

that say WorldCom is going to get protected; Iraq, 20 bucks, no-show jobs, they are going to get protected; 6.5 million American families work full time, making somewhere around \$20,000, and I am talking about a rookie cop, first-year teacher, first-year emergency worker, those types of people, they are not getting a tax cut. They are not worthy of it.

What does that say about who we are? So that tax bill is not just dollars and cents. It is a reflection of our values as Americans. And this person, this body, is going to quibble with an American official who thinks that somehow paying 20 bucks a day not to show up for work is valuable; but if one shows up every day trying to provide for their children, that is not valuable and it is not worthy of a tax cut. It is worthy of a tax cut. Those children are America's children. That mother and father earning \$20,000 are as valuable as if that mother and father were earning \$200,000.

So I would say that this House, this body, we did not come here to just be a vote. We came here to give voice to our values and the values that we all represent regardless of what part of the country we come from. Regardless of what party we are from says that those 12 million children, they too deserve to go to school, they too deserve to go to the YMCA, they too deserve to go to the summer camp, and they too deserve for their parents to put funds away for their higher education; and we in this body need to take up the Senate bill, take up the DeLauro bill and vote on it immediately so the President can sign it so that on July 1 their tax cut gets sent too so that when they show up for school like the Iraqis who do not show up for work, they get a tax cut too.

UCF CHAMPIONSHIP CHEERLEADING TEAM

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

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a big thrill to rise today to honor a hometown university, the University of Central Florida, and their cheerleading team for their Division I championship and cheerleading and dance team competition this year. UCF President John Hitt and the entire UCF family are simply thrilled with the success and are extraordinarily proud of this accomplishment. In fact, this is no fluke. UCF cheerleaders have finished in the top 10 for 9 out of the last 10 years. Talk about consistency. All champions exhibit quiet determination; but two teammates especially, Jamie Woode and James Kersey, demonstrated exceptional resolve above and beyond the call by competing with serious injuries, a broken fibula for Jamie and a torn rotator cuff for James. That is the UCF Knights spirit.

A student athlete's success is not merely measured by athletic performance, however. This 18-member team holds a cumulative 3.3 grade point average. During her 19-tenure as coach, Linda Gooch has witnessed all but one of her team members earning bachelors degrees, an all-too-rare accomplishment in Division I competitive student athletic programs. Today I will submit a resolution with many colleagues from Florida commending the fabulous success of the University of Central Florida cheerleading team on its championship this year and wish them continued success in the future both on and off the field.

THE CHILD TAX CREDIT, THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL, AND THE RANGEL PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Houston, Texas, I stood with carpenters and letter carriers, working families who work for the communications industry of the Nation, builders who build in the hot sun and the very cold winters, and those who take our plates away in restaurants and hotels. Some would call them the working class: low-income families, middle-income families. The one thing that they probably are not considered to be in this Nation, though I abhor any sense of class distinctions, but they probably would not be considered elite.

So I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, in arguing on their behalf, particularly in light of the very inequitable tax bill that was passed just a few weeks ago. I think the argument could be made that the elite went free on that day and they marched the working poor and the working Americans into a locked jail and threw the key away because the \$550 billion tax cut that the President signed clearly did not represent working families of America, clearly did not represent individuals whose income may fall between \$10,000 to \$26,000.

Mr. Speaker, I am not interested in having a class between incomes. I certainly appreciate those who have made their way in this Nation and have built their income and capital upon the democracy and the free opportunity for business in this Nation. But, frankly, I think it is appalling and an outrage that we can be in this Congress, take our income every day, take the benefits of this Nation, and refuse to protect the least of those. The Senate has passed a bill. It has fixed its error. The first error came when they refused to take the Lincoln amendment in the last hours, Senator LINCOLN's amendment in the last hours of the tax negotiations. They left the working people off the table. So they enacted a bill that values the elite few over millions

of Americans and left out those who make between \$10,000 and \$26,000.

