

President Bush and from the Republicans in Congress. In 2 years, President Bush and the Republicans in Congress have presided over the most dramatic deterioration in our Nation's economic health in our Nation's history. We have lost 563 jobs every working hour of every working day since President Bush became President. That is 2.7 million jobs.

That is why today is so tragic. We have an opportunity to create jobs and build a strong economy in a fiscally sound way. Instead, the reckless tax plan that the President has proposed has not only set a bad example; it has set in motion a feeding frenzy of onepersonship on tax cuts.

None of these tax cuts is affordable. None of them creates jobs, and they are not fair. All of them do damage to our long-term economic growth and contribute to the national deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject the Republican tax cut for millionaires that leaves working families out in the cold. Vote "no," reject the Republican proposal, reject their undermining of opportunity in our country. Unfortunately, we do not have an opportunity for Members to support the Democratic plan because the Republican leadership would not allow the free debate on the floor of this House of another proposal to promote economic growth to create jobs in a fiscally sound way.

H.R. 2 IS TAX RELIEF FOR EVERYONE

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know just exactly what are tax cuts for the rich? I hear it all of the time from critics of tax relief, so I looked into it and discovered that if we applied the sweeping logic of the antitax relief crowd, the term "rich people" would have to include everyone who makes more than \$5,000 a year. It turns out everyone is rich, because I am here to tell Members H.R. 2 is tax relief for everyone.

Our bill expands the 10 percent tax bracket beginning this year. Is that a tax cut for the rich? It increases the standard deduction for married couples filing joint returns beginning this year. Are all married couples rich? It provides \$1,000 child tax credit beginning this year. Do only rich people have children?

In fact, the House Jobs and Growth Tax Act will create an estimated 1.2 million jobs by the end of 2004. That translates into 2,700 jobs for Montanans this year, another 2,500 next year. It will also provide a tax break for small business and boost our struggling economy.

So let us get this straight. What they are calling tax cuts for the rich is going to bring us new jobs; relief for the poorest Americans; help for mar-

ried couples; help for small businesses, the backbone of our economy; an increase in the child credit; and an immediate jump-start to our economy. Call it what you like, it is good for Montana.

WHAT ARE REPUBLICANS AFRAID OF?

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, what are Republicans afraid of? Are they afraid of the anger of millions of unemployed when they find out Republicans are passing yet another massive tax cut to the already well-off, while unemployment benefits for hard-hit families are about to run out? Are Republicans afraid of middle-class workers who do not know whether we are going to have another waive of corporate downsizing in this country that will put their jobs, their health care, and their kids' educations at risk?

What is clear is that Republicans are afraid of something because they will not even allow Democrats to offer our alternative plan. Republicans do not want an open debate because they do not want the American middle class to see that they are borrowing hundreds of billions of dollars tomorrow for the tax cuts they pay today.

America cannot be red, white, and broke and meet its challenges both at home and abroad. It is time for the Republicans to realize that a tax cut is not the answer to every problem. For 2½ years it has not worked; ask the 2 million jobs that are now gone. It is time to stop squandering the future of American families and start doing something about this economic mess.

HONORING VERNA ZIEGENHAGEN DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a truly inspirational individual. As we conclude Teacher Appreciation Week, I would like to pay tribute to Minnesota educator Verna Ziegenhagen, and the many dedicated teachers like her who have inspired each of us.

Who among us cannot look back and recall one teacher who made a difference in our lives? Verna Ziegenhagen has been that person for hundreds of Minnesota children. Throughout her 53 years as a teacher, Verna Ziegenhagen instructed and inspired the students of German Lake; Le Center; Heidelberg; Lexington; and Le Seuer, Minnesota.

Following her 53-year teaching career, Verna transplanted to her rural Le Center property a 100-plus-year-old country schoolhouse, which she filled

with the mementoes of her teaching career. What began as a personal journey to preserve the memories is now a museum of tribute to her former students and, by extension, a shrine to her own dedication and sacrifice.

Verna's dedication to teaching continues in spite of her retirement. For the past 16 years, this two-time Teacher of the Year has maintained and operated the museum, constantly changing the theme to reflect the seasons and capture the imagination of visitors. This is a wonderful teacher. We thank her.

