

other things other than Social Security, in part to give tax cuts to wealthy Americans. Also buried in their budget is the fifth increase in the debt limit in 5 years. Fiscal conservatives that they are, they are hiding it in the middle of their budget because they don't want people to see it, another \$600 billion increase in the debt limit to nearly \$10 trillion.

That is quite an achievement. Nearly doubling the national debt in 5 years is something that they could write home about, but they don't want the people at home to know. So I can understand their concerns.

But, wait a minute, oh, no. We just passed a bill to give \$70 billion in tax breaks to wealthy investors. Now, where is that money going to come from? Oh, well, they say tax breaks pay for themselves, especially when you give the money to rich people.

This particular piece of work extends a tax break that wasn't going to expire until 2008. The college tuition deduction has already expired. Middle income families can't get it next year, but wealthy investors were worried that starting in 2009 or 2010 they might have to pay the same percentage of their investment earnings, their unearned income, as people who work for a living.

The Republicans said that would just destroy the economy of America. Those investors are the heart blood of our country, not the people who work and build the country; no, they have got to pay higher rates of taxes, but the people who can invest for a living.

What does their \$70 billion tax break do? Well, someone who earns \$5.3 million, \$82,000 tax relief. They really need it too at \$5.3 million, hard making ends meet. You know, their Hummer, 3 bucks a gallon of gas for their Hummer too. Well, maybe it is a limousine driven by a chauffeur, but who knows.

How about the retired CEO of ExxonMobil, \$400 million, that is what he got, just retired. Well, this bill gives him an extra \$2 million off his tax bill. It was going to be hard for him to maintain his lifestyle in retirement with only \$400 million in retirement. So the Republicans feel that working people should borrow \$2 million to give to him an additional little tax benefit.

But for a family earning a good income, 75,000 bucks, it is worth \$110 a year. So the family that earns \$75,000 is going to get up to \$110 tax benefit under this. But the retired CEO of ExxonMobil is going to get \$2 million, and the family who earns wages and salary at \$75,000 is going to pay to retire the debt, because we are borrowing the money to give to the wealthy investors.

How stupid do they think the American people are? How profligate and shameless the Republicans are to do this sort of thing. Help the families who are trying to have their kids get it. That is the next generation of earners. You cannot even extend them a modest tax benefit, but you can shower

money on the wealthiest among us, those who need it least.

It is time for new priorities in this Congress. It is time for fiscal responsibility. It is time to give a little bit of a helping hand to middle income and working America and let the rich help carry their fair share of the load.

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

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

FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor and privilege of attending the 15th annual FIRST Robotics Competition in Atlanta, Georgia at the end of April. I watched teams from both the United States and foreign countries take part in contests using robots that they built with the help of professionals.

While the winning teams were given awards, the primary goal of this competition was to help high school age students discover how interesting and rewarding the areas of math and science can be. As far as I am concerned, all of the students that participated are winners.

Seeing these brilliant students in person inspired me to join my friend and colleague, Congressman CHARLIE BASS on the floor tonight to share the important lessons and insights that we gained from our experience. I am excited to hear what my colleague has to say this evening as well.

Well, For Inflation and Recognition of Science and Technology, or, FIRST as it is known, was founded by my friend Dean Kamen, who is a brilliant inventor with a social conscience. Among his many distinguished achievements, he has invented the first wearable drug infusion pump, the first portable insulin pump, the Segway scooter and the IBOT wheelchair. His real passion, however, is inspiring younger generations and getting them excited about science and technology.

In pursuit of this goal, FIRST uses partnership between businesses, educational institutions and governments. Through FIRST's many programs, students learn the value of teamwork and sportsmanship and have the opportunity to pair up with mentors in their desired field. FIRST also gives students a chance to apply for scholarship awards so they may pursue these schools skills at the college level.

Now the success of this program can be seen by the fact that since 1992, the

FIRST Robotics Competition has grown from 28 teams to over 1,000 today. The goal of this organization is one that I have supported since I first cochaired a special legislative commission as a state representative to get young people interested in math and science in Rhode Island.

Now, as many of our colleagues have acknowledged, these are areas that our younger generations are not getting involved in sufficient numbers. This is detrimental to our country in the long run, not only for our reputation as innovators, but also for our national security.

Now, the argument that inadequate research in education systems pose a threat to our national security was made in a 2001 report, the Road Map for National Security: Imperative for Change.

Now, this was issued by the U.S. Commission on National Security, better known as the Hart-Rudman Commission. The report stated American national leadership must understand these deficiencies as threats to national security. Now, if we do not invest heavily and wisely in rebuilding these two core threats, America will be incapable of maintaining its global position long into the 21st century.

This is why I encouraged my fellow members to learn more about the FIRST program. It gets students in their district involved.

It is our job, not only to protect our country, but to inspire the next generation and maintain our status as the world leaders in research and innovation. With programs like FIRST, I am optimistic about the future, Mr. Speaker.

So I would like to congratulate all the teams that participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition and especially the three teams from Rhode Island, La Salle Academy, Middletown High School and Tolman High School, for a job well done. May they all have continued success in their future endeavors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my friend, Dean Kamen, the mentors and everyone who organized the FIRST robotics competition. I congratulate all of them and wish them well.

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

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

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Mr. NORWOOD's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BASS) is recognized for 5 minutes.