

Susan B. Anthony, abortion could never be separated from her promotion of women's rights. She could not separate the two causes, because to those early feminists, abortion was nothing less than child murder. She said, "We want prevention, not punishment." For her, such prevention meant promoting dignity and true equality for the born and the unborn.

Every American, and especially every female, owes much to pioneers such as Susan B. Anthony. On this upcoming 179th anniversary of her birth, we should all pay tribute to this great American, to this great leader, to this wonderful right-to-life advocate, Susan B. Anthony.

BAN ILLEGAL TRADE RESTRICTIONS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, the trade rep says, don't worry, Congress, we are going to GATT over steel. Wow.

Check this out. Three years ago Europe blocked American beef. Then Europe blocked American bananas. Uncle Sam went to GATT. GATT ruled in our favor. Europe laughed in their face. GATT says, go to the World Trade Organization. We went to the WTO. The WTO ruled in our favor. Europe laughed in their faces. Then they appealed. Three years later, Uncle Sam is being advised to go back to GATT on bananas and beef.

Beam me up. Rip Van Winkel is faster than GATT. America's sovereignty is not predicated on the WTO, Madam Speaker. When it comes to illegal trade, we should never manage it, we should ban it.

INDONESIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern over the continuing human rights abuses in Indonesia. This week I chaired a Congressional Human Rights Caucus briefing in which expert witnesses from Indonesia showed photographic evidence and reported on the situation facing their people.

Attacks on ethnic and religious minorities, particularly Chinese minorities, are continuing, and in some instances appear to be orchestrated. Ninety-five churches have been burned or destroyed since May of last year. One photograph showed a security officer standing by while a person's decapitated head was paraded around on a stick.

Violence and human rights abuses continue in regions. Rape victims from last year's riots are intimidated. Churches and mosques are burned.

Christians and Muslims from rural communities are afraid to return to their destroyed homes.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Indonesian government to immediately take steps to protect the fundamental human rights of all people in Indonesia, promptly bring to justice all individuals violating those rights.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, we in the Congress have an historic opportunity to save the twin pillars of retirement security, Social Security and Medicare. We have this opportunity because of a strong economy in this country that has resulted in a Federal surplus for the first time in three decades. At this historic juncture, Democrats propose to do what is right: save Social Security and Medicare while we have the financial ability to do so.

Republicans, on the other hand, want to give a one-time tax break that flies in the face of fiscal responsibility. It is a shortsighted plan. It will not save Social Security and Medicare. It gives a 10 percent tax break to those, most of whom are wealthy in this country. The lion's share of the plan goes to people making more than \$300,000 a year. Middle-class families would get back less than \$100.

As one of their own said in today's Congress Daily, "A 10 percent cut means nothing for most taxpayers." Democrats are for tax cuts, tax cuts that are targeted to middle-class families. The Democratic plan will save Social Security and Medicare, and give tax relief to the people who need it most.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO PREVENT EXPANSION OF AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, we have troops in 144 countries of the world today. President Clinton has announced that he will now send troops to Kosovo. We are bombing in Iraq on a daily basis. We have been in Bosnia now for three years, although we were supposed to be there for six months. We should not go into Kosovo; we should not go there, absolutely, without congressional approval.

I have introduced legislation that will prevent the President from sending troops to further expand our intervention around the world without congressional approval. This is very, very important. We are spending so much money on intervention in so many

countries around the world at the same time our national defense is being diminished. Worst of all, the President is planning to put these thousands of troops under a British commander.

It is time we took it upon ourselves to exert our authority to restrain the President in spreading troops around the world.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY MAY BE DETRIMENTAL TO CONSUMERS

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, my district includes Redmond, Washington, the home of Microsoft.

Madam Speaker, the true beneficiaries of the Internet explosion are consumers. They know it. A recent Wirthlin poll found that 81 percent of the public believes that Microsoft has benefited consumers. The reasons are clear. Microsoft is the leader and perhaps the most dynamic, creative, and productive industry in the history of the world. Technology is improving, prices are falling, and more people own a computer today than ever have before. The innovative people in Microsoft are a major reason for this.

The Federal Government should be cautious before it intervenes in this enterprising industry. The American people are reluctant to allow the government to control the industry because it provides cheaper, more useful products every day without government intervention.

We must not forget that the goal of our laws ought to be protecting the consumer, not the competition. If we focus on what is good for the consumer, the industry will continue to harness the genius of American innovation, and Microsoft will continue to serve as an engine of invention, to our mutual benefit.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY OFF-BUDGET

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

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, it is time we really take social security off-budget. While this Congress has worked hard to balance the budget under the manner we currently count Federal dollars, we have only done so by using the social security trust fund surplus.

Let us now raise the bar and balance the budget by walling off the social security surplus. Why should this Congress be content with a budget that is only balanced because we are borrowing from social security?

Everyone here knows it is morally wrong to use the social security surplus to mask our deficit, and our constituents know it, as well. Let us end

this shell game. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my legislation, which will wall off social security by removing it from the unified budget calculations.

WHY DO REPUBLICANS WANT TO GIVE TAX CUTS TO THE WEALTHY INSTEAD OF PROTECTING AND EXPANDING MEDICARE WITH THE BALANCE OF THE SURPLUS?

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I have been pleased to hear some of my Republican colleagues express a willingness to go along with President Clinton's plan to devote 62 percent of the budget surplus to social security. But what I cannot understand is why they would rather take the rest of the surplus and give a tax break to the wealthy, instead of protecting and even expanding Medicare so that it covers prescription drugs.

