

During the hearing, I was struck by the testimony of Ms. Audrey Haynes, Executive Director of the Business and Professional Women/USA, an organization that represents some 70,000 working women with more than 2,000 local groups, one-third of whom are small business owners, at least one in every congressional district.

Ms. Haynes pointed out that at \$8,500 a year, the "minimum wage worker" is more appropriately referred to as the "miracle worker".

The typical "miracle worker" is a single parent, with Children.

At the "miracle wage" of \$4.25 per hour, each week, she brings home \$182 after taxes.

She uses her "miracle wage" for child care at \$50 a week; for minimal food at \$65 a week; for essentials such as clothing, personal and health care products and doctor bills at \$50 a week; for rent in basic housing at \$85 a week; and for public transportation at \$20 a week. She spends nothing on recreation or personal pleasure. And, at the end of the week, she still has a growing deficit of \$88 each week.

With a modest increase in the minimum wage of ninety cents, and with the earned income tax credit, which is in some doubt because it too is under attack, the "miracle worker" can cut her deficit in half.

Mr. Speaker, I am at a loss as to how some of my colleagues can push for deficit reduction and a balanced budget, while refusing to pass a minimum wage increase that would be used by twelve million working Americans for that very same purpose.

The Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy has assured us that the impact of a minimum wage increase would not be dramatic.

Fewer than ten percent of the Nation's small businesses would be affected.

That is because, contrary to popular belief, most minimum wage workers are employed by big business, not small business. Only 2.5 million minimum wage workers are employed by businesses with fewer than ten employees.

In addition, most small business owners already pay above the minimum wage. That is the only way to attract and keep good workers.

Moreover, businesses with receipts of less than \$500,000 are exempt from minimum wage laws, unless involved in interstate commerce.

Mr. Speaker, a miracle is a mystery, a wonder, an enigma, a conundrum, a puzzle. How do these miracle workers survive at the wages they are paid? Perhaps the answer is that many do not.

Perhaps that is why drug-driven violence, teen pregnancy, homelessness and hopelessness so permeate our communities.

Ms. Haynes shared with us that twenty years ago her mother was a minimum wage worker, and today, in Columbia, KY, she still earns just above the minimum wage.

The minimum wage for many is not a training wage. It is not a temporary wage. It is not a teenage wage; it is a miracle wage.

I ask my colleagues to imagine feeding yourself and two children on \$65 a week. Imagine clothing yourself, paying for personal and health care products and doctor bills on \$50 a week.

You do not go to the dentist on that budget.

Perhaps if you can for one moment imagine the life of a miracle wage worker, the mystery may clear up and reality may set in.

Pass the minimum wage increase.  
It does not take a miracle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### COULD PRESIDENT CLINTON HAVE WON IN 1992 IF HE RAN ON WHAT HE DELIVERED?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] is recognized for 25 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, on the Sunday after BOB DOLE's famous "enough is enough" speech on the floor of the Senate in December, a commentator said, "At least there is one adult among them."

The media enjoyed portraying the conflict on the budget as adolescent behavior when even they must know that we are engaged in the most profound political debate since 1932. It can be defined in a few words: "Who decides—Washington or you?"

Do we continue 64 years of increasing the role of the Federal Government in making decisions on your behalf, or do we return to freedom and opportunity which made this the wealthiest, most generous nation in the history of the planet? Do we trust the bureaucrats and politicians, or do we trust you?

The Clinton victory in 1992 was the culmination of the liberal dream. It is true that he ran as a "New Democrat". It is also true that he moved sharply to the left even before he was sworn in. A promise of a middle-class tax cut became the largest tax increase in history. Ending welfare as we know it turned out to be a Government job if no other job could be found. And health care reform ended up being the largest attempted takeover of the private economy in the history of the nation. And, of course, he led off with gays in the military. It is easy to see why that was not mentioned in the campaign. Does anyone believe that Clinton would have won in 1992 if he had campaigned on what he delivered?

The Clinton philosophy was outlined best in a 1958 book entitled, "The Af-

luent Society," by John Kenneth Galbraith. It essentially said that Americans do not make too little money, they make too much, but they make bad choices with their dollars. It is the obligation of an educated government to tax those dollars from them and make better choices on their behalf.

If you look at the five major initiatives of the first two Clinton years—the budget, crime, welfare, education, and health care—all called for increasing taxes and increasing the numbers of decisions that would be made in Washington.

It is important to point out here that the Clintons are sincere. They truly do want to shape a future for our children and grandchildren that is warm and safe and secure and fair. If you're curious about what that future would look like, read anything that has come out of the Children's Defense Fund over the last 20 years.

Conservatives do not seek to shape the future because we do not know how. I could not satisfy 20 percent of the people in any given crowd. Each American looks to the future with different hopes and dreams and talents. I do know this, I could build a future that my daughter would love and my son would hate. So we want to leave your dollars in your pockets and you and 260 million other Americans, deciding on your own behalf hundreds of times a week, will shape the future. You will decide, not Washington. I do not have any idea what that future will look like but I will be right in there with you making my personal choices.

Now you see how deep and fundamental are the differences. Who decides?

This difference became crystal clear in the negotiations with the President over the budget. Frankly, we were not that far apart on the numbers. We want to increase spending 3 percent; the President wants to increase spending 4 percent. We want to assume a revenue increase of 5 percent; the President wants to assume a revenue increase of 5½ percent. We want to increase Medicare 62 percent over 7 years. The President wants to increase it 64 percent. Those are the differences on which the President has built his case that Republicans are proposing "extreme" cuts.

That is not where the discussions broke down. They broke down because Senator DOLE and Speaker GINGRICH were not willing to compromise on our values. We believe that giving seniors more choices in Medicare will cause them to shop their health care for the best deal and that competition will bring down costs.

Let me give you one example. One of the many meetings on transforming Medicare included Healthcare benefits managers. The John Deere Co. has formed its own health care company to control its costs. I asked the president of John Deere health care what it would cost the Federal Government if John Deere kept its retirees in their own health care system. He said \$4,000