

and works to transform that spark into a glowing fire. Over the years, Rabbi Scheinberg and his wife Judy have selflessly opened their house to congregants and visitors alike, offering hospitality, song, study and the warmth of home to all. It is no wonder that he is so well loved.

Rabbi Scheinberg understands the need for community and the special value of the family. With a stubborn vision and hard work, Rabbi Scheinberg has built a vibrant community centered around synagogue and home, but with a window on the world. Rabbi Scheinberg has reached out beyond the walls of his own congregation and connected with the entire Jewish community in San Antonio. He has worked with colleagues of other faiths to increase understanding and build on common ground. He has led missions to Israel, which enjoys a special and unique place in his heart. He has cried with the bereaved, danced with joy on occasions of happiness, and inspired so many to open their minds and souls to ultimate truths. Above all, his personal faith, dedication and warmth have gained him the undeniable respect of clergy and laymen alike.

On August 27, San Antonio will formally honor Rabbi Scheinberg through the dedication of a new Torah, the handwritten Hebrew text of the five books of Moses. This celebration is fitting: just as Rabbi Scheinberg has written the words of tradition on the hearts of his congregants and students, the community will complete the writing of the very words of Torah he upholds.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REPEAL THE LOCAL RAIL FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to repeal the Local Rail Freight Assistance Program [LRFA]. As my colleagues may be aware, this small Federal program uses taxpayer dollars to subsidize privately owned freight railroads.

LRFA was established in the mid-1970's to ease the disruption resulting from the loss of rail service due to the bankruptcy of the Penn Central Railroad and five smaller carriers. LRFA was originally intended as a temporary 2-year formula grant program to assist 18 States by alleviating the economic dislocation caused by rail abandonments. Nearly two decades and over half a billion dollars later, this temporary program has been expanded to include 49 States and the District of Columbia. LRFA continues to receive funding despite the fact that it has not been included in the last 11 budgets submitted by Presidents Reagan, Bush, or Clinton.

The short line industry no longer needs this Government handout. Today, the short line railroad industry is expanding and profitable overall. Furthermore, short lines already have a \$1 billion government loan guarantee program—section 511—to help finance their capital needs.

Because this program has outlived its usefulness, the Congressional Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) and the fiscal year 1996 transportation appropriations bill (H.R. 2002)

did not include funding for LRFA. LRFA funding for this fiscal year is \$17 million, down from its peak spending level of \$80 million in 1980. My bill would remove the authorizing language and thereby end funding for the LRFA once and for all.

Some have argued that termination of this program will result in greater truck traffic. I know of no evidence, however, of increased truck traffic in the 29 States that did not receive LRFA funding this fiscal year. Supporters of LRFA also point out that economic disruption could result if the program ended. I remind my colleagues that none of my home State's short lines received any LRFA funding this fiscal year—and the industry miraculously survived.

As a member of the House Railroad Subcommittee, I support making the short line industry more competitive. For example, Congress should fund the section 511 guaranteed loan program and reform the antiquated labor laws that apply to freight railroads. These two measures alone would be a thousand times more beneficial to the short lines than continuing the LRFA.

At a time when Congress is cutting funding for publicly owned mass transit, it is perverse to give a handout to privately owned freight railroads. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking the short line railroad industry off the Federal Government's corporate welfare rolls by cosponsoring this legislation.

THE AMERICAN PROMISE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the United States was founded on an idea—the idea of democracy. In its general sense, this concept embraces the participation of all segments of society in the shaping of our republic.

However, the American democracy is neither simply defined nor easily described. It is expressed in an infinite number of variations. In its most basic form, democracy in our society is nonrepresentational and conducted directly at the local level. I rise, today, to recommend to my colleagues a Public Broadcasting Service [PBS] television series, "The American Promise," celebrating our country's community-based democracy.

Members of Congress arrive in Washington, DC having won elections to introduce, consider, and vote on legislation. While much is accomplished in our National's capital, too often, congressional democracy devolves into the partisan bickering and a competition for political power.

"The American Promise" highlights another aspect of American democracy. In community after community throughout America, in ways large and small, citizens decide every day to become part of the democratic process. They do this by joining organizations, forming community groups, and helping their fellow citizens to shoulder the burdens of society.

When this happens, there are not losers. When a community development bank is opened in a depressed inner-city location or when neighbors add their combined strength to form a local safety watch program, they are exercising their rights as participants in the American democratic experiment.

In my view, there is no better antidote to doubts about our Nation's future than adjusting our sights from the latest iteration of partisan one-upmanship to the grassroots to relieve our concern.

Mr. Speaker, the PBS special, "The American Promise," does exactly this: It reminds us all of the community-based democracy found beyond this Capitol. In doing so, it restores our faith in the idea for democracy, the possibilities for our future, and the promise of America.

