

I commend the leadership for making the marriage penalty relief a top priority, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this common-sense legislation.

HONORING MONROE SWEETLAND

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the voters of New Hampshire salvage some dignity from the presidential nominating process, it was keenly observed in Oregon by Monroe Sweetland, the father of Oregon's modern Democratic Party.

Last month in Portland, we gathered to celebrate his 90th birthday. Although a partisan Democrat, he was introduced at this gathering by his good friend, Republican Senator Mark Hatfield.

Monroe was a confidant of Eleanor Roosevelt and ally of President Truman. He was in Indonesia during "the year of living dangerously" and then returned to the United States to be political director for Western States of the NEA for over a decade.

Monroe is a journalist, State senator, and small businessman who last year ran a very competitive race for State senate. Legally blind for years, his slogan was that his eyesight may be dim, but his vision is clear. I am proud of the many contributions of this great man and look forward to his next decade of public service. He shows how politics should be conducted while living life to the fullest.

ELIAN GONZALEZ AND FAITH

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, weak and thirsty, Elizabeth spent the last hours of her life praying to God to protect her son, Elian; to guide him to safety in the land of liberty. She shaded Elian with her own body, gave him bottled water so he would not dehydrate, did everything humanly possible so that he would live.

As darkness enveloped her frail body and before she disappeared into the depths of the Atlantic, she turned to Elian and said to him, "My child, remember that prayer I taught you? Pray to your guardian angel. Ask him to watch over you, for you are in God's hands now."

Elizabeth succumbed to the power of the sea, but Elian continued to pray and; on Thanksgiving Day, he would be saved under what one of his rescuers has classified as miraculous circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, one cannot help but wonder if there was divine intervention. As former President Ronald Reagan has said: without God, there is no prompting of the conscience.

So I ask my colleagues to search their conscience and consider what is

right and just before making a decision on Elian's case. We can still hear his mother's last wishes from the depths of the sea.

IRS INVESTIGATED

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, after destroying lives and ruining families for years, reports now say that the IRS is being investigated for targeting political opponents. Being one, I find it amusing that all of the sudden files are missing, agents have amnesia, and evidence just cannot be found.

Truth is, the IRS has been lying through their teeth for so long, they need braces. Think about it. Little Punxsutawney Phil can find his shadow, but the big bad IRS cannot find their laptops.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker.

It is time to abolish both the income tax and the IRS. Replace it with a national retail sales tax.

Mr. Speaker, one last thing. I yield back the lies, crimes, dental needs, and amnesia of the "Internal Rectal Service."

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR RONALD AND NANCY REAGAN

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, Ronald Reagan will be celebrating his 89th birthday. To commemorate this occasion, I will be joining my colleague, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), in introducing legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Together with his devoted First Lady, Ronald Reagan believed in the promise of the American dream. In an era of growing cynicism, the Reagans worked in their own optimistic, upbeat way to make America a place where everyone can rise as high and as far as her ability will take her.

In 1989, I had an opportunity personally to thank Ronald Reagan for his contributions to America. This was shortly after the Berlin Wall was taken down and the land he once declared an "evil empire" began to be dissolved. Now is the time to broaden this "thank you" so that it comes from all the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we can begin this process here in the Congress in a bipartisan way by awarding him and his First Lady the Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. and Mrs. Reagan, this "thank you" is long overdue.

GOOD POLICY MAKES GOOD POLITICS

(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 rise today to congratulate the winners in the New Hampshire primary yesterday: Vice President AL GORE and Senator JOHN MCCAIN. Let us be truthful, there are consistencies in their message that the voters are obviously responding to, one of which is the need to clean up the campaign finance mess that exists here in Washington, D.C. The other is their fiscally responsible message that I believe both of these individuals are delivering to sustain economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, it is a message that says before we get carried away with these projected budget surpluses, we still have existing obligations that we need to take care of. Obligations such as shoring up Social Security, Medicare, paying down the \$5.7 trillion national debt, before we embark on large new tax cuts or large new spending programs.

In short, good policy is making good politics in these campaigns. Perhaps it would be wise for us Members in this chamber to wake up and realize what the American people are responding to and embracing, and work in a bipartisan fashion to address these very crucial issues before we embark on irresponsible fiscal policy in the coming year.

CIVILIANS MURDERED IN INDONESIA

(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, I rise today to talk about what is happening to the people of Ambon in Indonesia. Over 2,000 people have been killed in the past few months; hundreds have been severely wounded; dozens of churches have been burned, all as a result of fighting in Ambon and approximately 1,000 extremists having traveled to the area to wage jihad on the inhabitants.

Unfortunately, the Indonesian military has played a role in the death and terrorizing of civilians. In one report, a church was being guarded by its congregation when soldiers arrived. The military went into the church, started shooting, killed 24 men, dragged the bodies outside and burned them beyond recognition. The soldiers apparently belonged to the elite strategic reserve command and the paramilitary police.

Observers in local hospitals have heard numerous stories of people shot by soldiers of the Indonesian army.

