

I do not think any of us are going to be here arguing that we should use it for increased Federal spending, but how are we going to get it back to the American people, how are we going to pay ourselves, get ourselves out of debt, and how are we going to give this money back to the American people from where it came originally?

So this tax package is in a context of continuing to make progress in getting to a surplus budget. We have a lot of things moving in the right direction.

Mr. PARKER. To my friend who sits on the Committee on the Budget, does he remember when we had Chairman Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who came before our committee? One thing that he said which had struck me, and it has stayed with me over years now, he said the American people have not experienced the benefits of a surplus economy since World War II.

I think it is significant that we have not had a surplus economy since we instituted a death tax and the income tax and everything, all the other taxes there. But that is what the American people need to be looking for, for their children, their grandchildren, for themselves in the outyears, is having the benefits of a surplus economy, where our economy, which is so strong, so mighty, it is the most mighty economy that has ever been on the face of the Earth, and I must tell the Members, it is very difficult to destroy, because we have had politicians in this country for decades that have done everything in their power to destroy it, and they have not done it. They have not been able to. It is that powerful.

But if we allow that surplus economy to work and do what it is supposed to do, and we release the ingenuity and the innovation of small business, if we just release that power and let people have the freedom to do what only entrepreneurs can do, people will receive benefits from that for generations to come. We will change the face of this Nation.

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I think it does one other thing. I think this tax package, probably as much as anything, sends a message that if you work hard, you will be rewarded. I think that is what this country was founded on. That is what made us the greatest country in the world, is that we need to do everything we can to increase incentives.

I think that is what it does. It sends a message to the American people once and for all that we are going to continue, and as the gentleman said a moment ago, we will have a debate hopefully within the next few months or the next year on how we are going to take some of this extra money that could go to a variety of different programs, and I hope one of the things we do is continue this path of cutting taxes, whether it is death taxes or income taxes, whatever, because the more we use these tax cuts as an incentive, I think

the more it stimulates our economy. In all reality, that is what is going to drive this economy for the next few years.

□ 2355

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I think it is interesting. I have two of my colleagues who came here in January 1993, the three of us came here. What we were faced with was raising taxes, growing rapidly the size of government, nationalizing health care, no concern about the deficit, deficits in the \$200 to \$300 billion range as far as we could see. It is really amazing.

I think if we would reflect back to where we thought, I still remember walking about across the street saying, how can we be part of this? Four and a half years later we are getting close to a surplus. We are cutting taxes. This is a sea change. As my colleague said, this is like popcorn. We are debating the right issues.

This is not enough right now, but we have a much different debate than what we had in 1993.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, the perspective is totally different. The last budget agreement, the budget plan, big increase in taxes, big new burst of domestic spending, deficits as far as the eye could see, passed on a totally partisan basis.

Now we have a bipartisan budget agreement with tax relief, a plausible plan to balance the budget. We may do it sooner than we are expecting to do it, with real tax relief for the American people and restraint on domestic spending, a total sea change.

There are the naysayers here, the old establishment type Members who are not going gently into that good night. They are the "I want tax relief but" Members. I want tax relief but not this plan. I want tax relief, but it does not give enough to this. I want tax relief but not now, or I want tax relief but I want it to end after 5 years.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, I hope everybody needs to be aware, when they hear that "I want tax relief but," make sure your wallet is still in your pocket. What they are trying to do is to keep that money for the Federal Government.

Mr. PARKER. There are the liberals in this body, Mr. Speaker, who will do anything in their power to make this a class battle. They get their power from turning class against class. We know who they are. We know the games that they are playing. Makes for great sound bites. Tax break for the wealthy. Capital gains for the wealthy.

I hear this over and over again, but I have a lot of confidence in the American people. The American people, you can fool them sometimes, but I am going to say, they get enough of it. They have had 40 years of sitting through this thing, of watching it, of being hit by it, of having to pay the bills.

They are basically sick and tired of being sick and tired. They want it changed.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Missouri is about to kill me if I do not correct my earlier statement, that it was Zacchaeus and not Nicodemus, Luke, chapter 19. I stand corrected.

I want to also say to the gentleman from Michigan, when we came here it was socialized medicine. It was the largest tax increase in history. It was expansion of the Hatch Act. It was motor voter. Everything was big government, big government this. We have stopped the ball from rolling to the left. We have stopped the onward intrusion of the big government.

Have we stopped it as abruptly as we would like to? No. But we are moving in that direction. We believe this tax relief bill is the first and very, very significant step in returning to the American middle class people money that is theirs, that the government should not be taking from them.

Mr. PARKER. Let me close by saying, I want to thank my colleagues the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT], the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON], the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOEKSTRA], and the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. RILEY] for participating in this special order.

We will do another special order next Wednesday night. It is important that the American people understand what we are doing in a very rational and a very logical way, because the American people, when they understand, they will agree. In their hearts they know that we are doing the right thing, but they hear so much verbiage. They hear so much rhetoric. They hear so much hyperbole that sometimes they sit back and go, who can we believe.

They have heard so much junk through the years from Washington that they do not know who to believe. We are giving that information. I thank the gentlemen for participating. I am looking forward to having another special order next Wednesday night and being able to bring more facts to the American people and to our colleagues so they understand exactly what we are doing.

□ 2358

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2107, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-174), providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2107) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to: