

MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN; THE TRAGEDY OF CHILDREN AT RISK

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, every day hundreds of abductions of innocent boys and girls are attempted. A study by the U.S. Justice Department reported that each year there are as many as 114,600 attempted abductions of children by non-family members. There are 4,600 reported abductions by non-family members. Even more horrifying is that 354,000 abductions are by family members. In addition, the Department of Justice also reported that 450,700 children ran away and 127,100 children are thrown away each year.

While these numbers are staggering and frightening they are also easy to hide behind, Mr. Speaker, because we do not often put a name or a face to this tragedy. Recently our colleague from Florida, Mr. DEUTSCH, has enabled all of us to see the human face of this issue. In many of our offices the notice about Jimmy Ryce, missing since he was abducted while walking home from school on September 11, have been hanging—a silent but powerful reminder of how vulnerable our children are.

Each Member of this House should be concerned about Jimmy Ryce because each day, in each of our districts, there are others like Jimmy who are walking home from school, playing in parks and recreation centers, at sporting and social events, at great risk of being kidnapped—taken from their homes and families.

An abduction of a child is just the beginning of unspeakable horrors that he or she might have to endure. It is often the preamble to a life of slavery and fear which may include physical and emotional abuse, forced prostitution, pornography, labor, and drug use.

Earlier this week, I hosted a briefing on the trafficking of children for prostitution and pornography in the United States. At this briefing we heard from activists who have dedicated themselves to intervention programs which attempt to locate children who are missing and are now caught in a cycle from which they cannot escape on their own. These people talked of the horrors that are inflicted on these children—they are raped and beaten and threatened with death, they become dependent on their pimps for every aspect of their existence. Treated as chattel, many of them are branded or tattooed to ensure that others know who "owns" them. Many of these children are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, AIDS, and other illnesses. They are denied adequate medical treatment and many of them die of these illnesses.

The number of children who are forced into this modern-day form of slavery is increasing, it is also a tragic fact that the age of these children is decreasing. We are able to document children as young as 4 years old who are victims of this abuse. Tragically, many of the children who are being abused in this way have been reported missing or kidnapped.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals and even fewer organizations which actively work at documenting these missing and kidnapped children, locating them and assisting them in breaking the cycle of abuse and

providing for them safe places where they can grow and develop. Organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, H.I.P.S., the Paul and Lisa Program and Children of the Night offer some spark of hope for children who have been abducted. While they provide assistance to a few hundred children each year, the large numbers of children affected by this abuse is overwhelming.

More needs to be done. We must have greater concern for our children. They must not have to live in fear that they will be abducted and removed from all that they know and love, forced into a life of virtual slavery. We owe a word of gratitude to those who have dedicated their lives to assisting the missing and exploited children of our Nation. But we must also pledge to our children and especially to Jimmy Ryce and the thousands of others who are missing and kidnapped that we will do all we can to find them, protect them and return them to their childhoods and the promise that the future should hold for them.

SEVEN-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996.

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the substitute to the budget reconciliation bill. My reasoning can be summed up in three simple words: Cut Spending First.

The people of my district sent me to Washington to change the way this place operates and to get this country's finances in order. President Clinton and most of the new Members of this body were sent here to do the same thing.

Today's votes are far from the final chapter in this book. But as we go through the conference committee process with the other body and negotiations with the White House, I believe we should be guided by the substitute reconciliation bill before us today.

The substitute bill balances the budget by 2002, makes spending cuts first, accumulates \$50 billion less in debt, and turns away from the notion of borrowing more money to pay for new tax breaks. It spreads the pain of balancing the budget more evenly and sets up a budget process that more strongly guarantees that we will in fact balance the budget and avoid the tragic mistakes of the past.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the partisan wrangling that goes on in this Chamber and build a genuine consensus for balancing the budget in the right way.

Thanks to the contributions of many, the question is no longer, "should we balance the budget?" but rather "how should we balance it?" The President is now suggesting that the 7-year time frame for balancing the budget makes sense. Let's join together as Democrats and Republicans and build on this fundamental change in attitude.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the eventual budget resolution for the American people can be based upon many of the elements of the substitute bill before us today. I urge my colleagues to support it

TRIBUTE TO ANDY TRUJILLO

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who turned his life around. Andy Trujillo, who lives in Ogden, UT, led the life of a gang member. As he explains it, he came from a background of horror and violence.

