

credited his survival to the selflessness of Chaplain Goode.

When these four brave men had done everything humanly possible to help those on board, and when the end was imminent, Lieutenants Poling and Fox, both Protestants, and Washington, a Roman Catholic, and Goode, who was Jewish, joined hands and prayed together as the ship went down.

Because of their bravery, these four heroic men were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross. Additionally, in 1960, this body awarded Fox, Poling, Washington, and Goode the Congressional Medal for Heroism. This medal was specifically created to honor these men, and they are the only four to have received it.

The SS *Dorchester* was built at Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., and was originally a passenger liner when delivered in 1926. With the commencement of the United States involvement in World War II, the owners chartered it to the Army Transport Service to transport personnel and cargo. In Newport News today, the memory of the four chaplains is kept alive by the efforts of the Four Chaplains Memorial Committee, and with the marble and bronze monument that was erected in their memory in 1989 at the War Memorial Museum grounds. Let us keep alive their bravery their actions embodied, by remembering their heroism today.

RENEW AMERICA WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, three organizations from my home State of New Mexico will be recognized for their accomplishments in effective, responsible environmental projects. Lighthawk of Santa Fe, the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice of Albuquerque and the Global Rivers Environmental Education Network of Las Cruces will all be recognized by Renew America as winners of the National Award for Environmental Sustainability.

I am especially proud of the fact that New Mexico, which has one of the smallest populations of any State in the Nation, is home to three Renew America award winners. That figure is more than any other State in the Nation, with the exception of California with seven winners, and a far larger population base than New Mexico.

Lighthawk, which is known as the Environmental Air Force, is based in Santa Fe, NM, in my district, but their impact has been felt throughout the Nation and the world. Since its creation in 1979, Lighthawk and its group of pilots have flown more than 2 million miles to far-flung locations throughout the Western Hemisphere to educate the public, empower local environmental groups, and respond to environmental crises. Lighthawk flies activists, legislators, and the media over and into endangered lands, allowing individuals to learn first-hand of environmental problems and situations. I have flown with Lighthawk in the past, and I am especially pleased that they have received such significant recognition.

Project Del Rio, in cooperation with the University of Michigan's Global Rivers Environmental Education Network conducts a program that brings students and educators together from over 100 schools located along the Rio Grande both in the United States and Mexico. Using equipment, background, motivation, and resources provided by Project Del Rio, students learn to interpret scientific information, public opinion statistics, and economic data. Since its founding in 1990, many of the programs' participants have gone on to use the experience they gained while with Project Del Rio to win internships in other, similar fields.

The Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, based in Albuquerque, NM, works to address issues that impact people of color and to strengthen community organizations and encourage them to influence local, State, regional, and national policies regarding the environment. The network has been considered essential in restoring long overdue justice in the areas of unsafe working conditions, natural resource exploitation, and political disempowerment. In addition to this award the Southwest Network has been involved in many successful media campaigns, which have opened up communication channels between environmental activists, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Lastly Mr. Chairman, the Southwest Network has been instrumental in promoting the examination at the Federal level of the broad range of environmental justice issues.

Mr. Speaker, these New Mexico-based organizations truly are wonderful examples of the dedication of citizens across the country to environmental protection and education activities. I would like to salute my constituents' organizations and the other Renew America Winners for their accomplishments and contributions. They deserve our thanks and our appreciation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMON SENSE WELFARE ACT OF 1995

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Mr. KOLBE, to introduce the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act of 1995. We believe this legislation could revolutionize the way we deliver social services to the Nation's poor.

Over the course of the last 60 years, government, whether it be Federal, State, or local, has assumed almost complete responsibility over caring for the Nation's poor. Like it or not, our welfare delivery system has essentially become a government monopoly. And it exhibits all of the worst symptoms: It is woefully expensive; it is overly bureaucratic; it is preoccupied with process; and it is client-ignorant. Every year, it gobbles more of our tax dollars without any incentive to cut costs or streamline itself.

The American welfare monopoly has also undercut the efforts of private organizations. It has made it nearly impossible for charities to place conditions on their aid, when prospective recipients can walk down to the local wel-

fare office and pick up a government check, no strings attached.

