

#### MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM TAX REFORM PROPOSAL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today we have the stealth plan to fix the system of taxation in America, to repeal the entire Tax Code. Well, not the entire Tax Code, not the most regressive part of the Tax Code.

Seventy-two percent of the American people pay more in FICA taxes than they do income taxes to the Federal Government. Guess what? That 72 percent of the American people are left out of this phony election year proposal. But what is included, what we are going to repeal is the mortgage home deduction. That is the one, the one shelter, that middle income, working Americans have available to them is a deduction for the interest on their home mortgage. That is repealed. That is gone.

We are also going to repeal that which provides for employer-provided health care and charitable deductions. Guess what? This stealth proposal is a dagger aimed right at the heart of working Americans under the guise of helping them. So once again, the Republicans can service the special interests that are doing so well under the current code, but want to do better under a new one.

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#### EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT

(Ms. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Education Savings Act Conference Report.

I encourage the adoption of this legislation for a number of reasons. It helps families choose the best schools possible at all levels of education by providing families with much needed education-related tax relief.

Not only does this bill create opportunities for families to save their hard-earned dollars and receive interest tax-free for costs associated with K through 12 education, but it also makes higher education more affordable by offering favorable tax treatment for prepaid tuition plans.

This bill encourages families to invest in their children's future. One of the provisions which the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and I have worked on in this bill enables families with school-aged children to save money tax-free for future college expenses through plans established by private institutions. Today, more than 50 independent colleges and universities have joined together to offer families prepaid tuitions at numerous institutions.

I hope my colleagues will look at this legislation and support it later today.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we are finally getting around to campaign finance reform, which as many people know, I have authored the major bill on campaign finance reform which will be debated.

So the idea that we are debating campaign finance reform is music to my ears, but then I look at the way it has all been set up and I am reminded of the song in Musicman that goes, "Talk a little, pick a little, talk a little, pick a little; talk, talk, talk, talk, pick a little, pick a little."

Well, that is exactly what we are doing. We are talking a lot and we are picking it apart. There are 258 amendments to 11 different measures. I think the debate is designed to be confusing, it is designed to go on and on and on and on. It is designed to never have anyone coalesce around any one of the bills.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Republican Party went out and raised \$10 million, and today they are going to get up and talk about campaign finance reform. You bet we need it.

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#### TIME TO SCRAP THE TAX CODE

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, it is time to scrap the Tax Code. "Scrap the Code" has been a slogan for tax reformers for years now, but today we have an opportunity to take the first step toward its realization.

Today on the House floor is an opportunity to vote the Tax Code Elimination Act, a bill that will sunset the Tax Code on December 31, 2002, and require the Congress to come up with a new, simpler, fairer, revenue-neutral Tax Code.

This bill will make fundamental tax reform a major issue in the 2000 presidential race and will force this issue to the top of the national political agenda.

Lawmakers have been talking about reforming the Tax Code for too long. It is time to act. This bill will show our willingness to act and our willingness to listen to the millions of Americans who have been calling for an end to our Tax Code for many years.

Fundamental tax reform should be a bipartisan issue. Democrats and Republicans both have an interest in the Tax Code that is fairer, simpler and less complicated. The time to act, Mr. Speaker, is now.

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#### FBI WANTS TO TAX AMERICANS

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in just 5 short months, we will have an opportunity to witness real progress being made in our effort to keep guns out of the hands of criminals when the National Instant Check System, the so-called instant background check, goes into effect, pursuant to the previous Brady law.

But be careful. I urge all Americans and my colleagues to be very careful about what the FBI is planning, and that is a stealth tax and a registry of gun ownership in America.

The FBI is proposing to tax every single gun transfer in this country up to \$30, despite the fact that Congress maintains, the last time I looked 2 minutes ago, the sole power to tax in this country. The FBI is proposing to use the National Instant Check System as a subterfuge for taxing the American people, and they are also proposing something that we have fought in this Congress and we ought to continue to resist, and that is a national registry of gun ownership in this country.

Let us move forward with the national tax system, but let us resist vigorously, through H.R. 3949, this unconstitutional effort by the FBI to tax and to register firearms.

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#### U.S. TAX CODE IS A MESS

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Tax Code is a mess. When the income tax was first introduced in 1914, the entire Code was 14 pages long and the top tax rate was 7 percent. Today it is nearly 4,000 pages and constantly changing.

While last year alone we managed to add 334 pages, create 285 new sections, and add 824 amendments, that is bad enough, but it is not the whole story. The code alone is only a part of the law. The rest comes in the form of implementing regulations and tax court decisions which make the code even more incomprehensible. It literally grows every day. Some estimates put the cost of compliance at over \$250 billion per year. That is \$250 billion of unproductive effort. Think what that could do for the economy if it was channeled into other areas.

A majority of Americans want an end to the current code and we have a responsibility to take this problem head-on. We cannot continue with business as usual. We need a national debate to build a consensus for sweeping change. The Tax Code Termination Act is the first essential step in breaking free from the cycle of incrementalism which has produced the current code.

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#### AMERICANS DESERVE ACTION ON REFORMING THE TAX CODE

(Mr. COOK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1