

bill. The proposed action today is procedural in nature and is necessary to preserve the prerogatives of the House to originate revenue measures. It makes clear to the Senate that the appropriate procedure for dealing with revenue measures is for the House to act first on a revenue bill and for the Senate to accept it or amend it as it sees fit.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. The Constitution places the responsibility of initiating revenue measures in the House of Representatives. This resolution merely preserves the prerogatives and responsibility of the House.

S. 104, as noted, would contravene the constitutional restriction since it would repeal a present-law revenue measure and create a user fee.

It is my understanding that today's action will have no effect on efforts to move nuclear waste legislation since the House has already passed legislation to address this issue.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENSIGN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ADVISING MEMBERS OF PUBLIC HEARING OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

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

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to advise Members of the House that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has scheduled a public hearing at 3 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 1998. This hearing has been arranged so the committee may take testimony about the report of the Inspector General of the CIA regarding allegations that the CIA was somehow involved with the spread of crack cocaine to California during the 1980s.

As Members know, since the publication in August of 1996 of a series of articles in the San Jose Mercury News, our committee has been conducting an oversight investigation into the validity of the very serious allegations made by those news stories. This public hearing is an important step in that process.

We have invited the CIA's Inspector General, Mr. Fred Hitz, to discuss his investigation and to walk us through the conclusions in his report, which has been available to the public since the end of January.

In addition, I wish to inform Members who have an interest in this sub-

ject and who may wish to comment on the IG's report that they are welcome to testify before the subcommittee on March 16. Members wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should contact the committee as soon as possible so proper arrangements can be made.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1998

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 9, 1998, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### UNFAIRNESS IN TAX CODE: MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, let me explain why enactment of the Marriage Tax Elimination Act is so important with a series of questions. Do Americans feel that it is fair that our Tax Code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel that it is fair that 21 million married working couples pay \$1,400 more in taxes than identical couples with identical incomes living together outside of marriage? Do Americans feel that it is right that our Tax Code actually provides an incentive to get divorced? Clearly it is unfair and it is wrong. Twenty-one million Americans paying \$1,400 more just because they are married. On the south side of Chicago in the south suburbs, \$1,400 is one year's tuition at a local community college, 3

months of child care at a local day care center, several months' worth of car payments. The Marriage Tax Elimination Act now has 238 bipartisan cosponsors. It would immediately eliminate the marriage tax penalty. The marriage tax penalty is not only unfair, it is wrong. Let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty and do it now.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight what is arguably the most unfair provision in the U.S. Tax code: the marriage tax penalty. I want to thank you for your long term interest in bringing parity to the tax burden imposed on working married couples compared to a couple living together outside of marriage.

In January, President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address outlining many of the things he wants to do with the budget surplus.

A surplus provided by the bipartisan budget agreement which cut waste, put America's fiscal house in order, and held Washington's feet to the fire to balance the budget.

While President Clinton paraded a long list of new spending totaling at least \$46–48 billion in new programs—we believe that a top priority should be returning the budget surplus to America's families as additional middle-class tax relief.

This Congress has given more tax relief to the middle class and working poor than any Congress of the last half century.

I think the issue of the marriage penalty can best be framed by asking these question: Do Americans feel its fair that our tax code imposes a higher tax penalty on marriage? Do Americans feel its fair that the average married working couple pays almost \$1,400 more in taxes than a couple with almost identical income living together outside of marriage? Is it right that our tax code provides an incentive to get divorced?

In fact, today the only form one can file to avoid the marriage tax penalty is paperwork for divorce. And that is just wrong!

Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work. For no other reason than the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million couples a year are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single. Not only is the marriage penalty unfair, it's wrong that our tax code punishes society's most basic institution. The marriage tax penalty exacts a disproportionate toll on working women and lower income couples with children. In many cases it is a working women's issue.

Let me give you an example of how the marriage tax penalty unfairly affects middle class married working couples.

For example, a machinist, at a Caterpillar manufacturing plant in my home district of Joliet, makes \$30,500 a year in salary. His wife is a tenured elementary school teacher, also bringing home \$30,500 a year in salary. If they would both file their taxes as singles, as individuals, they would pay 15%.

#### MARRIAGE PENALTY EXAMPLE IN THE SOUTH SUBURBS

	Machinist	School teacher	Couple
Adjusted gross income .....	\$30,500	\$30,500	\$61,000
Less personal exemption and standard deduction .....	6,550	6,550	11,800
Taxable income .....	23,950	23,950	49,200
Tax liability .....	3,592.50	3,592.50	8,563
Marriage penalty .....			1,378

But if they choose to live their lives in holy matrimony, and now file jointly, their combined

income of \$61,000 pushes them into a higher tax bracket of 28 percent, producing a tax penalty of \$1,400 in higher taxes.

On average, America's married working couples pay \$1,400 more a year in taxes than individuals with the same incomes. That's serious money. Everyday we got closer to April 15th more married couples will be realizing that they are suffering the marriage tax penalty.