Mr. Speaker, I commend President Wahid for his efforts to end this violence and I urge him to take the needed steps to bring the military under control and to bring to justice those responsible for brutally murdering innocent civilians.

OAK CREEK, WISCONSIN, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WANT TO SEE CHANGE

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, at a time when many adults question the seriousness and maturity of high school students, it is important for us to take a moment to pause to commend the group of high school students in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, who not only are doing something to improve our democracy, but I think challenge this very chamber to act in a responsible way.

A group of students in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, have formed their own political action committee entitled the Oak Creek High School FECA Fighters, for the Federal Election Campaign Act. They are collecting dollars and coins in a 5-gallon drum and will contribute it to presidential candidates who are supporting ways to change the way elections are financed. They do not like the law and want to see it changed.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these young students for getting involved in the democratic process, because this democracy only works as well as we make it work. It is the ultimate participatory sport, and these young people recognize that for this sport to continue, for this democracy to continue, they have to be involved. They are challenging us to reform the campaign laws. Let us follow their challenge and pass Shays-Meehan and make it law.

MARRIAGE PENALTY: TAX CODE PUNISHES TRADITIONAL, TWO-PARENT FAMILY

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the traditional two-parent family becomes increasingly rare, the Internal Revenue Service continues to punish this important institution. Studies consistently confirm what common sense already has told us: more two-parent families mean healthier children with a much greater hope at success in school, on the job, and in life.

The marriage penalty affects about 28 million working couples. They pay an average of \$1,400 in additional tax burden simply by saying "I do."

That is money that could be used to purchase a family computer, save for a child's college education, or make the car payments. Congress must address this immoral tax and strengthen the two-parent family, not punish it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Clinton to help Republicans enact significant relief from the marriage penalty this year. Republicans will not rest until the marriage penalty tax has been eliminated once and for all.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in the New Democratic Coalition in addressing the House today on the importance of fiscal responsibility. There is huge pressure on us. Pressure to adopt the huge tax cuts proposed by George W. Bush, the governor of Texas; pressure to adopt hundreds of new government programs. With today's surplus, we can afford some responsible tax cuts and we can afford some additional efforts to deal with intractable social programs.

1015

But we should remember that the economic expansion that we are in now has already done more for the poor than 100 Great Society programs and has already done more for business than every tax gismo put into the 1981 tax bill that was designed to use the Tax Code and tax cuts to incentivize business expansion.

Mr. Speaker, we need fiscal responsibility and to pay down the debt for our seniors to keep Social Security solvent; for our children, so that we do not leave them a mountain of debt. But even perhaps, more importantly, we need fiscal responsibility. We need to be paying down the national debt in order to continue this unprecedented economic expansion.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF

(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, last year this Congress passed legislation to end the unfair marriage tax penalty. Regrettably, President Clinton chose to veto it. If he had signed our legislation into law, 28 million married couples could have had up to \$1,400 in additional tax relief this year. Especially, this extra money would have meant a lot to couples just starting out together.

Instead of having the choice to invest this money for their future or use it for everyday expenses they are forced to hand this hard-earned money over to the IRS. And this tax hits average wage earners the hardest. This is unfair.

Mr. Speaker, this House is still committed to ending the tax on married people. This year we will fix the marriage tax penalty.

I urge the President to work with us this time to make it happen.

DISCRIMINATION CLAIMS AGAINST LOCKHEED MARTIN

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thought Southern good ol' boys were a dying breed. How mistaken could I have been? They must have all just been hiding in Lockheed Martin's management suites.

Now, why do I say this? Just imagine a black woman having to get a bathroom pass from her white coworkers and then one of them having to escort her to the rest room to make sure she actually tinkles in the toilet.

And if you are in need of Ku Klux Klan robes and membership cards, I know where you can find some.

Just imagine coming to work and finding a noose hanging around your tool box.

Also, seems Lockheed has found the fountain of youth. How else could they have so many 50-year-old black boys working for them? Not surprisingly, discrimination claims are being filed against Lockheed Martin all across the South from Alabama to North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, if John Rucker needs a job, I think I found the perfect place to hide him.

TOTAL U.S. DEBT

(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. Mr. Speaker, I bring this chart because I think if we do nothing else, we should be up front, very honest. We should not continue to hoodwink the American people in talking about reducing the debt of this country.

I bring this chart, the total debt of this country is \$5.72 trillion. I divide it in three segments: The Social Security debt, which is now about a trillion; the other trust fund debts are about a \$1.1 trillion; and the debt held by Wall Street or the debt held by the public is now \$3.6 trillion.

What we are doing, when we are saying everybody in Washington says we are paying down the debt, we are borrowing from Social Security; that is why the Social Security debt gets bigger.

Mr. Speaker, we are using those dollars borrowed from the Social Security trust fund to pay down the Wall Street debt, so the net total debt, subject to the debt limit, the total debt of this country that we are passing on to our kids continues to go up.

Let us be honest about it. Let us try to achieve a real balanced budget, and that means the total debt of this country does not continue to rise.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO STALL ATTEMPTS TO PASS MEASURES HELPING MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

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