcement people are federal bureaucrats who sit here in Washington and never see a real criminal unless they are mugged on the way to their cars after work.

The lowest paid law officers are the local police and sheriffs deputies, the people who are fighting the real crime, the street crime, the violent crime that people want fought.

The tragedy at Waco, the deaths of the children, the lies about it since it happened, are all the outgrowth of a Federal Government that has grown too big for its own good, and certainly too powerful and too arrogant for the good of the people for whom these Government officials are supposed to be working.

While I am discussing this, I should also mention the cold-blooded killing by the FBI of 13-year-old Sammy Weaver and his mother at Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

This small boy was cowardly shot in the back and his mother was shot as she held her small baby in the doorway of her house.

And no one is ever held accountable for all of these deaths and all of these lies, because today we do not have a Government of, by and for the people but instead have one that is of, by and for the bureaucrats, the unelected elite of this Nation.

The only thing these people really care about is their money. What we should do, but will not, is to drastically cut the money for these agencies and give it instead to local law enforcement agencies or back to the hard-working citizens we took it from in the first place.

It certainly, Mr. Speaker, will not satisfy anyone to have a whitewash investigation by establishment types handpicked by the Justice Department and approved by our very biased national media.

VA-HUD INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, the VA-HUD bill that we are considering today is unacceptable. At a time of unprece-

dent economic prosperity, the question is: Why is it that we are cutting the supply of affordable housing instead of increasing the supply of affordable housing?

The cuts proposed by the Republicans will be devastating to our Nation's most vulnerable citizens. The majority proposes to cut \$1.6 billion below last year's levels. The VA-HUD bill does not include any of President Clinton's requests for new housing and economic development assistance, such as 100,000 new Section 8 vouchers, APIC, which is America's Private Investment Companies, and other initiatives.

In the City of Chicago, these cuts would deprive 2,530 people of jobs; 1,915 people of affordable housing; and deny assistance to 397 homeless families and persons with AIDS. It is estimated that the City of Chicago will lose \$33,975,000 as a result of the VA-HUD cuts.

My constituents are asking, what is going on here in Washington? Well, I will tell what is going on here.

The proponents of this huge tax cut are looking for ways to pay for their plan for their wealthiest supporters. Unfortunately, they chose to do this on the backs of the poor, our most vulnerable citizens. I urge my Republican colleagues to fully fund VA-HUD. We must expand, not cut, the programs that meet vital housing and economic development needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

TAX RELIEF, IT IS GOOD FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to address tonight the Republican budget and the tax relief package which Americans certainly deserve and is long overdue to them and particularly in respect to the rhetorical terrorism that we seem to hear from the White House.

I guess it is the fall. Everybody is back on the football field. The kids are back in school and the White House hot air machine is in full force spreading the lies which they seem to be so good about. Now here we have a budget which is a three-point budget, Mr. Speaker; and basically what it does, as a triangle, the apex of the triangle does one thing, protects Social Security and Medicare, setting aside \$1.9 trillion for Social Security and Medicare protection. Unlike the President's proposal that he made in January of this year, standing right in front of where the Speaker is, saying let us put aside 62 percent of the Social Security surplus, the Republican plan puts aside 100 percent.

Now, even if someone is a liberal over at the White House, they know that 100 percent is more than 62 percent, and this is good for your grandmother and my grandmother.

So we have the first point, Social Security and Medicare is protected, \$1.9 trillion under the Republican plan.

The second corner of the triangle is to pay down the debt, \$2.2 trillion to pay down the debt. This budget allows us to look one's grandmother in the eye and say we are taking care of them and also look our children in the eye and say we are taking care of their future.

Now we had a \$5 trillion debt. I would love to see us pay all of that off but, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the votes are not there. The political will is not there. I would love to see the money go to debt reduction, but the math in terms of getting 200 votes in the House, 51 in the Senate and the signature of the White House is just not there. So we do have some debt reduction.

Now, after we have paid that portion of the debt down in installments, it triggers tax relief, not only afterwards. So we have the \$2.2 trillion in debt relief. Then we get \$792 billion in tax relief. The way I look at that, Mr. Speaker, if someone goes to Wal-Mart and they buy a \$7 hammer, and they give the cashier \$10 they expect their change. They do not expect the cashier to load their cart up with more goods and services.

Yet that is what the liberals over at the White House want to do. They say the American people do not deserve their change back for their hard-earned pay, and I think that they do.

This change, this tax relief, is in the form of capital gains tax relief, 20 to 18 percent; if someone is in the lower income bracket, 10 to 7 percent. Income tax relief across the board, 2.9 percent for upper income, 7 percent for lower income. Death tax relief so that if a person dies they can pass their small business or family farm on to their children so that they too can carry on the family enterprise; and then marriage tax relief.