Particularly if you think of it in terms of a down payment on a house or a car, one years tuition at a local community college, or several months worth of quality child care at a local day care center.

To that end, Congressman DAVID MCINTOSH and I have authored the Marriage Tax Elimination Act.

It would allow married couples a choice in filing their income taxes, either jointly or as individuals—which ever way lets them keep more of their own money.

Our bill already has the bipartisan cosponsorship of 232 Members of the House and a similar bill in the Senate also enjoys widespread support.

It isn't enough for President Clinton to suggest tax breaks for child care. The President's child care proposal would help a working couple afford, on average, three weeks of day care. Elimination of the marriage tax penalty would give the same couple the choice of paying for three months of child care—or addressing other family priorities. After all, parents know better than Washington what their family needs.

We fondly remember the 1996 State of the Union address when the President declared emphatically that, quote "the era of big government is over."

We must stick to our guns, and stay the course.

There never was an American appetite for big government. But there certainly is for reforming the existing way government does business. And what better way better way to show the American people that our government will continue along the path to reform and prosperity than by eliminating the marriage tax penalty.

Ladies and Gentleman, we are on the verge of running a surplus. It's basic math. It means Americans are already paying more than is needed for government to do the job we expect of it. What better way to give back than to begin with mom and dad and the American family—the backbone of our society.

We ask that President Clinton join with Congress and make elimination of the marriage tax penalty . . . a bipartisan priority. Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them.

Lets eliminate The Marriage Tax Penalty and do it now!

#### WHICH IS BETTER?

The President's Proposal to expand the child care tax credit will pay for only 2 to 3 weeks of child care. The *Weller-McIntosh Marriage Tax Elimination Act HR 2456*, will allow married couples to pay for 3 months of child care.

Which Is Better, 3 Weeks Or 3 Months?

#### CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
Marriage Tax Elimination Act	\$1,400	\$127	11

#### CHILD CARE OPTIONS UNDER THE MARRIAGE TAX ELIMINATION ACT—Continued

	Average tax relief	Average weekly day care cost	Weeks day care
President's child care tax credit	358	127	2.8

□ 1330

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

#### TRAGEDY IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to describe to my colleagues a tragedy which occurred in my congressional district of Florida. On the afternoon of November 7, 1997, in Sarasota, Florida, a 13-year-old girl returned home to discover the body of her mother, Sheila Bellush, on the kitchen floor. Bellush, a mother of six, including 2-year old quadruplets, had been brutally murdered. Her throat was slashed and she was shot in the head. When her body was found, her quadruplets were crawling next to her in her blood.

The trail of evidence immediately led to Jose Luis Del Toro, a United States citizen born and raised in Texas. Del Toro fled to Mexico where he was captured on November 20th.

I would like to share with Members, Mr. Speaker, an excerpt from a message sent to me by my constituents Paul and Anita Marshall: Both my wife Anita and I are constituents of yours residing in North Port, Florida. We are also full-time law enforcement officers. Recently I responded to the Bellush murder scene and had a firsthand account of this brutal crime. Having been in law enforcement for 19 years, this was the most brutal of crimes I have ever seen."

Now, Del Toro has been captured. This should have been an open-and-shut case. Del Toro should have been quickly deported for illegal entry and quickly returned to Florida to stand trial for murder. However, when Mexican officials learned of the charges against Del Toro, they refused to simply deport him and instead started lengthy extradition procedures and de-

clared Del Toro would not be returned unless the United States waived the death penalty.

The Sarasota community I represent was outraged, and rightfully so. This move by Mexico is an obstruction of the United States judicial process. It is a violation of U.S. sovereignty, and it is an abomination that we allow this to happen.

This was a United States citizen who was accused of committing a heinous crime against another United States citizen on United States soil, and Mexico apparently feels that it can step right in and prevent this murderer from being brought to justice. I am offended by the arrogance of any Nation that seeks to dictate to the United States what United States judicial policy should be.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, my constituents from North Port, continued on in their correspondence: "How can Mexico dictate what judicial action should be taken in our country, especially after all the financial aid and other assistance we have given Mexico over the years?"

I would like to ask the same question. The answer is amazing. The United States actually grants Mexico the right to interfere with our judicial system in this manner. The U.S.-Mexico Extradition Treaty of 1978 allows Mexico the right to deny extradition if the individual in question may be subject to the death penalty upon return.

I believe this is a dangerous policy with a bordering country where murderers can drive across the border within hours of committing a crime. This is why I am introducing a resolution calling for the administration to renegotiate our extradition treaty with Mexico. I ask my colleagues to join with me and support this resolution.

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

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

#### IMMORALITY AND HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Madam Speaker, many constituents have called on me to condemn President Clinton or to condemn former Judge Kenneth Starr. Many are convinced that the President has not been honest in his disavowals of indecent behavior, and it is time for others in public life to demand a fuller explanation from him. Many others are convinced that the recent allegations about the President are irrelevant to his performance in office or his right to stay in office and should be dropped.

It is wrong for the President of the United States to have sexual relations