

what the committee reported to the House floor is flawed, misguided and will harm our American economy now and for generations to come.

I agree with Ways and Means Committee Chairman THOMAS's assertion during the committee's consideration of the tax bill that, "Congress must take bold steps to spur economic expansion, create more jobs for workers, better opportunities for families and bigger paychecks for all Americans." I agree with that. But, I strongly disagree with the ways and means by which he intends to accomplish these goals.

Mr. THOMAS's bill focuses tax relief on the wealthiest 1 percent of the population by providing tax cuts mainly on stock dividends and capital gains. Many economists have rated this proposal as very ineffective in stimulating the economy. It would be more appropriate to provide an immediate increase in the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief and the expansion of the 10-percent tax bracket.

With deficits soaring, the last thing our government should be doing is proposing major tax cuts that do not spur economic growth. Our government would be borrowing to finance the revenue losses associated with the tax cuts for years to come. Furthermore, Chairman THOMAS's proposal fails to include support for state and local governments. It crowds out Federal investment in education, training, infrastructure, and research and development to pay for their tax cuts for the wealthy.

Next year, the GOP tax plan gives tax cuts totaling approximately \$44 billion to those making over \$374,000 a year, while their budget provides \$9.7 billion less than the amount promised in the No Child Left Behind Act for educating our children.

The Thomas plan also allows the extended unemployment benefits program to expire May 31, 2003, leading to millions of families being denied needed unemployment insurance.

Not only would extending benefits help the families of nearly 5 million out-of-work Americans pay their bills, it would also efficiently jumpstart the economy by putting money into the pockets of consumers who will spend it.

I urge my colleagues to defeat this plan when it comes to the floor of the House.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### REPUBLICANS' JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with several of my colleagues in support of the Republicans' jobs and growth package, H.R. 2, which we are scheduled to vote on tomorrow; and in fact, this vote is so important, I am really going to be missing a very significant event in South Carolina.

We are very proud that President George W. Bush is going to be commencement speaker tomorrow at the

University of South Carolina for graduation. I am just so proud of our president there, President Sorenson, what he has done for our institution, the trustees, Mack Whittle, Miles Loaholt, Mark Buyck, Eddie Floyd. They are working so hard to make the University of South Carolina, my alma mater from law school, one of the best universities in the United States; and certainly having our President there tomorrow, I am just so proud, and I know that my wife, Roxanne, will be right on the front row with our sons Julian and Hunter and Alan to encourage the President.

Our economy is hurting and it needs an immediate boost. House Republicans believe the best way to get the economy back on track is to allow Americans to keep more of their own money, and I heard a few minutes ago that indeed it was not the public's money, it was not the people's money; but I know so well that, indeed, it is the people's money, and that is the first fact that we should address; and I appreciate good people like Jerry Bell of the Lexington County Chronicle making that point almost every week in his publication.

This will give the economy an immediate shot in the arm by accelerating tax relief from the marriage penalty, increasing the child tax credit and providing working families with more of their hard-earned dollars through accelerated income tax relief.

Furthermore, with sizeable, long-term tax relief on capital, businesses will receive investment incentives that will help create more jobs. This Republican plan is estimated to create 1.2 million jobs by the end of 2004 alone and will create many more in the years to come.

On the other side of the aisle, House Democrats are talking about a government growth package. It busts a \$30 billion hole in the budget, guts the Republican child tax credit increases, and it weakens job growth by watering down Republican tax relief for small businesses. Once again, the Democrats' answer to every problem, raise taxes and spend more.

Americans are already overtaxed. Americans for Tax Reform, an invaluable nonprofit group headed by the visionary Grover Norquist, has tracked the tax burden in a way that puts it in proper perspective. Each year, Americans for Tax Reform determines the cost to government date which is the average date at which every American worker has earned enough to pay his or her share of taxes imposed by Federal, State and local governments. The cost to government date 2002 was July 1, representing the largest tax burden since 1996.

Today, we are working a full 6 months just to give Uncle Sam his yearly check before we can even begin to earn enough to pay for food, health care, medicine, housing, clothing, college tuition, car payments and all the other needs that we have to provide for our families.

My friend and former Congressman, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), put it best when he said, "Americans are taxed when we turn on a light. We are taxed when we use the phone. We are taxed when we eat lunch. We are taxed when we do brunch. Moms are taxed at the gas pump when they fill the tank to drive the kids home from a little league game. Dads are taxed when they try to save a few bucks for retirement in order to provide for their families, and Grandma and Grandpa are taxed for having the audacity to die."

