

New York City will lose \$200 million in funding for child nutrition provisions, including the school lunch and school breakfast programs, meaning that 60,000 New York City children will be dropped from the school lunch program because projected funding levels under the welfare plan won't be able to keep up with annual 3.5 percent inflation and annual 3-percent increases in school enrollments by fiscal year 2000.

Of the 641,000 New York City children enrolled in the school lunch program, 522,000 of these children, the children who receive free lunches, may be forced to begin paying for lunch, with money they simply do not have.

Of the 170,000 New York City children enrolled in the school breakfast program, 154,000 of these children, the children who receive free breakfasts, may be forced to begin paying for breakfast, with money that they simply do not have.

New York City will lose over \$35 million in funding for family-based nutrition provisions.

The 316,000 children who participate daily in the Summer Food Program will see their food budgets cut by 50 percent as the result of massive cuts under the House-passed provisions.

The 85,000 children who participate daily in day care food programs will also see their food funding drop by 50 percent.

New York City would lose \$1.75 billion in food stamp assistance through the Republican funding level cuts over 5 years.

One million four-hundred thousand New York City food stamp recipients would see their food stamps allotment decrease beginning in fiscal 1996; 640,000 of these recipients are children. By the year 2000, food stamp authorizations will decrease by at least 30 percent compared to current projected levels of need.

New York City would lose over \$760 million in SSI benefits over 5 years under the welfare plan which means that 22,500 blind and disabled children in New York City alone would lose all benefits over 5 years, including AFDC and JOBS work training.

This litany describes just one-third of how the Republicans plan to pay for this tax plan. To make matters worse, the lion's share of the cuts—\$100 billion—are coming through broad reductions in spending caps.

Although the individual, specific cuts are to be made later, the Budget Committee has offered some suggestions concerning what programs to cut in order to meet these new spending cap reductions. These so-called suggestions add to the damage done to New York City by the Republican welfare bill.

The chairman of the Budget Committee proposes slashing mass transit, which all New Yorkers need to get from one place to another. The suggested cut will take almost \$5 billion out of New York City over the next 5 years.

The Republicans suggest eliminating LIHEAP, which provides heat in wintertime to low-income senior citizens and low-income families who are among our most vulnerable citizens. This ill-advised proposal will take close to \$520 million out of New York City over the next 5 years.

They suggest cutting medical research by the National Institutes of Health, which will take more than \$153.6 million out of New York City's research institutions like Rockefeller University, Sloan Kettering and NYU.

The Budget Committee's scheme to eliminate the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities will not only result in a nation that is culturally poorer and spiritually malnourished, but will result in New York City losing a total of \$259.1 million in grants over the next 5 years.

This is just a sample of what Republicans are suggesting that Congress cut in order to pay for this tax cut plan. And when all of these harsh cuts are made, this country will still be saddled with a growing deficit that the new House leadership does not even make a pretense of addressing.

And, this bill contains one final indignity for New York City. Tens of thousands of families, including more than 6,000 in my district alone, will have to pay for a \$10 billion tax increase through changes to the retirement system that will more than triple the cost to Federal workers.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, none of these spending cuts will go to deficit reduction. While it is widely recognized by both political parties that the deficit is the cruelest tax of all, the Republican plan provides absolutely no tax relief from it.

We must not repeat the irresponsible tax cuts of the 1980's, which have been so disastrous for our economy. And I believe that yesterday's vote will result in greater deficit increases.

I have little faith that having now passed some harsh cuts to pay for the popular part of the Contract With America, the Republican majority will not have the stomach or incentive to vote for even more unpopular cuts to Federal programs to further reduce the deficit.

Reinforcing my concerns about repeating the mistakes of the 1980's is the fact that the Republicans have pledged to increase defense spending again.

In all, Mr. Speaker, April 5 was a lost opportunity.

A lost opportunity for those of us who wanted to vote for tax cuts that would be both prudent and beneficial to the economy.

And, most importantly, a lost opportunity to help future generations of Americans who will pay for this tax folly. Ultimately, it is our children and grandchildren who will suffer the ill effects of the 104th Congress excesses here yesterday night.

JUST A PIECE OF PAPER

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, on April 3, 1895, one of the great cities of Georgia's First Congressional District and indeed America was born. The following article, written by Mrs. Lois Barefoot Mays talks about this event and the celebration of the Folkston, GA, U.S.A. centennial parade last Saturday on April 1.

[From the Charlton County (GA) Herald, Mar. 1, 1995]

JUST A PIECE OF PAPER

(By Lois Barefoot Mays)

To see me from afar, you would think I was just an ordinary piece of paper. But I'm very special. Why, I'm one hundred years old and still going strong. I am the charter for Folkston, Georgia, United States of America, North American Continent, God's little blue planet Earth, the Universe.

On April 1st, 1995, my little town will be the center of the universe. There will be a joyous homecoming of people who once lived within my borders and who will return for my one hundredth birthday. They'll celebrate together with the residents by dancing, eating tasty food, enjoying a patriotic parade and especially by greeting friends they haven't seen for a while.

There'll be lots of smiles, hugs and handshakes. They'll speak of friends that have died and maybe even take time for a thoughtful walk through the well-kept cemetery.

Perhaps they'll recall leaders of the Folkston community who made lasting impressions on their lives. People like Dr. McCoy, Mrs. Belle Roddenberry, L.E. Stokes, Miss Mayme and John Harris, William Mizell, Mary Stokes Davis, Scott and Ralph Johnson, Tom Gowen, John Southwell and others. And they will have good stories to tell about those leaders, stories worth remembering, that can be used in Sunday School rooms later when they study what integrity means.

I won't be able to hear all that's going on because I will be resting in a file somewhere, but my spirit is alive and well in this southeastern Georgia bit of heaven.

I was really born as the Town of Folkston in April, 1895, but before that date the Village of Folkston was here. As the cry of a new-born baby signals a brand new life, the wail of a steam engine on the newly-laid rails of the S.F. & W. Railroad brought folks together and when stores and homes were built near the covered platform called "The Station", the Village of Folkston was born. That first loud train, scaring people and animals alike, thundered through what is now Folkston on March 30, 1881. Why, that's the same year President James A. Garfield began his term of office and the year the painter Pablo Picasso was born!

Fourteen years later the village had a splendid depot, large Masonic Lodge, at least six stores, two hotels, cotton gins, grist mill and homes for the nearby families. It was no longer called "The Station" but had been named for Dr. W.B. Folks of Waycross and called at first, "Folkstown" and quickly shortened to "Folkston".

As the men of the village, always eager to argue the merits of their favorite horse, leaned on the fence of the Roddenberry Hotel livery stable in the spring of 1895 and discussed events of the times, the main topic must have been local government and how to have some control over clearly illegal situations. They needed strict rules that would make it unlawful for anyone to indulge in card playing or dancing on the Sabbath; rules that made it against the law to fasten horses or mules to shadetrees or buildings in such a way that folks couldn't walk on the sidewalk or get in the door of a store. And they needed men elected by the majority of the other men of the village to be the ones to enforce these rules.

So, on the 26 day of March, 1895 a referendum was held, seeking the will of the people. A decision was to be made: did they really want a charter with printed laws with which to abide, or did they want to continue as just a group of families brought together by the common bond of living close to the railroad tracks.

Results of the election were probably predicted beforehand. Thirty-two men voted on that day and those thirty-two men voted a resounding unanimous "YES, we want to be a real TOWN of Folkston." Three of the community's leaders, J.S. Mizell, H.S. Mattox and H.A. Renfro were election superintendents that important day and immediately a short

petition was drawn up, which twenty-three men signed, asking the Charlton Superior Court for permission to incorporate.

Eight days later, on April 3rd, 1895, probably as the first order of business of Superior Court Judge, J.W. Sweat at the April term of court of Traders Hill. I was born. The order creating me as the Town of Folkston was scratched with quill pen and ink on this yellowed sheet of ruled paper and signed by Judge Sweat.

So that's who I am—just a folded paper document—an object that means home and life-long friends to those who once lived within my borders . . . but to those fortunate ones who enjoy the privilege of strolling my sidewalks, or talking daily with friends made fifty years or more ago, or the unexcelled pleasure of standing on the depot porch hearing and watching a mile-long train roar through Love, Main and Martin Streets all at once. I'm a sacred piece of paper. . . . I'm the best!

In fact, right now I'm the center of the universe!

DR. L.D. BRITT, 1995 RECIPIENT OF THE GREAT AMERICAN TRADITIONS AWARD

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the B'nai B'rith Foundation of the United States, I am pleased to announce that Dr. L.D. Britt is a 1995 recipient of the Great American Traditions Award.

Dr. Britt, a renown surgeon and educator, serves as Professor, Chairman of General Surgery, and Chief of Trauma and Critical Care at Eastern Virginia Medical School. He is also Medical Director for the Shock Trauma Center at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, is a general surgeon in the Norfolk and Suffolk Virginia area and serves on the boards of Norfolk State University and the University of Virginia.

He received a B.A. from the University of Virginia, a M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health and a M.D. from the Harvard Medical School.

But as great as they are, Dr. Britt's professional accomplishments are not the reason he was chosen for this award. What distinguishes Dr. Britt from other accomplished men and women is his tireless service to the Tidewater Virginia community.

