

the possibility of a backlash, I assume. Otherwise, why did they hide their actions from public view? President Bush said that all Americans would receive tax relief, but that was not the case. This sort of double-talk is not the way to run a country, not the way to run this country.

This double-talk also reflects the misplaced priorities that the Republicans and their leadership have for this country. What they are telling us is that it is important to have a dividend tax break for people who live well, extremely well. What they are also telling us is that it is not important to help those people who are struggling to find adequate housing, enough food, or a decent job.

Of course, children, unfortunately, are hit the hardest. These children come from families where the parents work hard and play by the rules. They deserve the same tax credit that other parents will receive, and they, of course, need much more. Their families do not have the advantages that others have.

In a jobs depression like President Bush has put us in, the loss of the \$400 tax credit is really rubbing salt into their wounds. 8.1 million taxpayers will receive no relief under the Republican tax cuts, and 1.6 million of these taxpayers are Hispanic. 8.1 million represents 44 times the number of taxpayers who have incomes exceeding \$1 million, yet the President and the Republicans have gone out of their way to help the wealthy.

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In fact, those people with incomes over \$1 million will receive an average tax cut of \$93,500 in 2003. In terms of the child tax credit, one-half of all African-American families will not get the full tax credit and one-quarter will receive no tax credit.

For Hispanic families, 40 percent will not get the full tax credit, while one-fifth of Hispanic families will receive no child tax credit at all.

What message does this send to minorities? Of course, the Republicans have a checkered history of offending minorities, so perhaps this behavior is to be expected. But interestingly enough, the Republicans' actions on the child tax credit also offend military families. According to the Washington Post, as many as 200,000 military families were excluded from the increased child tax credit by the actions of the last few weeks.

This is just downright wrong. We should move immediately to pass legislation to restore the child tax credit and we should do it now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

MISREPRESENTED JOBS AND GROWTH PACKAGE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss some of the recent misrepresentations of the Jobs and Growth Package, a package that this Congress passed before the Memorial Day recess.

Last night I had the opportunity to listen to many of our friends on the other side characterize the tax cuts as misdirected and targeted to the wrong people.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, this tax bill provides the largest percentage reductions in the income taxes of low and middle income Americans, thereby shifting the tax burden upward. The Jobs and Growth Tax Act exempts another 3 million workers entirely from Federal tax liability. And low income families in particular benefit from this economic and growth tax package relief through a number of provisions.

First, there is the acceleration of the expansion of the 10 percent rate bracket which means that workers can earn more before they get moved into the 15 and 25 percent tax brackets, elimination of the marriage penalty, and the acceleration of the President's 2001 tax cut provisions to increase the child tax credit to \$1,000.

Accelerating the expansion of the child tax credit will provide 26 million families with an average tax cut of over \$600. This could mean a great deal to a family of 4 working to make ends meet each year. Even families who do not owe taxes may benefit from the increase in the child credit to \$1,000 because of the current refundable feature of the credits.

So some ask, Who benefits from this credit? Well, what about 44 million children who will benefit?

So, Mr. Speaker, do not be fooled when certain groups do not explain the whole story. Some low income Americans are not included in this credit because their family income is low, but they qualify for other, more beneficial anti-poverty programs. And let us not forget that that group of low income taxpayers received significant benefit from the tax cuts that passed in this Congress in 2001, and they continue to benefit from that legislation today.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to punish those who work hard, take risks and are subsequently successful. We need their success for the economy to recover. The country needs the jobs their success will generate.

I remember a few weeks ago when the folks on the other side of the aisle op-

posed a tax cut of any kind during the debate on the economic stimulus bill. Well, Mr. Speaker, the time has come for them to figure out where they stand.

TAX CUT HURTS LOW INCOME CHILDREN

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, when the President and the Republican party made a decision that they would not extend the financial benefits of the increase in the child tax credit to all families, they essentially made a decision that they would leave out millions of young children who live in families who earn between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year.

What they said was somehow those families and those children were not worth as much as the rest of children and families in this country. Thirty years ago we made a decision to have a child tax credit to help families with the cost of raising their children, to ease the burdens of raising their children, educating them, providing health care, and it was extended to all Americans with children.

Over time we have increased that child tax credit, and this year a decision was made that we would increase that child tax credit by \$400 for each child, and those checks would go out this summer. But, tragically, in a back room, in the late night, in negotiating the bill under the leadership of Vice President CHENEY, the Republicans made a decision that low income working families would not get that child tax credit for their children. They will not get that \$400 per child increase this summer.

Erin Doyel of Vallejo, California in the district in which I represent and her daughter, Adrienne, will not get that tax cut. Erin is going to work every day and earning \$12,675 as a financial administrative assistant. Erin is doing everything that this Federal Government told her to do: To get off of welfare, to take responsibility for her child and to get a job. And she has been doing it and she is doing it well.

But as we can see here, Erin and her daughter Adrienne, Erin is asking the question, What about my kid? Why is not my kid worth the same tax credit as the other children? Because I only make \$12,000 a year?

She needs this help for her family. She needs this benefit for her family so that she can provide the education, she can provide the wherewithal to hold her family together. She knows how much she needs it. She says they made a big mistake when they left her daughter out of the tax cut. She needs this money to help her pay the rent, to pay for her car, to pay for her job expenses.

That is what she would do with that money. She would immediately put it

back into the economy. That is why that tax credit was given to help those families with those expenses in a difficult environment.