Ronald Reagan was even more blunt and always correct when he described the government's economic policy this way, "If it moves, tax it."

President George W. Bush understands that Americans are overtaxed. President Bush also understands that the only way to increase jobs in America is to allow individuals and small businesses to keep more of their own money to invest in our economy.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, has crafted a very wise and sensible bill that takes the best solutions of President Bush's proposals, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill tomorrow.

Americans have given Republicans a tremendous opportunity to lead on issues that affect every working family. We must not squander this moment and work to bring them real tax relief. Let us hold true to the commission given by President Ronald Reagan.

We need true tax reform that will at least make a start toward restoring for our children the American Dream, that wealth is denied to no one, that each individual has the right to fly as high as his strength and ability will take him.

At this time, I will be yielding to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES). He is a very respected member on the Committee on Armed Services. He also serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Agriculture; and I know firsthand the respect that his constituents have for him.

Last year, I went with my sons Julian and Hunter door to door in his hometown of Concord, North Carolina; and that is where one really finds out what people think of their local Congressman, and I found out that he was a person who was well thought of. He was highly respected and my colleagues will see tonight what a knowledgeable and fine person the Congressman from North Carolina is.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), for yielding time; and if I may, I would like my colleague to yield just a few moments of time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), who has a very important issue that he wants to raise before we continue to discuss the important issue of how can we in the U.S. Congress

allow our folks back home to keep more of their own money.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### SUICIDE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding to me.

These issues about creating jobs and dealing with the economy are extremely important to families. I would just like to take a couple of moments to talk about another important issue to families.

Later on the floor this evening, one of our other colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), will also be speaking; and she and I have been working together to establish a Mental Health Caucus in the U.S. Congress, and I am proud to co-chair that caucus with her.

The goal of the Mental Health Caucus is to raise awareness both in Congress and among the public of the importance of mental health; and it is fitting that this week we speak because it is Suicide Awareness Week, and it is really the first issue that this caucus is taking up on speaking on the floor.

Every 18 minutes someone in this country takes their own life, and suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States and third leading cause of death among 15- to 24-year-olds. The American Society of Suicidology found that 4 to 8 percent of adolescents attempted suicide within the last 12 months, and data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that half a million teens attempt suicide each year.

In 2000, suicide attempts outnumbered homicides by five to three. In that same year, in my home State of Pennsylvania, 1,356 people took their own lives. As a psychologist, a husband and a father, I find these numbers disturbing, as does everybody else who works in this Chamber.

Everyone knows someone who has been depressed in any given year. In fact, about one out of every 10 adults in this country suffers from some form of depression. Every family knows someone who has suffered from this. For those suffering from severe depression, without treatment, nearly one in six will commit suicide.

The good news is that suicide can be prevented if one recognizes the signs. People commit suicide when they are overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness and are unable to see alternative solutions to problems. Suicidal behavior is often linked to depression or drug or alcohol abuse. These are not the worried well, but these are people whose life circumstances are overwhelming or they have a physiologically based depression or mental illness that leaves them feeling that the only way to end their pain is to end their life.

Those who have suffered the loss of a loved one from suicide know the pain

does not end with death. The family members and friends will feel the loss, perhaps triggering their own life struggle to come to terms.

When someone tells you they are thinking of suicide, it is very important that everyone take them seriously and get them professional and medical help. In fact, if someone has reason to believe that, they should call 911 or the national suicide hotline which is 1-800-SUICIDE.

I would like to mention other dangers include talks of hopelessness, helplessness, worthlessness, preoccupation with death, loss of interest in things that a person cares about or giving away valued objects as if preparing to say good-bye.

In sum, danger signs may also take the form of engaging in risky or dangerous behavior, like teens who take too many chances with fast cars or drugs or alcohol.

I would like to highlight for just a moment here some of the things happening in my home State. Since the 1980s, Pennsylvania has made a strong effort towards preventing suicide in youth. The Commonwealth Student Assistance Program was created in 1985; and core teams in each secondary school consist of teachers, principals, school counselors, school nurses, psychologists and social workers from this program called SAP; and they work with identifying students and helping them.

They also have Service for Teens at Risk, otherwise known as STAR, to address problems of teen suicide and violence. They serve children in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

I would like to make one other note here, too, that although I focused on suicide among our youth, a common misperception is that suicide rates are highest among the young. However, it is the elderly, particularly elder white males, with the highest rates. White men, 85 and older, have suicide rates of six times that of the overall national rate.