That is why I am here to support the Rangel-DeLauro bill as an original co-sponsor to restore that tax credit. What does that mean? That when the checks are issued in July to all the millions of others who are doing well, a tax credit for children, \$400 to make it a total of \$1,000, who will be left out? Those who make the 10,000 to \$26,000. Are they the deadbeats of America, are they the undeserving, are they the ones that my good friends on the other side continue to hammer over and over again they do not pay taxes? I reject it. I refute it. It is ridiculous. They pay payroll taxes. They pay property taxes. They pay sales taxes. They contribute to America's economy. How dare you provide this elitist response that these working families who get up every day and clean tables, these working families who get up every day and help build America, are you telling me that they do not deserve a tax credit on their children?

The reason, Mr. Speaker, that I add to this is that we have the worst unemployment in America that we have had in America's history amongst any President in the United States. We have gone up to 6.1 percent unemployment with unemployed reaching \$3.1 million. That means that the very people we are talking about per child tax credit may have only one bread winner in the family. Not two, but one. And that means that children who need these dollars maybe for the beginning of the school year are now denied because of the elitist attitude of this Congress and the Republican leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to stand with that kind of Neanderthal thinking. I prefer standing with the hundreds who stood with me, working men and women who are appalled by the lack of a tax credit and equally appalled by the opportunity or the effort by this particular body, this Republican majority, to put a comp time bill on the floor of the House which eliminates any opportunity for individuals who get overtime pay and gives them only, only compensation by giving them comp time off. Not when they need it, Mr. Speaker, but when the employer says they can have it.

So here we go. We have got a tax scenario that penalizes working families. We have a working bill that violates the Fair Labor Standards Act, and we have an overall package that we are trying to help Americans and we cannot seem to get it on the floor of the House. We need to get the Rangel-DeLauro bill, H.R. 2286, on the floor of the House now, this week. We must continue to fight for providing them along with our United States military personnel whose salaries fall within that \$10,000 to \$26,000 a year. We have got to stand to create jobs when we have seen such an enormous loss of jobs. Mr. Speaker what we have here is a failing of the United States Congress,

failing of our constitutional duties and certainly a failing to the American people. Vote for the Rangel-DeLauro bill, and vote to eliminate the bad comp bill that will destroy working families all over America.

Just over 1 week ago, the President signed a new law that provides tax cuts of \$93,500 to the 200,000 taxpayers making over \$1 million, while 53 percent of all taxpayers would get less than \$100 under the law.

The Republicans chose not to provide or to increase the child tax credit to working families making between \$10,500 to \$26,625 per year, in order to make room for a dividend tax cut.

Republicans deliberately chose to leave these children and their families behind.

Republicans also deliberately chose to drop a provision added by Senator LINCOLN that would help nearly 12 million children and their families to get the child tax credit—8 million of whom would get no child tax credit at all under the new law.

This provision would have helped low income families with children who make that are working hard to make ends meet.

On May 29, 2003 White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said, "Everybody was aware in the conference of what was in, and what was out. So that was very well-known to all the conferees, including to the White House. Does tax relief go to the people who pay income taxes and forgive their income taxes, or does it go above and beyond the forgiving of all income taxes, and you actually get a check from the government? This [GOP tax conference agreement] certainly does deliver tax relief to the people who pay income taxes." (May 29, 2003)

Today, Majority Leader TOM DELAY responded that the House would not move stand-alone legislation on this issue. He said, "There's a lot of other things that are more important than that. To me it's a little difficult to give tax relief to people who don't pay income taxes."

First Republicans refused to give workers the same pension rights that corporate CEOs have.

Then they pushed through a \$350 billion tax cut, which fails to increase the child tax credit for working families making \$10,000 to \$26,625 a year.

Now, the Republicans are working to take away overtime pay with H.R. 1119 the so-called Comp Time bill and describing it as a "family-friendly" idea.

In reality, this is the Republican's concerted, long-term attack on America's working families that must be stopped.

SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Democrats are offering a package to help hard working Americans and create jobs.

Democrats are taking the first step (H.R. 2286) to begin to repair the damage from this reckless and irresponsible tax package.

The Rangel-Davis-DeLauro bill will provide greater tax relief to the families of 19 million children who make the minimum wage that are struggling to make ends meet.

In addition to restoring the child tax credit provision that Republicans dropped in the middle of the night, the Rangel bill would make the child tax credit available to 1.7 million more families by providing that those earning \$7,500 or more could get the credit.