It has almost singlehandedly created what the Wall Street Journal's John Fund calls the I-gave-at-the-office syndrome. In fact, the portion of charitable giving in this country devoted to alleviating poverty has declined by a shocking one-third since 1960.

So the question remains: How should we reform the welfare delivery system? Our bill, like many others, would consolidate dozens of overlapping, inefficient Federal programs and put that money into a State block grant. However, it also provides for a choice-in-welfare tax credit that would give individual citizens a voice in how this country fights poverty. Under our plan, every taxpaying American would be free to direct up to 10 percent of their Federal income taxes to a charitable organization in their community that is engaged in antipoverty efforts. Each time a taxpayer claimed this credit, the Federal Government would make a corresponding reduction in their State's block grant—thereby making it revenue neutral.

The Federal Government already has a regulatory framework for overseeing nonprofit organizations, minimizing the need for additional bureaucracy. However, State governments often have a more active oversight program, so we would require that participating charities obtain State tax-exempt status as well.

In addition, to ensure that tax credit contributions are reaching the people they're intended to serve, it would be necessary to establish guidelines for participating charitable organizations. For instance, charities would be prohibited from using the proceeds to engage in lobbying or litigation activities. We would also require that at least 70 percent of a participating charity's expenses be allocated directly to the poor. And charities would be required to expand tax credit-generated contributions within 1 year of receipt.

To maintain the separation of church and state, religious organizations must have a subsidiary devoted to social welfare to be eligible. Organizations that have a religious component, but are primarily focused on social welfare—i.e., Salvation Army—would be eligible as well.

Finally, to guard against possible fraud, taxpayers themselves would not be allowed to donate tax credit-funded contributions to charities in which they have a financial interest.

Our funding mechanism is a revolving account within the Treasury Department that would hold the vast majority of the money the Federal Government intends to spend on poverty in the next fiscal year. Once Congress appropriated the money for this account, a small portion would be set aside to cover the cost of the tax credit, and the rest would be given to the States in block grant form. After April 15, any funds left in the tax credit set-aside would be given to States as a bonus.

It is important to note that the tax credit/block grant funding mechanism will be separated at the State level. For instance, Michigan's total Federal grant would be determined by how many of its citizens gave to instate, qualified charitable organizations. This is to ensure that the effects of competition are always tangible.

There are a few other provisions worth noting.

First, we phase in the tax credit over a 5-year period to ensure that the transition to a public/private partnership is a gradual one.

Second, while we place dollar caps on the credit, any contribution above that level would be tax deductible as it is now. Similarly, contributions to other nonprofits would also retain their present deductibility.

In closing, we believe that if our bill was enacted, we could at once reduce Federal spending and micromanagement, create competition among aid providers, reinvigorate a charitable sector whose tremendous capacity has been subverted by government intrusion, and finally begin to attack poverty in a truly meaningful and effective way.

COMMON SENSE WELFARE REFORM ACT

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Congressman KNOLLENBERG, to introduce the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act. We believe it is not only possible, but sensible, to turn the administration of the welfare system over to the State capitals and the city halls. Block granting social programs to the States is a first step in reform of the welfare system. This flexibility is critical to allowing States to test assistance programs best suited to their needs. Common sense tells us that a successful program in rural Arizona may not necessarily work in Detroit, MI.

We believe, however, that the debate should be taken a step further—and that is why we are introducing the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act. If States can better administer welfare programs, shouldn't it follow that citizens know best which programs work in their communities and which are the most cost-effective? That's what our legislation is about—a partnership of State and local entities with individual taxpayers.

The common sense welfare reform bill will give the people that pay the bills and provide the services in the community a role in how poverty relief efforts are structured. The Common Sense Welfare Reform Act consolidates over 60 overlapping, inefficient programs run by the Federal Government and gives the money directly to the States in block grant form. That's a direction in which the House is moving and is a necessary precondition to making our welfare privatization proposal work.

Our proposal allows taxpayers to contribute up to 10 percent—not to exceed \$2,500—of their Federal income taxes to qualified private charities in their State in return for a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. This tax credit is paid for by corresponding reductions in the block grant to the State in which the taxpayer lives.