If we are going to address the problems of suicide, everyone needs to recognize the warning signs. Parents need to talk to their children. Adults and others need to talk to their parents.

This brings us to the underlying important issue of mental health care. Without question, having major depression increases the risk for suicide, and anyone suffering from depression in this country must recognize that depression is a treatable disorder; and we in Congress can do more to improve access to mental health care.

I know that others will be talking about this later tonight, and I appreciate the gentleman yielding on this during this important time when we are speaking about families on many levels. It is important to know we do care about the family on every level, what happens to them mentally and emotionally, socially, economically. All these things are the business of Congress, and they are the business of

government; and, again, I thank the gentleman for the time.

At this point, I will insert for the RECORD my full statement.

I join my colleagues on the floor tonight to call attention to a health care epidemic that claims the lives of three-quarters of a million Americans a year: suicide. This is "Suicide Awareness Week," and it's an important reminder why it's so important for parents, educators, and children to learn the signs of depression and suicide.

I'd like to first take a moment to thank my colleague, Mrs. NAPOLITANO of California, for her hard work in establishing the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, and I'm proud to be co-chair of that Caucus with her. The goal of the Mental Health Caucus is to raise awareness, both in Congress and among the public, of the importance of mental health.

It is fitting that suicide awareness is the first issue that the Caucus takes up by speaking on the Floor today. Every 18 minutes, someone in this country takes their own life. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, and the 3rd leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds. The American Society of Suicidology found that 4 to 8 percent of adolescents attempted suicide within the last twelve months. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that a half-million teens attempt suicide each year. In 2000, suicide deaths outnumbered homicides by 5 to 3, and that same year in my home state of Pennsylvania, 1,356 people took their own lives. As a psychologist, a husband, a father, I find these numbers deeply disturbing. Everyone in this Chamber knows someone who had been depressed—in any given year, about 1 out of every 10 adults in this country suffer from some form of depression. For those suffering from severe depression, without treatment nearly one in six will commit suicide.

The good news is that suicide can be prevented if you recognize the signs. People commit suicide when they are overwhelmed with a sense of hopelessness and unable to see alternative solutions to problems. Suicidal behavior is often linked to depression or drug and alcohol abuse. These are not the "worried well," but a person whose life's circumstances of physiologically-based depression or mental illness leaves them feeling that the only way to end their pain is to end their life. Those who have suffered the loss of a loved one from suicide know that the pain does not end with death. Family members and friends will feel the loss—perhaps triggering their own lifelong struggle to come to terms with the loss.

If someone tells you they are thinking about suicide, you should take them seriously and get them professional medical help immediately. If you have any reason to believe that someone is in imminent danger of harming him or herself, call 911 or the national suicide hotline, 1-800-SUICIDE. Other danger signs include talking about hopelessness, helplessness, or worthlessness; preoccupation with death, loss of interest in things that a person cares about, or giving away valued objects as if preparing to "say goodbye." In some, danger signs may also take the form of engaging in risky or dangerous behavior.

I'd like to take a few minutes to highlight some of the efforts my home State, Pennsylvania, has undertaken. Since the 1980's, Pennsylvania has made strong efforts toward

preventing youth suicide. The Commonwealth Student Assistance Program (SAP) was created in 1985 and operates in all 501 school districts. Every secondary school building is required to have a student assistance program. Core teams in each secondary school, consisting of teachers, principals, school counselors, school nurses, psychologists, social workers, and community liaisons from mental health and drug and alcohol agencies assist in identifying students at risk for suicide or other behavioral health problems.

I am also proud of the accomplishments of the Services for Teens at Risk, commonly abbreviated as STAR-Center, in addressing problems related to youth suicide, depression, and violence. STAR-Center began in Pittsburgh in 1986, and is affiliated with the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. The Center's clinic serves patients in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and since 1996 has treated over 6,400 children and adolescents at risk for suicide. Through its outreach program STAR-Center goes into communities throughout Pennsylvania to address suicide, depression, and other mental health issues our teens may face. And when a suicide or other tragedy does occur, STAR-Center staff consults with educators on how to provide postvention services. This is particularly important given the traumatic impact the death of a fellow student can have on his or her peers. The center also publishes STAR-Center Link, a newsletter featuring best practices on mental health treatment and violence prevention, and its "Survivors of Suicide" program is nationally recognized. I'd personally like to thank the staff of STAR-Center for their dedication to our youth.

