

There shouldn't be a distinction between the two just because one happens to make his living off the land.

So today I and my colleagues are introducing legislation to correct this oversight. Very simply, this bill states that the Secretary of Agriculture shall be authorized to provide assistance from funds appropriated for disaster relief to farmers whose crops are otherwise not eligible for crop insurance coverage under existing department programs; and whose farm does not otherwise qualify for loans, grants, or disaster assistance from other Federal sources.

What does this mean? This means, under those emergency situations where no other Federal programs are available for aid, the Secretary of Agriculture may—and I emphasize may; he isn't required to do so—open up existing agriculture relief programs to farmers who have no other recourse to assistance. This bill does not authorize additional funds but allows the Secretary to use already authorized funds in existing programs.

Mr. Speaker, specialty crop farmers deserve no more than other farmers who suffer natural disasters. But they deserve no less, either. I thank my colleagues for joining me in introducing this bill and urge other Members of the House to support us in helping America's farmers.

UPDATE ON THE CONTRACT

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, you can see now after 12 weeks that this bipartisan House, under Republican leadership, has passed 9 out of 10 items in the Contract With America.

First the balanced budget amendment which only awaits one vote in the Senate.

Stop violent criminals. Here we have a law which changed the habeas corpus reform by making sure that there is finality to death sentences where we are dealing with violent criminals for which there is a first degree sentence.

Welfare reform. Here we are trying to make sure that able-bodied people will have every right and every incentive to be off welfare within 2 years by giving them job counseling, job training, job placement, and day care, if necessary, and also make sure that we do get healthy meals for our kids with WIC and with the school nutrition programs.

Under the Republican proposal which has been passed with a 4.5-percent increase over this year, that is higher than 3.1 percent recommended by the President and the 3.6 percent recommended by the Democrat minority. The fact is that with the 15-percent middleman eliminated by the Federal bureaucrats and the States taking over the program, we are going to have a 5-percent cap on administrative expense,

and we will feed more children more meals.

We are going to have in the tax cuts for families a very important program. Here we have the tax bill historically passed last night. I might say that almost every single bill passed in the Contract With America; there has been bipartisan support, well over the 218 votes necessary, votes approximating 300 on almost all occasions.

In the tax credit bill, we are going to have \$500 tax credit for each child in the family. New IRA deductions for health insurance, for first-time home purchases, and for retirement income. We repealed last night the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits over 5 years. We provide tax incentives for the purchase of long-term-care health insurance. We provide a 50-percent capital gains exclusion from taxes which will help investments, savings, and create new jobs. We will help small businesses be able to deduct more of the expenses of their business and, therefore, encourage more employment. We will provide a refundable tax credit for families of \$5,000 for those families who adopt children, a \$500 tax credit for families caring for a dependent elderly parent or grandparent. We will raise the earnings limit for senior citizens up to \$30,000, up from the \$11,280 we have today.

By working together we have passed almost every single item here in the Contract With America. The only item we have left to pass finally will be congressional term limits. While I supported all four bills, we needed 290 votes to pass it in the House. We had as much as 227.

Speaker GINGRICH has guaranteed that in the beginning session for the next session, 1997, he would make that bill No. 1, if we do not have another opportunity to vote on it again.

We have rolled back Government regulations. We have had commonsense legal reform. We want to make sure people have the legal right to redress their grievances in court, but we also want to make sure that frivolous, fraudulent, and inflated suits would not be encouraged in the courts of the United States.

We are also going to make sure that we have a strong national defense by making sure that our military are properly armed and properly trained, but our U.S. troops will not be under UN command, because we will be making sure that we take care of the United States first.

Now, what is going to happen in the post-100 days? We are going to work on health care reform. We are going to work on FDA reform. We are going to make sure the Food and Drug Administration moves the process along more quickly so that drugs that are life extending and those that are life saving are approved more quickly so we can help our constituents, create jobs and also help people live longer.

Going to work with Mrs. MORELLA, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. PELOSI on the

women's health care initiatives, very important programs here in the Congress.

We are also going to work on a bill that I have, within 7 years, sunset Federal agencies to make sure that those agencies that have outlived their usefulness or are spending too much money or duplicate what we are doing in the States, that they are eliminated.

We also need to expand the investment tax credit and research and development tax credits to help our small businesses be able to make sure that they keep their employment going to keep their services going and to make sure the engine of America moves forward with new jobs, with expansion, and to make sure we have every family enjoy the American dream.

So the Contract With America is only the beginning. We see a bipartisan effort moving forward in this 104th Congress. We do not see Republicans or Democrats fighting. We do not see conservatives and liberals fighting. We see the end of gridlock. We see the end of finger pointing. We see an America moving forward together to help its people.

We will restore the confidence in the Congress because not only will we get more reforms which helps individuals and families and seniors, but we are going to make sure we have the kind of reforms in this Congress that will have gift ban reform, that we are going to make sure we have campaign reform. And we also are going to make sure we have pension reform. That was part of this last legislation to make sure that Congressmen in fact have the same pensions as other Federal workers.

So, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to give this recap and look forward to working with the American people and the Congress and Senate to make sure we have valuable legislation adopted in the next 100 days.

STUDENT LOANS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have taken aim at middle-class families with proposals to cut student loans. They want to cut student loan programs to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

Student loans in this country today have made it possible for 4.5 million middle-class students to go to college. These Republican cuts will mean fewer students going to college and for those students that do go to college that are now receiving student loans, it will mean higher costs to them.

In my State of Ohio, the average debt per student on student loans will increase nearly \$3,100.

Mr. Speaker, I wear a tie today from Lorraine County Community College in northeast Ohio. In the county which I live, in Lorraine County, 67 percent of

all Lorraine County Community College students are on some type of financial aid, nearly 5,000 students per quarter.

