

The details? For example: The marriage penalty.

Right now, a married couple in this country pays higher taxes than a couple who is living together and not married. That is just not right. So it phases out the marriage penalty.

It also eliminates over time the death tax or the inheritance tax. Right now the Federal Government can take up to 55 percent of what a person has earned during the course of their life when they die. It means the family farm gets sold, small businesses get sold, people lose their jobs.

So let us save those important programs and cut taxes.

AS THE CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY, OUR VOICE SHOULD BE THE LOUDEST FOR PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, on August 30 the world watched as the people of East Timor exercised their right to self-determination for the first time with nearly full participation of eligible voters; and by a staggering margin, the East Timorese chose independence from Indonesia over autonomy within it. This courage has been rewarded with the destruction of East Timor, the displacement of its people, the inaction of the Indonesian government. Since the election, hundreds have died; and nearly one-quarter of the East Timorese have been forced to flee their homes. Indonesian officials have done nothing to stop the violence and to protect the U.N. personnel there.

For the people of East Timor time is running out. We must do our part to stop the horror; we must pledge logistical support to an armed peace-keeping force to restore order in East Timor. Until order is restored, all bilateral nonhumanitarian assistance to Indonesia should be suspended; and we should use our leverage in international financial institutions to cut off multilateral assistance. We should advocate in the U.N. Security Council punitive measures against Indonesia if Habibie fails to cooperate.

As the champion of democracy, our voice should be the loudest.

CLEMENCY FOR PUERTO RICAN TERRORISTS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, my colleague from New York who preceded me in the well accurately points out yet another problem in the world, and while this House in a bipartisan basis will work its will in short order to deal with this crisis, it reminds us that we bear the bitter fruits of confu-

sion, naivete, or worse on the part of this administration in dealing with foreign policy.

Madam Speaker, the best example and the latest example is the confusing dilemma in which our Commander in Chief has placed the American people because he apparently has chosen to reward terrorists. It is sad to note the President of the United States has granted clemency to about one dozen Puerto Rican terrorists who advocated the armed overthrow of the United States Government.

Madam Speaker, the President says that he will take the terrorists at their word.

Madam Speaker, as we have learned, when we cannot trust our highest elected officials and take them at their word, how can we possibly take the word of terrorists?

YOU DO THE CRIME, YOU DO THE TIME

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

Mr. WISE. Madam Speaker, I agree. When the President is right, I stand with him; but I also have to speak out when I believe he is wrong.

Now I oppose the President's act of granting clemency to terrorists. The acts that these people were convicted of are not necessarily all that they would have been involved in. Often a U.S. Attorney in order to get a conviction will bring those cases that are most evident, where the evidence is best, even though there were other cases that could have been brought.

The only authority of the law is when wrongdoers know that the penalty will be fully carried out. This becomes doubly important in the act of terrorism because it is also essential to remove those people as quickly as possible from the scene so they cannot carry out other groups and so we send a message internationally.

Madam Speaker, these people were part of a group that brought death and destruction. They maimed police officers. They should serve the entire term.

There is an old saying: "You do the crime, you do the time," and that applies to this situation especially.

WE MUST RESPOND TO THE CRISIS IN EAST TIMOR

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, as we gather here today in Congress it is nighttime in East Timor. Thousands of refugees are fleeing the country.

East Timor is a country of 800,000 people, and nearly a third of them have had to flee since the election the other day. At that time, the people of East Timor voted overwhelmingly for independence; but instead violence rules in East Timor. And the world has not spo-

ken out adequately, appropriately, sufficiently in any way to respond.

In the course of 500 years of domination of other countries' cultures including the Japanese occupation of 50 years, never in that time were the religious institutions attacked. But in the last few days, the home of Bishop Belo was bombed, was set afire. This place was a refuge, a sanctuary for people who came for shelter from the violence and has been set afire by the militia and the military.

Madam Speaker, how much more will have to happen there before we will act to cut off the funds from the IMF? Support the Capuano resolution that will come to the floor today.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I think I have exciting news, regarding what we have accomplished in our Social Security Task Force. Our bipartisan Task Force has been working on Social Security and the possibility of a bipartisan agreement to move a solution ahead. Last year, I was asked to head up a task force on Social Security with Democrats and Republicans. That was officially started early this year as a task force of the Committee on the Budget. Republicans and Democrats, when we started the discussion were inclined to have little agreement.

The good news is we have come up with 18 findings that the Republicans and Democrats have agreed on. Next week we will have a complete report of this task force effort. I am excited. Let us keep it in our minds. Let us not be nullified by the fact that we have a surplus and somehow that surplus is going to somehow fix Social Security. It does not.

THE REPUBLICAN PLAN IS OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICAN VALUES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, American working families today want to use the budget surplus in a responsible way that protects, strengthens Medicare and Social Security, that pays down the debt. The Republican plan is out of step with American values. It does nothing to extend Social Security by a single day. It dedicates not one penny to Medicare. It would force deep cuts in education, crime fighting, and national defense.