Fortunately, Andy became a member of the Weber Basin Job Corps Center, where he found the guidance, support, and discipline he needed. At the Weber Basin Job Corps Andy was in an environment where he could excel, which is exactly what he has done.

Most recently, Andy was selected as the first place winning entry from over 1,000 essays submitted in a national essay writing contest on the topic "How Job Corps Changed My Life." I am submitting his essay to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This essay explains Andy's difficult background and what has happened since being in a structured, supportive environment. Andy's story illustrates the potential of each young person when placed in a situation with caring adults who believe in the great worth of each individual.

Andy now has his GED and plans to be the first in his family to attend college. Andy not only excelled academically but also socially. Andy was president of the Recreation Center and Andy is currently serving as student body vice president of Weber Basin Job Corps.

I commend Andy on the changes he has made in his life as demonstrated in his well written essay. I also applaud the other hard-working students who are committed to making something of themselves and the dedicated adults who help these students achieve their goals

1995 JACS NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST; HOW JOB CORPS CHANGED MY LIFE

(By Andy Trujillo)

I came from a background of horror and violence. I'm not the typical "All American" teenager. I was a slow learner and a troubled youth that had no one but a grandmother to turn to.

In the big city, I met a lot of people and was always interested in the glamorous life. I was attracted to the high-rolling, fast-paced easy money that came with my acquaintances. I was poorer than most of my friends and had very few possessions, so you could see how easy it was to be persuaded by the temptations of the streets.

I guess my life wasn't as bad as some others; I at least had a roof over my head and food in my stomach. My house wasn't big enough for the number of people that lived in it, so it was better for me to just stay away. All my life I heard, "Get out of my way! Get out and do something!" It was very hard on me. I didn't know what to do with myself half of the time. Getting into trouble seemed to be the only way I could get anybody's attention. Throughout my childhood, I was considered the black sheep and to me, that

was good. I could do anything I wanted to, when I wanted to do it. Unfortunately, with that freedom came dangers like gangs. Eventually I joined one and became the delinquent in every parents' nightmare.

My whole life came to a stop when the only person who believed in me, my grandmother, died. After she left me, I had nothing more to live for. I went deeper into the gangs and led the gangster life to the fullest. I left home at the age of 16 and have never gone back. I lived where I could and dropped out of school. My life was going nowhere.

One day, I called my little brother and we were casually talking about what I was doing with my life when I brought up Job Corps. He told me that Job Corps was an okay place where you could get a diploma, learn a trade and meet a lot of different people. He told me it was free and they would even pay me to go there. In my mind, there was no way that could be true. The screener proved me wrong and I was accepted two months later.

My first impression of the small center was that there was too much snow, and it was too cold. I met my dorm staff and began my stay at Weber Basin. The trade I took was welding, and I was finally doing well for once. I could see my life changing. I was offered a job in the recreation center and accepted. Shortly afterward, I became the Rec. President. With all of my friends, I had no problems fitting in.

One of the changes I made was that I didn't have to be mean or rude to people anymore. Most of the people I was around were nice and helpful; I didn't have to get in trouble to be recognized. Then I started noticing that I was doing better in school, and it was actually fun. About my third month in education, I did what I thought I never could: I received my GED! But I'm not going to stop there; I plan to get my diploma and be the first person in my family to attend college.

Throughout my stay of seven months, I have never been in trouble. In return for this, I have been in Gold for four and a half months and have currently obtained the position of Student Body Vice President of Weber Basin Job Corps. This Center has supported me, and I, in return, have supported it. I can only better myself at Weber Basin and maybe someday I will have the chance to work at a Job Corps Center. I know now that whatever I put my mind to do, I can accomplish. My dreams are becoming my realities

AN APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the following advertisement by the Appeal of Conscience Foundation appeared in today's edition of the Washington Post. The foundation is presided over by Rabbi Arthur Schneier who is internationally known for his leadership on behalf of human rights and religious freedom. He has served our Government in many capacities including as a delegate to the United Nations, and his accomplishments have been recognized by several U.S. Presidents. Rabbi Schneier's continuing work to involve religious leaders in the critical issues of our time deserves our strong support.

