Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Messrs. PAUL, SPRATT, JEFFERSON, HALL of Texas, and STENHOLM changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN. There being no further amendments to the bill, the question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1775) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 179, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1775, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1775, the Clerk be authorized to make such technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to correct such things as spelling, punctuation, cross-referencing and section numbering.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1775, the bill just considered and passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

A TALE OF TWO WOMEN

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues a letter I received from a constituent of mine from Sparks, NV. This letter tells a story of two women. The first, and author of this letter, works 60 hours or more a week in hopes of saving enough money to get married and have children. The second woman, her cousin, has three children and has been receiving welfare for 13 years. The closing paragraph of her letter sums up the state of things better than I have ever heard. She writes, ''Yes, the liberals take good care of people like my cousin who were smarter than I by deciding to have children, not get married and not go to work so that the Federal Government would take care of her and her children. I was the stupid one, who worked hard and waited to get married before having children. Now my taxes and hard work help pay for my cousin to enjoy her life.''

The Republican tax reduction will help restore common sense and accountability to the process and lift the burden off the shoulders of the hard-working, tax-paying men and women of America.

JULY 1, 1997.

Congressman JIM GIBBONS,
Reno, NV.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN GIBBONS: I thought you might enjoy reading about how Clinton and the liberals have proved they are pro family.

This is a tale of two women.

One is 37 years old and has worked since she was 14 years old busing tables at a Holiday Inn. The other woman is 30 and has never had a regular job in her life but she has received welfare assistance since she was 17.

The 37 year old recently got married for the first time, became a first time home buyer and has no children. The 30 year old has never been married, lives with her current boyfriend and has three children.

The 37 year old owns a car that is 10 years old and only seats two people. Her husband has a 9 year old pick up truck which also only seats two. They would like to purchase a moderately priced used four door car to carry children that they plan to have. The 30 year old recently bought a new Toyota Camry.

The 37 year old and her husband now pay more taxes since they got married and the 30 year old pays no taxes.

When the 30 year old and her husband have children they will not qualify for the proposed $500 tax credit per child because they make a little more than $75,000 per year on a combined income and are considered rich. The 30 year old will receive a $500 per child tax credit even though she does not pay taxes.

The 37 year old recently took a second job at $6.75/hour and her husband works as much overtime as he can to help pay off debt associated with buying the new house so she can afford a new car and have children. The 37 year old woman works 60+ hours a week and sees her husband 1 day a week and in passing during the rest of the week. The 30 year old has lots of free time, as her mother and sisters take turns baby-sitting the three children, while she goes out with her friends and spends time with her boyfriend.

When the 30 year old loses her welfare, she plans to take a job but her child care will be paid for by the government. The 37 year old will have to quit her job to take care of children, when she has them, because child care will eat up most of her salary so she has decided it would be better to stay home.

The 37 year old is myself and the 30 year old is my cousin who had her first child at 17 because her older sister had a child and received more attention.

I make $28,500 per year as a marketing coordinator for an engineering firm. I have worked hard all my adult life and put myself through college. My husband's base salary is about $36,000 per year as a postal worker (for 16 years) but he works a lot of overtime and averages about $47,000 per year. We bring home about $48,000 per year. We both have some money withheld for retirement. When we did our taxes last year we discovered that we are considered to be wealthy (because of our combined incomes) and should therefore pay more taxes.

We were penalized for working hard and getting married.

Now we find that we cannot afford to have children. If we have children, I will probably have to quit my job to take care of them because day care would cost about $7,800 per year for one child and I don't have relatives nearby who could care for them and I don't qualify for assistance by the federal government to help pay for day care.

But I guess quitting my job would be okay because I would then qualify for the $500 per child tax credit because our family income would be under $75,000 per year. Of course we wouldn't have a car that we would all fit in. But at least the child would be safe in the front seat of both vehicles since they don't have air bags.

My husband would have to give up his 401K because we would need that extra income too. But that would be okay since we will now have the federal government to take care of us when we get old.

So now, we will be penalized for having children.

Yes, Clinton and his liberals take good care of people like my cousin who was smarter than I by deciding to have children, not get married and not work so the federal government would take care of her and her children.

I was the stupid one, who worked hard and waited to get married before having children.

Now my taxes and hard work help pay for my cousin to enjoy her life.

Yes, Clinton is pro family.

Sincerely,

SHELLEY READ,
Sparks, Nevada.

□ 2130

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

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

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

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this moment to talk about something that is near and dear to the hearts of many Americans, and that is the North American Free Trade Agreement, otherwise known as NAFTA.

When the United States enters into trade agreements, the objective should be to advance the standard of living for working families in our country and abroad.

Just like the average family in Illinois' 7th Congressional District who are impacted by this trade agreement whether they like it or not, my hope is for them. They want what we all want, to provide to the best of their ability for their loved ones.

