

gets rid of the estate tax, or as it is commonly known, the death tax. It will also make it easier for people to keep the family farm or the family business when an owner dies. It also makes it easier for people to obtain health insurance, a measure that will make a real difference in the lives of millions. It will also make it easier for families to save for their children's education, certainly something that should warm the hearts of those who wanted greater fairness in a tax code.

The Tax Code is unfair, but the President has threatened to veto our tax relief package maybe even today. I hope he will reconsider, Mr. Speaker, and put the everyday Americans ahead of big government.

WHILE REPUBLICANS ARE TAKING CARE OF BILLIONAIRES, WHO IS TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN?

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, there are other ways to take care of our children as well as gun control. The Republicans have tried for the past month to sell their \$792 billion tax package to the American people, but American people are smarter than that. They know that the Republican tax plan is designed mainly to take care of billionaires. What American people want to know is: Who is taking care of our children?

They also know that our Republican colleagues are not taking care of our children. Our children do not need tax breaks for the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans, they do not need corporate tax breaks. Our children need the surplus invested in their future by protecting Medicare, Social Security, and paying down our national debt. They also need gun control for their safety.

So I ask my Republican colleagues, while they are taking care of billionaires, who is taking care of our children?

THEY TALK ABOUT GUN CONTROL BUT CONSISTENTLY REFUSE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT CRIME CONTROL

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

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, first I want to say to my friends on the other side of the aisle who have been reading a list of names: I think that is entirely appropriate that we remember the names of children who died by gun violence at the hands of criminals. But that tells part of the story. Perhaps it would be appropriate today if we also read the names of liberals in this Chamber who have consistently voted against building more prisons to house violent criminals; the names of liberals

who consistently vote against tough-on-crime measures, the names of liberals who today support a President of the United States who grants clemency to terrorists.

We ought to read the names of innocent victims who have defended themselves against gun violence over the years. Let us read the names of women who have defended themselves against rape, or defended children in their home. Let us remember the names of the Founding Fathers who intended every law-abiding American to have that right of defense against gun violence. Let us hold people accountable for illegal actions, and let us hold politicians accountable that talk about gun control out of one side of their mouth, then consistently refuse to do anything about crime control.

MOO DOO ECONOMICS

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today the creation of a new Federal program that will subsidize aqua farmers that raise lobsters to sell to consumers, and the amount of the subsidy will depend on the distance these lobster farmers are from Boston and Maine. Sound silly and ridiculous? Well, it is of course, but welcome to the world of our Federal dairy policy. Milk is the only product produced in this country that faces price discrimination based on where it happens to be produced and what it is used for, and that distance is based on a city in the heart of my congressional district, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

But today, Members of Congress have the ability to allow reform, much needed, long overdue reform, of that antiquated, depression-era policy to go forward by voting no on 1402 and saying good-bye finally to the "old moo-doo" economics that we have been operating under since the great depression.

AMERICANS WANT THEIR CHANGE BACK

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, recently I was in Wichita, Kansas, at a fast food restaurant, and the person in line ahead of me ordered \$4 worth of food. He handed over a \$5 bill to the cashier, and they expected their change back, as would every American. They overpaid their food order, and they expected their change.

Mr. Speaker, America has overpaid the cost of government, and they expect their change. What the Republicans have done is pay for the cost of the Federal Government, lock up all Social Security payments, protect Medicare payments, pay down the publicly-held debt, and after we have spent

all that money and set aside all that money we still have overpaid the cost of government.

Mr. Speaker, America deserves their change back, and that is exactly what our tax relief package does. It gives America back their change.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President will not veto Americans right to get their change back, from their overpaid bill.

MORE TAX RELIEF FOR THE RICH

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the President's veto of the Republican tax proposal because it is a disgrace.

We hear the Republicans come up and say we want tax relief for Americans, but when we look at the facts and when we go behind the rhetoric, what we find is that this is more tax relief for the rich. Over 60 percent of the benefits in this tax package go not to the average American, not to the school teachers and the policemen, but they go to the very wealthy. They go to the people who are already doing very well in this society, the people who are making a killing on the stock market. The 20 percent of the wealthiest Americans in this country will get the lion's share of the benefits. That is not right.

We will hear my Republican colleagues talk about the marriage penalty, and we should not penalize married couples. Mr. Speaker, I agree with that, but what about the tax relief for the rich and the estate tax? Only 2 percent of Americans pay estate taxes, the wealthiest 2 percent in America. They have to have an estate over a million dollars in order to get estate tax relief, and that is who they want to give a tax break to.

Look further. What do we find? More special interest tax breaks throughout this \$800 billion monstrosity.

We can have reasonable tax relief, but we should pay down the debt, improve Medicare, provide prescription drugs, and invest in education not give more tax relief for the rich.