But let me tell my colleagues there is a quote from one of my Republican colleagues that sums up their views about working families, and I quote: The American people are not too enthusiastic about a tax-cut package because

most of them are not paying taxes, and the top 1 percent of America earns 70 percent of all income and pays 32 percent of all taxes. The bottom 50 percent of America's income earners only pay collectively 4.8 percent of the taxes, so it is not surprising that they are not going to benefit.

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They do not want a tax cut. Not paying taxes? Not paying taxes? You talk to working families in this country today and find out whether or not they are paying taxes. They want and need targeted tax breaks. They also need to have Social Security and Medicare extended on their behalf.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 281 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 281

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on Thursday, September 9, 1999, or on Friday September 10, 1999, for the Speaker to entertain a motion that the House suspend the rules and adopt the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 180) expressing the sense of Congress that the President should not have granted clemency to terrorists.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 281 provides for the consideration of House Resolution 180, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should not have granted clemency to convicted terrorists of the Armed Forces of the National Liberation, the FALN.

Last night the Committee on Rules held an emergency meeting to provide for suspension days on Thursday, September 9, and Friday, September 10, in order that the Congress be allowed to quickly respond to recent presidential action.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very short legislative week. Members of Congress just returned from meeting with their constituents during their August work period and honoring our Nation's workforce on Labor Day. In addition, Congress cannot extend the legislative week in respect to Rosh Hashanah. Therefore, the resolution will be considered under the suspension of the rules in order to accommodate the measure in this very short legislative week. Furthermore, the suspension

process is normally used to consider such bipartisan measures.

The rule provides that it shall be in order at any time on Thursday, September 9, 1999, or Friday, September 10, 1999, for the Speaker to entertain a motion that the House suspend the rules and adopt a concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 180, expressing the sense of Congress that the President should not have granted clemency to these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, on April 14, 1986, the United States military forces bombed the headquarters and terrorist facilities of Libyan strongman Mu'ammar Qadhafi. The strikes were ordered in retaliation for a cowardly act of terrorism that left two dead, including Sergeant Kenneth Ford, and 230 wounded, including 50 American military personnel.

In announcing the air strikes, President Ronald Reagan said, "Those who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of Western policy that there be no sanctuary for terror."

Yet we are here today because sanctuary has been offered to convicted terrorists. And make no mistake about that. The 16 Members of the FALN, duly tried and convicted, have not been imprisoned because of their political beliefs. They have been jailed because their reign of terror left six dead and dozens more permanently maimed, including members of our law enforcement community.

FALN has claimed responsibility for 130 bombings of civilian, political and military sites; and according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, they are prepared to strike again.

Why, then, would President Clinton offer them clemency? Why should they be released from prison?

Not one of these terrorists contested the evidence against them. None showed remorse. In fact, in the years since their conviction for numerous felonies, including conspiracy, not a single one asked for clemency.

Much has been written and said about President Clinton's reasons for making this offer of clemency. I will leave those discussions to the pundits and to the commentators. But I will say this: this action is more than misguided, it is more than wrong, it is a very real threat to the safety and security of the American people.

Of course, their release is not without conditions. They needed to renounce violence. After almost a month, with the clock ticking, they finally agreed. Isn't something very, very wrong, when someone needs to be coerced and cajoled to renounce violence?

Mr. Speaker, not a single act of terrorism has been attributed to the FALN since these individuals were jailed. Why then should the power of the presidency be used to give them the freedom to renew their reign of fear and terror?

This House, this Congress and this Nation have been engaged in a great

debate over how to best ensure the safety and security of our homes, our neighborhoods and our schools. During the course of that debate, President Clinton himself said that our responsibility is "not only to give our thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families, but to intensify our resolve to make America a safer place."

Mr. Speaker, we can make America a safer place, and we can start by keeping criminals off our streets and terrorists behind bars.

I urge the adoption of this rule and its underlying resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, my dear friend the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) for yielding me the customary half hour.

Mr. Speaker, normally suspension bills can be brought up only on Mondays and Tuesdays, but this rule will add two more days, Thursday and Friday, and it will add those days for one reason, for one resolution, a resolution that my Republican colleagues are in a great, great hurry to pass.

They are in such a great hurry to pass this resolution, Mr. Speaker, that they are creating this special process just to bring this bill to the floor. So while we are rushing the resolution of the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) to the floor on a fast track, Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose adding some other bills to that same fast track, bills addressing issues that are much higher on the American people's agenda.

I think we should rush a patients' bill of rights to the floor to make sure doctors and patients make medical decisions and not insurance companies and CPAs.

I think we should rush a gun safety bill to the floor to get guns off our streets and get those guns out of our schools.

I think we should rush to the floor a bill protecting Social Security and protecting Medicare, which is scheduled to fall apart starting the year 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are crying out for HMO reform, gun safety legislation, and Medicare reform. I say let us add those bills to the agenda.

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

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA).

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this is a defining moment for the United States of America as far as I am concerned. The question before us today is going to be what