I am calling the attention of my colleagues to today's appeal and I hope Americans of all religions will take time during their weekly worship to pray for peace in Bosnia, a country

which has suffered a tragic war for nearly 4 years with enormous human suffering. Accordingly, I hereby insert the text of the letter of the Appeal of Conscience:

AN APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE TO THE LEADERS OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND SERBIA TO WORK FOR PEACE, AND TO SEE THIS WORK AS A RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE HISTORY, BEFORE THEIR PEOPLES, AND ULTIMATELY BEFORE GOD

True faith stands for peace. Whatever our differences, this has been our common ground since the Appeal of Conscience Foundation conferences in Bern, Istanbul and Vienna. The declarations we adopted proclaim that "a crime in the name of religion is the greatest crime against religion."

This call elicited worldwide support from statesmen and religious leaders of different faiths. Most recently, we received messages from Presidents Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Milosevic of Serbia and Tudjman of Croatia encouraging our religious commitment to peace and search for reconciliation.

Today, we salute President Clinton for bringing together in Dayton Ohio, the three Presidents in search of a peaceful solution. On this day, we ask all men and women of goodwill to pray that these leaders be granted the wisdom to find the way to peace.

Next Friday, Saturday and Sunday, in churches, synagogues and mosques, let us pray that the people who have suffered the agonies of war will be free to enjoy the peace that is rightfully theirs.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL

FRANJO KUHARIC,

Archbishop of Zagreb, President of Catholic Bishops Conference of Croatia.

HIS HOLINESS PATRIARCH

PAVLE,

Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

HIS EXCELLENCY DR.

MUSTAFA CERIC,

Rais ul Ulema of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL

VINKO PULJIC,

Archbishop of Sarajevo, President of Catholic Bishops Conference of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER,

President, Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

HIV/AIDS TRAINING PROGRAMS

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed the conference report on the Transportation appropriations bill fails to modify the provision regarding Federal training programs in a manner that could have averted some potential harmful effects of the provision. We may be back here in a year or two being implored by Federal agencies to fix some major obstacles to effective training programs we have created, perhaps inadvertently, with this provision. I would certainly not be surprised to see this provision the subject of litigation as Federal officials attempt to comply with its various components, without running afoul of the first amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and religion.

I must say, however, I am pleased supporters of the provision have made clear they do not intend the provision, flawed as it is, to be interpreted in a manner that would severely reduce the effectiveness of AIDS training pro-

grams. As my colleague from California [Mr. PACKARD], the author of the provision, and my colleague from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee, have both taken great pains to explain, this provision is not designed to interfere with the ability of the Federal Government to provide life-saving HIV training to their employees, just as hundreds of other American business have done across the country for their employees.

Mr. colleagues have clearly explained that graphic sexual depictions, which may be very objectional to many Federal employees, will not be acceptable in AIDS training programs under this provision. However, as my colleagues have also taken pains to note, the provision is not intended to hinder trainers from developing effective programs designed to prevent the transmission of HIV, by providing the sensitive education necessary to prevent such transmissions.

SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST REFORM

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing the earnings limit for senior citizens and will work with the Congress to see that legislation to do this comes to the floor of the House before the end of the year. If any Member of Congress were to propose a 33-percent surtax on seniors incomes earning more than \$11,280 a year today, the American people would not stand for it. However, this is the current situation. The earnings test is bad policy and bad economics for the country.

It is ludicrous that seniors in the work force are subject to this impractical and outdated procedure. Our seniors deserve more. It is time for Congress to vote for changes to this archaic practice of reducing Social Security benefits for seniors that continue to work after the age of 65. We are robbing seniors of their right to support themselves and live with dignity. In many instances seniors stay in the work force out of necessity, not choice, and should be allowed to earn more without losing a portion of their earned Social Security benefits. The earnings test harms those individuals who do not have supplemental pension income for their retirement and need to work. Therefore, we are penalizing seniors who are trying to be self sufficient rather than rewarding beneficiaries who continue to work.

The Social Security earnings limit sends a message to the elderly community that we do not respect their ability to contribute in the work force after retirement. It is time to give seniors back their dignity. This Congress has already taken the first step with the passage of the Medicare Preservation Act which strengthens and protects the Medicare system and allows seniors access to the same type of health care services as offered to all Americans. And by years end, with passage of the increased earning limit, seniors will be able to hold up their heads as they continue to work without fear of losing their earned Social Security benefits.