

FOR RELEASE -- 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, 1972

HUMPHREY SAYS NIXON TREASURY DEPARTMENT
RIGGING TAX SYSTEM IN FAVOR OF BIG BUSINESS

FOND DU LAC, Wisc., Feb. 26--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey ~~charged~~ charged tonight that the Treasury Department "has become the blocking back for big business Republicanism, seeking to wedge out bigger ~~tax~~ loopholes in the tax ~~structure~~ structure for big special interests to run through."

Meanwhile, Humphrey told a Fond du Lac Democratic dinner here, "the little guy has no one running interference for him in Washington. He's asked to shoulder ~~heavier~~ heavier and heavier tax loads, while the wealthy and the special interests avoid paying their fair share through a variety of gaping ~~loopholes~~ ^{tax} loopholes."

~~He said~~ "This is the record of the Nixon Treasury:

"It proposed legislation to allow a few big businesses to set up tax-free dummy corporations to seel their goods overseas, legislation that those of us who are working for tax equity voted against.

"It has sponsored legislation to permit corporate giants a super-fast write-off on machinery, saving them over \$5 billion a year.

"And it has fought against increasing income tax deductions for you and your families--deductions that would ease your tax load.

"These are typical of the kind of tax injustice fostered by the Nixon Administration and its Treasury Department, the kind of loopholes that result in ~~an~~ an annual tax loss of some \$18 billion.

NEWS RELEASE HUMPHREY

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HUMPHREY PROPOSES TAX CHANGES TO PLUG \$18 BILLION IN LOOPHOLES FOR WEALTHY

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 9--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today proposed comprehensive changes in the Federal tax structure that would close gaping loopholes that result in an annual tax loss of \$18 billion.

But he said these changes would be rendered almost meaningless in terms of tax equity if a value added tax, reportedly favored by the Administration, should be adopted.

"The value added tax would be nothing more than a giant-sized national sales tax," Humphrey said. "It would add to the cost of living, penalize the low and middle income earner, erode the tax base of local communities, and would ultimately be used to reduce the taxes of the wealthy.

~~Addressing workers at the Jacksonville Navy Yard here, Senator Humphrey~~
called the Federal tax structure ^{to pay is} rigged in favor of the wealthy few at the expense of the many, rigged in favor of unearned income, rigged against you--the working man."

~~Humphrey said "America has become a Nation that is privately rich, but publicly~~
~~poor"~~

"The top two per cent in income in our Nation earn 22 per cent of all income, but pay less than 10 per cent of the total tax bill. And two weeks ago, the Treasury Department told us that more than 100 Americans making more than \$200,000 a year paid no income tax at all.

"Meanwhile, the one-fourth of the population earning \$8,000-\$14,000, who also account for 22 per cent of total national income, must shoulder 36 per cent of the total tax bill.

~~"The time has come for tax justice--tax justice for the American working family.~~

"The time has come for a tax system that says to the wealthy, to the super rich, to big business, to the banker growing wealthy on sky-high interests rates that you must carry your fair share of the load.

~~"Our tax system is full of inequities, breaks for the wealthy and special interests, and loopholes."~~

"The reason that your tax bill is too high is that the bill for the favored few is too low. Here are some examples:

"Is it fair that one large oil company earns more than \$2.8 billion a year but pays less than 11 percent of its income in taxes, while a worker with a wife and two children earning \$8,000 a year pays about the same rate?

"I say no.

"Is it fair that big business got a \$9 billion tax break from the Nixon Administration in the Revenue Act of 1971? I say no--no more fast depreciation write-offs and no more phony export loopholes.

"Is it fair to the family farmer who struggles to make a living and pays high taxes that people with big incomes can play week-end farmer by buying revenue-losing farm property and grow tax deductions?

"I say no.

"Is it fair and was it necessary for the Administration to force families to pay the highest bank interest rates since the Civil War?

"I say no. We must push interest rates down, bring bank profits into line, and insist that the bankers pay their fair share.

