

After 5 years, small businesses get nothing.

Now, there is another element to this issue, and that is called State aid. What is happening here is the Federal Government is just passing along tax increases to the States. They say "we are cutting your taxes." But what happens when the States do not have enough money, as is the case now? They cut Medicaid, they cut child care subsidies, they cut education. So that means what, either you lose programs at the State level, or you get a tax increase at the State level, while the Republicans tell you we are giving a tax cut to the very wealthy at the Federal level.

We Democrats believe that if we want to stimulate this economy we do a couple of things. We give money directly to the American working class. Second, we give money to the States so they can hire people, build roads, improve our infrastructure. That is how you create jobs.

There is a consensus among economists that this tax plan will not work. I think this dog will not hunt. I think we need to reject the Republican proposal this week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORT THE JOBS AND GROWTH TAX ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2, the President's Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003. There is no need for further debate on this bill: America needs economic stimulus, and it needs it now. Congress cannot stand on the sidelines while too many of our fellow citizens cannot find work or are on the verge of being laid off. That is why I support the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003.

This important legislation will help expand business investment by eliminating the double tax on corporate income. This plan encourages investments that help small businesses grow. I believe more tax relief means more jobs.

Small businesses are becoming more and more important to the Nation's overall business activity. They create the majority of new jobs and account

for half the economy's private output. For this reason, this package gives small businesses the ability to immediately expense up to \$75,000 instead of the current write-off of \$25,000 for capital purchases. This encourages small businesses to buy technology, machinery and other equipment that they need to expand and meet the needs of their consumers.

The Flower Mound Chamber in my district expressed their support of the provision since they have over 725 companies that will be able to benefit. These small businesses in my district will receive a tax cut of at least \$2,000 each, money that can be used to hire additional workers, boost current workers' pay or reinvest in their company. Any amount of money that a small business can save today will result in business growth and development in the years to come.

The Jobs and Growth Tax Act will create at least 1 million jobs by the end of 2004, according to the Heritage Foundation.

With the increase in the child tax credit and elimination of the marriage penalty, with those savings an additional 300,000 jobs will be created.

Over the recent district work period, I conducted 10 town hall meetings in my district. At almost every event constituents asked about the economy and asked about tax cuts for stimulus. Many out-of-work or underemployed people begged for relief soon. We cannot let these Americans down.

Also, May marks the month hundreds of students will graduate from local colleges and universities and from the two universities in my district. These young people, having completed their education, will enter the job market eager to contribute. We owe it to future generations to stimulate our economy now to ensure that jobs are available in the future.

ISSUES AFFECTING AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly proud to be here this afternoon, and wanted to talk some about the issues that we are facing here in Washington.

I am proud to say that while the national news has really focused, and rightfully so, on the war in Iraq, the House has not only supported our military efforts, but we have been working on a very good, pro-growth, pro-jobs domestic agenda. We have a good jobs package that will be voted on this week, we have passed a good energy bill, we have passed a good education bill, and we will be working on a Medicare reform bill very soon. So I am optimistic about the things that the House has been doing.

We hear a lot of partisan politics and a lot of bashing. I guess one of the

things that is frustrating to me is that while we hear people, as one of the previous speakers was talking about tax breaks for the wealthy, and that just seems to be the Democrat buzz phrase for hatred and division in society, what I have been curious about is tear down somebody else's policy or plan, if you want to, but offer your own.

It is always curious, we do not hear too many alternatives from the other party. I say, look, hey, this floor is the great hall of debate. Whether you are liberal or conservative, urban or rural, bring your ideas to the floor. Offer your ideas in the form of amendments. Offer your ideas in the form of legislation, and let us see what we can do. Bring the best of the Democrats, the best of the Republicans, together to do what is best for America.

It is always disappointing when you hear people just attack legislation when it is clear they have not even read the bill. Yet on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, you cannot take the politics out of politics, so what the heck, let us just move on with it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a little bit about the war in Iraq. I have to continuously brag about the 3rd Infantry Division in Hinesville, Georgia, Fort Stewart. I am wearing their patch on my lapel, which was given to me by the wives organizations down there. I am very proud of what they did. We followed them up the Euphrates River as they marched on to Baghdad.

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Also, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to say that I have had more constituents in the last month sleep in Saddam Hussein's palace than I have who have eaten in French restaurants. That is probably going to continue to be the case as the months and weeks pass by.

But in terms of the mission in Iraq, liberating Iraq, one of the things that we have had in Congress is many former Iraqi citizens who have come to seek refuge in the United States of America, many women. And these are women whose fathers or brothers were abducted, sisters and cousins, and for very small offenses, such as starting peace movements or protesting this or that. And they lived under the oppression of Saddam Hussein's regime. And it was a common practice that if he had a critic he would take their wife or their daughter and videotape sexual abuses of them and show it back to the male members of the family and say, get in line, get behind our program, or we will continue it. What a harsh way to deal with enemies.

We are, of course, finding mass graves. Amnesty International, which is not exactly a pro-American organization, estimated that there are anywhere between 70,000 and 150,000 Iraqis who have disappeared, unaccounted for, the highest number of any nation in the world. And now we are seeing these mass graves and trying to identify the loved ones of the Iraqi people.

But all of these folks have told us over and over again, we need an outside