

Furthermore, we will extend alternative minimum tax relief for Americans. The AMT was created in the 1970s, and times were much different. Today, an unacceptable number of families are exposed to this unfair tax, and this needs to stop.

Mr. Speaker, the facts are crystal clear: The Republican progrowth economic policies adopted by this House and this Congress are leading the way, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put politics aside, vote for the American people, vote today to prevent a tax increase on millions of hardworking American families.

TAX BREAKS NOT WORKING FOR MIDDLE-CLASS AMERICANS

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, is there any doubt today that this administration's first priority continues to be tax cuts for the wealthiest at the expense of education, health care and homeland security, all of which are being cut to pay for these tax cuts?

We have been promised that extending dividend and capital gains cuts will create a rising tide that lifts all boats. But American families know that it takes so much more than a trickle-down effect for tax cuts to deliver relief from rising gas prices, soaring tuition and skyrocketing health costs.

If the tax cuts had performed as our friends on the other side of the aisle promised, an exploding economy would have offset these strains. Instead, we are now burdened with \$400 billion deficits, \$3 trillion in new debt since 2001, and deep cuts to hospitals, schools and law enforcement.

How can we possibly justify tax breaks for millionaires worth more than the entire amount President Bush requested for the Department of Education and more than twice his budget for the VA? The answer is that we can't. We just can't.

Instead, Americans who need our help the most must get in line and patiently wait for the Republicans' tax cuts to make any meaningful difference, if they ever do, in their daily struggle.

Mr. Speaker, middle-class Americans deserve much better.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM SAVES MONEY FOR SENIORS

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, to date, more than 30 million Americans have signed up for the new Medicare prescription drug program, and that is because it saves them money. An AARP survey found that almost 80 percent of

those enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug plan say that the new benefit is meeting or exceeding their expectations. Seniors don't have to choose between prescription drugs and paying their bills or putting food on the table anymore.

And there is still time for seniors who are not currently enrolled to sign up for the program. They have until May 15th to sign up without any penalty.

They simply have to call 1-800-MEDICARE and ask about drug savings, and there will be someone there who will help to walk them through the process.

Again, the deadline to sign up with no penalties is May 15, so call and save today.

PROVIDE REAL TAX RELIEF FOR CONSUMERS AND REPEAT ENERGY TAX BREAKS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, how high do gas prices have to go before this administration is willing to break its ties with the oil and gas company CEOs? For 5 years now, the major oil companies have been bringing in record profits, while the pain at the pump has grown worse for average Americans.

Today, consumers are paying \$3 a gallon. If you are making minimum wage, that means your first hour at work is used to buy 1½ gallons of gasoline for your car.

Major oil companies just reported \$16 billion in profits for the first quarter alone, and the national response has been moral outrage. Yet last year they pushed through an energy bill that gave oil and gas companies an additional \$20 billion in tax breaks and subsidies.

The problem is, those in charge here are not willing to have the courage to stand up and make things right.

TIME FOR ACTION ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(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, one of my colleagues referenced the study from the Law Library of Congress entitled "Immigration Law Sanctions and Enforcement in Selected Foreign Countries." It evaluates the policies and the practices of Brazil, Egypt, Japan, Mexico, Sweden and Switzerland. The countries were selected specifically to provide a geographically and racially diverse group for comparison purposes.

What the study found is that strong enforcement of immigration law and tough sanctions can effectively reduce illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, it is of concern to us that we learned yesterday that the U.S. Government is releasing information

on the Minutemen border patrols to the Mexican Government. It is very frustrating that our government would be both willing and able to release information to the Mexican Government on these patrols, yet unable to adequately deter illegal entry into this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see a border wall or technology improvements that will actually halt illegal border crossings. There is incredible consensus among Tennesseans that enough is enough on this issue. It is time for action.

DO-NOTHING CONGRESS REFUSING TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF AMERICANS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, today is the 130th day of 2006. Guess how many of those days this House has been in session to address the needs of the American people? Twenty-nine. Twenty-nine. This is only the 29th voting day of the year here in the House of Representatives.

No wonder, Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost confidence in this Congress. The Republican majority would rather recess than tackle the tough issues of our day.

Or could it be that the Republicans are simply incapable of governing? House Republicans have yet to pass a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Before the April recess, the House Republican leadership brought a bill to this floor, but was forced to pull it from consideration after determining that it would fail.

Regardless of whether or not Republicans are able to pick up enough Republican votes this week, the fact remains that they have presided over the largest fiscal collapse in American history. Five years ago they inherited record budget surpluses, and they have turned those into record deficits.

□ 1030

PORK BOOTLEGGERS

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, some say we have no border security. The Associated Press reported that border authorities inspecting a car crossing into the United States from Mexico uncovered a food item in a strange place. Customs and Border Patrol officers searched the man's car, and they found two pounds of raw pork, oh, heaven forbid.

The meat was wrapped in foil inside two disposable diapers. Bringing in pork is prohibited because the "other white meat" can carry hog cholera. Some say we have no border security. Authorities seized these items and fined the man \$250.