"Is it fair that 10 percent of our people can take advantage of all kinds of tax dodges and tax shelters to avoid paying taxes?"

"I say no. The American public is through subsidizing generations of wealth.

~~"The Treasury Department has become the blocking back for big business Republicanism, and the little man has no one running interference for him in Washington.~~

~~"This trend can be changed. But it will require courageous and persistent leadership by the President of the United States.~~

"Let me make it clear that I am not proposing to tax our free enterprise system out of existence. Businesses create jobs, and businesses must earn a profit.

"I am talking about simple tax justice--about all elements of our society paying their fair share.

"The tax inequities I have proposed changing would bring in some \$18 billion to the Federal treasury--enough to make a substantial down-payment on some of our urgent domestic needs--decent neighborhoods, better schools, good housing and a safe and clean environment.

"More than 30 years ago, Franklin Roosevelt said: 'The test of progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.'

"The test is the same today. And we can only begin to meet it if our tax system is fair, and if government fights again for the little man--for you and me and for our families."

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FOND DU LAC COUNTY DEMOCRATIC DINNER

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

February 26, 1972

It is two and a half months before April 15 -- tax day for the American people.

On that day the Internal Revenue Service will process 92 million tax forms and our Treasury will collect \$125 billion.

If all Americans paid their fair share the Treasury could collect \$18 billion more and your tax burden would be less.

But some few Americans don't pay their fair share and because they are allowed to do this, you pay higher taxes.

Today I want to talk to you about the inequities of our tax system and outline my action program to change this system.

Federal, state, and local governments collect more than \$275 billion a year in taxes.

Less than two percent of the people receive 22 percent of the income and pay less than 10 percent of the taxes.

But the working man making between \$8,000 and \$15,000 -- that's 26 percent of the people -- make 20 percent of the total national income but pay 36 percent of the taxes.

I believe this system is unfair.

The federal tax system is rigged against you -- the working man.

It is rigged against the wage earner.

It is rigged against the average family.

And, it is rigged in favor of unearned income.

Our tax system penalizes the little man who works and rewards wealthy investors who get checks from stocks, bonds and large dividends.

The time has come for tax reform.

The time has come for tax justice -- tax justice for the American working family.

The time has come for a tax system that says to the wealthy, to the super-rich, to big business, to the banker -- you must pay your fair share.

All of us have a stake in the growth of this nation.

All of us want to get ahead -- to save money, buy a home and perhaps some land, to send our children to college and have a decent income and security when we're older.

Some may say these things are part of the American dream. But I say they're not just dreams, they're rights -- they belong to you.

But what has happened?

It is getting more and more difficult to have these good things in America today.

It is more difficult to earn, more difficult to save because the American tax system takes a bigger and bigger bite out of your pockets every year.

We have a tax system that few can understand. But those few who do often use it to their own advantage.

It is the responsibility of government to see that taxes are just and that no one gets a special deal.

But under Nixon Republicanism, the Treasury Department of the United States government -- the Treasury Department which belongs to you and to me -- has become a lobbyist and advocate for special interest.

The Treasury Department is now the blocking back for big business Republicanism, and the little guy has no one running interference for him in Washington.

I want to tell you what the Nixon Treasury has done.

-- It proposed legislation which allows a few big businesses to set up tax-free dummy corporations to sell their goods overseas. I fought against such legislation.

-- It has sponsored legislation to permit corporate giants a super-fast write-off on their machinery saving them over 5 billion a year.

-- It fought against increasing the amount of money you can deduct for yourself, your wife, and your kids.

Who was fighting for you? Not the Nixon Administration.

And my friends, in the dark marble halls of the Treasury, faceless political appointees quietly shoved aside a 1969 provision of the tax law that says everyone must pay at least some minimum tax.

And what has been the result?

Two weeks ago we found out that in 1969 and in 1970 over 300 Americans making better than \$200,000 a year paid no income tax at all.