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Before I was elected to public office, I served as director of the Illinois Council of Senior Citizens, and I learned a lot about how hard it can be to grow old in America. Making ends meet on Social Security is not easy, even if one is pretty healthy. But if someone has high blood pressure or diabetes or heart disease or cancer, they could be in real trouble. As any senior can tell us, there are many things Medicare does not pay for, including prescription drugs. In fact, seniors today are paying more of their incomes on health care than before Medicare was enacted in 1965.

Social Security and Medicare. They go hand-in-hand. Seniors understand this. The President understands this. Before giving away the surplus to the rich, I hope the Republicans will get it, too, and support our plan to protect Medicare.

CONGRESS SET TO ELIMINATE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

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

Mr. WELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to really announce some good news, and that is we are ready to make progress on some unfinished business, and that is the issue of eliminating discrimination against married working couples.

My colleagues, let us ask a few questions. Is it not time we eliminated the marriage tax penalty? Is it right—really, is it right—that under our Tax Code married working couples pay higher taxes just because they are married? Is it fair that 21 million married working couples pay on average \$1,400 more just

because they are married than an identical couple living together outside of marriage? In Illinois \$1,400 is one year's tuition at the local community college.

It is simply wrong we are punishing married working couples. Yesterday, we introduced H.R. 6, the Marriage Tax Elimination Act, legislation that now has 224 cosponsors. Think about that; 224 cosponsors. How often do we have a majority of the House as cosponsors of legislation on its first day? That is good news.

I believe we can work together this year to eliminate the most unfair discrimination in the tax code. Let us work together, let us work in a bipartisan way, let us eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from a constituent of mine and a press release from the Speaker of the House on the subject matter of my speech this morning.

JANUARY 6, 1999.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WELLER: Over the past year or so, my husband Shad and I have read with some surprise and some relief about your efforts to eliminate the "marriage tax penalty." When we set out to marry, no one warned us such a tax even existed on married couples. Our relief, of course, came in knowing that our U.S. Representative is trying to do something to right the wrong.

Shad and I are both teachers in Will County. Shad teaches 11th grade English and I teach junior high reading. Neither of us make a lot of money, but we are dedicated to our jobs and the children we teach. You can imagine our surprise when we realized how the marriage tax affects us. When we followed up with tax preparers and your staff, we learned that our 1997 salaries are facing a \$957.00 marriage tax penalty.

We have actually read articles in the paper where scholars have dismissed the marriage tax as inconsequential on a working family's day to day struggle to make ends meet. Instead, they argue that the amount of money lost to the government by eliminating the marriage tax would be a great "tragedy." In fact, during last year's elections, I heard a candidate suggest that if \$1,400 plays such a large stake in a couples decision to marry, perhaps they have no business getting married in the first place. Although I am no economic scholar, and Shad and I would be married despite the financial consequences the government places on our marriage, I take offense to that sort of thought process.

Fourteen hundred dollars may not seem like a lot to some, but as we prepare to bring our first child into the world, we will face a penalty of \$957. That \$957 could buy 3000 diapers or pay for a years worth of tuition for our graduate school education. Aside from the poor message the marriage tax sends to young couples like ourselves, the money it costs—no matter how large or small the amount—could be used on things we need now. It troubles me to know that as Shad and I continue to teach and earn a little more money as time goes by, so too will our "marriage tax" grow.

It appears to me Congressman Weller, eliminating the marriage tax seems to be the right choice. Shad and I will continue to follow your efforts in Washington with great interest (as will our married friends back home). Last year it appeared that Washington was ready to eliminate the marriage tax. What went wrong?

Sincerely,

MICHELLE AND SHAD HALKAN.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT ON RESERVING H.R. 6 FOR REPEAL OF MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY

WASHINGTON, D.C.—House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) today released the following statement on reserving H.R. 6 for the Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act:

"It's ridiculous that our onerous tax code makes it more expensive to be married than to be single. The government should not punish married working couples by taking more of their hard-earned money in taxes than an identical couple living outside of marriage. I am proud to reserve one of this Congress' top bills, H.R. 6, for the Marriage Tax Penalty Elimination Act.

"The Republican-led Congress has a strong commitment to returning more of each American's hard-earned money to his or her own pocket. The government often acts as if it owns the earnings of all Americans, as if each American worked for the government and not the other way around. This is wrong. We believe that all Americans deserve to keep more of their own money—after all, it's your money and you can save and spend it more wisely than Washington can."

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.

CONSENSUS IS 62 PERCENT OF BUDGET SHOULD GO TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, there is now reaching a point of consensus that 62 percent of the surplus in the budget should go to save Social Security and preserve it at least to the year 2055. With God's good graces, we will all be here to enjoy that extended life of Social Security.

What the President has also proposed is equally important, perhaps even more so, and that is that 15 percent, almost \$700 billion, be put away also to help improve Medicare today, and that includes extending prescription drug benefits to seniors.

As much as we have heard about the proposals for tax cuts, an across-the-board tax cut will not get an average senior even through a single year covering their prescription drug costs. Yet, on the other the other side of the aisle, we hear nothing about improving Medicare for today's seniors. Instead, 37 percent of their plan goes to a tax cut, 1 percent goes to defense, and nothing else goes for things like prescription drugs.

My colleagues, with the cost of living adjustment for seniors this year being only 1.2 percent, we need to recognize that today's seniors, not those a generation from now, need prescription drugs covered.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2, DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today Republicans in