Under current law, the tax credit it is limited to those who make over \$10,500.

The Range package will benefit 19 million children in America; over 2 million children in Texas alone.

Furthermore, the Rangel bill would accelerate marriage penalty relief for families that receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. And it is fully paid for—the bills calls for no deficit spending.

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

The Democratic package would make sure that our men and women in the military are not denied tax relief just because they are deployed in Iraq.

Specifically, the bill would count combat pay for purposes of the Child Tax Credit.

Republicans enacted a \$350 billion tax bill, and yet they failed to make sure that our men and women in combat are able to take full advantage of the child tax credit.

The Democratic Plan will also create jobs for the soldiers who are returning home, their loved ones and others in need of employment.

These provisions are key elements of the Democratic House Jobs and Economic Growth package that will create more than 1 million jobs this year without adding one penny to the deficit.

Democrats know that by putting money in the hands of working Americans and by keeping our fiscal house in order can we create jobs and build a strong economy.

IRAQ AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was in the grocery checkout line buying some Motrin for my ailing 8-year-old daughter late this Saturday night; and the woman next to me, seeing me wearing something of a Republican T-shirt on the weekend but not recognizing me as a Congressman, said, "I guess your President is in some hot water over weapons of mass destruction." And that seems to be what many on the other side of the aisle and many in the national debate would like to say about the President, that somehow this administration either directly or indirectly intentionally or unintentionally exaggerated the threat of weapons of mass destruction and the WMD program of the Nation of Iraq during the months and weeks leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is an extraordinary assertion, and as I went on to describe there in the checkout line last Saturday night and rise today to describe, it is patently untenable and ignores the real and demonstrable history of the nation of Iraq and the region.

First, a lesson in history. We go back to 1981 when Israel was forced to bomb Saddam Hussein's nuclear reactor at Osirak. In fact, the United Nations established at that time that Iraq had begun a nuclear weapons program and, in their words, chemical and biological weapons capability systems. In fact, in the immediate aftermath of the last

Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein and his regime as a part of the cease fire agreement acknowledged extensive biological and chemical weapons programs; and I cite now from UNSCOM's sources, the U.N. agency responsible for overseeing the cease fire of Iraq, that Iraq itself acknowledged 10,000 nerve gas warheads, 1,500 chemical weapons, and 412 tons of chemical weapons agents.

Last week before the Committee on International Relations, John Bolton, the Under Secretary for Arms Control at the U.S. State Department testified before us; and I asked him very specifically, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the assessment of the WMD program in Iraq changed significantly from the Clinton administration to the Bush administration. He hesitated and then very carefully said it had not changed in any significant way and that in many respects the Clinton administration assessed the WMD program in Iraq precisely the same as the Bush administration did. Citing those hundreds of tons of chemical and biological agents that Iraq admitted it had in 1991, Under Secretary of State John Bolton said, "Both administrations said these materials were unaccounted for."

In fact, when President Clinton bombed Iraq in 1998 after they expelled our weapons inspectors, he justified the bombing by saying "it was necessary to attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological programs and its capacity to threaten its neighbors." So said President Bill Clinton. So those who would say that in the 5 years leading up from the time Iraq expelled weapons inspectors to the time of Operation Iraqi Freedom that somehow, even though he refused to admit it, Saddam Hussein willingly and privately destroyed his enormous cache of weapons of mass destruction, ignore common sense, ignore history, the truth is, Mr. Speaker, we would have to believe the worst of George W. Bush and the best of Saddam Hussein to believe that there was not an extraordinary program of biological, chemical and even a nascent program for nuclear weapons being developed in the nation of Iraq and the capital of Baghdad.

Facts are stubborn things, and reciting those facts that Iraq admitted to in 1991 and establishing a decade-long pattern of deception and denial confirms, as our Iraqi survey group continues to scour that country for further evidence of a WMD program, I remain confident, as the President said yesterday, that we will not only continue to find evidence of a program, the mobile labs, the biological and chemical suits and the syringes that were found with antidotes for chemical deployments, but the day will come in the very near future, I am confident, that U.S. and coalition forces will find the elusive evidence of a program of weapons of mass destruction.