Although I've focused a lot on suicide among our youth, one common misperception is that suicide rates are highest among the young. However, it is the elderly, particularly older white males, who have the highest rates. White men 85 and older have suicide rate that is six times that of the overall national rate. If we are going to address the problem of suicide, everyone needs to learn to recognize the warning signs, parents need to talk to their children, and adult children need to talk to their parents.

This brings us to the important underlying issue, mental health care. Without question, having major depression increases the risk for suicide. Anyone suffering from depression in this country must recognize that depression is a treatable disorder. And we here in Congress can do more to improve access to mental health care. Legislation has been introduced in the House to provide for Mental Health Parity, H.R. 953. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation, and I hope my colleagues will support this bill as well.

#### JOB AND GROWTH PACKAGE

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing to our attention a vitally important part of our attempt to do everything we can for families in America, to strengthen those families and to provide them with the wherewithal they need to support this great country.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Colonel WILSON) did spend time in my district. The gentleman's district and mine are very similar. We have some large cities, Columbia and Charlotte, Fayetteville; but we also have a tremendous amount of rural America that

we represent in our districts, and as the gentleman and I spend time listening to our constituents, the themes are clear and consistent. National security and economic security through good jobs are the two issues that are on people's minds.

I continue to refer to the gentleman as our colonel because our Armed Forces have distinguished themselves in ways heretofore never known. We are talking about the economy and jobs tonight, not only because it is so vitally important, but because we are in the midst of a period of trial in America, the likes of which we have never seen.

September 11, 2001, no one ever thought that would happen. The terror, the horror of that still sticks with us, our people, our families, and, yes, our economy. We are fighting a war on terrorism very successfully, and that is a most appropriate use of the money that our constituents work so hard to earn. That is a big issue as we discuss what tomorrow will be, a jobs creation, economic stimulus package.

It is not a complicated matter. Whose money are we here discussing tonight? Are we discussing the government's money? I do not think so. The last time I checked, the government had no money except that money which was sent to us by our people back home.

That being true, then the question very simply is, Whom do the people trust to spend that money most wisely? In my case, we do not talk in my district, and I am sure it is the same in my colleague's, that much about Democrats and Republicans, because obviously both constituencies are vitally important; and the Democrats in my district are very conservative. They care about their families. They care about education. They care about jobs.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, as I and other Members of Congress empower and enable our people at home to keep more of their money to spend on their education, their needs, then that money goes straight into the economy because there is not only a need for services and goods, there is the financial ability to buy those goods and services.

Here we have a chart. This is the essence of our discussion tonight, creating new jobs. How do we do it? Fulfilling America's promise of a bright financial future for us, but more especially for future generations. I have a new granddaughter, 3 weeks last Monday night. Members can rest assured, I am concerned about future generations.

The package that we are considering and will pass tomorrow creates over a million new jobs. A million new jobs or zero. What is the choice?

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman bringing up the point about jobs.

Joining us in this discussion is the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

MURPHY). I am very proud that he is a member of the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Government Reform. Additionally he serves on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. He is a freshman, but as a freshman he has been the most recent of being truly in a tough campaign and finding out what the people think. I look forward to joining the Mental Health Caucus along with the gentleman. I am proud that the gentleman has taken that lead, and I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, when I came to this town I found it to be very different. Back in Pennsylvania, it is not always one of those things that has such partisan disagreements as Republicans or Democrats or Independents. It is a matter of talking with people and finding out what is important to them. In that I would just like to relate a couple things. Whether it is rural communities in Washington County, Pennsylvania, or towns that are struggling along in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, but Americans are concerned about basic things for their family. I hear them say they want some of their tax money back. Some of the issues that are going to be discussed in upcoming votes about increasing the child credit to a thousand dollars, to eliminate the marriage penalty, are so important to families so they can have money for rent, mortgages, and groceries. It is important because they know what their families need.

Here we are battling within the Beltway, and most Americans do not care about Republicans or Democrats. They care about doing the right thing for their family. When they go to bed at night and when they wake up in the morning, that is what they are concerned about. Whether they have decent jobs is a big part of that. Some of the things that are so important are in this job package.

They included aspects which will help small business. Having owned a small business for a few years, I know how important those aspects are. Again, many Americans may not appreciate such concepts as depreciation or small business expensing, but when you are a small business owner and you are taking the money that is really your family's money and investing it to create jobs for other employees, whether it is buying equipment, whether it is a computer or desk or building new office space, that is money that the family cannot use. They are making an investment, and when government says we would like you to take some of that money to create jobs, it means a tremendous amount to families to do that.

