

someone gets married, they file their taxes jointly which pushes them into a higher tax bracket. We fixed that in the Bush tax cut. Let us make marriage tax elimination permanent.

My hope is before the end of this year that our friends in the other body as well as our friends on the other side of the aisle will work with us to help couples like Jose and Magdalena Castillo.

PROVIDING A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor today to talk about prescription drugs, how little this Congress is doing to provide a prescription drug benefit and how this body is doing even less to control the cost of prescription drugs, but I feel compelled to comment on the previous speaker's comments.

It is always nice to put a nice-looking family's picture in front of TV viewers and in front of this Congress and this Chamber and in front of the gallery to show how we care about people in this country, but the picture that he should have put in front of the voters, in front of the viewer, in front of this body is a picture of Ken Lay of Enron which got literally hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks as a result of the Bush administration's fervor for cutting taxes overwhelmingly for the rich and his fervor for protecting every corporate interest in the country and his fervor for giving tax giveaways, tax breaks to all of the biggest corporations in the country.

Six months ago this Congress gave \$5 billion to the airlines in tax breaks, and in this case, in airlines, simply subsidies and in terms of just dollars from the Federal Treasury, but did nothing for laid-off workers. Similarly, the Bush tax program that my friend from Illinois just mentioned as he put the picture of a nice working-class family, that tax benefit goes overwhelmingly to the richest people in this country.

Last year 100 million people, he said, in America benefitted from the tax cut. That may be true. People got a check for \$300, but 43 percent of all the tax benefits from the Bush tax cut goes to the 1 percent richest people in this country. Eighty percent of the benefits go to the 10 percent wealthiest people in this country.

What does that say? It says that Congress last year and last week, as it did it again, made a choice. They made a choice. Do we give tax cuts to Ken Lay and Enron and United Airlines and the biggest corporations and the richest individuals in this country, or do we provide a prescription drug benefit to 15 million senior citizens who have no drug coverage? We made a choice. The

Republicans in this body last week and last year made a choice. Do we cut taxes on the richest people in the country, on the largest corporations in the country and a few dollars from the rest of us, or do we pass legislation that provides money for education?

On issue after issue after issue, this Congress made the choice. It sides with corporate interests, on the chemical company on arsenic legislation. It sides with the insurance companies on privatizing Medicare. It sides with Wall Street in privatizing Social Security. It sides with the oil industry in writing environmental policy. It sides with Enron when writing energy policy. That is a choice. The choice is do we do what is right for the great majority of Americans or do we take the side of the wealthiest or the biggest corporations and the wealthiest individuals?

That picture, notwithstanding that my friend from Illinois put up, the fact is that that family may have gotten a little bit of money back in tax cuts, but that family will not be eligible for a prescription drug benefit because Congress, as they get older, because Congress will not do anything about prescription drugs because the money is not there. I repeat, Congress made the choice last week and made the choice last year, do my colleagues want a prescription drug benefit for the elderly or do they want to give tax cuts to the richest people in the country and the largest corporations in the country? Do they want to fully fund the education programs in this country that Congress says it wants to fund or do they want to give those tax breaks again to the wealthiest people? Do they fund our Medicare system which cuts payments for home healthcare, which cuts doctors' fees too much, which cuts hospitals, especially city hospitals in intercity and rural hospitals, or do they want to fund them properly or do they want to give away tax breaks to the richest citizens?

That is the choice we make here every day. That is the difference between Republicans and Democrats. Do we move forward and provide prescription drug benefits, provide for education, provide for Head Start, provide for food safety inspections, provide for strong environmental laws, or do we do the bidding of corporate America on issue after issue after issue? Give them the big tax breaks, weaken environmental laws, weaken food safety laws, weaken laws that protect the American public?

That is the choice we make. That is the choice that Congress made that was wrong in the last year and that the President and the administration has made. That is wrong. That is why we need to correct it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Preserved in Your grace, O Lord, at times we may seem at a standstill. But momentary inactivity may mean a fermenting of resolve.

Lord, grant to the Members of the House of Representatives a patience to listen to deepest convictions buried within the heart and their delegation. Inspire a practical wisdom that is wrapped in the art of timing.

Help all of Your people of this great Nation grow in perseverance. Deliver them from headline success, pollster popularity, and personal insecurity. Strengthened by faith in You, may quiet and stronger commitments prevail and produce enlightened options born of creative repression. Let yesterday's setbacks and compromise only store up energy for tomorrow's leap forward.

By taking one step at a time, may every American persevere in pursuing higher goals than those found in immediate satisfaction. May we prove faithful in seeking Your plan for us before reaction to every circumstance, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COBLE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TRIBUTE TO THADDEUS STEVENS

(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, on this day 136 years ago, one of the predecessors from my congressional district, a man named Thaddeus Stevens, stood in this Chamber and introduced the 14th

amendment to the Constitution. The Civil War was over, but African Americans still were not guaranteed the rights of citizens. The 13th amendment had banned slavery, but many States were still refusing basic rights to black people.