Could this happen to you? When was the last time you didn't pay any taxes on the income you earned?

The working man doesn't have any friends in the Nixon Administration. He doesn't have a special line on his tax Form. But he pays more taxes than some millionaires.

Now, I'm not out to damage American corporate interests. I'm for a thriving free enterprise system. I'm for economic expansion. But that goal is best served by equity and justice in the tax system.

My legislation performance on tax and fiscal policy is clear -- it's a matter of public record. The American tax system must stand for fairness -- not special privilege.

Regrettably that tax system is now riddled with what we commonly call tax loopholes.

Here are just a few that must be closed:

Loophole No. 1: Is it fair that one giant oil company earning over \$2.8 billion a year is permitted to pay less than 10 percent of its total net income in taxes? While at the same time a working man who makes only \$8,000 a year pays exactly the same percentage rate?

Is it fair? I say no.

Loophole No. 2? Is it fair that big business got a \$9 billion tax break from Richard Nixon in the Revenue Act of 1971 through super-fast machinery write-offs and phoney export devices?

I say no.

Loophole No. 3: Is it fair to the family farmer who struggles to make a living and pays high taxes while doing it, that doctors and lawyers with big incomes play weekend farmer by buying farm property and growing tax deductions?

I say no. If you want to deduct your farm losses, then give up the courtroom, the paneled office and go drive a tractor.

Loophole No. 4: Is it fair and was it necessary for the Nixon Administration to permit and force working families to pay the highest interest rates since the Civil War?

I say it's not fair and it wasn't necessary.

Loophole No. 5: Is it fair for 10 percent of our people to use all sorts of tax dodges and tax shelters to avoid doing what you must do -- pay taxes?

I say no. The tax avoidance game is over.

There are many more.

And I want to ask you now: Is it fair knowing that we can raise over \$18 billion a year by closing loopholes for

the Nixon Administration to propose a new tax burden on the American consumer in the form of a giant sized national sales tax?

I say no. No matter what the Republicans call it, the new value added tax will add to the cost of living, will be regressive on all of us, will erode community tax bases and ultimately it will be used to reduce the taxes of the wealthy.

Today America is privately wealthy and publicly poor. We see public poverty all around us. Our streets need fixing, our hospitals are inadequate, our transit system is 50 years out of date, our airports are congested and unsafe, and we have too few ships carrying our flag.

We need to modernize our docks. We need jobs for our people. And too many Americans live in the fear of crime.

Let's not kid ourselves. Correcting our problems is going to take money.

But closing the loopholes I have suggested today will bring over \$18 billion to the treasury.

That's a start. That's a down-payment on clean and safe neighborhoods, better schools, more good housing and lower property taxes.

Our country can survive only if its institutions and values are supported by the people.

When three million of our elderly are forced to overpay their taxes because of complex tax forms, when the wealthy can hire high-priced tax advisors to cut their taxes, and when billions are made from investments and taxed at half the regular rate, then the people have a right to believe our tax system is unfair. That some are benefitting at the expense of others. That the tax system is rigged against the working man.

Any reform on the American tax system will require the courageous and persistent leadership of a President.

Over 30 years ago Franklin Roosevelt said: "The test of progress is not whether we add to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

The test of progress is much the same today.

We can only begin to meet that test if our tax system is fair and if government fights again for the little guy -- for you and me and for our families.

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REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

FOND DU LAC COUNTY DEMOCRATIC DINNER

FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN

FEBRUARY 26, 1972

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IT IS TWO AND A HALF MONTHS BEFORE APRIL 15 -- TAX DAY
FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

ON THAT DAY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WILL PROCESS
92 MILLION TAX FORMS AND OUR TREASURY WILL COLLECT \$125 BILLION.

IF ALL AMERICANS PAID THEIR FAIR SHARE THE TREASURY COULD
COLLECT \$18 BILLION MORE AND YOUR TAX BURDEN WOULD BE LESS.