I hope we can lay down the arms of battle and pick up the arms that embrace jobs, and do what is right for families. I believe many of these things here, again when we go back to the streets and the farms of America and ask them what they think, they like

these ideas of creating new jobs and bringing some of that money back home so they can do what is best for their families.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his input. For a person who is leading a young family, the gentleman is making a difference trying to protect them for the future.

As we discuss H.R. 2 tomorrow, the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003, we are going to hear a lot of scare tactics and misinformation, but I would like to go over what the different points are of the act because I believe the American people will understand that this is beneficial again in creating jobs, creating opportunities for our young people, for persons of all ages to have a better life. I am so pleased that we have an opportunity to discuss it tonight, and then tomorrow to vote on it.

The first point about the acceleration of the 2001 tax relief for individuals, the President achieved an historic cut in taxes, and this is being accelerated.

The first point about the child credit, this will increase the child credit to \$1,000 for 2003, 2004, and 2005. I am so aware of the costs, having raised 4 children myself, along with my wife Roxanne, and I know how helpful this is going to be to young families as they are able to care for their children and give them the opportunities they want.

The 10 percent bracket, this will accelerate the expansion of the 10 percent bracket for 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Marriage penalty relief, this accelerates the expansion of the 15 percent bracket and the increase in the standard deduction for married persons filing joint returns, again in the years 2003, for immediate relief, 2004 and 2005.

Individual rate cuts, this accelerates the 2006 individual rate cut scheduled for 2003 retroactively. That means that immediately the people of the United States will receive benefits, and families could receive a benefit on average of \$1,048. This is real money to families, and so helpful to raising children and meeting the needs that we have of car payments, mortgage payments, and medical bills.

The increase in the individual alternative minimum tax, the exemption amount, this will be increased by \$7,500 for single persons and \$15,000 for joint filers in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

To help create the jobs, the business investment incentives that are in the bill which will be voted on tomorrow, first is bonus depreciation. This will increase the bonus depreciation from 30 to 50 percent and extend it through December 31, 2005. This will encourage businesses to buy equipment to increase manufacturing which creates jobs. I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), who helped lead the effort to provide for the bonus depreciation increase so that small businesses could grow.

Then we have small business expensing for 2003 through 2007. That is an in-

crease in the amount small businesses can expense. That would be immediately to from \$25,000 to \$100,000. It increases the definition of small business from \$200,000 for capital purchases to \$400,000, and the provisions are indexed for inflation.

We all know that the backbone of business in America are small businesses. They provide in my State 85 percent of the employment. They are 99 percent of the businesses. So this is something I really am so pleased to have the support of the National Federation of Independent Businesses. We have excellent groups like NFIB which are letting Americans know how beneficial this will be.

There is another business investment incentive and that is the net operating loss carryback which will extend the net operating loss carryback for 3 years, 2003 to 2005, and holds taxpayers harmless for the alternative minimum tax.

Finally, another provision which will be voted on tomorrow is the dividend and capital gain tax reduction. This will reduce the tax rate on dividends and capital gains to 5 percent to taxpayers in the lowest tax bracket, and to 15 percent to all other taxpayers.

I had an opportunity yesterday to meet Rick Wagner, who is the CEO of General Motors. In his presentation he indicated that there would be an increase in the value of the stock market of between 6 to 15 percent. This is hundreds of millions of dollars, billions of dollars which will benefit the American public.

In fact, the dividend reductions in taxes, a majority of that are for the senior citizens of the United States. So I am so pleased that Mr. Wagner, who is building a home in Daufuskie Island in South Carolina, we welcome somebody who has been such an aggressive promoter of reducing taxes on the American people and to increase the value of the stock market, to increase and give incentives for more investment, more jobs for the American people.

Those are the facts that are very clear. I know and I apologize if it sounded like I was an accountant, and I love accountants, but the American people need to know the facts. They will hear other information. The bottom line is this is beneficial to the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I might ask a series of questions, and ask that the chart with the tax breakdown be put up on the easel. The gentleman did a wonderful job of outlining the specific areas in which money would be created and put into the economy. The gentleman indicated all of the different pluses of this stimulus package.

I think it would be instructive at this point in time to see where that money comes from. If you would point to the bottom figure, the top 50 percent pays 96.09 percent of the tax bill. So if we

are going to give people more of their own money back, we have to go where that money is in order to supply a stimulus, that fuel for the economic engine that creates jobs and creates revenue to drive this wonderful country forward. So I think it is very instructive for people to look at that as we continue this discussion.