In 1868, Thaddeus Stevens of Lancaster, Pennsylvania introduced the 14th amendment to fix that. His amendment guaranteed that all persons born in the United States were citizens, not just of this country, but also of the State where they lived. Thaddeus Stevens fought hard for the 14th amendment.

However, the 14th amendment was not enough for him. He wanted full equality among the races, but that was too much for his contemporaries. Disappointed, Stevens said that he would "Take all I can get in the cause of humanity and leave it to be perfected by better men in better times."

Stevens died soon afterwards and was buried in the only cemetery in Lancaster that did not discriminate. His tombstone reads this way: "I repose in this quiet and secluded spot, that I might illustrate in my death the principles which I advocated through a long life: equality of man before his Creator."

Mr. Speaker, Thaddeus Stevens was a great man indeed.

THE GIRL SCOUTS ARE A FIRST CLASS ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, when the Girl Scouts came to call on me for their annual visit to give me Girl Scout cookies, I said to them, I never hear from you all except at cookie time. They said, well, why not talk about us from time to time. So today I am going to talk about the Girl Scouts, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls, all girls where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, they build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all of their lives, like leadership, strong values, social conscience and conviction about their own potential and self-worth. Today, there are 3.7 million Girl Scouts, 2.7 million girl members, and 915 adult members.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to continue to purchase and consume Girl Scout cookies, but let us promote them year-round. The Girl Scouts are, indeed, a first-class organization.

TAINTED WATER SUPPLY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, on such a beautiful sunny day here in the Nation's Capitol, do we not think it might be refreshing to once in a while have a drink from a glass of cool refreshing water? Would we trust that water if it was from a well in southern Nevada 20 years from now?

Well, Mr. Speaker, are my colleagues aware that Yucca Mountain, Nevada, the space designated for the world's high-level nuclear waste dump, sits on a water reservoir? And are my colleagues aware that the Department of Energy has admitted that the rate of water infiltration into Yucca Mountain is 100 times higher than that which the Federal Government originally intended for the site? And did my colleagues know that even the smallest earthquake at Yucca Mountain could jar the repository, could break the casks that hold this high-level nuclear waste? If my colleagues knew that this glass of water may contain radioactive nuclides from spent fuel, they would not drink it.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Nevadans will not either. Storing spent fuel at Yucca Mountain, Nevada is a dangerous endeavor and needs to be stopped, for Nevada and for every American.

NATO EXPANSION SHOULD INCLUDE ROMANIA

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for Romania's membership into NATO. I was warmly welcomed to Cluj-Napoca, the sister city of Columbia, South Carolina, and I have seen firsthand as the roots of democracy flourish in Romania.

A recent article in The Washington Post cited the successful reform efforts of Romania, as well as the cooperation that Romania has offered to America to fight the war on terrorism. Romania has unconditionally opened its airspace to its allies with 20 NATO military flights daily. Its brave young men and women serve as peacekeepers in Kabul, and the Romanian government has offered a specialized mountain unit for service in the rugged terrain in Afghanistan.

I commend the efforts of Ambassador Sorin Ducaru, Foreign Minister Mircea Geoana, and Deputy Chief of Mission Stelian Stoian for their continuing important reforms and for joining the war on terrorism. Romania is proving itself as a trustworthy ally and should be granted membership to NATO with its neighbor, Bulgaria.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the reauthorization of TANF, let us be mindful of the fact that 75 percent of all new jobs are created in suburban communities, outside large inner cities. If we are to be successful with moving people from welfare to work, then we must make sure that there is adequate money, resources for transportation, so that the people can get from where there are virtually no jobs to where the jobs are.

Mr. Speaker, let us make sure that transportation is a part of TANF reauthorization so that people can get from welfare to where the jobs are.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

NOTIFICATION AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTIDISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 169) to require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws; to require that each Federal agency post quarterly on its public Web site, certain statistical data relating to Federal sector equal employment opportunity complaints filed with such agency; and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate Amendments:

Page 2, line 6, strike out "2001" and insert "2002".

Page 2, in the table of contents, strike out "TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS"

"Sec. 101. Findings."

"Sec. 102 Definitions."

"Sec. 103 Effective date."

and insert

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Findings.

Sec. 102. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 103. Definitions.

Sec. 104. Effective date.

Page 2, in the table of contents, strike out "Sec. 206 Study by the General Accounting Office regarding exhaustion of administrative remedies."

and insert

"Sec. 206. Studies by General Accounting Office on exhaustion of remedies and certain Department of Justice costs."