

been nicknamed the 90-10 plan, a double win, a win-win for the taxpayers, a plan that sets aside \$1.4 trillion for Social Security, twice what the President originally asked for, and sets it aside for a long-term plan to save Social Security.

This plan also works to eliminate the marriage tax penalty. I have often asked, is it right, is it fair that under our tax code, that a married working couple with two incomes pays higher taxes than an identical couple that lives together outside of marriage; that they pay higher taxes just because they are married?

We know that is wrong. We have answered that with this 90-10 plan that saves Social Security, and of course, the centerpiece is an effort which will eliminate the marriage tax penalty for a majority of those who suffer.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle, they talk about the Social Security trust fund. Judith Chesser, deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration, when asked in the Committee on Ways and Means last week if this tax cut impacts the Social Security trust fund, her answer was simple: No.

Let us pass it. It deserves bipartisan support.

#### SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress made a commitment to save and protect Social Security for the future. It is one of the most successful domestic programs that has ever been created, but now, according to my Republican colleagues, we have a surplus, which means that we can then provide a tax cut, while at the same time continue to hide the real deficit with Social Security funds.

To make matters worse, it is estimated that the proposed tax cut would benefit mostly those who earn over \$100,000 a year. To spend this illusory surplus is wrong. We need to remove Social Security from the budget and pay down the national debt.

Let us be honest, we do not have a surplus if we do not include Social Security in the budget. What we have is borrowed money from the Social Security trust fund, and this money will have to be paid back—every penny of it. This surplus should go to the Social Security trust fund and not a tax cut, because there is no surplus.

#### TIME FOR REFORM FOR THE SAVANNAH DISTRICT OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, here we go again, a different constituent, but

the same old shenanigans, the Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Jim Davis buys a house on Lake Thurman, so he can enjoy the beauty and recreational opportunity that this part of Georgia has to offer. That sounds easy enough, does it not? Yet, when the Corps gets involved, it is never easy, it is a pain in the neck.

The Corps will not approve Dr. Davis's permit for lakeshore use until he replants trees within the underbrush area that was cut down some 25 years ago. It is not even his property, it is public property. That is fine, if Dr. Davis had been the one to cut down the trees, but he was not. He just bought the property. So the Corps, which obviously has nothing better to do than to harass my constituents, hassles a man who is simply trying to mind his own business and follow some commonsense rules.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Corps to reform its bully mentality and its ludicrous shoreline management plan. If they cannot manage people, they cannot manage property.

#### ILLEGAL TRADE PRACTICES BY THE CHINESE BALLOONS THEIR TRADE SURPLUS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, China's trade surplus has ballooned to over \$1 billion a week, and China is doing it illegally: prison labor, slave wages at 17 cents an hour, illegal dumping, trade barriers. When confronted, China thumbs their nose right in our faces.

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In fact, they now say the real trade deficit in America is only pennies on the dollar with China. I ask today, who is teaching those communist accountants? The Internal Revenue Service?

Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I say this: Congress should stop coddling China. This is not about trade anymore. It is about national security. And a communist nation is ripping off Uncle Sam.

#### 90-10 TAX RELIEF

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, right now, senior citizens are losing their Social Security benefits because they just want to work and earn a living. Right now, seniors can earn only up to \$14,500 before they lose some of their benefits. This is an earnings limit that discriminates against senior citizens.

Is it not outrageous to penalize seniors for working? The Taxpayer Relief Act would raise the limits and give es-

sential tax relief to working seniors. It also sets aside \$1.4 trillion, which our colleagues fail to understand, to protect Social Security. That is 90 percent of the total surplus.

President Clinton does not want to help working citizens. He calls our plan "a gimmick to please people." I urge my colleagues, do not believe him. The President has proposed to spend billions from the surplus on bigger government. He is the one with the gimmicks.

We can protect Social Security and give tax relief. Let us just do it.

#### NORTH KOREA'S RECENT TAEPODONG I MISSILE LAUNCH

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on August 31 of this year, the government of North Korea tested its first three-stage missile over Japan. The missile, a modified Taepodong I, which traveled approximately 1,500 kilometers, landed in the Pacific, northwest of Misawa U.S. Air Force base in Japan.

Mr. Speaker, despite horrific famine, devastating floods and economic quarantine, North Korea has demonstrated its ability to strike targets in Japan and beyond. Missile defense experts have cited that this test is a key milestone in North Korea's efforts to develop their long-range ballistic missile that could conceivably place Alaska, Guam, and possibly Hawaii within the cross hairs of North Korean aggression.

Today, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and I are introducing a resolution which condemns North Korea for this act of international recklessness. Mr. Speaker, let us be honest here. This resolution will not stop North Korean missiles from being developed or exported. It will not compel an apology from Kim Jong Il. But what it does do is announce to the regime in Pyongyang, in no uncertain terms, that we are watching and we are taking notice of their actions. I urge my colleagues to please support this resolution.

#### IN SUPPORT OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE MALDIVES

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the persecuted Christians in the Republic of Maldives. Reports indicate that on June 18, 1998, police searched foreign workers' homes and confiscated passports, correspondence, books and other possessions.

