

GOOD MORNING. EXACTLY TWO MONTHS AGO TOMORROW, MILLIONS OF AMERICANS FILED THEIR TAXES-- AND MILLIONS PAID MORE THAN EVER BEFORE, THANKS TO PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TAX INCREASE.

ONE OF THE GOALS THAT SPEAKER GINGRICH AND I SHARE IS TO SEE TO IT THAT AMERICAN

**FAMILIES, SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND
WOMEN, AND COUNTLESS OTHERS
WILL BE PAYING LESS IN TAXES IN
YEARS TO COME.**

**BUT THE SPEAKER AND I ALSO
UNDERSTAND THAT IF THIS
CONGRESS JUST STOPS AT
REDUCING TAXES, THEN WE WILL
NOT HAVE FINISHED THE JOB
AMERICANS SENT US HERE TO DO.**

**AMERICANS GAVE REPUBLICANS
CONTROL OF CONGRESS BECAUSE
THEY WERE FED UP WITH THE
STATUS QUO.**

**AND IF THERE'S ONE STATUS QUO
THAT AMERICANS BELIEVE NEEDS
DRAMATIC CHANGING, IT'S OUR
FEDERAL TAX CODE, WHICH HAS
RESULTED IN COUNTLESS
REGULATIONS AND OVER 900 FORMS**

**AND INSTRUCTIONS WHICH ARE
DISPLAYED HERE.**

**OVER THE YEARS, OUR TAX CODE
HAS EVOLVED INTO A COMPLEX AND
CONFUSING MISH-MASH OF RULES
AND REGULATIONS THAT IS OFTEN
TIMES COMPLETELY LACKING IN
COMMON SENSE.**

**I BELIEVE OUR TAX CODE SHOULD
PROMOTE THE MOST DYNAMIC
FORCES FOR GROWTH IN OUR**

**ECONOMY--SMALL BUSINESS
OWNERS AND ENTREPRENEURS WHO
TURN BOLD IDEAS INTO NEW
BUSINESSES, NEW JOBS, AND NEW
PRODUCTS.**

**YET, OUR CURRENT TAX CODE,
PUNISHES--RATHER THAN
PROMOTES--THESE FORCES.**

**I BELIEVE OUR TAX CODE SHOULD
RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT OUR
FAMILIES ARE PERFORMING THE**

**MOST IMPORTANT WORK OF OUR
SOCIETY.**

**YET, AS EACH YEAR PASSES BY,
OUR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN FORCED
TO SHOULDER MORE AND MORE OF
THE TAX BURDEN.**

**I BELIEVE OUR TAX CODE SHOULD
REWARD AMERICANS WHO SAVE FOR
THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO BUILD A
BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND
THEIR FAMILIES.**

**YET, THE CODE PROVIDES FEW
INCENTIVES FOR SAVING AND
INVESTMENT.**

**THEREFORE, ON APRIL 3, THE
SPEAKER AND I ANNOUNCED THAT
WE HAD ASKED JACK KEMP, ONE OF
OUR NATION'S MOST INNOVATIVE
THINKERS ON ECONOMIC POLICY, TO
HEAD A NEW NATIONAL
COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND TAX REFORM.**

**ON MAY 24, WE ANNOUNCED THE
OTHER 13 OUTSTANDING AND
EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF THAT
COMMISSION.**

**TODAY, THEY BEGIN THEIR WORK.
AND I SEE THEIR JOB AS A TWO-STEP
PROCESS.**

**THE FIRST STEP IS TO TOSS THE
TAX CODE, REGULATIONS, AND
FORMS IN THE TRASH CAN.**

**THE SECOND STEP IS ONE THAT
WILL TAKE SOME TIME.**

**THE SPEAKER AND I HAVE ASKED
THE COMMISSION TO START WITH A
BLANK PIECE OF PAPER, AND TO
DESIGN A TAX SYSTEM THAT IS
FLATTER, FAIRER, AND SIMPLER--ONE
THAT STRENGTHENS FAMILIES, AND
ONE THAT ENCOURAGES SAVINGS,
INVESTMENTS, STRONG ECONOMIC**

**G R O W T H , A N D G R E A T E R
O P P O R T U N I T Y F O R A L L O U R P E O P L E .**

**I T H A N K J A C K A N D T H E
C O M M I S S I O N M E M B E R S F O R T H E I R
W I L L I N G N E S S T O S E R V E .**

**T H E Y A R E N O T D O I N G T H I S F O R
M O N E Y -- B E C A U S E T H E R E I S N ' T A N Y --
O R F O R F A M E .**

**T H E Y A R E D O I N G I T B E C A U S E
T H E Y C A R E A B O U T T H E F U T U R E O F
A M E R I C A , A N D T H E Y C A R E A B O U T**

**LEAVING THIS COUNTRY A LITTLE
BETTER PLACE FOR OUR CHILDREN
AND GRANDCHILDREN.**