Earlier our colleagues on the other side of the aisle I think made just a little difference in the way you and I would look at things. Trying to phrase this kindly, we talk about deficits. You and I and the people in Columbia and Concord hate deficits. They and you and I have to balance our checkbook every month. We cannot spend more than we have or serious problems occur. That is not a serious question. That needs to stay on the table. Everybody agrees on that.

The question becomes how do we create the revenue so this Federal Government can provide for the national defense of our young men and women who have done so well, and provide for the interstate highway system. There is the answer, we have to go where the money is. But our friends and folks at home would be interested to know that these new budget hawks, these new deficit reduction folks, and I am glad to see their new interest, there was a total a couple of weeks ago that was run up, a total of the amendments that they added to the budget bill. I have not seen it published, but the total of their additions, the folks that want to cut the deficit so and are so alarmed by the deficit, which we all hate, added over \$1.6 trillion to that budget.

I trust the people at home. I trust them to see through the subterfuge. We talk about stimulating the economy and creating jobs. It is our people using their common sense to solve problems to create jobs and to grow that economy.

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Do not fall for the tax and spend. They have never seen a tax hike that they did not like here.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. It is so obvious by the tax breakdown that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) brought out and the points he brought out that we need to be promoting, as the President is doing, the jobs and economic growth plan. I want to quote the President's speech in Little Rock this week. He has clearly indicated that by growing the economy, that is how you reduce the deficit, not by spending more money, as the gentleman correctly indicated the other side is truly proposing, but to grow the economy. His direct quote was, "In order to offset any deficit, you've got to have more revenues. The best way to have more revenues is to encourage economic growth. The more economic growth there is, the more people are working, the more likely it is that you're going to get more revenues into the Treasury of the United States, and also to the individual States. I'm concerned about the deficit but I'm first

and foremost concerned about that person looking for a job." That is what President Bush said this week in Little Rock, Arkansas. I am so proud that he has correctly identified what the gentleman just identified.

Mr. HAYES. If the gentleman will yield further, earlier tonight we heard our colleagues talk about sending more money back to the States. My first question to the gentleman from South Carolina is, are the States better off if they are allowed to keep their own money and spend it there or are they better off sending it to Washington, us taking part of it and then sending the remains back? What do the people back home tell the gentleman? I bet I know the answer.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I had the great privilege of serving the people of South Carolina for 17 years in the State senate. In fact, the State budget is being debated probably as we speak tonight. I know that instead of just sending money back to the States, we have already had a revenue-sharing experience that did not work and so that is simply spending more money. What we need to do is what the President has proposed and, that is, create new jobs, create new opportunities for people to have incomes.

I know that in South Carolina, we are very proud about the expansion of Michelin Tire Corporation in Lexington, South Carolina. There are three plants there producing wonderful jobs and wonderful tires for the people of America. We have worked hard in our State to attract foreign economic investment. We are very proud that in Spartanburg in the community of Greer that we have the BMW facility. All Z-3s in the world are made there, the X-5s. Every time I have had the opportunity to travel, I have been very proud to know that we have had the economic expansion of BMW in our State providing jobs. That is what we are trying to do in the bill tomorrow with H.R. 2, and, that is, to encourage economic investment in the United States, to provide jobs and to give families the ability to spend their own money.

Mr. HAYES. I would like to ask the gentleman one more question. Another thing we heard earlier was that we are not helping the States. That is simply not true. Before the gentleman answers my question, let me make one more point. They talk about States who are cutting teachers and education, who are cutting prosecutors, who are cutting prison guards. My State is not cutting those vital services. They have choices to make. I do not want to send money back to States that are making those kinds of decisions. I do not think that is happening. But the gentleman has a chart before him that gives a good illustration of how we in Washington are working to help our States. Would the gentleman describe that to our listeners at home, please?

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. This does indicate that under unemploy-

ment insurance, that the States have received \$8 billion. This is from Federal funding. In 2002, only \$2 billion of that was actually used. There was a surplus apparently of \$6 billion. The bottom line is by creating jobs, what we are doing in the plan that we will be voting for tomorrow, we are providing for additional State revenue by sales tax. That is virtually a universal tax in the United States at most State levels and, that is, by providing for an increase in income, by a person having the ability to keep their own money, when they go to the store and buy products, when they are at Wal-Mart as I frequently am, that with the sales tax, that goes straight to the State. It goes for schools.

