

BUDGET RECONCILIATION WILL LOWER TAXES

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell you something that the people back home in Georgia thought they'd never hear me say. I am here to tell you that I agree with the President. Mr. President, I do believe you raised taxes too much. And that's why this week we are going to pass a budget reconciliation that lowers taxes. We will allow seniors to keep more of the money they earn. We will lower the capital gains rate; 77 percent of those benefiting from a lower capital gains rate will have an income of less than \$75,000 a year. And we will pass a \$500 per child tax credit, which will eliminate the tax burden for families making less than \$25,000 and will cut the tax liability of those making between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in half. We are cutting taxes to benefit seniors, families, and the middle class. That's exactly what we were elected to do.

Mr. President, 2 years ago, you took away \$260 billion; and this week, we're going to refund that money.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair would advise Members to address the Chair, not the President of the United States.

NEAR TRAGEDY PREVENTED AT DENVER AIRPORT DURING SNOWSTORM

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and to include therein extraneous material.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, Sunday night we had a terrible snowstorm in Denver. We really want to thank the crew of the United flight that prevented a terrible accident by aborting the landing that would have crashed into equipment that was, unfortunately, on the field. I am pleased to say that after notifying the FAA of my great concern about this, the FAA now has a team of experts on the ground at DIA. They have decertified the ground radar that did not work. Hopefully, we will get it fixed and that will never happen again.

They are looking at the tiles that have fallen off the roof in the tower that were falling and allowing water to fall all over the equipment that the Air Traffic Controllers were trying to use. That is an outrage in a brandnew airport. Hopefully, that is going to get fixed right away.

Finally, they are looking at the discrepancies between the flow control coming out of the regional center and what the tower said they could absorb.

Mr. Speaker, there was a whole parade of mistakes. Thank goodness the FAA is there on the ground now trying to fix them, and we again thank the

crew for making sure those mistakes did not end in a tragedy.

Sunday night Denver experienced its second snow storm of the season. Denver International Airport weathered the first storm with flying colors. Unfortunately, the second storm caused serious problems.

A United Boeing 727 nearly hit a city vehicle that accidentally ventured onto an active runway. The pilot of that plane should be commended for his quick reaction. The FAA ground radar system that should have told air traffic controllers that there was a vehicle on the runway was operating, but not working.

Airport operations had trouble removing the snow from the runways, creating a backlog of aircraft waiting to land. One plane got stuck on a taxiway. The regional air traffic control center kept the flow of aircraft higher than the Denver tower could handle.

The Doppler radar and ground radar went out during the storm. Tiles from the ceiling of the newly built air traffic control tower fell to the ground. Water leaked all over the equipment and had to be vacuumed out.

And today I find out that a tile fell last night and hit an air traffic controller on the head while she was managing air traffic. Fortunately she's OK. Clearly, we need improvements.

The FAA has sent in a team of experts to DIA. They're on site, working hard to rectify this situation. They have decertified the ground radar, and are looking at the other systems as well.

The city and the FAA must quickly work closely together so that we'll be able to make it through the many storms to come.

NO INTENTION OF RAISING TAXES TOO MUCH

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week the President made an astonishing confession. He said that his tax increase of 1993 might have been too much. What he failed to admit is that in his 1992 campaign he promised to cut taxes, not increase them.

Republicans promise to cut taxes for the middle class and small business, not raise them, and that is just what we are going to do. Our \$500 per-child tax credit will eliminate Federal taxes for families making less than \$25,000 a year. Those making between \$25,000 and \$30,000 will have their Federal liability cut in half. In addition our capital gains tax reductions will benefit the middle class. The IRS found that 77 percent of those who paid capital gains in 1993 earned less than \$75,000.

You won't hear this Republican-led Congress apologizing to the American people for raising taxes too much, because unlike the President, we have no intention of doing so.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 927. An act to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1322. An act to provide for the relocation of the United States Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and for other purposes.

□ 1415

BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT

(Mr. FRAZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my objection to the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1996.

This legislation is designed to devastate programs that help children, senior citizens, and students.

The Virgin Islands is in the process of recovering from Hurricane Marilyn which has an estimated price tag of \$3 billion. The proposed cuts in housing targeted for families with children will have a devastating impact on our efforts to rebuild the Islands.

Over 7,500 senior citizens in the Virgin Islands receive Medicare. I was elected to Congress to represent my constituents who have invested in a system that would provide quality health care that is accessible and affordable.

We need to preserve and improve Medicare, education, and housing programs, not dismantle them for tax cuts for the rich making over \$600,000 a year.

I urge my colleagues to defeat H.R. 2491.

THE ANTITAX REVOLUTION

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, these presidential gyrations on taxes are fascinating. Watch the President flip, flop, flip. Well, we all remember when candidate Bill Clinton promised a middle-class tax cut, but then President Bill Clinton raised taxes on the American people. Now the President, as the train is leaving the station, says he wants on board the antitax revolution.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we here in Congress—the Republican majority anyway—heartily agree with the President that his 1993 tax increases were way too big and a big policy mistake. That is why we want to give American families a \$500-per-child tax credit. The average family of two will get a \$1,000 tax credit. Those making between \$25,000 and \$30,000 will see their taxes cut in half, and 4.57 million very low income families will see their tax liability eliminated altogether.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton is right. His taxes are too high, and we

Republicans this week are going to cut those taxes and let Americans keep more of the fruit of their labors.

