

them a big tax cut in the form of capital gains tax cuts and a removal of the tax on stock dividends.

I can tell my colleagues, and I think we all know, that the troops who sacrificed so bravely, most of them are not waiting for their big stock dividends in the mail. But our troops, their children, and all Americans will be paying for this in the long run, because this tax cut is going to exacerbate the fiscal problems in this country. We have already had the biggest reversal in American history, from a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus to \$2 trillion projected deficits. And who is going to pay? In the long run, we are all going to pay, because we either pay in terms of taxes increased on our children in future generations, or major cuts in programs that are important to the American people such as Social Security and Medicare.

In fact, we are going to be paying right now, because when we reduce our obligations to the States, when we do not fulfill our promises under the Leave No Child Behind Act, where this year we are \$9 billion short of what had been committed, we place greater burdens on the States. And the States either have to do one of two things. They either have to increase revenues and taxes, or they have to cut back on programs.

In the State of Maryland, we are seeing dramatic cuts in higher education. Who is paying for those? Students. Their tuition is going up by more than 10 percent. It is simply a tax on students. It is a tax on other people. You cannot get a free lunch. The American people know that. Someone has to pay.

Look at what we are doing to veterans benefits. Sure, we are reducing taxes to the very wealthiest in this country, but what is the result? A dramatic cutback in benefits for veterans.

So what do we do? There was an alternative plan put forward by the Democrats, but no one was allowed an up-or-down vote on that plan here in this body. It called for greater relief for the States so they do not have to either increase taxes back home locally or dramatically cut education and health benefits. It called for a tax break for more middle Americans, increasing the child tax credit, an acceleration of the marriage penalty relief. It called for greater relief for unemployed workers and their families so that they could continue to pay the rent, continue to put food on the table; and that relief has a big impact on the economy. Those are people who need the funds, they have been in work, they lost their jobs through no fault of their own, they are continuing to look for work; and when they get that dollar of help, they go out and spend it in the economy.

Finally, it provides for business tax credits to provide for investment now.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just find that this particular proposal that was adopted today sets our Nation on a reckless course. We need a plan for all

of America that will move our entire Nation forward, and I hope in the days ahead we will do that.

□ 1530

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

(Mr. DAVIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC PLAN IS NOT FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, what are the tests that an economic stimulus package should pass in order for us to conclude that it will be successful?

An economic stimulus plan should be fair, should be fast acting, it should be fiscally responsible, like our Democratic plan is. We all know the Republican tax plan does not meet any of these criteria. That is why they have essentially given up claiming that it is a stimulus package.

No matter how many gimmicks the Republican tax cut plan uses, the one thing it cannot hide is the fact that this bill predominantly benefits the very wealthy. Like the first Bush tax cut passed in the summer of 2001, it seems custom designed by and primarily for the benefit of the very wealthiest of Americans.

Today I would like to show how different people fare under the House Republican budget proposal. I guess it all boils down to who you are and what you do. For example, are you a prize fighter or a firefighter? A prize fighter, like Mike Tyson, had reported earnings of \$48 million last year. He stands to gain well over a \$100,000 from the House Republican plan. While a firefighter making an average salary of roughly \$35,000 will save \$332 through the Republican tax cut. \$100,000 is the absolute minimum that millionaires will receive from the tax cut passed earlier today. Most will receive a lot more.

How will other people fare under the Republican tax cut? Well, again, it depends on who you are. Are you the Terminator or an average exterminator? Arnold Schwarzenegger will gain in the hundreds of thousands of dollars from this tax cut while the average exterminator could save about \$452. Yes, it all depends on who you are.

Are you a Texas Ranger or a forest ranger? This year Alex Rodriguez will earn \$23 million playing shortstop for the Texas Rangers while the typical forest ranger will make a little over \$21,000. Alex would scoop up way more than a hundred thousand dollars in tax savings. The forest ranger, he might pocket a little less than \$200.

Well, are you a recording artist or a tattoo artist? Music artist Britney

Spears' tax savings compares quite handsomely with tattoo artist Rene Mezechenko. Rene's tax cut will be around \$300. Britney's will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. It all depends on who you are.

Are you an executive officer or an executive assistant? Jeffrey Barbakow, CEO of Tenent Healthcare made \$115,600,000 last year, according to the New York Times. Pamela Taylor, an executive assistant, made \$39,000. Pamela's tax cut will be \$452.

You get the picture. Those who need tax relief the most are getting the least. Congress should stop pandering to the rich special interests and get around to the tasks of putting Americans back to work.

Now, I have had a little bit of fun with these pairings, but this is serious business. I represent a lot of people who hold jobs with titles like firefighter, executive assistant, factory worker, store clerk, nurse, and teacher. I also represent a lot of people who have recently lost their jobs in this turbulent economy. None of these folks are calling me on the phone to beg for a dividend tax cut. They are calling me to say put Wisconsin back to work. Put America back to work and do so in a way that is fair, fast acting, and fiscally responsible. That is what the Democratic plan would do.

REPUBLICANS TAX IRRESPONSIBLY

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today our Chamber threw away any semblance of fiscal responsibility by passing H.R. 2, the Republican tax bill that provides more massive tax cuts, while ignoring the need of the majority of Americans. Two years ago the administration and Congress were looking covetously at a staggering \$5.6 trillion cumulative surplus through 2010. At the time Congress was continually reassured by the administration that we could afford an enormous tax cut, ensure the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, pay down the national debt, fund our domestic priorities and still have a large surplus reserve fund to front anticipated emergencies.