It is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker, that we live in a society that says, if people get married they are going to pay more in taxes than if they are just living together, and yet we out of the other side of our mouth are talking about what a great institution marriage is. These are common sense, across-the-board, middle-class tax reductions, one thing the Democrats have trouble understanding.

They say, yes, but the rich are going to get money out of the tax relief.

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Well, as my colleagues know. Hello? Who pays taxes? If you pay taxes, you are going to get tax relief; I am sorry, there is no way around it. But that seems to be the concept wasted over there at the White House.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is a budget that takes care of Social Security and Medicare first, debt relief second, and after that and only after that, tax relief for the hard-working middle-class Americans. It is a good budget.

The President says he wants a budget that takes care of Social Security,

Medicare, and debt relief. This is the budget for him to sign. I wish that he would sign it because do my colleagues know what, Mr. Speaker? We do not really have to be here. If the President would go ahead and say: You know what, this is a common sense budget; and I agree with my Democrat comrade and friend, Senator Bob KERREY, the liberal senator who said this is reasonable, and I am going to support it. And if he could, we would go home, and we would not be passing a whole bunch of other new laws and regulations that are crippling American industry, American education, and school systems and hurting middle-class Americans.

And that would be the greatest part. We could all go home, and I do not think there is anybody outside of Washington, D.C., who would regret Congress adjourning early.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that let me just say I urge the President to get off the rhetoric, I urge the President to get into reality, and I urge him to sign this bill. But if he does not, at least sit down in good faith, and let us try to work out something because the American taxpayers deserve it.

CHUMP CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman who preceded me in the well said it very well. He said he talked about American people getting change back, and that, in fact, is what the Republican tax bill would provide for the vast majority of Americans. He then went on to say:

Hello? Should not the wealthy people get back more? They pay more.

But guess what? They have already gotten their tax cuts.

A study that was just published yesterday and is coming to the attention of the Congress and the American people shows that because of the tax cuts back in the 1970s and the 1980s the wealthiest 1 percent of the American people have already realized an average tax cut of \$40,000 a year from their 1977 tax rate, \$40,000 a year. That is more than two-thirds of the American people earn for an entire year let alone pay in taxes, and he is saying: Of course those people should get more tax relief.

Why should they get more tax relief? Their average tax bill is already greatly reduced from the tax bill that was assessed against those same incomes in this country 20 years ago.

But in order to provide that tax relief, guess what? Programs that most American families value whether it is the Veterans Administration which we are debating today on the floor of the House, today and again tomorrow, which, yes, they have made it whole in terms of last year's budget, but guess what? There is not enough money there to cover the aging World War II vets

and the care they need and my generation, the Vietnam vets. There is not enough money in that budget. But that money will not be appropriated.

They are actually cutting housing. Is America well housed? Does the average young family who wants to have an opportunity to get into what is record-priced housing in the western United States, in my district and elsewhere? Are they getting a little bit of help from the government that they could use to get into that first house? Are other families over housed or well housed in the middle third or so of the incomes in this country? Those programs are being cut.

Medicare is being cut. The home health program is a disgrace; the cuts that were put into place 2 years ago, which I voted against, but a majority here and, sadly, a large number of Democrats voted for and the President signed is still going to be dramatically underfunded, and home health care benefits will not be extended to millions of seniors who need them in order to give a tax cut to the wealthiest 1 percent of the American people who have already gotten a very generous tax cut over the last 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, the result of all this is that we are seeing an unprecedented concentration of wealth in that 1 percent. More than 40 percent of the wealth in this country, levels not seen since the great depression are owned by 1 percent of the people, and the response of the gentleman from Georgia is: Hello? They should get their taxes cut more so they can accumulate an even bigger portion of the pie while middle-income families have both parents working and still cannot afford to send their kids to college without the kid incurring a huge mountain of debt, while seniors are not able to pay for their prescription drugs and cannot get the home health care they need, while our veterans go unserved. All those things will be reduced so that those people, hello, that top 1 percent who are suffering horribly, and, you know, they are paying only 20 percent less taxes than they paid 20 years ago in this country who are accumulating unprecedented amounts of wealth so they can see yet another tax cut.

This is change, chump change for average American workers. For the vast majority of people in this country the Republican tax bill delivers, as the gentleman said, change, chump change, 116 bucks a year for two-thirds of the American workers on average, many of them getting nothing, but \$116 on average per year for people earning less than \$34,000 a year. But yet, if you earn over \$350,000 a year, you will get a \$31,800 tax cut, more than most of those other families earn altogether.

Do those people, are they suffering? Are they struggling to make ends meet on \$350,000 a year? Do they really need that tax cut? Do we have to reduce those programs in order to deliver that tax cut? Do we need such an unfair tax cut? If you want to have a tax cut that