My hope is for the people in the district, so that they can obtain a living wage, a wage that allows workers to lead a dignified life while working in a safe and healthy environment, an environment that respects their needs as a worker. Their struggles and desires are not so different from mine and my colleagues. They want to put clothes on their children's back, they want to put food on the table, have access to reliable transportation, live in adequate housing, and afford child care for their children. Their issues need to be taken account of and they want to be an active part of the debate.

I hope for a trade agreement that will help to broaden our economy, help eradicate poverty, while bringing jobs and a decent quality of life to all of those involved. However, based upon recent reports, NAFTA, the trade agreement and trade model, has not met its promises. Therefore, I believe that any standard of trade, based on the NAFTA model, will further threaten the standard of living for working families, not only in the United States but in other countries as well.

The growing trade deficit with Canada and Mexico since NAFTA was passed is well-known. As this trade deficit has developed, thousands of United States jobs have been lost.

''Free traders'' often state that those opposed to NAFTA need to get on with the times, often asserting that we are opposed to this treaty out of fear for the future. I pronounce that this is just simply not the truth. As a matter of fact, those individuals and unions who are opposed to NAFTA do so as a result of their great desire to create a different kind of future, a future that says that the standard of living in this country ought to be spread throughout the world, a future that says we do not believe that further reducing the standard of living in Third World developing countries is the way for America to rise.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that this country would object, reject, extricate itself from the concept that America can advance by allowing its businesses and industries to flow away seeking a different kind of labor pool, seeking a labor pool that is willing to work because of the difficulties that it has had, that is willing to work by undercutting and undermining the standard of living that the American society has become accustomed to.

We need to make sure that people all over the world can subscribe to the idea that they ought to be paid for the work which they provide; that is, they ought to be paid a livable wage that affords them the opportunity to seek the very best of what the world has to offer.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share these thoughts and ideas with my colleagues and the American people and suggest that NAFTA is not good for America.

TAX RELIEF TO THE MIDDLE CLASS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, what if we were to go on a 6-month diet to lose 30 pounds and we got to the 4th month and we had already lost 28 pounds? Would we quit exercising and quit dieting because we were so far ahead of schedule? We had not reached our goal yet but we were way ahead of the game.

The United States Congress and the American people are in that situation right now with deficit reduction. An article today in The Washington Post shows that the deficit, the projected deficit may go down to $45 billion, which is way lower than the expectation. Now, what this means is that Congress and the American people may not have to wait until the year 2002 to see a balanced budget. We may see it a lot sooner, even potentially as soon as next year.

So how do we react? Well, all over America people will be very pleased to hear this. But how do certain big-government liberal types in Washington react? Hey, we are ahead of schedule; that means we can relax and we do not have to cut so many programs and we can spend more money. We can have more pork back home. It is very good news to some of them.

I would say to my colleagues that, if we change from the path of having fiscal responsibility and lower spending, then we will get back into the hole that we are just now digging out of. A balanced budget to the folks back home is not about numbers, it is about opportunities, it is about lower interest rates. Lower interest rates on a home mortgage of $75,000 over a 30-year period means we would pay $37,000 less. On a $15,000 car loan, lower interest rates means that we would pay about $900 less. It means that college education is more affordable because student loans are lower. Also, Mr. Speaker, it means taxes are lower because we do not have to spend so much on deficit spending.

Now, the Republican plan to lower and give middle class tax relief is very simple. Under that, 76 percent, and I have a chart, Mr. Speaker, but 76 percent of the tax relief goes to people, households, making below $75,000 a year. This is what a middle class tax cut is all about.

Now, a lot of folks say, well, this tax cut only benefits the rich. Well, that is true if the definition of rich is people who make below $75,000. And incidentally, the interesting way the Clinton administration and some of the liberals get there is by playing games with paychecks, by adding to it, for example, the rental value of a house. So if a person makes $45,000 a year, under the Democrat liberal formula that individual is making over $75,000 a year, so they can say this tax cut does not apply to them.

I would say this. If we go try to get a loan or buy a house based on the numbers the President tells us we are making, it will not work.

Ninety percent of this tax relief goes to families and to education. I am from Georgia. We have the HOPE scholarship. The HOPE scholarship is for students who make a B or above in State schools, and they have their tuition paid for. The national HOPE scholarship is not as generous as the Georgia HOPE scholarship, but it is still very good, because if students and children want to compete in the world today, they have to have a college education. The Republican plan makes college education more affordable.

Tax relief at this time is proper. Why is tax relief important? Because the more money Americans have in their pocket, because the Government is taking less out of it, the more shoes they will buy, the more clothes they will buy, the more shirts, the more cars, and so forth. And when Americans do that, small businesses respond by expanding. When businesses expand, more jobs are created. When more jobs are created, more people go to work, less people are on welfare, and more people are paying taxes.

Is tax relief consistent with deficit reduction? Absolutely. It certainly is,