Like many of my colleagues, I cautioned the administration at the time that its budget and enormous tax cut were based on unrealistic surplus projections that would never materialize. Not surprisingly the Congressional Budget Office confirmed that in less than 2 years the 10-year projected surplus has been erased. While portions of this decline are a result of our efforts to defeat terrorism and preserve national security both at home and abroad, the depletion of the surplus to date was largely caused by the administration's fiscally irresponsible policies of 2001.

What do we get for these tax cuts which were supposed to stimulate our

economy? Well, we now have the highest unemployment rate in 9 years. Severe cuts in State budgets and programs and the largest among deficit in national debt in our Nation's history. Not content with these successes, the Republicans now want more tax cuts largely skewed to the wealthiest Americans, the top rate income tax reduction in dividend taxation provisions are particularly egregious when 8.8 million Americans are unemployed, with the average length of unemployment now at about 20 weeks. The Republican tax cuts ignore the situation of those Americans. Furthermore, our Nation will have to borrow to pay for the funds to pay for these tax cuts at a time when the United States has a \$6.4 trillion national debt and spend \$1 billion per day on interest payments for that debt. In fact, debt interest payments are now the third largest expenditure in the Federal budget. Money that could instead be used for homeland security, health care, prescription drugs for our seniors, or education for our children.

Almost as outrageous as the provisions of the Republican tax plan was, the House leadership decision not to allow the Democrats to offer their alternative was even more egregious. Our plan was far more fiscally responsible, costing only \$129 billion in immediate spending, and even those costs would be offset for long term economic gains such as income taxes from newly employed Americans. The Democratic plan would create 1 million new jobs, more than double the estimate for the Republican plan. Additionally, it would put money in the pockets of families most likely to spend, provide tax relief for businesses most likely to invest, and hire and provide direct financial assistance to States that are struggling to provide health care and other vital human services to their citizens. This financial assistance would forestall State tax increases or service cutbacks that would otherwise deepen the recession and destroy jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disturbed by the outcome of today's vote, as well as the heavy handed tactics used by the Republican leadership that denied a debate on our responsible alternative. I will maintain my opposition to irresponsible tax and budget policies that are leading this Nation down a path that could put the economic survival and stability of our Nation in jeopardy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BUSH ECONOMIC STRATEGY LEAVES AMERICA BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my Democratic colleagues in expressing my outrage with the Bush administration and the Republican majority who are truly waging economic warfare against the American people, most notably our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the tax package the Republicans undemocratically and very brutally rammed through here today represent dropping a big bomb on American families. It is un-American to devastate the lives of American families who happen not to be rich. This budget, this tax cut will leave a huge crater in the economy and the Federal budget that will take decades to repair.

What is most troubling about this irresponsible, unfair, and ill-advised plan for economic disaster? What does it mean for our children, especially our most vulnerable children? You simply cannot be for leaving no child behind when you are handing out massive tax cuts for millionaires at the expense of our children. What do we tell the parents of these children when they ask what is our government going to do to create jobs? What is our government doing to help kids? What is our government doing to expand health care to help senior citizens or to improve education or to ease inequality?

I guess we tell them that we have a President and a Republican majority in Congress who care more about eliminating taxes on stock dividends than eliminating poverty. We tell them we have a President who is slashing Head Start funds, cutting job training programs and after school programs and spending the entire Social Security surplus. We tell them that this may be the first President in over half a century who may serve an entire term in office without creating one single job. And we tell them we have an administration that is seeking to wipe out affirmative action because it is apparently blind to the enormous inequalities in our country. And we let them know that this mean-spirited tax cut will disproportionately affect African American and Latino children. We tell them that we have a President who is, yes, waging war at home, a war on our future, a war on opportunities for our children, a war on equality and war on our economy. There are 9 million people unemployed in this country, including 2 million unemployed African Americans and almost 1.5 million Latinos. That is a disgrace and there is no help for them in this Bush plan.

We are in a jobs depression. What our economy needs and what Americans need are more job opportunities. How do you benefit from a tax cut when you do not even have a job? Where is the compassion in this?

We need increased technical training for young people and transition assist-

ance for displaced workers, many of whom are victims of our trade policy. Just look at NAFTA. Under NAFTA we have seen a quarter of a million actual and potential jobs disappear. Now the administration is looking to expand NAFTA to virtually every single country in the Western Hemisphere. How many jobs will we lose then?

As Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund, said, It is awfully hard to be a poor child in this country. It is awfully hard to be a parent. It is hard to be one of the millions of Americans desperately searching for jobs and not finding them while their unemployment benefits are expiring.

□ 1545

It is hard for tens of millions of people in Bush's mark. We could be turning the tide on this jobs depression. We should be investing in our future, but on the eve of Mother's Day, rather than saying Happy Mother's Day, the Republicans are shattering the lives of millions of mothers by cutting taxes for the rich, sacrificing the poor and neglecting the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, the President waged an immoral war in Iraq and now he is doing it right here at home. Wake up, America, and fight this very unpatriotic assault on American families and children. You must fight back.

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Alabama addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ALLOW DEMOCRACY ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, we have seen many Democrats here speaking out of a sense of frustration. The bill we voted on today is a bill of tremendous importance, and yet all we had was one hour to debate this bill. Many of us that wanted to come down and participate in the debate could not even get one minute's time to debate this bill because the Republicans kept a closed rule, which said there will be one hour of debate, 30 minutes for each side, and no substitute allowed.

I did a little calculation. There are 435 Members of the House of Representatives in this country, and if every one of us wanted to speak on this bill with only one minute total time, that would leave each of us a grand total of eight seconds each to speak on a bill worth billions and billions and trillions of dollars. Surely our Founding Fathers are rolling in their graves when they