At a school like Lorraine County Community College, which is an absolute jewel for Lorraine County in terms of job training and people going back to school and getting more education and people going straight from high school onto LC to go to college, Lorraine County Community College has literally thousands of part-time students, hundreds and hundreds of single parents who are students, hundreds of people from a very diverse cross section of the community.

What these cuts to middle-class students mean, what these budget cuts mean on student loans is that many of these students that are now at Lorraine County Community College will be saddled with heavier and heavier debts as they are struggling to work part-time and go to school part-time and raise their children and some of them simply will give up.

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These cuts to middle-class students are part of the Republican Contract on America.

Let me briefly discuss the winners and the losers in the Republican Contract on America. The winners are people like Rupert Murdoch. Rupert Murdoch got a \$63 million tax break, Australian-born, American-naturalized-citizen Rupert Murdoch. Another winner is American billionaires who are the recipients of \$3.6 billion, thanks to the Republican Contract on America, American billionaires who renounced their American citizenship and got this tax break. Other winners are people making \$200,000 a year.

The Republicans have called middle class not what people in my district would term middle class. Those are other winners who get a major tax break under the Contract With America.

Another major winner is America's largest corporations, which in the mid-1980's had enjoyed so many tax loopholes that many of them paid no Federal taxes. Ronald Reagan and the then Democratic Congress put on them an alternative minimum tax so those corporations at least paid some tax. That tax loophole has been recreated under the Republican Contract for America.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BROWN. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. I was just hoping that in your list of winners you would include 87.5 percent of the American people who will benefit from this \$500 per child tax credit. It is a pretty significant group in the population of the country that will benefit from the Contract With America, and I would hope my friend from Ohio would mention this large group of our citizens.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Let me answer that.

The fact is that, in spite of all the Republican charts, they have called people making \$200,000 a year middle class. The tax cuts are mostly for them when you add in that one particular tax item plus the money for Rupert Murdoch plus the \$3.6 billion that people renounced their citizenship plus the alternative minimum tax repeal.

Now, I want to make sure I have this right with the Rupert Murdoch situation. You have got an Australian billionaire who has come to the United States, gotten American citizenship so that he could buy a television network and so that he could buy a major book publishing house and cut book deals with American politicians. Then you have American billionaires who have renounced their citizenship so they can get \$3.6 billion in tax breaks.

Perhaps if Rupert Murdoch is really, really smart, after he has become an American citizen and got this \$65 million, he will be able to renounce his citizenship and get part of the \$3.6 billion.

The fact is, this is ludicrous. Perhaps Mr. Murdoch and perhaps some of those American billionaires that have partaken of the \$3.6 billion by renouncing their citizenship will come to Lorain, to my hometown with me, and explain to students at Lorain Community College why in fact their student loans are being cut, will explain to students at Tennyson Elementary in Sheffield Lake, OH, why school lunches are being cut, will explain in Elyria, OH, to young people who have had summer jobs in the past why there are no more summer jobs programs because of these Republican cuts.

It simply does not make sense. It is not fair. It is not right.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the House reconsider some of these measures that the Republican Contract With American is all about.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA WILL BENEFIT THE MIDDLE CLASS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to comment, just a few comments on my friend who spoke previously in front of me.

I think that it is important that as we debate and talk about the situation in America today that we try and leave class envy and prejudice out of it. I know it just sounds so appealing to say everybody's billionaires and millionaires. I guess because you are successful you become guilty of overachievement; therefore, you should be overtaxed equally.

Maybe that is the Democrat mantra; but, as I was pointing out earlier, the distribution of the \$500 per child tax credit—and you know what, Mr. Speaker, I am going to go ahead and move

down to the easel because I was not intending to show this, but let us go ahead and make sure. All right.

You know, I know the Democrats do not like our charts, and there is reason they do not like our charts. They do not like the truth. When you are pushing propagand, you do not like to have people stand up and say, well, here is a source that is a neutral source that comes from the Tax Foundation. It is not the Republican party. It is not NEWT GINGRICH's office. But that 87.5 percent of the people who benefit from this middle-class tax cut are people under \$75,000 in income. That is pretty much middle class. You know, it is a very mainstream tax credit.

Now, here is on the capital gains tax. Most of the people who will be benefiting, this larger column, make under \$50,000 a year. I hope that when we reconvene in May that we can get away from this class envy and this if you do well we are going to attack you because you have done something wrong along the way. I like to believe that people who are successful have done so usually by helping others, by selling a quality good or delivering a service that is needed in America today.

Now, let us talk about the Contract With America, which I know the press and a lot of folks on the other side of the aisle do not like. But the Contract With America, if you go back to when it was introduced in October, everyone said, well, this is cute, but it will never get passed, nobody is really interested in it, and the Republicans are the minority party and will not make a difference.

Well, that was in October. November, what happened? It was passed. And then for the first time in history the media started calling it Contract With America instead of Contract for America. That was a big step within the national liberal media.

Then, by December, what had happened? Instead of people saying, hey, the November elections are over with, ho hum, let's go home, they said this is really different, we are going to have some changes, we are going to have some fundamental changes in Washington, DC. These folks have a campaign promise that they are telling people put on your refrigerator door, call us, follow up, make sure that we follow through on our promise to you that we made on the campaign trail.

And now all the new freshmen, all the sophomore class, all the senior Republicans delivered. But, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of the items on the Contract With America passed with bipartisan support.

Democrats joined in. Why? Not because they are in love with NEWT GINGRICH but because their constituents wanted these items. This is what 60 to 70 to 80 percent of Americans want: smaller government, fewer regulations, more personal freedom, get the government off my back, lower my taxes. And that is what the Contract With America is all about.