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This motion to instruct is a clear attempt not to instruct the conferees, but to reverse what the will of the House has voted just a short time ago.

I urge Members to vote "no" on this motion to instruct.

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it is okay every once in a while if the Sheriff of Nottingham does not win. Addressing the issue of alternative minimum tax ought to be the priority here. Speaking to those 19 million Americans who are going to get caught in this again is where we ought to be.

Once again, Katrina; two wars; doubling defense spending; the creation of Homeland Security; and although the President did not mention it the other night, he has planned a trip to Mars for NASA.

The point is very simple. We cannot continue going down this road of shaving revenue all the time for the strongest among us. It always has to be more for the powerful, more for the strongest. And on the point that was raised by the gentleman from Michigan about job growth, this has been, by the 5-year standard, anemic job growth. It is the weakest performance in 70 years. Twenty-two million jobs were created during the Clinton years.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have before us a very important piece of legislation, H.R. 4297, the "Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act." It is very important to understand this piece of legislation within the big picture the Republicans are painting here. Just last week, the Republicans passed a bill called "The Deficit Reduction Act." This was a spending cut bill that slashed funding to many vital programs my constituents depend on, including Medicaid, Medicare, student loans, food stamps, and child support programs. The Republicans lectured us on the need to make sacrifices to control the national debt. By passing the spending cut bill, the Republicans actually asked the poor, the downtrodden, the disabled and the young to sacrifice on behalf of the rest of the country.

Now we are faced with the Tax Reconciliation Act, which will add billions, if not trillions, to the deficit over the next 10 years. One source estimates that if all of President Bush's expiring tax cuts are extended, including the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) relief, it will cost this country \$3.3 Trillion over the next 10 years.

Last year, both the House and the Senate passed our respective versions of the Tax Reconciliation Bill. The major difference between the two bills involves AMT and the low rate on dividends and capital gains. The Senate version extends the temporary AMT relief for one year, while the House bill extends the 15 percent tax rate for dividends and capital gains for 2 years.

CAPITAL GAINS AND DIVIDENDS

The House bill contains language that will further extend the contentious capital gains and dividends tax cuts. We shouldn't even

have to debate this right now, because these tax cuts don't expire until 2008. If passed, the capital gains and dividends tax cuts will cost almost \$51 billion over the next 10 years. These tax cuts will be enjoyed by the ultra wealthy, with those earning more than \$1 million a year saving an average of \$32,000 in taxes. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities:

Over half—54 percent—of all capital gains and dividend income flows to the 0.2 percent of households with annual incomes over \$1 million. More than three-quarters—78 percent—of this income goes to those households with income over \$200,000, which account for about 3 percent of all households.

In contrast, only 11 percent of capital gains and dividend income goes to the 86 percent of households with incomes of less than \$100,000. Only 4 percent of this income flows to the 64 percent of households that have income of less than \$50,000.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX (AMT) RELIEF

If the Senate AMT provision is not adopted, over 17 million middle class Americans will face a tax increase next year from the Alternative Minimum Tax, the AMT. The AMT was enacted over 35 years ago to ensure that the richest Americans would pay their fair share of income tax. Unfortunately, when the AMT was enacted, Congress neglected to index the tax rates to inflation. The AMT has now begun to add an extra burden to middle class taxpayers at an alarming rate. I urge the conferees to recognize the need for continued AMT relief and include that language in the conference report.

KATRINA TAX RELIEF

In the House bill, unbelievably, there are no tax benefits for areas affected by last year's devastating hurricanes; Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. The Senate version of this bill contains language similar to language Congress already passed, providing a few billion dollars over the next 2 years. The economy of the gulf coast has been set back decades, and it is going to take years to rebuild. Congress should provide even more supportive tax laws for the region so that both businesses and individuals can get themselves back on their feet. I again urge the conferees to include language further providing tax relief to the areas affected by last year's hurricanes.

MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

Last month, Republicans in Congress couldn't find the money to spare the elderly from Medicaid cuts, to spare the students from loan increases, or to spare our children from child care cuts. They can't seem to find the money to properly rebuild the gulf coast or get New Orleans back on its feet. They are having trouble finding this money because they are choosing to extend the dividend and capital gains tax cuts for the richest in our country. As such, they are making the choice to pass the burden of paying for these tax cuts on to our children in the form of a huge deficit.

This is NOT how we take care of our own in Texas, and this is not how we do things in the United States. The Republicans are launching an unabashed attack on the American way by ignoring the neediest in our country to give tax cuts to the richest.