REPUBLICANS FAIL TO TURN RECESSION AROUND

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is in a job recession with 2.7 million jobs lost since President Bush took office, the worst jobs record in 40 years. For almost 3 years, the Republicans had the power to turn this recession around, and they have failed miserably.

For the past 2 years, the President and Republicans in Congress have repeatedly chosen tax breaks for the elite, and the American people are still waiting for one job to be created. Today Republicans are at it again with a bill on the floor that amounts to nothing more than a huge payback to the wealthiest Americans in our Nation, a payback that is disguised in the form of breaks on capital gains and stock dividends, two proposals economists conclude will not create jobs or growth in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our economy needs a true jolt to reverse America's economic skepticism, the Republican proposal will not stimulate the economy. The Republican record on economic stimulus is uninspiring, and one that should not be extended today. We have had enough of it. Let us not continue down this road and this continued economic downturn.

NEW TAX BILL IS FOR CREATING JOBS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina unemployment is as bad as it is anywhere. Broyhill Industries just announced it is laying off 500 people from their furniture factory.

My little company has been operating wide open in North Carolina, lots of overtime, and that does not cost anything in additional expenditures and investment, but it reduces our efficiency.

The jobs part of the tax bill increasing depreciation writeoffs make it sensible to buy machinery and to cut down on overtime by creating four new jobs

by investing \$170,000. We would not do this if it were not a plus in the tax bill. The jobs will be created in the same county where Broyhill laid off 500 people.

Mr. Speaker, I think people who have never been involved in employing people and working together do not recognize what an advantage this new tax bill is for creating jobs.

HERE REPUBLICANS GO AGAIN

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, here they go again. When that first took office, the Bush administration said we needed a big tax cut to get the economy moving again. They gave us a big tax cut, financed out of the deficit, financed out of Social Security; and we lost 1.7 million jobs since that tax cut. We have lost 2.5 million jobs since the Bush administration took office.

This morning they want to give us another trillion dollar tax cut to create more jobs, and the fact of the matter is that most of it will be financed out of the Social Security system and out of the deficit. When is this Nation going to learn that these people do not have a plan? They have yet to create a single new job; but what they will do in this tax cut is for those families earning over a million dollars, they will get \$93,000 back next year in tax cuts. For the average family, they will get \$217 back. In fact, over the next decade those families will take more in tax cuts than 90 percent of the population.

Mr. Speaker, this is once again showering hundreds of billions of dollars on the wealthiest people in the country while 2.5 million people are out of work, while 4 million people have given up looking for work, and three people are looking for every job that exists in this country. The Republicans and President Bush owe America better.

□ 0915

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of debate this morning already about no opportunities, but of course our friends on the other side will get an opportunity for a motion to recommit; and I think they can use that to highlight the plan, whatever it is that they have to offer.

In southern Illinois we still have some of those old water pumps. You crank that pump and sometimes you crank and crank and there is no water that comes out. So what do you have to do? You have to get water. You have to pour it down to prime it. And then as you use that pump, the water comes

up. That is what we are trying to do today.

There are two basic provisions on this tax cut bill, one is for individuals and one is for businesses, directly primarily to small businesses, the main job-creation engine of our country. It is not just individuals who are hurting but local governments are hurting, counties, States, townships, local communities. The best way to get us out of our deficits and our malaise and our problems throughout this country is to get a growing, thriving economy. That is what we are trying to do today. That is what this bill does. That is why I support it.

VOTE NO ON THE TAX BILL

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today this House will vote on the Republicans' wildly irresponsible tax bill which fails to stimulate our economy or create jobs, explodes the budget deficit and the national debt, and robs Social Security and other key priorities of crucial funding. Our Republican friends continue to make wild claims about this tax bill, but the American people need to ask one very simple question: Do I trust TOM DELAY and the Republican majority who said that we would balance the budget, create jobs, and get the economy moving 2 years ago? Or do we trust an individual like Mr. Buffett, the largest investor, perhaps, in America, who recently said that cutting taxes on corporate dividends, an idea incorporated in the GOP bill, unfairly favors the wealthy and doubted that it would stimulate the economy? That is Warren Buffett. That is not one of us. Democrats strongly agree with him, however.

We offered a plan that is fast-acting, fair and fiscally responsible, a plan that would create five times, over a million jobs, as this GOP bill does.