Approximately 19 foreign Christians were forced to sign statements and were expelled for life from the Maldives. In addition, Christian Maldivian citizens have been arrested and put in prison. Authorities have denied these individuals visits from their

families and have subjected some of them to torture.

Despite government statements that, "The Maldives respects all religion", reports suggest the contrary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government of Maldives to protect the religious liberty of all of its citizens and release the individuals who have been arrested for their religious beliefs. Religious liberty should be a fundamental human right of all peoples of the world.

#### PROTESTING THE EXCLUSION OF DEMOCRAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House an event which I think is unwise and unprecedented.

Today, the new President of Colombia is visiting. But unlike previous visits of heads of state, only Republican Members have been invited to meet with him. In my 16 years in the House, I cannot remember a previous time when Members were excluded from such meetings based on party affiliation.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason for our foreign policy to become so partisan that only one party is invited to meet with a visiting head of State.

We have always had an "American" foreign policy, and to indicate that this is starting to change to foreign leaders is certainly unwise and unwarranted and very, very unfortunate.

The issues to be discussed affect the interest of all Americans, not just Republican Americans. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that not allowing Democrats into the meeting today with President Pastrana makes the House look foolish in the eyes of our visitors and foreign leaders and diminishes our ability to be effective as policymakers.

Mr. Speaker, are we for the first time today going to change our policy and make foreign dignitaries choose between meeting with Democrats or Republicans, or having to come back and meet with all of us twice? It is an insult to us as Americans, as Democrats, and as representatives of the people.

#### AS ELECTION DAY DRAWS NEARER, TAX CUT RHETORIC GROWS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as we can tell from the tone of the remarks and the date on the calendar, the rhetoric grows more and more pointedly partisan in this Chamber, and I guess that is a function again of time and of what transpires.

I have listened with interest this morning to my friends on the left con-

tinue to talk as if they are the saviors of Social Security. A couple of historic points might be in order.

First of all, for purposes of full disclosure, we should point out that our friends on the liberal side of the aisle over the 40 years of time when they were in control never set aside one penny to save Social Security. Zero point zero. Zilch. Nada.

On the other hand, the new majority embraces a plan that would take in excess of \$1.4 trillion and use it to save Social Security and use a relatively meager \$80 billion to allow the people of the United States to keep more of their hard-earned money.

What the left really tells us, Mr. Speaker, is: No tax cuts, no time, no how.

#### IN TRIBUTE TO VIC FAZIO

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

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, representing the other tough-to-hold seat in California, I know how hard the gentleman from California (Mr. FAZIO) has worked for his constituents.

I know his courage in fighting for responsible gun control; a woman's right to choose; equal treatment for all Californians, regardless of sexual orientation; and responsible campaign finance reform. And I know his incredible personal courage in returning here after the untimely death 2 years ago of his daughter, Anne.

Losing an election, which VIC never did, is hard. Losing a child is infinitely harder. Yet VIC and Judy have rebounded, and I think the perfect tribute this institution could pay to him after 20 years is to behave in a sober, bipartisan and fair fashion as we consider the very difficult matter of the President which is before us.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in commending VIC for his distinguished public career and proud to call him a friend.

VIC, best wishes to you, Judy and your family.

#### DEMOCRATS ATTEMPT TO SCARE SENIORS

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the liberals are making false and misleading arguments in their opposition to the Republican tax cut proposal. Every time we hear the other side accuse Republicans of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund or stealing from the Social Security Trust Fund, they are deliberately misrepresenting the truth in order to oppose tax cuts.

Just consider this. The liberals never accuse anyone of raiding the Social Security Trust Fund whenever it comes to spending. In fact, they have pro-

posed billions and billions of new spending without a single thought about Social Security.

It is only when Republicans want to pass tax cuts that they use a bogus argument about Social Security in order to scare seniors, just like they did for 2 years about Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, liberals simply oppose tax cuts. The American people should know the truth. Under their definition, all spending is a raid on the Social Security Trust Fund: education, welfare, the big bureaucracy here in Washington.

But now we do have a surplus and I think, yes, we do need to save Social Security with 90 percent of the surplus. But any surplus over that should go to hard-working Americans in the form of tax relief.

#### THANK YOU, VIC

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in tribute to Congressman VIC FAZIO, one of the finest individuals I have ever known, a public servant who truly exemplifies the idea of "citizen representative," a close friend and political mentor of mine and of my husband Walter.

Mr. Speaker, I will never forget the support and assistance he gave me and my family and staff after Walter's death. He is successful as a Congressman because, although a proud Democrat, he has the ability to work in a bipartisan manner. He is a wonderful Caucus Chair, because, again, he is a voice for unity and consensus within our party.

Mr. Speaker, he will be missed by his constituents and by us all, and he will always be my friend. I say to the gentleman, "Thank you, VIC."

#### FAST TRACK SHOULD BE PASSED

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, American farmers are facing a huge challenge of low commodity prices and unfair competition from foreign governments. Tomorrow, Congress will take up the issue of fast track authority for this administration. Even though I have serious questions about giving this administration any authority on trade issues, considering its record, I do support fast track authority because of the very important part of the bill that assures agriculture full participation in trade negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, by this provision, trade agreements reached will be agriculture-sensitive. An agriculture representative, a trade representative, will monitor and report back to Congress whether such agreements and negotiation will help or hurt agriculture.