

trade, or an issue of a woman's right to choose, or just her campaign to become historically the next Democratic whip here in the House of Representatives. I think we have someone who handles herself in a way that makes all of us proud.

For a Californian, for someone who is a minority, for someone who believes in progressive politics, we have a great deal of pride seeing that the next whip for the Democratic Caucus here in the House of Representatives will be the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). I wish I could claim she was from Los Angeles where I hail from and represent instead of San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in saying not just to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and Paul Pelosi, who deserves a great deal of the credit as well for supporting the gentlewoman, but to all the world, let it be known that we are very proud of the Member that we elected as the next whip in the House, and very proud to be able to display her, because what we will do now under the gentlewoman's leadership will demonstrate that we knew how to choose right. I say congratulations once again.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS).

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment, this fine opportunity to celebrate with the country the new Democratic whip, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI). I have come to know the gentlewoman over the last year serving with her in this distinguished House. She is truly a pioneer. She is a new face for California and for the United States. She gives hope and aspirations to many young people, and people who look like many of us here who now occupy seats here in this House.

She has distinguished herself for many, many years. I recall meeting the gentlewoman once at one of our State conventions in California when I was just getting involved in the Democratic Party. The gentlewoman is a true leader for women's rights and issues. I know that the gentlewoman will be shattering the glass ceiling that is here and will help to forge new, triumphant roads for women and other people who need to have their voices heard. She is a champion.

PASS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, we have an important vote in this body tomorrow, an important vote that has a major economic impact. Our Nation is in a recession. When President Bush became President, he inherited a weakening economy. In fact, his White House housewarming was essentially a

weakening economy, and it turned into a recession.

Under the President's leadership, we passed a tax cut. We decided to take 20 percent of the budget surplus that resulted from our efforts to balance the budget and take that 20 cents on the dollar, the surplus, and give it back to the American people in tax relief. That tax cut was signed into law in June. By August, economists were noting that the economy was beginning to get better, and then the tragedy of the terrorist attack on September 11 occurred, the terrorist attack that cost thousands of lives, and since September 11 has cost over a million Americans their jobs.

This House has responded, and of course we twice have passed an economic stimulus plan. I would note that on December 21 this House passed and sent to the Senate an economic stimulus plan to revive our economy. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to act. The bad news today is, and it was announced by the Senate majority leader, that the Senate was going to shelve any effort to revitalize this economy. That is bad news.

Tomorrow we have another important vote that is going to have an impact on the economy, and that is regarding a proposed tax increase which Senator KENNEDY, Senator JEFFORDS and others have begun advocating. Some have been advocating that we suspend, repeal, or delay.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois suspend.

Members are reminded to refrain from referring to Members of the other body by name, except as provided in clause 1 of Rule XX.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, some have advocated repealing, delaying, or killing the implementation of these tax cuts. That is bad news for the economy. If Members look at what is in the tax cuts that are before us today, what begins getting phased in in the tax cut, because we were unable to do it all in the same year, are some pretty important provisions.

One is our efforts to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. I think Members agree that under our Tax Code, it is unfair that married working couples pay more in taxes than two single people living together. We essentially wipe out the marriage tax penalty in the President's cut.

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We help small business by eliminating the death tax, which takes away up to 55 percent of the family business when the founder passes on. The Bush tax cut also included additional retirement savings benefits which are phased in over the next few years. And, of course, we double the child tax credit, currently \$500, raising that to \$1,000. And for those in the top two tax brackets, the 39 percent and the 28 percent, we lower those tax brackets from 39 to 35 and from 28 to 25. Those are all in

jeopardy if we go along with those who want to raise taxes by suspending those tax cuts. I have yet to find a real-world economist who tells us that it is a good idea to raise taxes during a recession.

Some of those who have advocated suspending, killing, repealing, stopping the Bush tax cuts say it is really not a tax increase because those tax cuts have not gone into effect yet; but they were the same ones who a few years ago said that if you slow down the rate of growth on Medicare, that it is a Medicare cut, so we are using the same definition. The bottom line is suspending, stalling, repealing, delaying the Bush tax cut is a tax increase.

I would note a couple of key things. The Secretary of the Treasury was before the House Committee on Ways and Means today. When asked what is the economic impact of a tax increase, of delaying, stalling, repealing or killing the Bush tax cut, he said it would be devastating to the economy. Over a million Americans have lost their jobs and more would lose their jobs with a tax increase.

I would note on the rate reductions that 17 million small business owners and entrepreneurs pay taxes under the individual income tax rates, the two top brackets that are going to be phased in. Think about it. Who is it that is going to bring about the revival of this economy? It is not the major corporations, the big guys. It is the little guys and gals, the entrepreneurs, the small businesspeople. Eighty percent of those who pay taxes under the top two brackets, the two brackets being phased in, are small businesspeople and entrepreneurs. We know they generate the most jobs. We think as Members of this House about our neighbors, if every small business on Main Street or Liberty Street in my hometown of Morris, Illinois, hired one more worker, what that would mean. And, of course, raising taxes on those small businesspeople will make it much harder to provide those jobs.

From a consumer's standpoint, if you raise taxes, you take money out of their pocket. When consumers have less money to meet the needs of their families, they are not able to spend it in our local stores, in our local businesses, buying products and services. When a consumer buys a pickup truck, there is an autoworker who makes it. When a consumer buys a PC, a personal computer or a laptop, there is a worker somewhere that produces that; and a tax increase will make it much more difficult.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity tomorrow to go on the record: Are you for continuing the tax cut, or are you for raising taxes? Tomorrow this House will have the opportunity to vote for keeping the tax cut or for raising taxes. It is a simple choice. Everyone will have the opportunity to go on the record. I urge and ask bipartisan support for preserving the tax cut and ensuring that we get this economy

moving forward again and give hundreds of thousands of Americans the opportunity to go back to work.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI ON HER ELECTION TO MINORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to tell our colleague and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) that every single day she teaches me something. In my 1992 campaign, the gentlewoman from California showed me that senior Members, important Members, actually help candidates. In fact, I learned how to run my first race by watching her first race in San Francisco. After I was elected, NANCY showed me and the rest of my class that more senior Members step aside and push junior Members forward to give them the exposure that they need and to give them the guidance that is so important in getting your feet on the ground around here.

