

because they are married? Is it right, is it fair, that a married working couple pays more in taxes than an identical couple with an identical income who live together outside of marriage?

It is wrong that our Tax Code punishes society's most basic institution. I want to produce Shad and Michelle Hallihan from Joliet, Illinois, two public schoolteachers. They suffer the marriage tax penalty. Michelle and Shad are just one of the 21 million married working couples who suffer the marriage tax penalty.

This House, the Senate, this Congress, this Republican Congress, has worked to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. In fact, we passed as part of the Financial Freedom Act legislation which essentially wipes out the marriage tax penalty for the majority of those who suffer.

The question is, will the President join with us in signing into law our effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty?

REPUBLICANS ARE REWRITING THE CALENDAR TO CREATE THE APPEARANCE OF NEW MONEY

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the national Census mandated by the United States Constitution and conducted every 10 years since 1790 has been newly discovered by our Republican friends and declared an emergency for spending purposes, to avoid spending limitations.

Now the Republicans have found a new gimmick. They are actually rewriting the calendar. The old 12-month calendar to which America had become so accustomed is just not good enough for the current leadership. In order to create the appearance of new money, they have found a 13th month to include in the Federal fiscal calendar. Perhaps they will call it Bucks-tober, or maybe Big Bucks-tober.

I believe there is perhaps no silliness in which this leadership will not engage. One truth, however, remains most constant. To whom do the Republicans turn to fund their folly? The same folks they always turn to, those who do not have a fleet of lobbyists here in Washington, or a political action committee; in this case, the working poor.

They propose to gain \$7 billion by postponing refunds to recipients of the Federal earned income tax credit, typically working families with children who earn about \$20,000 a year. Working folks end up paying a high price for Republican irresponsibility.

REPUBLICANS HAVE THE BEST AGENDA

(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, Republicans have the BEST agenda, BEST. B stands for bolster our national security, E for excellence in education, S for strengthen social security and Medicare, and T for tax relief. Republicans have the BEST agenda.

By contrast, one could conclude that Democrats have the WORST agenda, WORST. W stands for wasteful Washington spending, O for outrageous over-regulation, R for raising taxes, S for socializing medicine, and T for trashing our defense.

Alas, Democrats indeed have the WORST agenda. I invite all fair-minded listeners to judge for themselves. The choices are clear. I urge all Members to vote for the BEST agenda.

TO REPUBLICANS, TAX RELIEF IS A FREEDOM ISSUE

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people do not think there is much difference between Democrats and Republicans. But when it comes to taxes, it is hard to argue that point of view with a straight face. Republicans want to cut taxes. We do not say the government should deny some people tax relief and offer tax relief to others. If you are a taxpayer, we think you should get some tax relief.

Liberal Democrats want the government to pick and choose which taxpayers should benefit from tax relief. They will do everything possible to ensure that those who pay the most taxes and who are carrying most of the load do not receive any tax relief.

To us, tax relief is a freedom issue. We think that fundamentally the people who earn the money in the first place are the best judge on how to spend it, and certainly better than Washington, who is eager to spend it for them.

Americans are overtaxed. Which Americans? American taxpayers. We think it is time they receive some tax relief.

AMERICA'S VULNERABILITY TO MISSILE ATTACK

(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, there now appears to be bipartisan support for perhaps the most important defense position that the Republican party has had for the last 10 years.

America is vulnerable to a ballistic missile attack. If North Korea or Communist China or Iraq were to fire a missile at the United States, we would have no ability right now to shoot it down. It is going to land and a lot of people are going to die. We do not have a national missile defense system now, and the reason is because of the exist-

ence of a treaty with a country that no longer exists.

The ABM treaty, signed with the Soviet Union, a country that began violating the treaty even before the ink on the paper is dry, is standing in the way of a rational policy to protect America from a missile attack. Our current policy of relying on the ABM treaty to keep America safe from the Osama bin Ladens and the Saddam Husseins of the world is dangerous, foolish, and naive. Does anyone really think that Osama bin Laden or Saddam Hussein is going to refrain from developing these types of weapons because we have a treaty with the Soviet Union?

It is time to get to work and at long last have a policy to protect this country from missile attack.

AN IRRESPONSIBLE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(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, the Republican leadership budget is an irresponsible plan. It jeopardizes our economic health. It undermines our values as a people and as a Nation. It fails to extend the life of social security by a single day. It does not use one penny to strengthen Medicare. It does not continue to pay down the debt, which is so critical to our economic well-being. It does not invest in working middle class families through health care and education, but it spends nearly \$1 trillion on budget-busting tax breaks that benefit mostly the wealthy.