BUT SOME FEW AMERICANS DON'T PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE AND
BECAUSE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO DO THIS, YOU PAY HIGHER TAXES.

TODAY I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE INEQUITITES OF
OUR TAX SYSTEM AND OUTLINE MY ACTION PROGRAM TO CHANGE THIS
SYSTEM.

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COLLECT MORE THAN
\$275 BILLION A YEAR IN TAXES.

LESS THAN TWO PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE RECEIVE 22 PERCENT
OF THE INCOME AND PAY LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE TAXES.

BUT THE WORKING MAN MAKING BETWEEN \$8,000 AND \$15,000
-- THAT'S 26 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE -- MAKE 20 PERCENT OF THE
TOTAL NATIONAL INCOME BUT PAY 36 PERCENT OF THE TAXES.

I BELIEVE THIS SYSTEM IS UNFAIR.

THE FEDERAL TAX SYSTEM IS RIGGED AGAINST YOU -- THE
WORKING MAN.

IT IS RIGGED AGAINST THE WAGE EARNER.

IT IS RIGGED AGAINST THE AVERAGE FAMILY.

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AND, IT IS RIGGED IN FAVOR OF UNEARNED INCOME.

OUR TAX SYSTEM PENALIZES THE LITTLE MAN WHO WORKS AND
REWARDS WEALTHY INVESTORS WHO GET CHECKS FROM STOCKS, BONDS
AND LARGE DIVIDENDS.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR TAX REFORM.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR TAX JUSTICE -- TAX JUSTICE FOR
THE AMERICAN WORKING FAMILY.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A TAX SYSTEM THAT SAYS TO THE
WEALTHY, TO THE SUPER-RICH, TO BIG BUSINESS, TO THE BANKER
-- YOU MUST PAY YOUR FAIR SHARE.

ALL OF US HAVE A STAKE IN THE GROWTH OF THIS NATION.

ALL OF US WANT TO GET AHEAD -- TO SAVE MONEY, BUY A HOME AND PERHAPS SOME LAND, TO SEND OUR CHILDREN TO COLLEGE AND HAVE A DECENT INCOME AND SECURITY WHEN WE'RE OLDER.

SOME MAY SAY THESE THINGS ARE PART OF THE AMERICAN DREAM. BUT I SAY THEY'RE NOT JUST DREAMS, THEY'RE RIGHTS -- THEY BELONG TO YOU.

BUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

IT IS GETTING MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO HAVE THESE GOOD THINGS IN AMERICA TODAY.

IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO EARN, MORE DIFFICULT TO SAVE BECAUSE THE AMERICAN TAX SYSTEM TAKES A BIGGER AND BIGGER BITE OUT OF YOUR POCKETS EVERY YEAR.

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WE HAVE A TAX SYSTEM THAT FEW CAN UNDERSTAND. BUT
THOSE FEW WHO DO OFTEN USE IT TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO SEE THAT
TAXES ARE JUST AND THAT NO ONE GETS A SPECIAL DEAL.

BUT UNDER NIXON REPUBLICANISM, THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT -- THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT
WHICH BELONGS TO YOU AND TO ME -- HAS BECOME A LOBBYIST AND
ADVOCATE FOR SPECIAL INTEREST.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT IS NOW THE BLOCKING BACK FOR
BIG BUSINESS REPUBLICANISM, AND THE LITTLE GUY HAS NO ONE
RUNNING INTERFERENCE FOR HIM IN WASHINGTON.

I WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT THE NIXON TREASURY HAS DONE.

-- IT PROPOSED LEGISLATION WHICH ALLOWS A FEW BIG
BUSINESSES TO SET UP TAX-FREE DUMMY CORPORATIONS TO SELL THEIR
GOODS OVERSEAS. I FOUGHT AGAINST SUCH LEGISLATION.

-- IT HAS SPONSORED LEGISLATION TO PERMIT CORPORATE
GIANTS A SUPER-FAST WRITE-OFF ON THEIR MACHINERY SAVING THEM
OVER 5 BILLION A YEAR.

