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CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI ON HER ELECTION TO MINORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to tell our colleague and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) that every single day she teaches me something. In my 1992 campaign, the gentlewoman from California showed me that senior Members, important Members, actually help candidates. In fact, I learned how to run my first race by watching her first race in San Francisco. After I was elected, NANCY showed me and the rest of my class that more senior Members step aside and push junior Members forward to give them the exposure that they need and to give them the guidance that is so important in getting your feet on the ground around here.

NANCY has shown us what a real Democrat is, what it is all about, while at the same time how to get bipartisan support. That is no easy task. She has shown us how to run a whip campaign, how to win, and how to bring the caucus back together at the end of that race. Finally, now that NANCY is the whip-elect and when she takes over tomorrow, she is going to show us how to fill the position of the highest-elected office for any woman in the history of the United States, while remaining the same gracious, genteel, fair and generous person that she is. I think that is the most important lesson of all that I have learned from the gentlewoman from California. You can actually be all of that and be successful.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. OWENS. NANCY PELOSI is a national political leader and has deep practical political roots, while at the same time she maintains bright, widespread idealistic wings. I can think of no better trait for leadership than to have roots and wings. She is optimistic and idealistic, but she also is a great political strategist.

Last year she led the congressional delegation from California to victories which were greater than all the other combined Democratic Caucus members together. As a compassionate idealist, NANCY refuses to adopt a position that certain vitally needed reforms are impossible. We are proud to follow a great leader that has roots and wings, NANCY PELOSI.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, NANCY has asked us all to be brief and therefore I will be. After all, she is the whip.

NANCY, you are the greatest. Thank you for the passion you bring to your

office. Thank you for all you have done to improve the quality of life for America's families and our most precious resource, our children. Thank you for all you have contributed to the Congress, for your advice and counsel to Members, old and new.

And, America, get ready. If you do not know NANCY PELOSI yet, you are going to love what you see.

Congratulations, NANCY. You make us all proud.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SANDLIN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Focused, organized, hard working and goal oriented: those are words that spring to my mind when describing our new whip, NANCY PELOSI. As will no doubt be mentioned many times tonight, NANCY PELOSI's election is historic and an indication of positive change to come. NANCY's leadership will complement our current leadership. She will bring a new energy, a new vision to our caucus and to our country. Her leadership may be to the same destination, but I suspect that she will have a few new road maps for us to follow.

I am proud of our caucus, particularly the men of our caucus, that we were able to be a part of breaking the glass ceiling for women in leadership. And make no mistake about it, that glass ceiling is shattered forever.

This is important to men and women all across the country, and it is important to me personally. I am the father of four children, two boys and two girls. I want to make sure that my daughters have the same hope, the same opportunity, the same vision as my sons. NANCY PELOSI will guarantee that. We all congratulate NANCY PELOSI; and I say thank you for including us all at the table, from left to right, region to region, persuasion to persuasion, but most of all thank you for your years of hard work, your dedication and your preparation in earning this leadership position.

The country will be better for the leadership of NANCY PELOSI.

STAY THE COURSE ON TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, when Congress makes a commitment to give Americans tax relief, it should honor that commitment. To put it plainly, Americans should get the tax cuts that they have been promised. Americans should have the tax relief that they desperately need.

Passage of President Bush's tax cut late last year was a historic bipartisan achievement. Only three times since World War II have we had an across-the-board tax cut: President Kennedy's tax cut in the 1960s, President Reagan's tax cut in the 1980s, and now President George W. Bush's tax cut. But now some want to break the agreement.

Some argue that we should repeal or delay the tax cuts. The gentleman from Illinois who addressed the House a few minutes ago and I believe that this is a debate worthy of having. If Members of Congress truly believe we should raise taxes, our resolution gives them an opportunity to record their votes in favor of a tax increase. Our resolution states, the tax cuts should not be repealed or delayed. If they want to raise taxes, they need to vote against the resolution offered by the gentleman from Illinois and me. Every American deserves to know where their Representative and Senators stand on this important issue.

Some in Congress, Mr. Speaker, lately have tried to maneuver and scheme for political advantage by blaming the President's tax relief package for the deficit and recession. They are not telling the truth. These tax supporters try to sell the myth that we must increase taxes just 6 months after we promised Americans they would start receiving their rebate income tax checks in the mail. The ink on the new tax relief package has barely dried. Now they want to repeal it or, as they say, delay or postpone it. They said the same thing about the economic stimulus package: let's take a long look. Let's delay it a week. Let's postpone it a month. Today they killed it, which really killed the chances that many of my constituents and their companies have to rebound from this recession.

As the chart I prepared shows, economic conditions account for 72 percent of projected 2002 deficits. Spending accounts for 16 percent. Tax relief only contributed 12 percent. Yet there is a growing cry to delay or postpone, we know in Washington that means kill, the tax cuts.

We have got to revitalize our economy. Tax cuts spur economic growth and create jobs. The bottom line for President Bush and this Congress ought to be jobs, preserving jobs and creating good jobs. Senate inaction on the economic stimulus plan cost us 800,000 jobs. The House passed a stimulus many months ago; but it is not only stuck in the Senate, it is dead in the Senate today. Now these same obstructionists want to repeal the tax cuts we have passed last year.

Our resolution reaffirms that promise to the American people. It reaffirms the tax relief. It reaffirms the tax cuts. We cut taxes because it is the right thing to do, it is the fair thing to do, it is the compassionate thing to do for families struggling from paycheck to paycheck.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Illinois has so adequately said, our choice is simple. Do we leave the money in the pockets of the American workers and families, or do we bring it up here and spend it as we see fit?