

Magdalena Castillo of Joliet, Illinois, can better spend their hard-earned money back in Joliet, Illinois, than I and my colleagues can for them here in Washington.

I think we need to be celebrating the fact that we eliminated the marriage tax penalty, and we did it in two ways. For those who itemize their taxes, people like Jose and Magdalena Castillo, they are homeowners, so they itemize their taxes, we widen the 15 percent tax bracket so people like Jose and Magdalena Castillo can earn twice as much as a single person and stay in the 15 percent tax bracket, and that wipes out their marriage tax penalty.

And for those who do not own a home or give to their church or institution of faith or charity, so they do not have enough to itemize, they use something called the standard deduction, under our legislation, we double the standard deduction to twice that for singles, and for those who do not itemize, we eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

I thank the Republican majority and President Bush for eliminating the marriage tax penalty and helping bringing fairness to the Tax Code in 2003.

WORKING FAMILIES LEFT BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I listened to the comments of my Republican colleague who just spoke, and I have to say it is very difficult for me to celebrate the Republican tax bill because the fact of the matter is, so many working people have been left out and are not receiving any benefits from the Republican tax bill. It was interesting to listen to the previous speaker because he talked about if money was going back to working families, they could go out and spend it and that would help the economy. If that is the case, why were so many families left out of the child tax credit or left out of other benefits that were basically going, under this Republican tax bill, to the high-income people?

The spin on the other side of the aisle is amazing, but the editorial comments during the Memorial Day recess have basically shown this is essentially a fraud. The Republican tax bill does not do what it purports to do, and it leaves out so many working people. For those who might doubt what I say, I want to mention some of the editorial comments in the New York Times and Washington Post in the last couple of days.

In Monday's New York Times there was an opinion by Bob Herbert called "The Reverse Robin Hood," and I will go through certain sections that Mr. Herbert said. He said, "If you wanted a quintessential example of what the Bush administration and its legislative

cronies are about, it was right there on the front page of the Times last Thursday: 'Tax Law Omits \$400 Child Credit for Millions.'

"The fat cats will get their tax cuts. But in the new American plutocracy, there won't even be crumbs left over for the working folks at the bottom of the pyramid to scramble after.

"When House and Senate negotiators met last week to put the finishing touches to President Bush's tax bill, they coldly deleted a provision that would have allowed millions of low-income working families to benefit from the bill's increased child tax credit.

"It was a mean-spirited and wholly unnecessary act, a clear display of the current regime's outright hostility toward America's poor and working classes.

"The negotiators eliminated a provision in the Senate version of the tax bill that would have extended benefits from the child tax credit to families with incomes between \$10,500 and \$26,625. This is not a small group. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the families that would have benefited include about 12 million children, one of every six kids in the U.S. under the age of 17."

Mr. Speaker, how are you going to tell me that somehow this is putting money back in the pockets of working people?

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These are working people. These people are not on welfare. They are out there working. They are getting nothing.

Then it goes on to say in the Herbert article:

And readers of yesterday's Times learned that another group of some 8 million mostly low-income taxpayers, and I say taxpayers, primarily single people without children, will also be left behind, getting no benefit at all from the President's tax cuts.

The comments just continue. This was yesterday's, Monday's, Washington Post. The editorial for the newspaper says, Children Left Behind. It says:

"Even for a debate over taxes, the public discussion taking place right now about child credits in the new tax law is particularly galling. Stiffing these children was not a last-minute oversight or the unfortunate result of an unreasonably tight \$350 billion ceiling. Adjustments had to be made," a spokeswoman for the House Ways and Means Committee said, as if those on her side would have preferred otherwise. In fact, the administration did not include this provision in its original, \$726 billion proposal. The House did not include it in its \$550 billion version. The Senate Finance Committee did not include it.

So when you try to get some suggestions from the Republicans that they are going to come down here and say, oh, this was an oversight or we are going to correct it, the President did not have this child tax credit for these

people in his original proposal, the Senate Republicans did not have it, the House Republicans did not have it. How can they come down here and suggest that somehow it is an oversight? They say they are going to correct it. I hope they do correct it, but that is going to take some time, and I question whether in fact they really will correct it.

The amazing thing to me is that we as Democrats have been saying all along how this Republican tax bill was not going to put money into the pockets of working families. Now all the editorial comments in every major newspaper say that that is true, the Daily News, you name it. Wherever it is around the country, they are all admitting the fact now that it is not true, that money is not going to those working people at the lower end of the spectrum. They are not getting the child tax credit. They are not getting anything. How can the Republicans now suggest that somehow that was an oversight or they are going to correct it in the future? The fundamental basis of their tax policy has been to give large amounts of money back to wealthy people, not to the average American. And the consequence of that is that the average American does not have money in his pocket, and there is no economic stimulus coming from this tax bill because it is not putting money back into the pockets of the average American in the way that they can go out and meaningfully spend it and actually have some stimulation for the economy. It is not happening.

THE NEW ERA OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, next Thursday, June 12, the subcommittee I chair on research will hold a hearing on biotechnology, the potential and the safety. I am a farmer in Michigan, and this is the first year that I have used the so-called roundup ready soybeans to plant on my farm. I have held back, thinking that maybe the nongenetically modified soybean would bring a higher price or have expanded markets, especially in some of those areas of the world that are rejecting it.

However, that has not been the case. Biotechnology is now one of the most promising sectors of the economy. It is revolutionizing medicine with at least 95 biotech drugs already approved in the U.S., and there are another 371 drugs on the table for acceptance that are being developed for medications that could help cure cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and many other conditions. Biotechnology will produce higher-quality foods that can provide both nourishment and immunization to many of the billions of hungry people around the world.