NANCY has shown us what a real Democrat is, what it is all about, while at the same time how to get bipartisan support. That is no easy task. She has shown us how to run a whip campaign, how to win, and how to bring the caucus back together at the end of that race. Finally, now that NANCY is the whip-elect and when she takes over tomorrow, she is going to show us how to fill the position of the highest-elected office for any woman in the history of the United States, while remaining the same gracious, genteel, fair and generous person that she is. I think that is the most important lesson of all that I have learned from the gentlewoman from California. You can actually be all of that and be successful.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. OWENS. NANCY PELOSI is a national political leader and has deep practical political roots, while at the same time she maintains bright, widespread idealistic wings. I can think of no better trait for leadership than to have roots and wings. She is optimistic and idealistic, but she also is a great political strategist.

Last year she led the congressional delegation from California to victories which were greater than all the other combined Democratic Caucus members together. As a compassionate idealist, NANCY refuses to adopt a position that certain vitally needed reforms are impossible. We are proud to follow a great leader that has roots and wings, NANCY PELOSI.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, NANCY has asked us all to be brief and therefore I will be. After all, she is the whip.

NANCY, you are the greatest. Thank you for the passion you bring to your

office. Thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life for America's families and our most precious resource, our children. Thank you for all you have contributed to the Congress, for your advice and counsel to Members, old and new.

And, America, get ready. If you do not know NANCY PELOSI yet, you are going to love what you see.

Congratulations, NANCY. You make us all proud.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SANDLIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Focused, organized, hard working and goal oriented: those are words that spring to my mind when describing our new whip, NANCY PELOSI. As will no doubt be mentioned many times tonight, NANCY PELOSI's election is historic and an indication of positive change to come. NANCY's leadership will complement our current leadership. She will bring a new energy, a new vision to our caucus and to our country. Her leadership may be to the same destination, but I suspect that she will have a few new road maps for us to follow.

I am proud of our caucus, particularly the men of our caucus, that we were able to be a part of breaking the glass ceiling for women in leadership. And make no mistake about it, that glass ceiling is shattered forever.

This is important to men and women all across the country, and it is important to me personally. I am the father of four children, two boys and two girls. I want to make sure that my daughters have the same hope, the same opportunity, the same vision as my sons. NANCY PELOSI will guarantee that. We all congratulate NANCY PELOSI; and I say thank you for including us all at the table, from left to right, region to region, persuasion to persuasion, but most of all thank you for your years of hard work, your dedication and your preparation in earning this leadership position.

The country will be better for the leadership of NANCY PELOSI.

STAY THE COURSE ON TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, when Congress makes a commitment to give Americans tax relief, it should honor that commitment. To put it plainly, Americans should get the tax cuts that they have been promised. Americans should have the tax relief that they desperately need.

Passage of President Bush's tax cut late last year was a historic bipartisan achievement. Only three times since World War II have we had an across-the-board tax cut: President Kennedy's tax cut in the 1960s, President Reagan's tax cut in the 1980s, and now President George W. Bush's tax cut. But now some want to break the agreement.

Some argue that we should repeal or delay the tax cuts. The gentleman from Illinois who addressed the House a few minutes ago and I believe that this is a debate worthy of having. If Members of Congress truly believe we should raise taxes, our resolution gives them an opportunity to record their votes in favor of a tax increase. Our resolution states, the tax cuts should not be repealed or delayed. If they want to raise taxes, they need to vote against the resolution offered by the gentleman from Illinois and me. Every American deserves to know where their Representative and Senators stand on this important issue.

Some in Congress, Mr. Speaker, lately have tried to maneuver and scheme for political advantage by blaming the President's tax relief package for the deficit and recession. They are not telling the truth. These tax supporters try to sell the myth that we must increase taxes just 6 months after we promised Americans they would start receiving their rebate income tax checks in the mail. The ink on the new tax relief package has barely dried. Now they want to repeal it or, as they say, delay or postpone it. They said the same thing about the economic stimulus package: let's take a long look. Let's delay it a week. Let's postpone it a month. Today they killed it, which really killed the chances that many of my constituents and their companies have to rebound from this recession.

As the chart I prepared shows, economic conditions account for 72 percent of projected 2002 deficits. Spending accounts for 16 percent. Tax relief only contributed 12 percent. Yet there is a growing cry to delay or postpone, we know in Washington that means kill, the tax cuts.

We have got to revitalize our economy. Tax cuts spur economic growth and create jobs. The bottom line for President Bush and this Congress ought to be jobs, preserving jobs and creating good jobs. Senate inaction on the economic stimulus plan cost us 800,000 jobs. The House passed a stimulus many months ago; but it is not only stuck in the Senate, it is dead in the Senate today. Now these same obstructionists want to repeal the tax cuts we have passed last year.

Our resolution reaffirms that promise to the American people. It reaffirms the tax relief. It reaffirms the tax cuts. We cut taxes because it is the right thing to do, it is the fair thing to do, it is the compassionate thing to do for families struggling from paycheck to paycheck.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Illinois has so adequately said, our choice is simple. Do we leave the money in the pockets of the American workers and families, or do we bring it up here and spend it as we see fit?