

he basically took all sorts of studies, leftist studies, OMB studies, CBO studies, and said, Mr. Speaker, what would happen if you basically maximized every tax rate, if you took people over \$400,000 and said, I am going to maximize their income tax?

There are formulas now because we have really good modeling for this. We can get them up to this tax rate before it changes their economic effects, and the revenues actually go down.

Maximize their capital gains. Maximize their estate tax. Maximize everything. Adjust for the economic effects.

If you don't believe me, go read the paper. You will get about 1.1 to 2 percent of GDP in new tax receipts. Okay.

Let's split the difference. Let's call it 1.6 of new taxes by maximizing every tax rate of those over 400,000. Okay.

The reality is the majority of the people that make over \$400,000 vote for Democrats anyway, so I don't know why we keep trying to say, but the economics are theater.

Back to the point when we began. What did we borrow last year? Anyone listen? We borrowed 8.4 percent of GDP—8.4.

The Democrats' solution covers 1.6 of it. When they do that, the capacity we need to be able to cover the shortfalls in Social Security, Medicare, if there is a disaster, if there is a war—we have no more capacity. This is how fragile we are as a society and intellectually vacuous, the debate here is.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will try to wrap this up in the next couple boards so the gentleman from Texas can have his time.

This is pretty much the same thing. We actually did the modelling on the permanent deficit, its interest carrying costs. That is what is over here in whatever earth tones that is.

One of the things I have heard the Progressive Caucus talk about, there is some absurd thing called the oligarch's tax where they are going to find really rich people, and the richer they are, they are just going to take portions of their unearned income or their assets. Okay. Fine.

I guess that is where the left's brain is, but you have to stop lying to people about the math. It only covers a tiny fraction of the borrowing.

Part of this even comes from one of the progressive group's own math. It is revenge for people who made a bunch of money, who vote for them and contribute to them, and then they make up the math.

This is such an absurd place. Look. Maybe no one actually cares. I have come here in the past and sort of showed the trajectory we are on to the amount of our economy that will be in debt, and we are already right here.

Remember, this is a chart that if you actually start to do the baseline, and

you start to actually do different baseline annual growths—you have to understand, in less than a decade, if our annual growth does not exceed the mean, meaning we only grow at a half a percent over those years, we are already at 125 percent debt to GDP.

Now, because we are the reserve currency, we get a little bit of a SPIF for more capacity, but basically you have to understand the number.

The time for doing something was actually a couple years ago. Every day we wait, the policy options—and this is going to be part of my closing, and I am going to say it two or three times.

The policy options close because there are things you need to do policywise. If you look at all the taxes the left wants to do—I just showed you a slide—it comes in about 1.5, 1.6 percent of GDP. We borrowed 8.4 last year.

The things we can cut. I can get you a couple of points of GDP we can cut, and I am willing to do some very difficult cuts.

Is it rational for us to borrow money on our nondefense discretionary and send it to States and jurisdictions that have their own taxing authority? We are basically playing a game of here is some free money that we are borrowing. Well, that is \$300 billion of the discretionary, but that is a fraction of the GDP.

The two ends here, that means the actual structural deficit that is actually from the demographics, you need a revolution in the costs. You can't tax enough, and you can't cut enough. It is math.

□ 1300

Once again, another model out there that shows once you do the actual economic effects of taxing the rich, it gets you only a fraction of the 10-year deficit.

I am going to close on this board because it is the board that enrages most people. It is the one that has been modeled by left groups, right groups, some of the honest universities, back to the point I have made. This board is already a year out of date, meaning when it says over the next 30 years, we will have \$116 trillion in borrowed money, we have a model in our office that is approaching \$130 trillion with the higher interest rates.

On this one, \$77 trillion of that shortfall over the next 30 years is Medicare. It is healthcare costs.

Another one is a \$38 trillion shortfall if we backfill Social Security and the shortfall there.

It is immoral what this body is doing by avoiding, and every day that we avoid, you find yourself saying taxes are your only opportunity, though I have just spent the last half an hour trying to explain policy is where the money is at.

Making people healthier is the single-biggest thing you can do to reduce the U.S. debt. Actually, you reduce it but stabilize it because we are going to continue to grow it because we are get-

ting old, and our healthcare costs are going to go up.

Can we use technology? Can we use cures? I could come to you tomorrow and point out the simple fact that 33 percent of all healthcare spending is diabetes. A revolution in our brothers and sisters with diabetes, which we know how to do it now—we actually have pharmaceuticals that are remarkable, and I am not thrilled with talking about pharmaceuticals, but the math is the math. We sometimes have to deal with the reality in front of us.

If we can cut diabetes in half in America—let's see, 15 percent of U.S. healthcare costs is about \$700 billion a year. If you cut 33 percent and then get the economic effects of people being able to work and other things, so a trillion dollars a year.

I mean, you start to understand this doesn't have to be dour. It doesn't have to be dystopian. There is hope. It just requires thinking and maybe owning a calculator and reading.

We are too busy saying the same crap to our voters because they applaud for us. Even though it is 20 years out of date, we say the same crap over and over.

I have been here 10 years. When I first got elected, 1 out of 8 was 65. Today, it is like 1 out of 5.8 is now 65. Demographics is our destiny.

Why are we incapable of telling each other the truth?

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

SHARING CHRISTMAS CAROL HISTORIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmas approaches, I rise to share the histories behind the most beloved Christmas carols.