Additionally, I am so pleased that this package includes a reduction in the capital gains tax. I can tell the gentleman from firsthand experience, until 16 months ago I was a real estate attorney. I know that by reducing the capital gains tax, and this has been a cause of the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), for a number of years. By reducing the capital gains tax, this will help again create jobs. The first thing that will occur, because I ran into it, a number of people that I know, particularly elderly people, would not sell property they have, real property, because they felt like they were being overly taxed and they considered it an insult, whatever the percentage was. So by reducing it to 5 percent, what will occur is that people who are currently holding on to property simply because they do not want to pay a capital gains tax, they will sell that property. When they do sell the property, the first occurrence will be construction. I met with the homebuilders association this week. They are very supportive.

The AGC and the ABC, the various construction interests, are very pleased that if we can have a sale of property and the construction, the jobs are created. This also is going to benefit local governments and State governments in that having a turnover of real property, the taxes that are generated will go for schools. They will go for the services of local governments. This is going to be so beneficial because many people in our State, and I think this is true in other States, too, they will actually put goats or they will put a cow on some extraordinarily valuable property in the middle of an urban area. That is because they are able legitimately to qualify for an agricultural assessment.

When they get an agricultural assessment, they may pay \$10 in taxes on that particular tract of land. But by having the reduction in the capital gains taxes, by having the sale of the property, by having the development of that property by construction of new businesses or homes, that will generate thousands of dollars, instead of \$10 to the local governments, that can be used to build schools, to address the

problems that we have in local government, that we have to produce the best schools that we can for our citizens. There is just so much positive in the bill that we will be voting on tomorrow.

I know that the gentleman probably has another question that he wants to ask me.

Mr. HAYES. I thank the gentleman again for his incredible leadership not only here tonight but back home in South Carolina, not only as a Congressman but as a colonel in our wonderful Armed Forces. I think it is appropriate that we close with our continued pride, support and absolute awe at the way they have conducted themselves. That is so important to the economy, to rid the world of terrorists. The costs that have been incurred, they have created hardships for all of us. But thanks to their ingenuity, their courage, their training, their bravery, their leadership, they have gone in and outthought and outfought a very, very difficult enemy. Now we have, because of their sacrifices, the opportunity to put this economy back on its feet, to put our people at home to work. I hope the McMillens in Hampton County are listening tonight. They are farming pretty hard so they may not be. I hope the folks in Richmond County, in Hoke County, all throughout the eighth district, are listening because they understand from the gentleman's leadership and his presentation the sound, commonsense approach that this jobs growth economic stimulus plan that the gentleman and I and others on this side of the aisle support so strongly, they understand and appreciate what that brings to our districts and to our economy.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we have heard the truth in a very clear, in a very concise, and in an understandable fashion. The presentation of the gentleman from South Carolina is responsible for that. I thank the gentleman for serving our country. I thank him for serving this Congress.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude with some other points real quickly, that is, that the President's jobs and economic growth plan is designed to strengthen the economy by allowing Americans to keep more of their own money to spend, save, and invest by creating jobs. The President's plan to cut taxes and hold the line on government spending would grow the economy and ultimately reduce the deficit as stronger economic growth and job creation causes revenues to rise to meet the restrained level of spending.

At this time, too, I would like to, as we are concluding, indicate the various groups that are supportive of the bill tomorrow, H.R. 2. In fact, I would like to read a letter which was sent by the Tax Relief Coalition. There are hundreds and hundreds of organizations, in fact there are over 1,000, that are supporting the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003. This is a letter again sent by the Tax Relief Coalition:

"On behalf of the more than 1,000 organizations and 1.8 million businesses of the Tax Relief Coalition, we urge you as a member of Congress to support the full elimination of the double taxation of dividends, the increase in the small business expensing allowance, and the acceleration of all the scheduled income tax rate reductions when the Committee on Ways and Means considers the economic growth reconciliation legislation. As companies and organizations representing businesses that employ tens of millions of Americans, we believe these provisions are necessary if we are to jumpstart the economy and put people back to work.

"The full elimination of the double taxation of dividends within the framework of a \$550 billion tax relief package is achievable and will have a singularly positive effect on the economy in both the short term and the long term. It will spur consumer spending by putting more money in the hands of shareholders who will pay less in taxes, receive higher dividend payouts and accumulate increased wealth as a result of the upward pressure on stock prices. The resulting increased demand and lower cost of capital will sustain economic growth and create jobs as companies invest in the new equipment, build new plants and develop new products. Many economists also believe eliminating this double tax will boost the stock market from 10 to 20 percent.

