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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 10, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution designating the week of June 9, 2003, as National Oceans Week and urging the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate recognition, programs, ceremonies, and activities to further ocean literacy, education, and exploration.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 5 minutes.

THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to again discuss an issue of great concern to American families. I am talking about extending the child tax credit to families that need it most.

A few weeks ago, this body passed a \$350 billion tax cut bill that gave every millionaire in this country a \$93,000 tax break. It made sure every corporation still had the right to avoid paying taxes by relocating overseas and taking American jobs with it. But the bill shorted 6.5 million low-income families who pay taxes and who are most in need. These families earn between \$10,500 and \$26,625 annually. Out of a \$350 billion bill, the President and Republicans in charge of this body could not find \$3.5 billion, 1 percent, for the poorest American families.

I tried to address this problem back on March 12 in the Committee on the Budget, but my amendment to extend this tax credit to those families was turned aside on a party-line vote. And then when it seemed that the Democrats had successfully included that provision in the larger tax package during the conference, the Republicans secretly eliminated it in the dead of night. Last week Democrats, united and resolute, said that that was not enough, that these 6.5 million families deserve this tax cut because they worked every bit as hard as the 25 million other families that will be receiving their tax refund in the mail next month. They pay almost 8 percent of their income in payroll taxes or sales taxes.

And last week the Senate restored the child tax credit to these hard-working families; and just yesterday the President's spokesperson called on the House to take up that legislation, but our colleagues on other side of the aisle just do not get it. They do not see the urgency in helping the 12 million children left behind by their tax bill. The majority whip said yesterday that he

did not know if the House would act on the other body's bill. As if that were not bad enough, the Chair of the Republican Study Committee said in this morning's Congress Daily, if the House is going to take up this legislation that the Republicans should get something in exchange.

It is always a deal with these people. It is as if there were no families who are trying to put food on their table or clothes on their children's backs. All they care about is taking care of their own people, like the Enrons who paid no taxes in 4 of the last 5 years. It was another colleague on the other side of the aisle who said one must pay an income tax in order to earn a tax credit. That is the way it works. But she did not care about Enron who paid no taxes the last 4 out of 5 years. For Republicans it is all about the deal. It is not about the fundamental values of fairness or of taking care of people. It is about the deal, what do we get in return.

We have passed three tax bills that benefit the wealthy in this last 3 years, but we have done nothing to help people that need it the most. It is high time the House of Representatives did its job. I commend the President for setting aside the quest for a deal and urging the House to take up this bill, which the other body passed by an overwhelming margin. We must restore what was stolen in the dead of night, and if we do not act soon, the families of these 12 million children will not be receiving the tax credit in the mail this July 1 like the other 25 million families. Now is the time for action.

PRICE CONTROLS NEVER WORK

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as we return from recess to write and act on legislation for a Medicare prescription drug benefit, I am asking my colleagues and the American people to resist the temptation to succumb to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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