

we must always defend the losers. That is simply not true. We have to talk about expanding the pie for everybody. If we do, the American people understand this.

If the gentleman could put up this last chart, I know the gentleman wants to talk a little bit about the space race. There is an awful lot of cynicism, Mr. Speaker, and I absolutely understand it. A lot of times I tell people on my money it does not say, "in Republicans we trust," it does not say, "in Democrats we trust," it does not say "in Congress we trust." It says "in God we trust." I do not ask people to trust me, but I do ask them to trust themselves.

What we have put on here, and I hope people can see this chart, if they want to know how much this tax package will benefit them, we have a couple of web sites where people can actually call it up on their computer. There is a GOP tax calculator, and hopefully they can see that on their television. People can actually calculate the tax relief for themselves: What does this package mean to me?

Do not worry about what it might mean to some wealthy investor who may sell a large investment. Obviously they may get a tax break. But what people really want to know is, what will it do for me? What will it do for my family? If people look at this in those terms, they will decide it is a fair tax package, it is good for them, it is good for their family, and it helps them to save and invest for their future as well as take care of their kids. I am very proud of this tax package.

Let me say one other thing. I have just written a letter to the gentleman from Texas Mr. BILL ARCHER. The President and some of his friends are saying this gives too much tax benefits to the rich, and there are families at the lower-income levels who are working but yet would not receive tax relief under this package. What we have done is send a letter to the gentleman from Texas Mr. BILL ARCHER, and this is from a recommendation from a gentleman who called in on C-SPAN.

He said, "I understand what the Republicans are saying, only people who pay taxes are going to get tax relief. But I kind of understand what the President and some of the Democrats are saying, too, and that is there are teachers just starting out, fire fighters just starting out. Under the Republican plan they would not get much tax relief."

He offered what I think is a simple and sensible compromise solution. He said, "Why do we not just say, let each family decide which package gives them the best bang for the buck?" In other words, if right now they get a better deal under the earned income tax credit, they could take that. On the other side, if they thought they got a better bargain under the per child tax credit that the Republican conference committee has worked out, they should take that. They could either have the

system under the earned income tax credit or the per child family tax credit. Give them the best of both worlds. They could choose one or the other.

I think that is a reasonable compromise. I would hope that the conferees would at least look at something like that to try and break this impasse, so that for the first time in 16 years we can actually provide working families with real tax relief.

I know the gentleman wants to talk a little bit about, and I want to give the gentleman a compliment, because he represents Cape Canaveral and the space industry down there, and the gentleman does it very admirably. Here recently we have heard a lot of interesting news about the space program, both with the Mir Space Station that is up there circling now, and we all hope and pray that that turns out for the better, but more interestingly, what has been happening on the planet Mars.

I know the gentleman has some great pictures that have come back from NASA, and I yield to the gentleman to discuss some of those projects that are currently going on at Cape Canaveral and with NASA in general. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for being a space supporter. I know he has been fascinated by some of these issues.

I want to talk a little bit about our Nation's space program and the tremendous asset it is to America. We are a great Nation, 275 million people, 50 States, from sea to shining sea. It is a very variegated fabric of what makes up America. There are many great things that make our Nation great. Our number one asset is obviously our people and the people who make up so many of the great industries and institutions.

Of course, the space program has been getting a lot of attention lately, particularly as it relates to exploration of Mars. I want to talk a little bit about that.

Our space program is something that truly fascinates our children. Teachers in my district tell me, if you want to get kids excited about math and science and just why it is important and how it applies, just start talking about the space program and you will get their attention.

Why is that? I think there is something that burns in the heart of every human being, not just every American but every human being: a sense of curiosity, what is our destiny. We all know we have explored the world. There is much more to explore in this world, but we also know that much of it has been explored.

What is man's destiny? Is it just to reside here on planet earth, or is it to reach out and truly grasp the stars, to go to other planets, to visit other stars, to explore new worlds, to some day colonize other places in the universe?

If I could quote Neil Armstrong, his "one small step for man," we had a

small step a few weeks ago with the Mars Pathfinder, an incredibly successful mission, a mission that was launched from Cape Canaveral in December of last year, and it arrived at the red planet, a successful landing of the Mars Pathfinder vehicle shown here in this diagram, or this is actually a photograph of Mars. This is a photograph taken of the Sojourner, the vehicle that is able to go out and explore around on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also show this very, very interesting photograph. The Sojourner rolled off of the Mars Pathfinder and then turned around and took a picture of the Mars Pathfinder, and here we can see the Mars Pathfinder, and these bags that are around it are actually deflated balloons.

The way that Pathfinder landed, once it came into the atmosphere balloons all around the Mars Pathfinder blew up, and the thing actually bounced on the surface something like 20 times and then came to rest. Slowly the air was let out of the balloons, and the thing opened up and out goes this rover.

Here we can actually see in this photograph the tracks that the rover made in the surface of the planet. So it is a fascinating vehicle. It is a tremendous success, something I think that everybody at NASA can be proud of, particularly the people at JPL.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina). The Chair would remind all Members to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery.

FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to use my time today, and I do not plan to use it all, but I would like to use the time that I have today to discuss some foreign policy issues. The first relates to south Asia and to India in particular.

I am the cochair of the India Caucus, and very much a supporter of the efforts by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan to bring their countries closer together, pursuant to the so-called Gujral Doctrine, which is named after the current Prime Minister of India.

Progress is being made by the two countries towards a peaceful settlement of their differences, as well as improved economic and trade relations, and a big part of this has been the discussions that have been held between the Prime Ministers and between officials in India and Pakistan at a level lower than the Prime Minister level.