

I also rise today in support of the Taxpayer Protection Act. This bipartisan bill empowers middle-class Hoosier families in the fight against identity theft, and I am proud to support it.

Credit cards, on-line banking and shopping on the Internet have become a part of everyday life for many Hoosiers. These tools can make life easier for Hoosier families, but they also make Hoosiers vulnerable to criminals attempting to steal identities. With modern technology, a criminal can steal someone's credit cards, bank account and Social Security number and then proceed to spend thousands of dollars in someone else's name.

In addition to saddling families with thousands of dollars in debt, these crimes can erase years of good credit history, denying consumers the ability to buy a house or lease a car.

The Taxpayer Protection Act takes on this new threat and requires the Federal Government to notify taxpayers of any suspected identity theft. This bill is an important step in providing taxpayers the security of knowing their information is safe, and it will give Hoosiers the power to fight identity theft.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

TAX DAY

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our prayers are with the Virginia Tech families as well.

Paying tax is bad enough, but the time it takes to figure them out, I think, is almost worse. You should not need an accountant to do your taxes or live in fear of making an honest mistake.

For our children's sake, we need to sunset this Tax Code and replace it with something far simpler, like a flat tax or, my choice, a retail sales tax. Can you imagine never having to fill out a tax form again in your life? Can you imagine having the IRS completely and totally out of your life?

Let's not forget we need to keep taxes low. Tax Freedom Day for Texas families is this Thursday. That is the first day since New Year's that Texas families will begin working for themselves, not for the government.

My constituents are worried that the new Democrat budget allows President Bush's tax relief to expire, which would raise taxes \$2,700 a year on our families. Washington needs to tighten its belt before it demands that our families tighten theirs.

STOP THE TAX MONSTER

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, Americans will reach deep into their pockets and pay Uncle Sam. Today, they will finish slogging

through the maze of Tax Code jargon, crunching numbers and filling out forms. Today, they will once again trust Washington with their money, because today, Mr. Speaker, is just like every other tax day before it.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are fed up with the status quo of today, and they deserve a different tomorrow. They deserve a tomorrow where they won't be taxed from the day they are born until the day they die and at every single point in between.

Americans deserve a tomorrow where saving and investing are virtues, not vices. Americans deserve a tomorrow where taxation brings efficient and responsible government. Americans deserve a tomorrow where doing their part and paying their fair share is enough. And they deserve a tomorrow where government respects their hard work and appreciates their sacrifice.

Only then will tomorrow be any different from today. May we all work positively for that new day.

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THE VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with the report of rifle fire, America changed on the campus of Virginia Tech yesterday. A prestigious campus nestled in the mountains of Virginia became home to unspeakable acts of evil at the hands of a 23-year-old English major from South Korea.

The Bible tells us to mourn with those who mourn, and to pray for one another that we may be healed. I simply rise, very humbly, on behalf of the good people of eastern Indiana to assure the grieving families and community of Virginia Tech that we in Indiana are mourning with you and praying for you.

May God grant mercy to all those affected by this tragedy and grant wisdom to leaders in law enforcement and higher education as we apply the tragedy of Virginia Tech to protect our children and campuses in the future.

TAX DAY

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today the tax man cometh, and the tax man taketh away on this very day. The American people circle this on our calendar. We look forward to it with dread because we know that this is the day that the money goes in to feed an inefficient and ineffective, many times, Federal Government.

The current Congress has voted for tax increases at every single turn. They voted for more spending while eliminating tax reductions for middle-

class American families. They are getting rid of the deductions that have helped jump start the economy. The simple truth is that liberals want to take more money out of your pocket and put it into the Federal Government.

In my State, my fellow Tennesseans can expect to pay more than \$2,600 per year in coming years, thanks to the hold-on-to-your-wallet Congress that is in action today.

My colleagues and I at the Republican Study Committee have recently proposed a taxpayer bill of rights that protects the taxpayer.

It includes:

1. The right to have a Federal Government that does not grow beyond their ability to pay for it.

2. The right to receive back each dollar that they entrust to the Government for their retirement.

3. The right to expect the Government to balance the budget without having their taxes raised.

4. And the right to have a right to a simple, fair tax code that they can understand.

WILBERFORCE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, throughout this year we will celebrate the work to end one of humanity's worst acts of injustice. It was 200 years ago that William Wilberforce and his friends finally saw success in their attempt to end the British slave trade after 20 years of failed attempts.

To mark the anniversary of this tremendous accomplishment, a number of efforts are under way to inform people about this often forgotten hero of humanity. A wonderful movie about the life of Wilberforce entitled "Amazing Grace" has been released in theaters. Another documentary on his life and efforts, entitled "The Better Hour," is expected to air on public television this fall.

I have introduced a resolution in this body honoring his life and accomplishments. Yesterday, a contest was announced for high school students challenging them to follow Wilberforce's example by pursuing efforts to end modern-day slavery trafficking in men, women and children, which still plagues the world.

All of these events remind us that individuals of character and integrity really can change the world by fighting to end injustice and exploitation. That truth inspired Wilberforce in his day, and it should continue to inspire us today.

THE HATE CRIMES BILL

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers, I know, from all of us here in the House go out to the