

REPUBLICAN TAX CUT PROPOSAL IS AN ASSAULT ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let us make no mistake about it. The Republican tax bill is a direct assault on Social Security.

The budget surplus the Republicans want to use to pay for their tax cuts does not exist. The only portion of the Federal budget that is in surplus is the Social Security trust fund. In fact, without Social Security, the Federal budget would still be in a deficit this year.

Instead of voting on an \$80 billion tax cut that is paid for by raiding Social Security, we should pass the Democratic proposal to save Social Security first. It would require by law that the entire amount of the Social Security surplus in each fiscal year be transferred to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York to be held in trust for Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, the point is that Democrats could support many of these tax cuts, and we could pass a tax relief bill, if the Republicans agreed to do it without using Social Security to pay for it. But they will not. They are not going to do that. That is why we have to vote down this Republican bill and save Social Security first.

NO SURPRISE THAT DEMOCRATS OPPOSE TAX CUTS

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, is anyone at all surprised that the Democrats have found an excuse to oppose tax cuts this year?

The very same Democrats who never once ever thought that billions and billions of dollars in spending were a threat to Social Security, now pretend that tax cuts would be.

There are more ironies here. The same party that did not put a dime aside to save Social Security during their 40 year "reign of error" now act as if they are concerned about raiding the Social Security trust fund.

The same party that refused to take Social Security off budget all of these years, in opposition to conservative proposals to create a more honest system, now recognize that the Social Security trust fund can be solvent while providing tax cuts.

The same party that has proposed billions and billions of dollars in new spending just this year straight out of the Social Security trust fund, now turn around and claim that tax cuts are a raid on that trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is we can have tax cuts and save the Social Security system at the same time, and we will do that for the American people.

A LOAD OF ROCKS

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

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am an East Arkansas rice farmer, and I remember a story an old fellow in my community told me when I first started farming. He said there was a man who came through during the Depression and he had a truckload of rocks. If a farmer would buy one of these rocks from him and put it where the irrigation water ran into their rice field, he claimed it would make them a lot better crop.

He said, "You know, he sold some of those rocks." I said, "How did it do? Did it make the crop better?" He said, "It was pretty hard to tell."

Mr. Speaker, that is what these fellows are trying to do, is to sell the American people a load of rocks. I think it is a bad idea.

Mr. Speaker, we are all for tax cuts, but not if we have to rob the Social Security trust fund and our children's future to do it. It is a bad idea, and the American people need to recognize this load of rocks for what it is.

TRIBUTE TO TONY MOCERI, BOILERMAKERS LOCAL 363

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tony Mocerri, who is to have the new Boilermakers Local 363 building in Belleville, Illinois, named in his honor.

Tony became a proud member of Local Boilermakers Lodge 363 in 1942. During his career, he served as assistant business agent and was elected business manager in 1966, where he served until 1984.

In addition to his regular job, Tony served proudly on the State Boiler Board, the Boilermakers Trades Committee, and Senator Charles Percy's Labor Task Force Committee, before retiring in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Tony for this honor and for his years of service, and I want to wish Tony and his wife, Vera, all the best for another 44 years.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, Congress has less than 1 month to conduct the people's business. I think Congress should focus on the issue of tax cuts.

Republicans believe that Americans are overtaxed. Democrats believe that Americans are not overtaxed, and some of them actually believe that Americans are not taxed enough.

Republicans talk about tax cuts for all Americans. Democrats speak in terms of targeted tax cuts, which is a great way of saying that the middle-class, the backbone of America, will not be getting a tax cut.

Now, let us make a distinction between Democrats and so-called "New Democrats." Democrats will raise taxes. New Democrats will talk about cutting taxes, but they will raise them once they get in office.

Mr. Speaker, if Americans believe that taxes are fundamentally a freedom issue, then Republicans are on their side. If they think that government knows best, then the Democrats are their friend.

To me, the choice is clear.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4578, PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT, AND H.R. 4579, TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 552 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 552

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4578) to amend the Social Security Act to establish the Protect Social Security Account into which the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit budget surpluses until a reform measure is enacted to ensure the long-term solvency of the OASDI trust funds. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; (2) a further amendment printed in the Congressional Record and numbered 1 pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXIII, if offered by Representative Rangel of New York or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. After disposition of the bill (H.R. 4578), it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4579) to provide tax relief for individuals, families, and farming and other small businesses, to provide tax incentives for education, to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate