

RECOGNIZING THE WOMENS CLUB
OF ALTOONA, PA, FOR 60 YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a group which has been a positive influence for 60 years in Altoona, PA. Since 1935, the Womens Club of Altoona has played a significant role in community service throughout Altoona and Blair County. This is a club in which members dedicate themselves to the betterment of the community by providing scholarship aid to students, assisting and giving to charitable organizations, and volunteering many hours to programs and events for the young and elderly throughout the region. They have provided support and assistance which government services cannot afford to sustain or otherwise would not even exist. This club provides a sense of guidance, awareness, responsibility, and caring toward the community; characteristics vital to keeping our cities and towns on the right track, especially in this period of time in which we see communities breaking down around the Nation. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the women who have been a part of this organization, and say to them that they are an asset to our region and I hope that they will continue to play a visible role throughout the community. I wish them the best in celebrating their 60 years of service in Altoona and Blair County.

THE REPUBLICAN CONTRACT: THE
CALL AND POST NEWSPAPER
RESPONDS

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, we are moving closer to the conclusion of the first 100 days of the Republican Contract With America. Over the past weeks, we have debated on the House floor various provisions of the contract. During this same period, newspapers across America are providing their readers with detailed analyses of this plan put forth by the Republican Party. One such newspaper is the Call and Post, a black weekly newspaper which serves residents of my congressional district.

In recent editorials, the Call and Post takes a close look at the Republican Contract With America, and its impact on the African-American community, in particular. The newspaper criticizes the Republican Party for its drastic cuts in programs including housing assistance, nutrition and child care services, low-income energy assistance and the student loan program, along with many others. The Call and Post editorial writers are also critical of Republican efforts to dismantle affirmative action programs and the Voting Rights Act. Their editorial states in part, "Our early vote on the Republican first '50 days' is that, on balance, it has been disastrous for those in America who do not have stocks and bonds, or six-figure incomes."

Mr. Speaker, I want to share these editorials from the Call and Post newspaper with my colleagues and the Nation. I agree with the editorial writers that the Contract With America is mean-spirited, ill-advised and particularly harmful to the African-American community, other disadvantaged populations, and the poor. I hope that Members on both sides of the aisle will take a moment to read the Call and Post analysis of the Contract With America.

[From the Call and Post, Mar. 2, 1995]

AFTER 50 DAYS

When Newt Gingrich was leading the charge against the Democrats in the last election, he promised in his "Contract with America" that the House of Representatives would, within the first 100 days of operation, vote on measures which would carry out a massive restructuring of government.

The "100 days" symbolism was significant. It hearkened back to the "New Deal" pronouncement of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who, within his first 100 days of office, had put into place legislation designed to bring the nation out of the depths of the great depression—legislation and more importantly, a focus of government which was radically different than what had gone before.

Now, after 50 days of "Newtonian" politics, we have seen dramatic results. The first, and easiest, step the Congress took to fulfill the "Contract with America" was requiring Congress to abide by all the laws it imposes on others, such as civil rights statutes, wage and hour requirements, and occupational safety laws. There was little controversial about this measure: Ohio Sen. John Glenn had been fighting for the measure for years. It ended Congress' stature as America's "last plantation."

But the remainder of the contract has not been so easy, or so uncontroversial. It appears that the Republicans themselves—who have gained power on the push for term limits—now are debating whether, and how much, they want to impose this on themselves. The U.S. Term Limits organization, which has been the national arm for this movement, has attacked the Republicans—including specifically several Ohio Republican legislators—for hypocrisy on this issue; a measure particularly of concern to the group is sponsored by Florida Congressman Bill McCollum, which would replace all state-enacted term limits statutes with a federal one.

In the area of criminal justice, the Republican majority in the house has passed a measure which panders to the national hysteria about punishment for crime. It violates all the Republicans historic concern about the intrusion of the federal government into the rights of states by allowing federal money for prisons building to only those states in which incarcerated serious felons serve at least 85 percent of their sentences. And it also has severe constitutional questions in its willingness to allow a "good faith" exemption for warrantless searches. No less a constitutional authority than outgoing sixth circuit appellate court judge Nathaniel Jones has expressed serious concerns about this measure, saying that it would "gut the fourth amendment from the Constitution."

It is in the area of spending for human and social services that the Republicans have done the most mischief already. The House has already passed a bill cutting spending already appropriated by the House in 1994 by more than \$17 billion—with \$7.2 billion of that coming in one area, housing. Other human services programs have already been affected.

And the Republicans are planning even deeper cuts in the future, as the plan calls for block grants for human services spending.

If you're a young struggling mother trying to feed your children, you're probably in trouble: the rescission bill cut already-appropriated funding for Head Start and the Women's, Infants and Children's (WIC) program.

If you're a poor family struggling to survive through a cold winter, you're already in trouble: they have cut the low income housing energy assistance program.

If you're a poor child in school and needing the resources of the federal government just to get a decent meal, you're probably in trouble: massive cuts are contemplated for school feeding programs.

If you're a poor student seeking a better life through college, you're probably in trouble: the House is looking to cut grants and loans for college students.

In short, if you're one of America's poor trying to achieve a better life—or even merely survive in the one you have—you're probably going to be further impoverished by this round of budget cuts being proposed by the House Republicans in their "Contract with America."

It is clear that, after 50 days, the Republican legislative leadership, especially in the House, is planning a frontal assault on the New Deal's "contract" with the poorest of America's citizens. By the time their plans are completed, the goal is to take from them the resources to house them more adequately; feed them moderately; and educate them appropriately. None of the rhetoric they have used recently—about the need for budget tightening; about shared sacrifice from everyone; about how the private sector will step up and help—can erase that stark fact.

In fact, part of the Contract with America is designed specifically to shield some Americans from the sacrifices others must make: the Republicans are pushing a reduction in the capital gains tax which will provide windfall tax savings to some of the nation's wealthiest citizens.

President Clinton, who is threatening to veto parts of the contract, has said of the Republicans, "what they want to do is make war on the kids of this country to pay for a capital gains tax cut."

We believe, sadly, that this harsh language is correct. Our early vote on the Republicans first "50 days" is that, on balance, it has been disastrous for those in America who do not have stocks and bonds, or six-figure incomes.

We can only hope that President Clinton will demonstrate the courage of his convictions to veto some of the most destructive expressions of the GOP leadership's demonstrated desire to turn back the clock on help for America's poorest citizens.

CONTRACT ON BLACK AMERICA

The "Republican Revolution" and its makeshift constitution otherwise known as the "Contract With America" has been criticized by President Clinton and other prominent Democrats as a threat to the children of the poor, and rightfully so. However, the general tenor of the actions of Congress have the appearance of a contract ON Black America.

We have already cited the cuts in low income housing, heating bill subsidies and Head Start, that were appropriated by the last Congress and now cut retroactively to pay for a capital gains tax cut that will benefit wealthy individuals and corporations. These cuts will affect all low-income Americans, but like everything else, they will be disastrous in the Black Community.

Now, the "contract's" legislative agenda will turn to "direct hits" on Black America. For starters, Eleanor Holmes-Norton, the District of Columbia Delegate, has been stripped of her right to vote on the floor of Congress. This act leaves the entire, predominantly Black, taxpaying (\$1.6 Billion at last count) population of the District without Congressional representation.

On affirmative action, they have already voted to end tax breaks for companies that sell broadcast licenses to minorities, a program that was created to foster minority ownership to those previously denied access to electronic media ownership. This will benefit primarily well-off self-employed persons, who will now be able to deduct a portion of the cost of their medical insurance.

Next, they have vowed to completely dismantle affirmative action, the Voting Rights Act and the welfare system, and unless we mobilize, it looks like no-one can stop them.

We urge our readers to write to The President, our Senators and Congressmen, and to let them know that we are about to start our own revolution. Our political organizations should be planning voter registration and education programs throughout the state, so that the Black community will once again become something to be feared, and not trampled over.

RADIOLOGY: 100 YEARS OF HEALTH PROGRESS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, just 100 years ago this year, a German physicist, Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, discovered x rays. Within weeks, American scientists, physicians, and industrialists were making new discoveries with x rays and were putting them to work in medicine and industry. No major scientific discovery ever spread so fast or found such instant acceptance in many areas of life.

At first physicians peered at dim images to perceive bullets, bones, and kidney stones. Equipment and technique were improved. Soon physicians could look for other health problems with x rays. They learned that x rays could be used to cure some diseases, particularly forms of cancer. A medical specialty, radiology, grew among the men and women who applied x rays in health care.

Over the century, radiologists added to their competence with the products of scientific breakthroughs. From the atomic bomb research came radioisotopes, so vital for diagnosing body organ function and treating cancers. From radar and sonar came medical applications of ultrasound. From the space efforts came the ability to analyze images electronically, bounce them off of satellites, and store them for instant recall. From computers came computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. The million-volt energies of linear accelerators allow radiation oncologists to deliver pinpoint treatment of cancers.

This year, two-thirds of all Americans will receive a medical diagnostic imaging procedure. Two-thirds of those with cancers will receive radiation as part of their treatment. In a hundred years, radiology has become a vital part of our health care pattern.

During this year, more than 100 professional societies and companies which supply the

family of radiology have organized Radiology Centennial, Inc. to conduct a year-long series of celebratory events. Among these events is a special convocation on April 30 here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the record show that this House joins other Americans in recognizing the value of radiology to all of us in this, its 100th year.

TERM LIMITS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I wish to outline my thoughts on the subject of congressional term limits—a matter included in the Contract With America and debated at length by the House. Unfortunately, the demands of my committee schedule did not allow me to participate in the debate. Belatedly, I offer these comments so that my constituents will be fully informed as to my position and vote. This provision of the contract should have been and was honored by the debate on the issue and the votes on it that were cast. As I have for years consistently opposed term limits, I signed the contract because this was all it required.

I continue to oppose congressional term limits. At best, they are an ill-conceived quick-fix response to a set of real and perceived problems with Congress as an institution. At worst, they represent a fundamental change in our representative democracy that abandons more than 200 years of American history and threatens to undermine the basic right of suffrage. In my view, term limits are a bad idea that were properly rejected.

Mr. Chairman, throughout our history Congress, as an institution, has been an object of criticism and some derision. I do not deny the legitimacy of much of that criticism and share some of the frustration the American people have directed toward this House and the other body. The new Republican majority has made sweeping changes in the internal operations of this House and I am confident we will continue to make steady progress in reforming the Federal Government. Among the ills the medicine of term limits purport to cure are incumbent advantage in elections, undue influence of lobbyists and big contributors, shoddy lawmaking and the ubiquitous professional politician. I submit that term limits will do nothing to address these real and perceived problems and will, in fact, create a series of headaches that are far worse than the disease they are intended to eradicate.

I would like to briefly touch on each of the items I have just mentioned. With regard to incumbent advantage and the influence of lobbyists and contributors, let me say plainly that I believe any inequity in the status quo is better addressed directly, through campaign finance, lobbying and congressional franking re-

forms, rather than the indirect route of congressional term limits. These are the real issues and they should be debated.

The other malady that term limits proponents claim their legislation will cure is the so-called professional politician. The argument, as I understand it, advances the simplistic notion that much of regulatory burdens and social dilemmas we face in the United States today are the direct result of the actions of an arrogant, isolated political class that exists inside the Capital beltway, selling out the people to the special interests in order to perpetuate themselves in public office. This is a simply ridiculous proposition. We certainly have too much Federal involvement in the everyday life and a great many societal problems that have been nurtured by it. But to claim that there is a direct causal link between these realities and the absence of a limitation on the length of service of Members of Congress presents a logical disconnect, and is insupportable on sound public policy grounds.

Mr. Chairman, I agree with our esteemed Judiciary Committee chairman, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], and his assessment of this argument. We live in the most advanced and complex country in history and our public institutions reflect that. Clearly, we can streamline and simplify those institutions. We have and should be zealous in assuring that the Members of this body are accountable to the people. But this does not mean that we must reduce serving as a legislator on the national level to the only job in the country that is reserved for the inexperienced. Maturity, judgment and experience are attributes prized in every profession and should be as well in the Congress. Ironically, to deny these assets would greatly diminish the role of elected representatives and enhance the power of professional staffs, the bureaucracy, and special interest groups.

There is a larger issue at stake here, the basic right of suffrage that is afforded all citizens over the age of 18. Again, I cite the distinguished chairman from Illinois in stating that I see little difference between being denied the ability to vote for a candidate and being told how to cast my vote. Both instances are clear abridgments of the right to vote. Term limits are nothing more than a stalking horse for a minority attempting to overturn the decision of a majority of the voters in a free and fair election.

Many term limits advocates infer that we are entering a period in our life as a nation requiring this dramatic change in our democracy. Let me say that I worry about their grasp of history. We face problems, but I cannot believe that a system that brought us through the Civil War, the Great Depression and two World Wars is suddenly a historical anomaly. Now that we stand at some distance from those great cataclysms it is easy to forget how hard it was to walk the line between success and failure. Were term limits in effect, the Nation would have been denied the likes of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Jeannette Rankin, Robert LaFollette, Sam Rayburn, Robert Taft, Everett Dirksen, Richard Russell, Arthur Vandenberg, John Stennis, Bob Michel, and countless others, each of them towering giants in the annals of Congress. To imagine facing the crises of the past without these individuals and their colleagues is simply beyond my comprehension.