

pay something for the privileges of living in America. They have tried to repeal that. So even the wealthiest of people and corporations do not have to pay. But all of a sudden we are worried about whether somebody making \$4.25, \$4.30, \$5 an hour, whether these people are going to be those who spark inflation. I think there is something wrong with the priorities of the people who suggest that, that somehow the culprits in this fight, these low income people who are doing in many instances some of the most difficult jobs in our society, in some cases some of the dirtiest jobs, some of those thankless jobs, some of the most tiring jobs, and we have all been in business institutions where we have looked at people who are much older than we are, who are still out there pounding, trying to stay equal in our society, working at the minimum wage, working there, trying to support their own children, trying to support themselves, and very often I am sure we have said, boy, I am a lot more fortunate than they are. But now all of sudden they are the bad people. They are the bad people in the war against inflation, somebody who is trying to catch up because they have lost their purchasing power, that that is going to ignite it.

I think the gentlewoman is right. It is fundamentally a different set of values about human beings, about the values of their work, about the value of their families, about the needs that these people have and the dignity that they are entitled to when they work as hard as they do and yet they still end up poor at the end of the year. We owe them better than that. I thank the gentlewoman for taking this time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California. I would like to really close with what a great American President Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican President of the United States said. I quote, "No man can be a good citizen unless he has a wage more than sufficient to cover, to bear cost of living so that after his day's work is done, he will have time and energy to bear his share in the management of the community to help in carrying the general load."

Theodore Roosevelt, a great American President, said this. He was not a revolutionary but he did, in fact, understand progress and what it means.

I just finish by saying that it is time to assist working men and women in this country. Bring the minimum wage vote to this floor. Make it a clean vote and let people do what they sincerely believe ought to be done as to whether or not we ought to raise or not raise the minimum wage in this country.

In my view, it needs to be raised.

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Congresswoman from Connecticut for holding this very important special order on the minimum wage.

Today, I want to join my colleagues in urging the Speaker to bring the minimum wage increase legislation to the floor for a vote.

Approximately 30 percent of the Virgin Island work force is employed in the service in-

dusty. A majority of these workers are adults who support families. It is very difficult to support a family on \$4.25 an hour. The Virgin Islands is considered the American paradise, yet 36 percent of the population live below poverty.

Mr. Speaker we need a commonsense approach to solving our economic problems. If we can give small businesses 100 percent deductibility for health care, then we can raise the minimum wage by 90 cents.

I urge my colleagues to support raising the minimum wage, its good for small business, its good for workers and its good for the Nation.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 175, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-534) on the resolution (H. Res. 411) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 175) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MORE ON THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I take this special order to point out to the American people what we are going through, you just witnessed, here in the House. The liberal Democrats do not want to debate. They would not yield time even when they used a colleague's name and pulled out quotes of what a colleague has used on the floor. They did not even have the courtesy to debate that colleague because they know that they have taken the words of their colleagues and taken them out of context and twisted them.

They are not the points that the colleagues were trying to make. They know it. That is why they will not yield to us. That is why they will not debate us. All they are doing is calling for a vote on minimum wage, and they really do not care about entry level workers or the poor in this country because, if they did, they would really want to debate this issue. But they do not want to debate. They want to get up and talk and talk and talk and talk, misrepresenting everything that these Members are doing down here, and trying to allow the American family to take home more pay by getting big government and Washington Government out of their pocket.

Mr. Speaker, that is the way to help the American family in America, not some arbitrary Government-set wage and price controls that disrupts the market and actually puts people out of

work and lowers the ability of people to create jobs, to put people to work.

I yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER]. I am very happy to yield to the gentleman from California. Unfortunately, the liberal Democrats do not want to debate the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me say to my very dear friend that this is a historic moment for me. I wondered if at any point in my life anyone from the well would in fact yield time to me. So we have gotten to that point, and I would like to express my gratitude and say that I plan to use it briefly but, I hope, very wisely. It is unfortunate, as my friend said, that on the other side of the aisle that our colleagues refuse to engage in any kind of discussion on this issue. They want to simply embark on a monolog.

Mr. Speaker, if I could just take a couple of moments to respond to some of the preposterous claims that were made on the other side of the aisle. First let me offer a disclaimer and say that I concur with my friend who has worked long and hard on this issue that having a federally mandated minimum wage is in fact not a benefit to working Americans. In fact it is something that will jeopardize job creation and economic growth, something which we seek very sincerely.

During this special order I did not hear this but it was just written down by one of our crack staff members on the floor. Our colleague from Connecticut reportedly said their taxes keep going up but their wages do not go up.

The fact of the matter is we on this side of the aisle tried to help President Clinton comply with one of his campaign promises back in 1992 by giving him an opportunity to reduce the tax burden on working Americans. We all know what happened with that opportunity that he had. He chose to veto that legislation and prevent those working Americans who, and the gentlewoman from Connecticut is absolutely right, saw their taxes keep going up, prevent them from having the chance, the chance to have a reduction.

Mr. DELAY. Not only did the President veto tax cuts for the American family, the people that have been calling the loudest for a minimum wage voted against tax cuts for the American family.

Mr. DREIER. That is absolutely right. Those people who argue that their taxes keep going up are the ones who keep increasing their taxes as opposed to those of us who want to reduce that burden.

The other thing that I found to be preposterous is that my friend from California proceeded to say that we now see the minimum wage at the lowest level in 40 years. Assuming that you are a strong supporter of increasing the minimum wage, the last time the minimum wage was increased was in 1989, and it was increased to \$4.25 an hour.