The Common Sense Welfare Reform Act serves two purposes by empowering taxpayers to participate in the funding decisions for poverty-relief services. First, we give taxpayers a voice in how services are delivered in their communities. We have faith in the ability of individuals who are in the communities to know what is working well. The Federal Government—or State governments, for that matter—should not have a monopoly on where welfare dollars are allocated. Critics of block grants contend that many States do not have a good track record in administering so-

cial programs. Our proposal, however, diffuses the concentration of authority over spending on poverty-relief efforts by leveling the playing field on which private and public charities compete. The Common Sense Welfare Reform Act allows taxpayers to determine where their poverty-relief dollars are spent the most effectively.

Second, we reward private charities for doing what they have traditionally done best, and that is to provide prompt, temporary assistance. Private charities view assistance as a tool by which to change behavior—it is not a right nor a way of life. Because of this philosophy, both in theory and in practice, it is inconceivable that a family would subsist for generations on the local soup kitchen, food bank or shelter. Private charities stress personal responsibility and provide hands-on management for recipients. The humanizing aspect of private charities is missing from the impersonal public welfare bureaucracy which requires nothing from the recipient except eligibility for aid.

Americans need to become personally involved in reforming the welfare system. If I may be so immodest, I would suggest that Congressman KNOLLENBERG and I have a bold and innovative approach in the Common Sense Welfare Reform Act to allow Americans to do just that. We hope the momentum in the welfare debate will take our deliberations a step further. Let's allow taxpayers a role in providing assistance, while giving private charities the opportunity to compete for welfare dollars in a true, competitive atmosphere, instead of making their funding a function of who has the best grant writer or the best connections in Washington—or Lansing or Tallahassee.

THE DEATH OF JAMES P. GRANT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the world lost a great humanitarian this past weekend with the death of my dear friend, Jim Grant.

For the past 15 years, Jim served with distinction and compassion as the Executive Director of UNICEF. He was a man who loved all of the world's children and a man who made a significant difference. Jim Grant epitomized the dedicated international public servant, but no one ever called him a bureaucrat. Rather, he was a visionary leader who used all the tools available to promote worthy causes.

Jim Grant was a field-oriented person. No project was too remote to escape Jim's interest. Traveling with Jim in Africa meant spending a lot of time in off-road vehicles to see how well health programs were reaching remote villages.

Jim Grant was a promoter in the best sense of the word. Whether he was promoting expanded immunization programs, oral rehydration, or breastfeeding, or whether he was enlisting another celebrity as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, Jim Grant always used his flair for publicity for good causes.

Jim Grant had the capacity to influence world leaders to focus on the topic he cared most about—the state of the world's children.

Perhaps his most satisfying accomplishment was the 1990 World Summit for Children and one of his greatest disappointments was that he did not see his own Government ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child during his lifetime.

Probably no tribute to Jim Grant's life is more appropriate than to lay out the following statistics: During his tenure as Executive Director of UNICEF, immunization levels in the developing world have risen from about 20 percent in 1980 to almost 80 percent today. During that same period, the number of polio victims has fallen from 500,000 a year to fewer than 100,000.

Jim Grant was an American hero and a world treasure. His presence will be greatly missed, but his work and the good works of UNICEF will remain a legacy of his persistence and humanity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I was, unfortunately, detained in my congressional district in Baltimore earlier today and thus forced to miss a record vote. Specifically, I was not present to record my vote on rollcall vote No. 74, on the amendment offered by Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Had I been here I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, having been granted a leave of absence after 8 p.m. on Monday, January 30, 1995, I missed rollcall votes 64 through 71. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" in each instance.

BUDGET BALANCING VIA CONFLICT CONTAINMENT

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, Professor Janos Horvath is one of Indiana's most distinguished citizens. His Ph.D. in economics was earned at Columbia University. He now teaches courses in advanced macroeconomics, principles of economics, international business and business ethics.

He is known and rightly known as a brilliant theoretician.

Before his immigration to the United States, he was a leader in the Hungarian independence movements in 1956. Earlier he was imprisoned by the Nazi Gestapo. He was elected to the Hungarian Parliament in 1945.

The following is an example of the imaginative writing of Dr. Horvath.