Reject this failed policy.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 311, nays 72, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 177]

YEAS—311

Abercrombie	Everett	McInnis
Aderholt	Farr	McIntyre
Akin	Ferguson	McKeon
Alexander	Flake	Meehan
Andrews	Foley	Meek (FL)
Baca	Forbes	Meeks (NY)
Bachus	Frank (MA)	Menendez
Baker	Franks (AZ)	Mica
Ballance	Frelinghuysen	Michaud
Ballenger	Frost	Millender-
Barrett (SC)	Gallegly	McDonald
Bartlett (MD)	Garrett (NJ)	Miller (FL)
Bass	Gerlach	Miller (MI)
Beauprez	Gibbons	Miller (NC)
Becerra	Gilchrest	Mollohan
Bell	Gingrey	Moran (KS)
Bereuter	Goode	Moran (VA)
Berkley	Goodlatte	Murphy
Berman	Gordon	Musgrave
Biggert	Goss	Myrick
Bilirakis	Granger	Napolitano
Bishop (GA)	Graves	Nethercutt
Bishop (NY)	Green (WI)	Ney
Bishop (UT)	Greenwood	Norwood
Blackburn	Grijalva	Nunes
Blumenauer	Hall	Nussle
Blunt	Harman	Obey
Boehlert	Harris	Ortiz
Boehner	Hastings (WA)	Osborne
Bonilla	Hayes	Ose
Bonner	Hayworth	Otter
Bono	Hensarling	Pallone
Boozman	Hergert	Pascrell
Boswell	Hill	Payne
Boucher	Hinojosa	Pearce
Bradley (NH)	Hobson	Pelosi
Brady (TX)	Hoefel	Peterson (PA)
Brown (SC)	Hoekstra	Petri
Brown-Waite,	Holden	Pickering
Ginny	Honda	Pombo
Burgess	Hostettler	Pomerooy
Burns	Houghton	Porter
Burr	Hoyer	Portman
Buyer	Hunter	Price (NC)
Calvert	Inslee	Pryce (OH)
Camp	Isakson	Putnam
Cannon	Israel	Radanovich
Cantor	Issa	Rahall
Capps	Jackson (IL)	Rangel
Cardin	Janklow	Regula
Cardoza	Jenkins	Rehberg
Carson (IN)	John	Renzi
Carson (OK)	Johnson (CT)	Reyes
Carter	Johnson (IL)	Reynolds
Case	Jones (NC)	Rodriguez
Castle	Kanjorski	Rogers (AL)
Chabot	Keller	Rogers (KY)
Chocola	Kelly	Rogers (MI)
Clyburn	Kildee	Rohrabacher
Coble	Kind	Ros-Lehtinen
Collins	King (NY)	Ross
Cox	Kingston	Rothman
Cramer	Kirk	Roybal-Allard
Crenshaw	Kline	Royce
Culberson	Knollenberg	Ruppersberger
Cummings	Kolbe	Ryan (OH)
Cunningham	LaHood	Ryan (WI)
Davis (AL)	Lampson	Ryun (KS)
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Sandlin
Davis (FL)	Lantos	Saxton
Davis (IL)	Latham	Schiff
Davis (TN)	LaTourette	Scott (GA)
Davis, Jo Ann	Leach	Scott (VA)
Davis, Tom	Lee	Sensenbrenner
Deal (GA)	Levin	Serrano
DeGette	Lewis (GA)	Sessions
DeLauro	Lewis (KY)	Shaw
DeLay	Linder	Shays
DeMint	Lofgren	Sherman
Deutsch	Lowey	Sherwood
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lucas (KY)	Shimkus
Dicks	Lucas (OK)	Shuster
Dingell	Lynch	Simmons
Dooley (CA)	Majette	Simpson
Doolittle	Manzullo	Skelton
Doyle	Markey	Slaughter
Dreier	Marshall	Smith (NJ)
Duncan	Matheson	Smith (TX)
Dunn	Matsui	Smith (WA)
Edwards	McCarthy (MO)	Solis
Ehlers	McCarthy (NY)	Souder
Emanuel	McCollum	Stearns
Emerson	McCotter	Stenholm
Eshoo	McCrery	Sullivan
Etheridge	McGovern	Sweeney
Evans	McHugh	Tauscher