It is out of step with the values of the American people. Tax cuts should go to people who need it most, working middle class families in this country. This Republican leadership scheme gives 60 percent of the benefit to the top 5 percent of Americans. Instead of investing in education and crime-fighting and national defense, this tax cut puts those very important things in jeopardy for American families.

There are no values in this plan, when we put the wealthy before the pressing needs of the middle class. We need to do more for the people we represent.

THE BUDGET SURPLUS BELONGS TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, NOT TO WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) has offered another textbook example of the politics of envy, because it comes down to this question, who do you trust more? My friend, the gentlewoman from Connecticut, places her trust in Washington bureaucrats. She believes Uncle

Sam should be Big Brother, take our money, and invest it in government programs. She defines security by increased Washington spending.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon at 2 o'clock we will enroll the bill from the legislative branch that offers tax relief and tax fairness for all Americans, reducing the marriage penalty, ending the inheritance tax, working for commonsense policies because, Mr. Speaker, our commonsense conservative majority rejects the politics of envy and fear and embraces the policies of opportunity.

One fundamental truth we understand in this majority, Mr. Speaker, the money belongs to the American people, not to the Washington bureaucrats.

THE REPUBLICAN TAX CUT

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax bill makes no sense. Rather than paying down the trillions of dollars in massive Federal debt, the Republican leadership offers pie in the sky election year tax cuts that will give most Americans nothing but pocket change.

But for years to come, this reckless plan will give all Americans higher interest rates and higher prices for everything we buy every day. Instead of paying down the debt, the Republican bill relies on questionable and partisan projections that their plan might reduce the debt.

We should put our fiscal house in order and pay our bills, just like any family or business would. We must reduce our debt so we can preserve social security and Medicare, benefits which so many Americans depend on. We should pass reasonable tax cuts that help working families and businesses, such as cuts in estate taxes and capital gains and marriage penalty taxes.

Americans want their leaders to lead. They want Congress to do the right thing.

□ 1015

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREDERICK COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very special professional organization of which I was a member for a number of years, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary on Friday, September 17: The Frederick County Builders Association.

For 40 years, the Frederick County Builders Association has been a professional organization dedicated to pro-

viding the Frederick community quality building, especially home building. Very simply, they have been building our American dream.

Granted that is their bread and butter, but the Frederick builders also contribute greatly to almost 20 major community charitable endeavors, from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, to the Catoctin Zoo, to the YMCA. They put their professional know-how to good use with their various housing charities like Habitat for Humanity, our local Advocates for the Homeless, and the Interfaith Housing of Western Maryland.

The Frederick County Builders are made up of professionals who care about both their industry and our community, indeed a very special organization.

Happy 40th anniversary.

REASONS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT SCIENCE

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something we do not discuss very much in the House of Congress, and that is our scientific effort in this Nation. I think it is important to point out as we are in the appropriations process some of the reasons why it is important for the Federal Government to support science.

First of all, over half of our economic growth today arises out of scientific research work done within the past 3 to 5 decades, over half of our economic growth just from that source alone. We are very pleased with our good economy. Let us recognize what the cause is and make sure we continue that effort.

Secondly, our scientific research results in a great improvement of the quality of life in this Nation, not just in all the good things we enjoy every day of our lives in various ways, but, for example, health care. Some of the major devices and methods used in improved health care today arise out of research that was taking place when I was a graduate student 40 years ago. That involves for example MRI, magnetic resonance imaging, the use of lasers in surgery, and other purposes, straight out of the laboratories of the times when I was in grad school.

It is imperative that we continue to support that research. Yet, when we passed the appropriation bill last week, we cut NASA by \$2 billion. We cut the National Science Foundation. Earlier, we cut the Department of Energy research program. We cannot do that.

As we proceed through the appropriations process, let us make sure that that money is restored, that we continue our research effort, and that we continue to provide the knowledge, the goods and services, and economic growth that we want in this country.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1059, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 288 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 288

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 1059) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

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

Yesterday the Committee on Rules met and granted a normal conference report rule for S. 1059, the Fiscal Year 2000 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. In addition, the rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. Speaker, this should not be a controversial rule. It is the type of rule that we grant for every conference report we consider in the House. The conference report itself is a strong step forward as we work to take care of our military personnel and provide for our national defense.

I have always admired the patriotism and dedication of the young men and women in the armed forces, especially given the poor quality of life that our enlisted men and women face. But today, we are doing something to improve military pay, housing, and benefits.

It has always been kind of sad, we ask these young people to technically give up their life for their country, but yet we really have not treated them in the way that most of us would like to be treated. Their pay has not been good. They live in housing that has been virtually World War II almost, substandard housing in some cases. A lot of them have had to take second jobs just to exist because they are married and they cannot make it on their pay.

So we are helping to take some of this load off of them, and we are helping to take some of them off of food stamps with this bill by giving them a