I would also like to highlight a particular aspect of the series. One segment features an outstanding example of grassroots democracy in my home, the Bronx, NY. In response to the tragedy of random inner-city violence, mourning families commission graffiti artists to paint walls honoring their murdered children. These memorials to the past not only honor the lives of those who have died, but represent warnings to the living about the need to work together for an end to the carnage.

Finally, I am proud to recognize the Public Broadcasting Service for making possible programming that demonstrates America at its best. In this time of cuts to the public broadcasting budget, I am proud to commend PBS for continuing to offer the finest programming available on the public airwaves.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and viewers across the Nation to tune in to their local PBS station and watch "The American Promise." The series reminds us of what is right about America and what we must do to achieve our country's full potential.

"RECYCLE! KIDS": ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS FOR SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to congratulate "Meredythe and Recycle! Kids" for their seventh anniversary and to applaud their recent recognition as the official environmental youth ambassadors for the city of San Diego.

Meredythe and the Recycle! Kids was created in 1988 by Meredythe Dee Winter as a unique learning experience for homeless and underserved youth. Hundreds of children have participated in the program.

All children are welcome to participate in special workshops that teach them to become aware of environmental issues and enjoy a caring, artistic atmosphere. Members have contributed their skills in choreography, gymnastics, singing, and dancing.

The Recycle! Kids has achieved international recognition. Meredythe and the Recycle! Kids was the only program chosen to represent San Diego County at the 25th Anniversary National Earth Day Celebration in Washington DC.

They were also selected to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme—Global Youth Forum. In 1994, Recycle! Kids performed at the Plenary Session in front of the White House. More than 1,500 people were in the audience, including many United Nations officials. In 1993, they were honored by the Philippine Delegation at the Plenary Session in Boulder, CO.

The Recycle! Kids program is a model program for others to follow!

THE TRUE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to read this outstanding article on welfare and the fine work of the Christian Appalachian Project in my State of Kentucky.

Groups like the Christian Appalachian Project do yeoman's work to help families in need in southern and eastern Kentucky.

They truly live by their motto, "Helping people help themselves."

I hope my friends will take the time to read this article. Not only is it a shining example of the hard work and dedication of our communities and volunteers, it provides hope for our future.

[From the Mountain Spirit, May-June 1995]

WELFARE: INVESTING IN PEOPLE

(By Margaret Gabriel)

Apparently, when Jesus told his disciples they would always have poor people in their midst, he didn't necessarily mean the same people. Recent statistics from the U.S. Census told Kentuckians that the number of people living in poverty increased between 1989 to 1993, from 16.2 to 20.4 percent. There's evidence, though, that people who participate in welfare programs are not in a stagnant pool but a revolving door.

The May 1994 editorial in St. Anthony Messenger cites statistics from the Children's Defense Fund, saying: "... half of welfare recipients are off welfare within two years. Some occasionally return to welfare depending upon job situation, but the overwhelming majority do not live a welfare 'way of life'; they use the program to get by between jobs."

Christian Appalachian Project outreach caseworker Wanda Penman is a good illustration of exactly that use of federal entitlement programs.

In 1987, Wanda, a graduate of Kentucky State University, was a single mother of one child. She and Tonceia lived in the home where Wanda had grown up and received Aid to Families with Dependent Children and food stamps. She had been working in a manufacturing job, but was forced to quit due to child care conflicts. "It was good money; I didn't have to beg to get the bills paid. When I started on welfare, I was drawing \$162 a month, plus about \$115 in food stamps. I'd had a taste of what it was like not to have to struggle with the bills, and I wanted it back, if only for a little while."

Wanda had the chance to stop that struggle for a little while, when she was offered six weeks of work at CAPRICE, CAP's training program for adults with disabilities. She took the job, even though doing so meant giving up her welfare benefits, including government-paid medical insurance for Tonceia and herself. "I'm not a person to remain idle for days on end. The life of leisure suits me for about a week. It drives me crazy to be sitting around not working," Wanda said. "I really had to think about giving up that medical card, but it was worth it."

The six-week job with CAP became a six-month job, then part-time and finally a full-time position. However, she had no insurance or Medicaid while she was pregnant with her second child, and therefore had to pay for her pre-natal care. "It took me six years to

pay off those bills. It's no wonder that people are afraid to risk losing that card. It's sad to say."

Until the fall of 1994 Connie Wagers managed CAP's Family Life Abuse Center, when she temporarily retired to take a position as a stay-at-home mom with her children, Lauren and Jonathan.

Connie's experience with welfare dates to here childhood in Knott County, when her mother was widowed with seven children at home and the eighth in college. Her daddy had been disabled in a mining accident, then died suddenly. "Mom had not worked outside the home and had very little education, so she had no choice but to go on welfare; there was no other way to feed her children."

It would have been far easier for her to continue in the system, getting welfare, food stamps and the medical card, but she firmly believed that any person who was able to work should work. It's okay to take help to get back on your feet, but not long term. She worked at whatever she could find, cleaning houses and working in the school lunch room one day a week to pay for our lunches. I washed dishes during recess, too."