ARE WE TAKING CARE OF OUR NATION'S CHILDREN?

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, 22 percent of our Nation's children live below the poverty line—22 percent. That is the largest percentage of any developed country. So what are we doing about that? Are we acting in a bipartisan way to make sure that we take care of our Nation's children? No.

In this reconciliation package this week, we are cutting Head Start programs by \$137 million, kicking children out of existing programs; and this is a program that President Ronald Reagan sought to increase funding for.

At the same time, lobbyists are arguing very successfully for more funding for B-2 bombers that the Defense Department does not even want, and we are cutting children out of Head Start programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is coldhearted, this is short-sighted, and I hope that we work together in a bipartisan way to take care of our Nation's children, 22 percent of which live below the poverty line.

THE ASSAULT ON CHILDREN

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, last week, it was the assault on the elderly. This week, as budget reconciliation comes to the floor of the House, the assault is on children.

Let me talk for a moment, Mr. Speaker, about my home State of Pennsylvania. The Republican Medicaid plan would eliminate coverage for as many as 114,892 Pennsylvania children and 4.4 million children nationwide. We are also going to cut in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh infant mortality programs by 52 percent.

We have heard a lot about tax credits. That is nonrefundable. How many people who have two or four children at the end of the year owe \$1,000 or \$2,000? Actually, when they eliminate the earned income tax credit, families with two or more children in Pennsylvania will face an average tax increase of \$448 under the Republican plan.

This plan will deny Head Start to 6,000 children across Pennsylvania and 180,000 children nationwide. It will deny 45,000 Pennsylvania students basic and advanced skills in 1996 by cutting title I. The cuts just keep on coming, Mr. Speaker.

THE MEDICARE BILL WILL COST SENIORS MORE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have been saying for some time on the floor that the Medicare bill which passed the House last week, the Republican-sponsored Medicare bill, would cost seniors a lot more. They would have to pay more in order to get less quality care.

I was therefore amazed when I found out that when the bill came up, a rule that was adopted in this House in which the Republican leadership boasted about requiring a three-fifths vote majority to raise any taxes was waived when the Medicare bill came to the floor last week. That was a recognition of the fact that this bill had major tax increases, doubled premiums for part B for physicians' care, eliminated the guarantee that certain low-income seniors have their Medicaid part B paid for and also implemented a means test which required seniors to pay more.

There is no question in my mind that what that Medicare bill did was charge a lot more to seniors in order to finance this tax cut that is coming up this week, a \$245 billion tax cut that is going to be going mainly to wealthy Americans.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ACTION

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Clinton was caught in the act of selling another huge whopper to the American people. This time Bill Clinton told an audience of fat cat Democrat contributors that he thinks his 1993 tax increases were a mistake.

He then attempted to hide behind his mother by saying he forgot her advice about making a speech after 7 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, I have not forgotten my mother's advice. My mother told me to go to Washington and cut taxes, save Medicare, reform welfare, and balance the budget. My momma wouldn't care how tired I was or about the time of day. My mother and my constituents gave me a clear agenda that I will not back away from. No more excuses, no more inside-the-beltway gimmicks. The American people want action and they want Congress and the President to do the right thing for America's future—even if it means working late at night.

GO BRAVES

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Ted Turner has done it again. Turn on

your TV. Turn on almost any channel. You can't miss it. The Atlanta Braves are back—back in the World Series—to claim what is theirs.

Not since the Yankees of old has a baseball team stood so tall for so long. Bobby Cox has built a team for the ages—a team for destiny. Maddux. Glavine. Smoltz. Avery. Wohlers. The Murderer's Row of the 1990's—the pitchers no team wants to face.

The defense of Belliard, Lemke, and Grissom—the power of Justice, Klesko, Jones, and McGriff—they inspired Atlanta to forget the strike, to believe.

So I say to my friends from Ohio—get ready to rock and roll.

It's two and "Oh" and two to go. The Braves will not be denied. They cannot go back, they must not go back, they will not go back. Go Braves, Go Braves, Go Braves.

NEW MAJORITY WILL DELIVER TAX CUTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, this week the new majority will deliver on the tax cuts we promised during the last election. We will provide much needed relief to overburdened families.

In 1948, the average American family with children paid only 3 percent of their income to the government. Today, that same family pays 24.5 percent. In fact, the average family pays more in taxes than it does on food, clothing, and housing combined.

Our \$500-per-child family tax credit will provide relief to more than 35 million American families. For families with two children, that's \$1,000 that is now in their hands—not the government's.

In addition, the \$500-per-child tax credit will eliminate the tax burden for 4.7 million families.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans deserve a tax cut. President Clinton believed this when he was a candidate. This week, Republicans will deliver.

WHERE IS THE BILL?

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, we are going to vote on reconciliation this week, and the last speaker in the well said that they are going to keep their contract provisions and give everybody a tax break. Well, here is a draft of the reconciliation bill. It is 1,563 pages. On page 1,563 title 19 says, contract tax provisions, text to be supplied. Text to be supplied.

They do not have a bill. We will never see the bill, but they are going to expect every one of us, 435, to vote on it come Thursday, a bill we have never seen.

Mr. Speaker, we know from the past 10 months what the Republican plan