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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

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WHO WILL REALLY PAY FOR MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE?

By Jerome Grossman

Democrats claimed their biggest victory of 1996 with the passage of a 90-cents-an-hour increase in the minimum wage. President Clinton cited this accomplishment in virtually every speech he made during his campaign for reelection. So did almost every other Democrat running for federal office seeking re-election. But in the deep recesses of congressional committees, without public attention, tax cuts were added that will benefit some of the largest companies in the United States, including Hewlett-Packard Co., Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft Corp., and Domino’s Pizza Inc.

As usual, the numbers clearly show who are the primary beneficiaries of the minimum wage bill. Ten million workers will gain 90 cents per hour; total increased wages for five years equals $6.8 billion. The tax breaks for employers in this bill will total $10.1 billion over five years. That makes a net profit to business of $3.3 billion. As recently as Dec. 2, The New York Times described the minimum wage as a Republican “surrender.” A rather profitable “surrender!” The business lobbyists crying all the way to the bank.

Business cannot even take the high road and say to their workers, “We gave you a raise, we are paying you more, we did the right thing.” Only we taxpayers can say that—because it’s our money.

ACHIEVEMENT AGAINST THE ODDS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1997

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to host in my office eight true American heroes. They are the recipients of the Achievement Against the Odds Award and were recognized at a dinner in their honor this March 10. The awards program, developed by Robert Woodson’s National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise, seeks to identify everyday citizens who have overcome significant personal, social, and emotional challenges to improve their lives and the communities in which they reside. Among this year’s winners are a former youth gang leader now dedicated to stopping violence and a man and wife who have overcome long-time substance addiction and gone on to revitalize their crime-ridden neighborhood.

It is vitally important that we recognize the everyday heroes all around us and shine the light on them for all to see. What a benefit to all of society to see how individuals can truly transform their own lives and that of their communities.

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