-- IT FOUGHT AGAINST INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY
YOU CAN DEDUCT FOR YOURSELF, YOUR WIFE, AND YOUR KIDS.

WHO WAS FIGHTING FOR YOU? NOT THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION.

AND MY FRIENDS, IN THE DARK MARBLE HALLS OF THE TREASURY,
FACELESS POLITICAL APPOINTEES QUIETLY SHOVED ASIDE A 1969
PROVISION OF THE TAX LAW THAT SAYS EVERYONE MUST PAY AT LEAST
SOME MINIMUM TAX.

AND WHAT HAS BEEN THE RESULT?

TWO WEEKS AGO WE FOUND OUT THAT IN 1969 AND IN 1970 OVER
300 AMERICANS MAKING BETTER THAN \$200,000 A YEAR PAID NO
INCOME TAX AT ALL.

COULD THIS HAPPEN TO YOU? WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU
DIDN'T PAY ANY TAXES ON THE INCOME YOU EARNED?

THE WORKING MAN DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. HE DOESN'T HAVE A SPECIAL LINE ON HIS TAX FORM. BUT HE PAYS MORE TAXES THAN SOME MILLIONAIRES.

NOW, I'M NOT OUT TO DAMAGE AMERICAN CORPORATE INTERESTS. I'M FOR A THRIVING FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. I'M FOR ECONOMIC EXPANSION. BUT THAT GOAL IS BEST SERVED BY EQUITY AND JUSTICE IN THE TAX SYSTEM.

MY LEGISLATIVE PERFORMANCE ON TAX AND FISCAL POLICY IS CLEAR -- IT'S A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. THE AMERICAN TAX SYSTEM MUST STAND FOR FAIRNESS -- NOT SPECIAL PRIVILEGE.

REGRETTABLY THAT TAX SYSTEM IS NOW RIDDLED WITH WHAT WE COMMONLY CALL TAX LOOPHOLES.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW THAT MUST BE CLOSED:

LOOPHOLE No. 1: IS IT FAIR THAT ONE GIANT OIL COMPANY EARNING OVER \$2.8 BILLION A YEAR IS PERMITTED TO PAY LESS THAN 10 PERCENT OF ITS TOTAL NET INCOME IN TAXES? WHILE AT THE SAME TIME A WORKING MAN WHO MAKES ONLY \$8,000 A YEAR PAYS EXACTLY THE SAME PERCENTAGE RATE?

IS IT FAIR? I SAY NO.

LOOPHOLE No. 2? IS IT FAIR THAT BIG BUSINESS GOT A \$9 BILLION TAX BREAK FROM RICHARD NIXON IN THE REVENUE ACT OF 1971 THROUGH SUPER-FAST MACHINERY WRITE-OFFS AND PHONEY EXPORT DEVICES?

I SAY NO.

LOOPHOLE No. 3: IS IT FAIR TO THE FAMILY FARMER WHO STRUGGLES TO MAKE A LIVING AND PAYS HIGH TAXES WHILE DOING IT, THAT DOCTORS AND LAWYERS WITH BIG INCOMES PLAY WEEKEND FARMER BY BUYING FARM PROPERTY AND GROWING TAX DEDUCTIONS?

I SAY NO. IF YOU WANT TO DEDUCT YOUR FARM LOSSES, THEN GIVE UP THE COURTROOM, THE PANNED OFFICE AND GO DRIVE A TRACTOR.

LOOPHOLE No. 4: IS IT FAIR AND WAS IT NECESSARY FOR THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO PERMIT AND FORCE WORKING FAMILIES TO PAY THE HIGHEST INTEREST RATES SINCE THE CIVIL WAR?

I SAY IT'S NOT FAIR AND IT WASN'T NECESSARY.