"Since small businesses create two-thirds of the new jobs in the United States, the importance of the small business provisions of the President's proposal should not be underestimated. Approximately 85 percent of small business owners file tax returns as individuals and represent nearly 80 percent of the taxpayers at the top income bracket. Accelerating all of the scheduled income tax rate reductions to this year, 2003, will provide approximately \$10 billion in tax savings to small businesses that file as individuals. Allowing small business owners to expense critical investments will facilitate economic expansion, so we urge you to support raising the small business expensing limit from \$25,000 to \$75,000 and indexing it for inflation. These changes will create savings for small businesses that will put money directly into the economy and create new jobs.

"Any proposal that does not include the critical small business provisions and result in the full elimination of the unfair double taxation on dividends will significantly compromise the economic benefits of the President's package and jeopardize the hundreds of thousands of new jobs that would otherwise be created.

"In our view, representing tens of millions of working Americans and businesses, if you do not include the dividend tax reduction and the critical small business provisions, the jobs and growth package will simply not have the same effect.

"This has been respectfully submitted by the Tax Relief Coalition."

Mr. Speaker, I am just very honored to have been here tonight with the gentleman from North Carolina to present on behalf of nearly 1,000 business associations, businesses and other think tanks that are proposing that we reduce taxes and the tax burden on the American people. I just cannot wait until tomorrow, and I hope the American people follow the debate. I am confident that just as we had the debates following the tax increases of 1993, which when those tax increases were put in place that we heard were so good tonight, the immediate effect was that a Republican Congress was elected for the first time in over 40 years.

And so people do understand these issues. I know in the State of South Carolina that we understand those issues because, in fact, not only was there a new Republican majority in the House here in Washington, but for the first time since 1877 there was a Republican majority and the first Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives in the entire South, David Wilkins, was elected. The American people do understand these issues. We have gotten excellent leadership in our State and here in Washington. The Republicans then achieved a majority in the State Senate in 2001 for the first time since 1877 because people do understand the philosophical differences between the two parties. They understand that we as Republicans are working for limited government, expanded freedom. On the other side, they have tax-and-spend policies. They are well meaning, but they are wrong.

□ 2100

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING). The Chair would generally remind Members to address their remarks to the Chair and not to those outside the Chamber.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### MENTAL HEALTH CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, as the Democratic Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Mental Health Caucus, which we recently began, I am pleased

to anchor at this time along with my Republican cochair, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), who spoke a few minutes. He was granted some time by my good friend to make his remarks, and I hope that he will be able to return.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National Suicide Awareness Week, and we want to highlight that fact. Approximately 30,000 people, 30,000 people, commit suicide in the United States every year, making suicide the 11th leading cause of death nationwide. Suicide is particularly a problem among young people, communities of color, and seniors. The States with the five highest suicide rates are Nevada, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Everyone should be screened by the health care providers in our schools for mental health and/or risk of suicide. Because of the associated stigma of the crazies, we cannot count on people to seek out help on their own. Another key point is our need for more mental health professionals to break down financial and language barriers to mental health.

Mr. Speaker, I will right now take the time to introduce the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) to address this same issue.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) for taking this opportunity to talk about suicide and the mentally ill. I think one of the difficulties that we encounter is the fact that when it comes to the mentally ill, it is usually one of the last that we talk about, and in fact it is usually an afterthought in terms of providing resources that are drastically needed for not only for the mentally ill but for the issue in terms of preventing suicides.

Mental disorders are common in the United States, and we sometimes do not realize how common they are. There is an estimated 22 percent of Americans age 18 and older and one out of five adults who suffer from diagnosed mental disorders throughout a year. Tragically, mental disorder is often linked with suicide. Of the 29,350 people who died by suicide in the year 2000, more than 90 percent of the people who killed themselves have diagnosable mental disorders, commonly depressive disorders as well as substantive abuse disorders and other dual diagnoses.

At this time I would also like to focus my remarks on critical segments of our population, and that is our veterans. Today while we continue to deploy troops in Iraq, it is important to remember that the wounds of combat that would disable and harm our troops are not merely just physical. Many combat wounds will affect the minds, the brain, and the spirit of our Armed Forces and their loved ones. So often we forget that long after the visible battle wounds are healed, many veterans continue to suffer not only physically but also mentally. For our heroes of today as well as yesterday's