He has given freely of his time, talents, and resources to others. From church, to Boy Scouts, to cultural institutions, Dr. Britt has worked to bring all elements of the Tidewater community together regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. It is in that tradition that the proceeds from his award dinner will go to the Dr. L.D. Britt Young Leaders Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Britt finds the time to give so freely of himself to others because he believes that we should reach out to those around us. It is for this spirit of giving to others that Dr. L.D. Britt is presented with the Great American Traditions Award.

THE OSHA CONSULTATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. JAMES A. HAYES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's [OSHA] Consultation Services [OSHCON] currently derive their authority from a shaky regulatory framework. OSHCON programs compete for very limited dollars with other OSHA education and training compliance assistance programs. Therefore, in an effort to enhance the Federal Government's responsiveness to the business community and to provide more effective solutions to the problems impacting safety and health in the workplace, I, along with my colleague Congressman CASS BALLENGER, am introducing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Consultation Authorization Act of 1995.

Our bill would, simply put, statutorily codify the authority of the Department of Labor to establish the current scheme of cooperative agreements with States. There is overwhelming and widespread support for our language amongst representatives of both large industry and small business, officials from the Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Programs, and the Administration.

Businesses in Louisiana and throughout the country convey to me horror stories about the burdens that OSHA standards and paperwork requirements impose upon their fiscal stability without producing discernable corresponding benefits to safety and health. They would welcome initiatives that seek to distribute information on safety and health in a more timely and efficient manner. Businessmen realize that safe employment practices enable them to compete for and retain the most qualified employees.

State run consultation offices are overworked and understaffed. OSHA has consistently failed to allocate adequate resources to OSHCON programs. With the proposed fiscal year 1996 budget request, we are again faced with a budget recommendation heavily slanted toward enforcement rather than compliance assistance. We owe businesses and employees alike the opportunity to work in a safe environment. We can and should redirect our priorities toward productive and pro-active strategies, such as consultation assistance, and away from the reactive and cumbersome overregulatory approaches of the past.

I welcome my colleagues to join Mr. BALLENGER and I in our fight to ensure the successful continuation of a health and safety program that works.

BELÉN JESUIT SCHOOL KEY CLUB

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Belén Jesuit School Key Club and their continuing meritorious service and assistance in providing relief to refugees from tyranny.

As my colleagues are aware, the massive Cuban exodus that occurred last summer has

been just the latest sad chapter of a 36-year saga. The suffering faced by those brave rafters did not end when they were rescued from their rafts or when the television crews went home. Because of circumstances beyond their control, many are still suffering today from privations and indefinite detention.

From the onset of this latest crisis, the young men of the Belén Jesuit Key Club have been sacrificing and working to help alleviate the many hardships faced by these brave Cubans. Among other things, these selfless high school students have bottled water to be dropped to rafters while they were still at sea, collected donations for pillows, pencils, and paper for those in the camps, and traveled themselves to the camps to help distribute aid.

Most importantly Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that these young men continue to demonstrate time and time again their concern and humanity towards those who are suffering. They truly exemplify the Jesuit ideal and can be called "men for others". We as a country must be proud to have such men in our society. I for one am privileged that they reside in my community.

METRO ARBITRATION RELIEF ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation for myself and Mr. DAVIS of Virginia, to provide financial relief to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority [WMATA] and to the citizens of the Washington metropolitan area by allowing for more flexibility in resolving labor disputes. Under the interstate compact establishing Metro, WMATA must have a balanced budget and Metro cannot provide service unless there are funds to pay for it. These funds are becoming more and more pinched by rising labor costs that threaten the affordability of the Metro system for the ridership.

Labor costs at Metro are among the highest in the Nation in terms of operator salaries and benefits. For example, starting operator wages for bus drivers in New York City are \$12.35 per hour compared to \$13.76 in the District. The average annual wage for a Metrobus operator is currently \$45,683. This is higher than the average wage for teachers in our area and is more than a GS-12 starting salary for many professionals in the Government. With overtime, Metrobus operator salaries can approach \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year, the equivalent salary of a GS-14 or GS-15 or an assistant school principal.

In addition, Metro salaries and benefits are far higher than other transit operators in the region when compared with bus operators such as Montgomery County Ride-On or Fairfax Connector and Dash. The average annual wage for Ride-On, DASH, and Connector operators is \$27,148, \$25,459, and \$23,400 respectively. These high comparative costs have made it very expensive for local governments to continue to contract with Metro bus service. As a result, local governments are increasingly choosing to provide their own service leaving Metro with fixed overhead costs to distribute among shrinking bus services.