LOOPHOLE No. 5: IS IT FAIR FOR 10 PERCENT OF OUR PEOPLE
TO USE ALL SORTS OF TAX DODGES AND TAX SHELTERS TO AVOID
DOING WHAT YOU MUST DO -- PAY TAXES?

I SAY NO. THE TAX AVOIDANCE GAME IS OVER.

THERE ARE MANY MORE.

AND I WANT TO ASK YOU NOW: IS IT FAIR KNOWING THAT WE
CAN RAISE OVER \$18 BILLION A YEAR BY CLOSING LOOPHOLES FOR
THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION TO PROPOSE A NEW TAX BURDEN ON THE
AMERICAN CONSUMER IN THE FORM OF A GIANT SIZED NATIONAL
SALES TAX?

I SAY NO. NO MATTER WHAT THE REPUBLICANS CALL IT, THE NEW VALUE ADDED TAX WILL ADD TO THE COST OF LIVING, WILL BE REGRESSIVE ON ALL OF US, WILL ERODE COMMUNITY TAX BASES AND ULTIMATELY IT WILL BE USED TO REDUCE THE TAXES OF THE WEALTHY.

TODAY AMERICA IS PRIVATELY WEALTHY AND PUBLICLY POOR.

WE SEE PUBLIC POVERTY ALL AROUND US. OUR STREETS NEED FIXING, OUR HOSPITALS ARE INADEQUATE, OUR TRANSIT SYSTEM IS 50 YEARS OUT OF DATE, OUR AIRPORTS ARE CONGESTED AND UNSAFE, AND WE HAVE TOO FEW SHIPS CARRYING OUR FLAG.

WE NEED TO MODERNIZE OUR DOCKS. WE NEED JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE. AND TOO MANY AMERICANS LIVE IN THE FEAR OF CRIME.

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LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES. CORRECTING OUR PROBLEMS IS
GOING TO TAKE MONEY.

BUT CLOSING THE LOOPHOLES I HAVE SUGGESTED TODAY WILL
BRING OVER \$18 BILLION TO THE TREASURY.

THAT'S A START. THAT'S A DOWN-PAYMENT ON CLEAN AND
SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS, BETTER SCHOOLS, MORE GOOD HOUSING AND LOWER
PROPERTY TAXES.

OUR COUNTRY CAN SURVIVE ONLY IF ITS INSTITUTIONS AND
VALUES ARE SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE.

ALL OF OUR LIBERTY ARE FOR TO OBTAIN

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WHEN THREE MILLION OF OUR ELDERLY ARE FORCED TO OVERPAY THEIR TAXES BECAUSE OF COMPLEX TAX FORMS, WHEN THE WEALTHY CAN HIRE HIGH-PRICED TAX ADVISORS TO CUT THEIR TAXES, AND WHEN BILLIONS ARE MADE FROM INVESTMENTS AND TAXED AT HALF THE REGULAR RATE, THEN THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO BELIEVE OUR TAX SYSTEM IS UNFAIR. THAT SOME ARE BENEFITTING AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. THAT THE TAX SYSTEM IS RIGGED AGAINST THE WORKING MAN.

ANY REFORM ON THE AMERICAN TAX SYSTEM WILL REQUIRE THE COURAGEOUS AND PERSISTENT LEADERSHIP OF A PRESIDENT.

OVER 30 YEARS AGO FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT SAID: "THE TEST OF PROGRESS IS NOT WHETHER WE ADD TO THE ABUNDANCE OF THOSE WHO HAVE MUCH; IT IS WHETHER WE PROVIDE ENOUGH FOR THOSE WHO HAVE TOO LITTLE."

THE TEST OF PROGRESS IS MUCH THE SAME TODAY.

WE CAN ONLY BEGIN TO MEET THAT TEST IF OUR TAX SYSTEM IS FAIR AND IF GOVERNMENT FIGHTS AGAIN FOR THE LITTLE GUY -- FOR YOU AND ME AND FOR OUR FAMILIES.

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