DEMOCRATIC SUBSTITUTE

At the time of the last vote, the Democrats offered an amendment in the form of the substitute that is much more fiscally responsible

and equitable. The Democratic Substitute extended for one year all temporary tax provisions that expire at the end of this year, similar to the Majority's bill. The major difference, however, is that the Democratic substitute addresses the problem of the AMT by eliminating all liabilities for middle class individuals. Further, this \$45 billion provision would be fully offset by rolling back a portion of the tax cuts that would otherwise go to those with annual incomes of over \$1 million for joint returns and \$500,000 for other returns. I again urge the conferees to seek fiscally responsible options and point out that there are other options to alleviate tax burden on the middle and lower class without lining the pockets of the ultra-wealthy.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the priorities in the Republican bill are misguided. Congress should not be providing additional tax breaks for the rich less than a month after enacting huge spending cuts aimed at the most vulnerable. In the end, this tax bill will either exacerbate our already large Federal deficits, or will force even deeper cuts in critically important domestic programs. I am strongly opposed to this legislation in its current form, and I implore the conferees to seek more fiscally responsible options.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG). All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4297.

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

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Chair laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2006.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I hereby respectfully resign my seat on the Committee on Financial Services, effective immediately. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on this important committee.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING,
Member of Congress

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

BLOCKING PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONFLICT IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-88)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631 (NEA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. In that order, I declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by that conflict, as described below.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, expressed deep concern over the resumption of hostilities in Côte d'Ivoire, the public incitement of hatred and violence, and the repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement of May 3, 2003. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1572 determined that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire poses a threat to international peace and security in the region and called on member States to take certain measures against persons responsible for the continuing conflict. The United Nations Security Council has continued to express serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and of obstacles to the peace and national reconciliation process from all sides in UNSCRs 1643 of December 15, 2005, and 1652 of January 24, 2006.

Despite the intervention and efforts of the international community, there have been massacres of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and attacks against international peacekeeping forces in Côte d'Ivoire. Such activity includes the

killing of large numbers of civilians in Korhogo in June 2004, and in Abidjan in March 2004; significant violence and unrest, including public incitements to violence, in Abidjan in November 2004; human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, in western Côte d'Ivoire in April and June 2005; attacks on a police station and prison in July 2005 in Anyama and Agboville, and violent protests in Abidjan and attacks on U.N. and international nongovernmental organization facilities in western Côte d'Ivoire in January 2006. Also, notwithstanding the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement signed by the Ivorian political forces on January 24, 2003, the related ceasefire agreement of May 3, 2003, the Accra III Agreement of July 30, 2004, the Pretoria Agreement of April 6, 2005, and the Declaration on the Implementation of the Pretoria Agreement of June 29, 2005, consolidating the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis peace and national reconciliation process, Ivorian parties have continued to engage in military operations and attacks against peacekeeping forces in Côte d'Ivoire leading to fatalities.

Pursuant to the IEEPA and the NEA, I have determined that these actions and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat and have issued an Executive Order to deal with the threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy posed by the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire.

The order blocks the property and interests in property in the United States, or in the possession or control of United States persons, of the persons listed in the Annex to the order, as well as of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to constitute a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire, such as by blocking the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis, Accra III, and Pretoria Agreements; to be responsible for serious violations of international law in Côte d'Ivoire; to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold or transferred to Côte d'Ivoire arms or any related material or any assistance, advice, or training related to military activities; or to have publicly incited violence and hatred contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

The designation criteria will be applied in accordance with applicable domestic law, including where appropriate, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The order also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the ac-

tivities listed above or any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. I further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to remove any persons from the Annex to the order as circumstances warrant.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by the IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All executive agencies are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

The order, a copy of which is enclosed, became effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time on February 8, 2006.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 8, 2006.

2006 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Committee on Government Reform, Committee on Homeland Security, Committee on International Relations, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2006 National Drug Control Strategy prepared by my Administration, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Four years ago, my Administration issued its first National Drug Control Strategy. That Strategy set out an ambitious, balanced plan to reduce drug use in our Nation. Since 2001, drug use by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders has dropped by 19 percent, translating to nearly 700,000 fewer young people using drugs.

I appreciate the support the Congress has given for previous Strategies. I look forward to your continued support as we work together on this critical endeavor.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 8, 2006.