

Week In Review
June 6, 2003

REPUBLICAN ECONOMICS: CHILDREN AND WORKING FAMILIES LAST!

Last week, President George W Bush signed a bill with great fanfare, claiming that it would mean tax cuts for families. The President neglected to mention that millions of children in working families would be left behind because their parents earn less than \$27,000.

This week, we learned the rest of the story: Democrats, led by Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), worked to build a bipartisan coalition to restore the child tax credit to low income working families - but Republican Congressional Leader Tom DeLay (R-TX) says that the House will not bring such legislation to a vote without considering other tax reductions. Saying he would 'rather stand and fight' against the Senate measure, Rep. Jim McCreery (R-LA), a Republican Ways and Means Committee leader, views the tax extension as more government spending.

Maybe that's because the new legislation could pay for extending the child tax credit by eliminating corporate tax shelters and accounting practices like those that have led to widespread corporate abuses.

Could there be a clearer example of the difference between the political parties? Democrats think the smart way to stimulate the economy and grow jobs is to get more money into the hands of working people, recognizing that we value hard work and strengthen families when we provide tax relief for low income working families with children.

Republicans have a very different view: their party passed an economic plan that leaves out 12 million children. In fact -- despite the President's rhetoric -- 1 in 3 taxpaying American households were omitted from this latest tax cut. And in case anyone thought this was just a misunderstanding, the Republican leadership is now refusing to amend the legislation to bring those families in.

PARTY LINES: DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS TALK ABOUT THE CHILD TAX CREDIT.

"Especially as our nation contends with a sluggish economy, we should ensure that everyone benefits from the tax cut. After all, buying blue jeans for school children, washing powder for the laundry or tires for the car costs just as much for a family making \$20,000 a year as it does for a family making \$100,000."

- Senator Blanche Lincoln Lambert (D-AR)

"The logic of the Administration and the House and Senate conferees that eliminating 12 million children was good for American families, their children and our economy defies logic. Our goal with the Child Tax Credit was to help children - not neglect them."

- Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY)

"There are a lot of other things that are more important than that."

- Republican Majority Leader Tom Delay (R-TX)

REMEMBER THOSE STIRRING MILITARY PHOTO OPS? WELL, FORGET IT...

After the photo ops with American troops as background, after the stirring rhetoric about American armed forces, now we know the facts: 200,000 military families are left out of this latest tax cut bill. Apparently, once the cameras leave the scene, President Bush's interest does too.

"America's brave military families are the latest victims of President Bush's 'leave no millionaire behind' agenda," said Terry McAuliffe, chair of the Democratic National Committee. It's galling -- for the many times that Bush has touted the 'sacrifices' of America's military families; we can see just what kind of sacrifices he meant: leaving them in the dust of his massive, misguided tax cut."

It is 'unjust to ask our soldiers to defend our nation...while abandoning their children and families at home' said Marian Wright Edelman of the Children's Defense Fund.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES

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[http://mailer.democrats.org/rdr/002Ks003Aw0001D](http://mailer democrats.org/rdr/002Ks003Aw0001D)

THE WAR ON CHOICE.

This week the House of Representatives took a major step in weakening woman's right to choose by passing the so-called Partial Birth Abortion Bill, refusing to allow medical decisions that protect the health of the pregnant woman.

President Bush has said he will sign the bill, which was vetoed twice by President Bill Clinton. When he does, he will become the first President in the history of the United States to criminalize safe abortion procedures. For the first time since Roe v Wade, American doctors will be at legal risk if they provide their patients with the medical care they believe to be necessary to protect their health. And American women, facing an already painful and difficult decision, will have lost what may be for some of them the medically safest, appropriate procedure.

This legislation will go to the Supreme Court, which previously ruled against a state version of the bill. Anti-choice activists claim they have altered the language enough to win court approval this time.

What will the Supreme Court do? What will we do to maintain the Court as the protector of women's constitutional right of reproductive choices?

Have you signed up with the DNC Court Campaign yet?

<http://mailer.democrats.org/rdr/002Ks003Aw0001E>

DEMOCRATS TAKING THE LEAD

JEOPARDIZING THE GOALS OF DIVERSITY IN MEDIA.

On a party-line vote, the Federal Communication Commission voted to change the rules that govern media ownership, opening the door for the creation of giant media companies to gain more share of our public airwaves. The result - your newspaper, radio station and cable providers can all be owned by the same media conglomerate. And that gives big business more control of what you and your family hears and sees in your home.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) expressed disappointment, stating 'This decision will lead to fewer voices and less local control.' Democrats asked the FCC to delay the decision in the interest of public input -- yet the Republican majority of the FCC thumbed their nose at citizens and instead voted for media monopolies.

SALUTING DEMOCRATIC WOMEN.

We know that when 'Women vote -- Democrats win!' We salute the National Federation of Democratic Women, which holds its convention this weekend. NFDW members are engaging women in their communities 365 days a year -- building strong networks and relationships that empower women's voices. Chairwoman Virgie Rollins of Michigan who has lead NFDW to raise critical funds for Democrats and bring more young women into their efforts, has worked to 'make women's voices a priority and move this Party forward.'

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"With this bill, we are beginning to dismantle, brick by brick, the deadly edifice created by Roe v Wade."

- Ken Connor, President of the Family Research Council, after Senate passage of the Partial Birth Abortion Bill.

"As terrible as it may be to imagine, things can go wrong in the later stages of a pregnancy."

- Representative Lynn Woolsey, Democrat of California.