

he says that under his plan every American who pays taxes will get tax relief. He forgets that 15 million Americans pay FICA tax and do not pay any income tax and for these people, the people who clean up for us in restaurants, the people who take care of our old people in senior citizens' homes and nursing homes, people struggling to get by an \$15,000 and \$18,000 a year, he gives not one penny of tax relief because he is providing over 43 percent of the tax relief to the richest 1 percent of Americans; nothing for the janitors, everything for the billionaires. He ought to at least be honest enough to tell the country that that is what his tax policy provides.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, when the Governor of Texas tells us that his plan will provide only \$223 billion of tax relief to the richest 1 percent over the next 10 years, he ignores everything he is doing with the estate tax. He tells the country he is going to repeal the estate tax but never includes the fiscal effect of that repeal in his description of his overall tax and budget policies.

I can only refer to this as fuzzy fiscal figures and false fiscal facts. The fact is that the estate tax will be generating \$50 billion a year. That is \$500 billion over 10 years, which means under the Governor's proposal, the richest 1 percent of Americans will save over \$700 billion a year under the Governor's proposal. He admits to only \$223 billion. He ignores the other \$500 billion.

That is why it is true when it is stated that the proposals of the Governor of Texas would provide more relief to the richest 1 percent of Americans than he proposes to spend to improve our health care system, strengthen Medicare, strengthen the military, and improve education combined.

Mr. Speaker, our choice is clear. On the one hand, we can have fiscal responsibility, economic expansion, reduction and eventual elimination of our national debt and moderate tax cuts for working families, all combined with investments in education, Medicare, military preparedness and health care, or we can provide \$700 billion to the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE POLITICS OF DIVISION INSTEAD OF THE POLITICS OF UNITY

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, let me just say this, that under the plan proposed by Governor Bush, the janitor, the worker in the restaurant, would, in fact, get great sums of tax relief. But more importantly, rather than this class division, rather than the politics of envy, the Bush promise is to make that restaurant worker the restaurant owner. That is the biggest difference between the Bush vision and the Gore vision, which keeps the poor, poor. And that is the problem when we have the

politics of division instead of the politics of unity. I think that is what this is all about.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we want to talk a little bit about what we are doing here on a Sunday night, and joining me are my colleagues from Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota and Colorado; and we are going to ask the question, we are here because how much is enough, Mr. President? Last year the Labor and Education bill, Health and Human Resources, had a sum of \$96 billion.

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This year, negotiating with the President, we are up to \$106 billion. But it is not enough for the President and Mr. GORE. They want more money.

So I will ask my colleague from Arizona, how much is enough? How much does the President want to spend?

Mr. HAYWORTH. Well, if my friend from Georgia will yield, that remains the question, because, the fact is, we are not getting a clear and compelling signal from the White House or from our friends on the left.

You see, we worked together to achieve a consensus in many areas, especially on the bill we passed just last week, which offered not only tax relief, but Medicare refinement and improvement to strengthen Medicare payments to hospitals and home health care facilities and nursing homes, but also something the President embraced when he came to Phoenix, Arizona, the so-called "new markets initiative." Community empowerment. So we had a very broad bipartisan piece of legislation there, and yet we hear now that the President says he intends to veto the legislation.

So, sadly, the answer to the question that my friend from Georgia poses tonight has no quantifiable answer.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first of all say that as I was stepping out of the Committee on Rules upstairs, I could hear without the electronic means my friend from Georgia talk about the fact that the Vice President is pursuing policies that will help to keep poor people poor, which I think is right on target. That is the one thing I heard, so I compliment the gentleman on offering the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and to congratulate my colleagues for the time that they are taking this evening to enlighten the American people on these very important issues.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), does he know how much is enough? I want to refer to our chart again. How much is enough, Mr. President? How much do you want to spend?

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I think what we are finding, especially in the area of

education, where I have spent a lot of time and our subcommittee has spent a lot of time, it is no longer an issue about money, but, for the President, how much is enough? How much more authority does he want to move from a local and State level to Washington?

We know that he would love to start getting Washington involved in school construction, get Washington involved in hiring teachers. So for the President, it is not an issue of money anymore. Republicans have said we will match him on money.

"Enough is enough" now for the President is only when we move the decision-making for how we spend those dollars from the local level to the Department of Education here in Washington. That is now where the President is saying, "I need more and I want more."

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for that, because one of our major issues that is outstanding right now with the President is the fact that he wants school construction to be federally controlled; and we want to leave it locally controlled, where less dollars will be spent and local people will decide what needs to be built. It should not be in the hands of Washington bureaucrats.

I yield to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, how much is enough? That is the question of the evening. Well, I would suggest to the gentleman from Georgia that is really a moving target. We do not know, because the President insists upon every bill that comes down there, this much more, this much more. I think whatever the number was yesterday, it just increased by about 20 percent today.

But if one looks at why we are still here, and the gentleman from Michigan is absolutely right, this really is about whether or not you want to consolidate more power in Washington or whether you want to distribute power back to the people who live in our States and our communities, our families. That is the issue of the day.

PREPARING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to get into this tonight, but I know my friends on the other side of the aisle are not intentionally attempting to mislead the people tonight, because I know them too well. I have worked with them on too many issues, and I think it is awfully important. Anything I say that any of them wish to challenge me on, I will be glad to yield some time, because I do not want to do that which I accuse you of doing.

When we start talking about how much is enough, I believe when we passed the foreign operations appropriation bill, those of you who voted