Connie calls her mother her "greatest hero," and says that from her she learned the value of hard work and the importance of depending on herself. "Mom always encouraged all of us to get our education; she saw education as the key. At that time in that area, girls were not encouraged to go to college, especially if you weren't from a well-do-do-family. It was just assumed that you'd get married."

Connie says she ran in the other direction as soon as any boy broached the subject of marriage, and with the help of grants and loans—and the encouragement of her mother—she worked her way through Sue Bennett College in London and Eastern Kentucky University, earning a degree in social work.

She eventually married Jerry Wagers, who traveled with an oil company. When they decided to settle in Kentucky, a promised job fell through, and they had to sign up for food stamps for a couple of months, "until he could get another job," Connie said.

"It wasn't terribly dramatic, but I felt totally humiliated, going to the grocery store and having to buy groceries with food stamps. I had a college education and there I was with food stamps. No one ever said anything to me, but I've heard people make comments about people using food stamps. If you happen to be one of the lucky ones who's not having to use food stamps, you'll hear it. And you see the looks on faces."

Connie said that people who have been on welfare for extended periods of time feel the sting of public perception, too. "I've hear the ladies in the shelter talking about it. They would feel humiliated, like people were looking down on them."

As college graduates, Wanda and Connie have the skills needed to find jobs in an area of high unemployment. Such was not the case for Pete Laney. With the help of CAP's Community Health Advocates in Magoffin County, Pete recently attained certification as an emergency medical technician. In studying for the certificate, Pete was trained to transport people in Magoffin and surrounding counties to doctors' office and hospitals throughout the region. His wife, Wanda, is studying to complete the training, attain certification, and get a similar job. CAP met Pete and Wanda when Wanda studied to obtain her high school certification through a CAP adult education program.

A native of Magoffin County and a high school graduate, Pete supported his family in the past with seasonal farming jobs; Wanda receives an AFDC payment for a child from a previous marriage.

"What we were taking in just didn't cover it," Pete said. "We paid \$80 in rent, a \$70

electric bill, and in the winter we were out two or three hundred a month for coal. It ain't easy. People say they've got it made on welfare; I don't see how. There are people out there who would work, but you go down to the unemployment office and they'll have a list of jobs that long, but you have to have five years of experience. Now, how are you going to get a job if nobody will let you get any experience?"

Pete, too, brings up the issue of how risky it is to leave the welfare rolls for a low-paying job that does not include medical benefits. His work as an emergency medical technician pays him by the run, and when he's busy, the money's okay, he said. "That's the good side, but the medical card is gone, and I can't afford the medical bills if we were to have to go to the doctor."

When she was very young Rose Mary Bailey dropped out of school to get married. It was not a difficult decision for Rose; she said she hated school. "In the second grade they put me in special ed. I don't know why; I had straight A's in the first grade. They held me back in the first because I had missed some, so they told me I had to repeat. From that time on, I said I didn't like school. My grades decreased, my self-esteem decreased. I said what's the use of worrying about it, so I didn't."

Despite her lack of education, Rose had an ambition not often seen in dropouts, and she began working in the many fast food restaurants in her native Salyersville.

"Working in fast food is a way to get off welfare," Rose said. Rose has no children, so she was not eligible for AFDC. Her husband, too, worked a low-paying job so they were eligible for food stamps. "It wasn't enough income to live on, and I knew that if I was going to get out of this I had to get a better job. And I knew that if I was going to get anywhere I had to get an education. My friend told me there was a position at the bank and that it required a GED. That's one reason why I started working on it."

Rose began studying for her GED, through a program she saw on Kentucky Educational Television, a public broadcasting station. She worked on her own for about six months, then finished her studies through CAP's adult education program. In the fall of 1994, Rose applied for and got a job at a bank in Salyersville. "And I love it. I'm a phone operator, and I balance checkbooks, and I'm taking college level accounting courses at the bank."

Rose, a special education dropout and former food stamp recipient, has set an ambitious goal for herself. "I'm planning on going back to school. Right now, my goal at the bank is to become a loan officer, vice-president, and move on up. I'm working hard and studying to learn all I can right now. I try to pick up any information I can. I'm terrible for asking questions!"

Rose, Wanda and Connie have more than just experience working themselves off welfare in common. All spoke glowingly of the influence of their mothers, emphasizing the importance of family in shaping the values of young people.

Wanda said she felt awful about herself while she was on welfare. "But, Wanda has always been hard on Wanda. I have a college degree, and being an educated woman, it was hard for me to accept the fact that I was trying to survive on a welfare check."

"I wasn't raised in a family that lived on public assistance. My mother and father had 13 children, and I don't remember food stamps ever being in our home. What I can remember is big huge gardens that we all worked, and I can remember the variety of jobs my dad worked. When I grew up, we lived mostly off wild game and that garden. My mom took in laundry at home after