□ 1030

ILLEGAL DRUGS SHOULD REMAIN ILLEGAL, EVEN IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, some are urging President Clinton to veto the fiscal year 2000 D.C. appropriations bill, not because it spends too little, not because it spends too much, but, get this, because it simply contains a provision that says the District of Columbia can take no steps to legalize mind-altering drugs.

Now we know that about 70 percent of D.C. voters want to legalize drugs, including the current and, of course, the former mayor. That comes as no surprise. What would come as a surprise is if President Clinton vetoes this bill because it simply says illegal drugs remain illegal in our Nation's capital. Hopefully, the President, rather than listen to these folks, will listen to America's parents, police officers and his own drug policy head, General Barry McCaffrey; sign this D.C. appropriations bill and remind the District of Columbia that it remains part of the Union and subject to federal antidrug laws.

EMERGENCY FARM ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months, I have traveled my district, the 8th District of North Carolina, and spent dozens of hours listening to farmers and ranchers tell me about the state of the farm economy.

In February, I, with the help of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) and the Committee on Agriculture, hosted a field hearing in Laurinburg to learn farmers' concern about the current crop insurance program and what changes they felt needed to be implemented to achieve meaningful reform.

The Committee on Agriculture took the comments of my farmers and the comments from other farmers around the country and passed a bill which addresses their concerns and will strengthen crop insurance and provide better risk management tools for farmers and ranchers.

Crop insurance is just one recent example of how the Committee on Agriculture takes a grass-roots approach in learning about a problem and then, with a bipartisan effort, efficiently works to solve it.

Congress is once again being called upon to listen to what is going on in farm country and respond in a timely and effective manner. After hearing from my farmers, I introduced a bill last week, H.R. 2843, the Emergency Assistance for Farmers and Ranchers Act of 1999. In addition, I call on Members to help pass the emergency spending bill necessary for flooding and drought in crop areas this week.

WHEN TAX DOLLARS ARE USED FOR MORE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, THE LIBERALS ARE SILENT

(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, if Republicans want to provide tax relief to American families, the liberals are outraged. What about the national debt, they shout? But when it

comes to more Washington spending, suddenly, the liberals are silent. Not a word is spoken by the liberals about the debt when more spending and bigger government is being debated. Suddenly, it is as if the national debt never existed.

This feigned concern about fiscal discipline and the national debt by the same people who have spent the past 40 years expanding government and accumulating that debt is obviously insincere. Tax relief never, but more government spending, sure. That is the pattern and we see it day in and day out. The less revenue the Government takes in, the less social engineering, the less redistribution of wealth and the fewer new Government programs the left can oversee. That is why they hate tax relief so much.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT KOWTOW TO SPECIAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING DAIRY CARTELS

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the price Americans pay for a gallon of milk is dependent upon how far they live from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Now, this is moodoo economics. In 1996, Congress passed and I supported the Freedom to Farm Act, which directed the Department of Agriculture to create a more market-oriented dairy program. Yet today some in Congress want us to take a step backwards away from reform.

Today's bill would create a costly, burdensome bureaucracy. Dairy cartels are economically inefficient. They are protectionist. They are unfair. They cost the consumer \$1 billion a year. Government should not be subsidizing businesses. We do not do it for computer chip factories or convenience stores. So instead of protecting dairy cartels, we ought to protect America's 250 million American taxpayers and consumers, and I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1402. Stop milking our taxpayers. Do not kowtow to special interests.

IF THE PRESIDENT VETOES THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL, HE RAISES THOSE TAXES BACK TO THE LEVEL THEY WERE BEFORE

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I ask, Is today the day the President is going to raise taxes on married couples, increase the income tax rates, tax educational savings, tax families who want to keep family members in their home who are now of senior age, those who want to purchase health insurance, those who want to purchase long-term care insurance? Is today the day he is

going to reinstate the death tax, the alternative minimum tax?

That is right, Mr. Speaker. The Congress has lowered the tax burden on American families, American workers and American business by \$792 billion. If the President vetoes that tax bill, he raises those taxes back to the level they were before the Congress lowered taxes on American workers, American families, and American businesses.

CONSOLIDATION OF MILK MARKETING ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Pursuant to House Resolution 294 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1402.

□ 1036

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 1402) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement the Class I milk price structure known as Option 1A as part of the implementation of the final rule to consolidate Federal milk marketing orders, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the Chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

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

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

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, as all Members know, dairy policy debates are contentious and are characterized more often than not by regional as opposed to ideological differences.

The House Committee on Agriculture has endeavored to provide Members on all sides of this issue ample notice and a fair process in which to debate their views and represent the interests of their constituents.

H.R. 1402, as reported, addresses several perceived weaknesses of the final decision of the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as current law. During committee consideration, several amendments were included to deal with concerns over price volatility, manufactured product formula pricing, and price support.

Mr. Chairman, I know Members are split on dairy policy. I am also aware that there is no great sense of camaraderie within the industry on this issue. This is a modest bill which makes some modest changes in the federal dairy program. I urge all Members to support this legislation.