

Republicans. We are working with senior Members, working with freshman Members, trying to get that passed.

Now, the Hilleary amendment, what is so good about it and why I think it is important that this House support it is because it does two things. It says that you will have a 12-year limit, but also if States have individual term limits, 8 years, 6 years, 10 years or whatever, they can keep their own State law in place to self-impose term limits that are different as long as they do not go over the 12 limit. Now, I am going to support that.

I am also going to support the McCollum bill. Mr. McCOLLUM of Florida has a bill that sets a 12-year term limit, and it is a uniform bill. The thing that I believe is important about that is that Congressman MCCOLLUM has introduced term limits, I believe, every year since he personally has been a member of this body and has been out there as a lone wolf crying in the wind for term limits far before it was popular.

I think that it is great that finally, after all these years of him coming up, and there were others along with him who supported term limits, finally he is going to get a vote on it. And I plan to support both these bills and both these versions, and I hope we do get 290 votes on one of them so that we can move the legislation for him.

Now another key element of the Contract With America that is going to be coming up is the tax stimulus. This tax stimulus, unlike the Clinton stimulus 2 years ago which was a tax increase, this is a tax decrease. You know, this gets a lot of people nervous because the American Federal system of government has been robbing taxpayers for so many years now.

You know, in the 1950's the average American family paid 2 percent Federal income tax. Today that same American family pays 24 percent Federal income tax. Now that, along with all your intangible tax, your sales tax, your local option sales tax, insurance premium tax, utility tax, State income tax, in some cases municipal income taxes, these have been going up.

The average American family right now is paying 40 to 50 percent of their income in taxes. I believe it is time to return that money back to their pockets, and I would rather trust my constituents to spend their own money than some of the bureaucrats that I have seen up here. Because the bureaucrats, when they get their money, they overspend. They sit around and come up with new regulations, new ways to take freedom away from Americans.

But I promise you, as we know it with a study of economics, that lowering taxes will stimulate the economy because people will have more disposable income. They will buy more shoes, more clothes, more hamburgers, more cars, ultimately more houses. When they do that, jobs are created because businesses have to expand to create the new demand. When that happens, more

people are working; and revenues go up.

This was proven in 1980 with the Reagan tax cuts, 1982 actually, but 1980 the revenues to the Federal Government were \$500 million and in 1990 they were over a trillion dollars. Unfortunately, the spending outpaced revenues so we still had runaway deficits during that time period.

I would certainly say that that is a bipartisan problem. You had the Democrats controlling the House, but part of the time the Republicans controlled the Senate and the White House, so it is a bipartisan problem.

But these tax cuts are designed to create jobs which will increase revenues. And when that happens, Mr. Speaker, with all the reductions that we are doing we will be able to pay down the debt, reduce the deficit and turn this country around, which I think is extremely important for us to do.

So I am proud to be here tonight, and I am proud to support both term limits and a tax decrease that will stimulate the economy.

TERM LIMITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of term limits. You know, term limits is in fact part of our heritage from colonial legislatures. There were some colonial legislatures that had a rotation in office concept. Besides that, in the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War there was a 3-year term limit. No one could serve for more than 3 years.

In fact, rotation in office was the unwritten rule in the House of Representatives for many years after the founding of this country and after the Constitution went into effect. It was almost a hundred years, after the war between the States, when the average term became 4 years. It was the 1920's when the average term became eight years. This tells you something.

Today, over 90 percent, over 90 percent of incumbents win reelection if they run for reelection, and term limits is the most important political reform that we can make at this time.

The concept of term limits, of course, is that a Member goes and serves in a legislative body and then returns home to live under the laws that they have made.

Washington State had a term limit initiative. It was a 6-year term limit initiative, and it passed overwhelmingly there. And I pledged, and I said when I ran for Congress, I said I will pledge to serve no more than 6 years. The people passed it. I will obey it, regardless if it is held constitutional or not. If the people pass it, that is what I would consider my duty.

Over 80 percent of the Republicans are going to vote for term limits tomorrow, and what we are asking, and

asking very sincerely, just 40 percent of the Democrats, if 40 percent of the Democrats will join the more than 80 percent of the Republicans, we will have the first real chance for term limits in this Nation, and I think we should.

I will work really hard, and I will vote for the 6-year term limit. But if that isn't what passes, I think we should be prepared to vote for whatever passes and has the best chance to attain term limits for this Nation. I think we have a mandate, and the mandate of the last election was, very clearly, pass term limits for Congress as Congress passed term limits for the Presidency.

TERM LIMITS VOTE IS HISTORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. McCOLLUM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support term limits and to talk about what is going to happen out here tomorrow in a very historic vote.

I have been involved with the term limits movement for many years now. It was quite lonely when I first came to Congress and introduced the first constitutional amendment for a 12-year term limit of House and Senate Members. We did not have very many supporting it then. In fact, as recently as the 102d Congress, just 3 or 4 years ago, we only had 33 Members of the House willing to say they were for term limits in an open and public fashion.

In the last Congress, even though the now sophomore class had made its mark in the campaigns, many of them by advocating term limits, we only had 107 out of the 435 House Members willing to say they supported term limits.

Tomorrow we are going to have a vote, and we have a shot at getting to the 290, the two-thirds necessary to pass a term limits constitutional amendment. I do not know whether we will get there or not, but we are going to have well over 200 who are going to vote for some version of term limits and, hopefully, for the final passage. I think that is truly remarkable progress.

Whether it succeeds tomorrow or not, it is a big day, the first day in the history of the United States Congress to have such a debate and vote.

In 40 years of Democrat control of this Congress, they never let a vote occur. And only in the last term that they held power did they even allow a hearing on the subject. Now we are going to get that opportunity that the American public by nearly 80 percent in poll after poll say they support.

Interestingly enough, those Americans who are answering those poll questions are roughly divided in an even fashion, at about 50 percent Republicans and 50 percent Democrats. There is not a partisan matter involved in term limits. It is something the