Some people say that this was a mistake by the Republicans, but the fact is we know now as the facts have come out it was no mistake. The Senate, in fact, put this tax credit in for Erin and her daughter, Adrienne. But the Republicans in the House decided they were not going to accept it. They wanted to use the money that that tax credit would cost to give a greater tax cut to those people making over a million dollars. If they had given a \$400 tax credit to Erin and her daughter, Adrienne, and to other similarly situated families and children, those millionaires would have only gotten a tax cut this year of \$88,000 as opposed to \$93,000.

So the Republicans in the House made a choice that they were going to deny Erin and Adrienne the tax credit. They were going to give it to the millionaires.

Now, we understand that the Senate is going to change this. The Senate has come to its senses. The Senate now understands what they have done to Erin and her daughter, Adrienne, and the impact that they are having on her ability to hold their family together. But we are also told that the majority leader, the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has said he is not going to do that. He is not going to pass that tax cut to Erin and her daughter, Adrienne. He is not going to do it. Republicans in the Senate who sponsored it originally, who voted for it, who participated have said we wanted to do this. It is a matter of equity. It is a matter of fairness. It is a matter of justice to these families who are working hard, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) stated, playing by the rules, doing what we asked them, that they should be able to share in this tax cut like other families with children. But the Republicans in the House say no.

They say no to 12 million children and families earning between \$10,000 and \$26,000 a year. However you measure it, it is not very much money to survive in American society today. These are people who work hard. They do not get paid terribly well, but they get up every day and they go to work and they do many of the jobs that many other Americans would prefer not to do. And that is why we created the tax credit. To help them. And somehow, somehow along the way to finalizing that tax bill, somehow the Republicans in the House became mean spirited. Somehow they lost their sense of humanity and somehow they lost their direction in terms of economic justice and decency for all families and all children in America.

It is a sad and tragic day when a party loses its direction and becomes that cynical about decent people like Erin and her daughter, Adrienne.

TAX CUT HELPS WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting use of words that are employed to describe this event, this process, this phenomenon we call a tax cut, and those who are helped and those who are hurt. And we sit here tonight and we listen to people describe the perils of those who do not receive a "tax cut."

Tax cut. Now, let us analyze those two words. A tax. Something people pay. A cut. A reduction in that amount. In the case that was just brought to us and the case that, in fact, has been characterized over and over and over again as the people who do not, who will not be getting this tax cut, who are purposefully left out of this tax cut because we are so hard-hearted on our side, we are so mean and hateful to people who make a little bit of money, very poor people, so that we decided, I know what. Let us make their life even more miserable. We will not give them their tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, it has nothing to do with this process of a tax cut. Because, of course, the people that we are talking about here, the people that are suggested are not participating in this, do not pay taxes; therefore, we cannot cut the taxes they pay. And they do not get a refund of those taxes because, in fact, they do not come to the government in the first place.

So now if you want to simply move money from one source to another, if you want to redistribute the wealth, which is, of course, part of our great tax scheme and something the Democrats have been so cozy with for so long, something they feel strongly about, something they can endorse wholeheartedly, moving money from people who pay taxes to those who do not, that is a different plan. That is okay. We do it all the time. It is called welfare. And that is, of course, an acceptable thing in this Nation. It is just not part of a tax cut plan.

The reality is that this is a problem we face with more than just this issue. The whole concept of what we are doing for working Americans, what we are doing with a tax cut proposal that is designed to increase the number of jobs out there. I certainly support this concept. I certainly supported the job stimulus package that was passed here in the House, and I hope that it works. It is designed to do just that. If we leave more money in the hands of the people out there to invest, to, in fact, create jobs, that is good, I am happy. Then people like the ones that we were talking about here earlier and that had been brought to our attention who are in the lower income levels of society, those people will benefit also and that is the whole purpose of a stimulus package. It is to increase the economic benefit to all Americans, to all working Americans. That is the whole idea.

Now, let us look at another aspect of this that I never ever see in terms of this being discussed, in terms of what really could help American jobholders or those people who are job seekers, the millions of Americans who are today unemployed or underemployed, the people who are making minimum wage, the people who are desperately looking to better their lives and are wondering about, in fact, what the government can do to help.

Well, I agree that one of the things we can do to help is, in fact, propose and, in fact, pass a tax cut like we have done. But there is something else that we can do and then I would encourage all of my friends on the other side of the aisle to help us do. And that is to do something about the massive number of people who are in this country illegally and working illegally, people who are here, low-wage, low-skilled workers who have come into the United States.

There are something like 13 million, maybe more than that, who are here today employed and they are actually illegally employed. They are employed by people who know that they are here illegally but it does not matter. They take their jobs, the jobs that could be going to other Americans, and, in fact, we allow that to occur. We encourage that.

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We have all kinds of loopholes in our immigration, not just in the borders that exist, not just in the fact that we have porous borders through which these people come, take the jobs that American citizens would take if they had the opportunity, and in fact, even those jobs, American citizens who are working, many of them are working for very low wages. As has been talked about tonight over and over again, that is true, but the reality is that those wages are kept low by the massive number of people who are coming into this country illegally, with low skills and, therefore, get paid low wages, and just the numbers here depress the wage base.

I would like to have people support our efforts to try and secure the borders and stop all the loopholes in our immigration law. That would help working Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

FAMILIES DO MATTER

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