My wife found a book, and I started reading it at breakfast one morning. I thought it was really interesting to know where Christmas carols came from. I thought I would come up here and share this with my colleagues and with the rest of the country that cares.

I have done three of these now, and I have 30 minutes to do a bunch more. Today, we are going to talk about a lot of them.

The first one is "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." It was written and composed by two men from similar backgrounds who never met.

Edmund Hamilton Sears was a Unitarian minister and graduate of Harvard Divinity School. Sears, who preferred a quiet life among his New England congregation, emphasized Jesus' message of peace on Earth, good will towards men. The words to "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" first appeared in print in 1850 in the Christian Registry.

By contrast, composer Richard S. Willis led a very public life as an editor

and critic with the New York Tribune. Willis composed carols while acting as a vestryman at The Little Church Around the Corner in New York City.

The music of the carol was matched with Sears' words years later, and here are the results. I can't sing, so don't ask me to sing. I am going to read them, although I sing them in church.

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the Earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the Earth, good will to men,
from Heaven's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angel sing.
For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the Earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

The lyrics of "Joy to the World" are based on Psalm 98, which reads:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the Earth
Make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, the king.

In 1719, English minister Isaac Watts wrote more than 600 hymns for children and adults, many of which are still sung today. Among his many admirers was Benjamin Franklin.

The music's composer was Lowell Mason, the father of American church music. He devoted his life to music education, eventually composing more than 1,600 religious works. Mason called his composition "Antioch," a reference to the Syrian city where Jesus' Disciples first came to be called Christians. Here are the words of the song:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy
He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

There is a great deal of myth and conjecture around "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Until about 1900, people believed that this hymn could be traced back to the 13th century and that St. Bonaventure possibly composed the original Latin words.

A clergyman named Dom John Stephan researched the original manu-

script and discovered that John Francis Wade wrote it. Wade, a Roman Catholic, lived in Douai, France, where he earned his living copying and teaching music. Composed between 1740 and 1744, the hymn became quite well known locally.

Here are the words to the song:

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the
King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.
Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

The next one is one I like a lot. As Phillips Brooks approached the village of Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, 1866, he imagined the holy family on their journey nearly 2,000 years before. The holy land was still singing in his soul when he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for a children's Sunday school class 2 years later.

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see Thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight
For Christ was born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim Thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to men on Earth
O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

□ 1315

My wife is Dutch, and she learned this song in German where it was originally written. When we sing it in church, she throws me off a little by singing in German, but it is still the same song.

"Silent Night" possesses a simple dignity and power like the alpine setting where it was written. Popular legend states that Joseph Mohr, the carol's composer, a village priest in the little Austrian town of Oberndorf, penned the words to "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve. He became distraught when the organ in his church broke

down and couldn't be repaired in time for Christmas services. He enlisted a friend, a musician, Franz Gruber, to compose a guitar accompaniment for the song.

The image of a starry night, the little church, and the lone guitar is one of enduring humility and quiet beauty. Mohr wrote several arrangements for "Silent Night."

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.
Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth;
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

The first written record of "The First Noel" appeared in William Sandys' 1833 edition of "Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern." Folk songs enjoyed a revival in 19th century England, and there are several collections like Sandys that include this carol.

The first noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the Earth it gave great light,
And so it continued day and night.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel.
And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the king of Israel.
This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel.

The melody of "Greensleeves" is so old that it is impossible to date. We know that Queen Elizabeth I danced to the melody and that Shakespeare mentioned it in "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

As with other carols, traditional music made a late marriage to sacred words. The English hymn writer William Dix composed these words under the title "The Manger Throne."

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with voices sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste, to bring Him praise,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for the sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him praise,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own Him.
The king of kings, salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

It is my hope that you will enjoy these histories and think about them as you celebrate the holiday season.

On behalf of the people of my district in central Texas, I wish each of you a merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 11, 2023, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV,

EC-2487. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-322, "Grounds for Divorce, Legal Separation, and Annulment Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814), was taken from the Speaker's table, referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6653. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms.

BONAMICI, Mr. CASAR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. QUILLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 6654. A bill to prohibit the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene food service ware, expanded polystyrene loose fill, and expanded polystyrene coolers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FOX (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6655. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 6656. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Social Security to implement automated systems with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration, respectively, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6657. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, to limit the conditions applicable to the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards to purchase food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 6658. A bill to prohibit entities receiving Federal assistance that are involved in adoption or foster care placements from delaying or denying placements under certain conditions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 6659. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate electric bicycle sharing services for disadvantaged communities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 6660. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to stipulate that a parking benefit is not a qualified parking fringe benefit unless an employer offers employees the option to receive an equivalent cash benefit or alternative tax-exempt benefit in lieu of the parking benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 6661. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 6662. A bill to establish a White House Rural Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6663. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to authorize the use of certain grants to prevent suicide or overdose by children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 6664. A bill to encourage innovation in the development of pediatric drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 6665. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate certain fuel excise taxes and impose a tax on greenhouse gas emissions to provide revenue for maintaining and building American infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6666. A bill to codify Executive Order 13771 (relating to reducing regulation and controlling regulatory costs); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. OGLES, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H.R. 6667. A bill to provide limitations for Federal agencies entering into settlement agreements and consent decrees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. OGLES, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 6668. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to purchase at-home tests for SARS-CoV-2 from certain foreign entities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 6669. A bill to provide resources for United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6670. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations