

to me over and over again that government should not try to rescue every one, that government should get off their backs, that they do not want to see their money spent on expanding programs when they are not getting enough bang for the buck now. In short, they want less welfare, less taxes, less spending, and, most of all, less government. They want to shake up Washington.

AGENDA FOR 1995

Although they oppose a big and intrusive government, Americans still have a long list of problems they want addressed. They want us to fix the economy, and for most of them that means boosting their incomes. They still want the health care system reformed. Americans are very concerned about the cost of health care and fear losing their insurance. They like the idea of universal coverage, and certainly want more control of health care costs. They do not want government control over health care decisions. They do not like the stresses put on the family, and want a more effective fight against crime.

Americans want the size and cost of government reduced. They do not favor a passive government, but rather a government that helps them solve problems without overtaxing or overregulating. They feel that government does not benefit them, but benefits somebody else. They want a government that belongs to them. They surely want a reduction in taxes and serious welfare reform. Welfare reform outdistances even a tax cut for the middle class or health care as the top legislative priority of Americans. They want to end welfare dependency, but not end support for people struggling to be self-sufficient. Americans also want us to clean up politics. They do not approve of the way Congress operates and they think most Members have become disconnected from the lives of ordinary Americans.

The agenda for the next Congress will likely revolve around several themes. First, shrink government. We need to sort out what is the reasonable role of government, what can be accomplished by government and what cannot, and what policy areas could be passed on to the states and private sector from a decentralized federal government. My hope is that in the next few years we can move toward decentralization and smaller institutions. Second, restore confidence in government. Several reforms are needed, including ethics reform, campaign finance and lobbying reform, and addressing the problem of negative campaigning. Policymakers need to govern from the center, and adopt a moderate, centrist approach to issues. Third, fix the economy. We need to build on recent successes in reducing the deficit, and pass a line-item veto and a balanced budget amendment. We should pass a middle-income tax cut, provided we can find a way to pay for it and not add to the national debt. I worry about each side trying to up the tax cut proposal of the other side, with the result of a huge increase in the deficit. Fourth, improve personal security. We need to continue our efforts against crime, and work on scaled back health care reform and welfare reform. There is significant momentum for cutting back the welfare system, restructuring it, making it cost less. Fifth, bolster national defense. We need to shore up our national defense and improve readiness, and adopt a position of selective engagement—not being the policeman of the world but intervening only when it is clearly in our national interest.

DIFFICULTY OF GOVERNING IN AMERICA

America has become a much harder place to govern than in the past. It has become larger, more diverse, more crowded. I am impressed with how the public's demand for

services collides with government's eroding ability to respond. In many respects our political circuits today are overloaded, and it is difficult for elected officials to address obvious national problems in a deliberate, thoughtful, and thorough way. Interest groups clamor for more attention and more benefits and then defend them vigorously. With the clash of interest groups and ideologies, developing a consensus and putting together coalitions to pass legislation has become increasingly difficult.

The public debate has become much more polarized. Interest groups are very effective at manipulating the voter. They understand that nothing rouses the faithful like a negative message denouncing the other side as evil incarnate. Polarized rhetoric and extreme positions arouse the faithful, and stimulate membership and contributions. At the same time, the news media seem to believe that the road to the truth lies in finding two extremes and letting them clash. They like to transform every discussion into a debate. They do not want a commentator interested in context, complexity, or moderation—despite the fact that most Americans are not on the extremes but in the center.

I am also impressed with how little confidence people have in the institutions of government. Press, television, talk radio, and politicians themselves enthusiastically join in undermining confidence in government today. I wonder how far this erosion in confidence can go and still have a functioning democracy.

CONCLUSION

Americans are demanding wholesale changes in Washington. They are perturbed by complex and disturbing trends of economic hardship, crime, the decline of the family and family values, and the erosion of the American dream. They are taking a long, hard, skeptical look at the condition of their government, and they do not like what they see—too much wasteful spending, too much bureaucracy, too much intrusion into their lives, too little in the way of results.

Policymakers must sort out what government can still usefully do and what it cannot do. We must prove to Americans that their institutions of government can still achieve something and are worth preserving. We need to be advocates of good sense and effective, unapologetic government but also a government that understands its limits. We also need to be more honest with Americans, letting them know that they cannot have benefits without paying the cost of them.

FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 1985

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fishery Conservation and Management Amendments of 1995. In the last Congress the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee held 11 hearings in 5 different States and received testimony from over 100 witnesses. These witnesses represented all segments of the fisheries industries and other interested parties including fishermen, processors, environmentalists, State government officials, and administrative agencies. Near the end of the 103d Congress the Fisheries Management Subcommittee reported a bill which

unfortunately was not considered by the full Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Today, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize and amend the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The bill contains nearly identical language to the bill reported by the subcommittee last year. The major differences involve the removal of certain controversial provisions, inclusion of stronger language addressing the bycatch issue and the unique needs of certain rural Alaskan fishermen, as well as some changes that would have been made had the bill been addressed by the full committee last year.

This legislation addresses all of the major concerns discussed during our series of hearings in the last Congress. While some may not totally agree with the way we address some of these concerns, I think this legislation takes a major step in continuing the management of our Nation's fisheries while also addressing some of the problems we have encountered in specific areas of fisheries management.

Mr. Speaker, there are two areas of concern that I feel must be addressed by this reauthorization legislation. We must allow the Regional Fishery Management Councils to address the issue of bycatch. The councils are in a unique position to create specific bycatch reduction measures, tailored for each fishery that they manage. I have also always believed that community development quotas [CDQs] are a legitimate tool of the councils for use in managing our fisheries resources. I have always believed that CDQ's did not have to be specifically authorized for the councils to include them in their first fisheries management plans and the courts have now finally agreed with me on this point. Community development quotas are just one of many tools which can be used by the councils to address the needs of fishery dependent communities. We will continue to look at this issue as we move those legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to move quickly with the bill, so that we can get on with the sound management of our Nation's fisheries resources. Our fishermen and processors deserve no less.

REDECLARE THE DRUG WAR

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we cannot solve the crime and violence problems which plague this country without an all-out war on drugs. Make no mistake about it. This Republican-controlled Congress will pay a major role in the war on drugs. We'll step up to the plate and assume our full share of responsibility. But so must the administration. Our first, joint priority must be to restore control over the places where Americans live and raise their children.

As a consequence of the Clinton administration's half-hearted effort to fight the drug war we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the use of drugs. Unless the problem is returned to the front burner one of the few enduring legacies of the Clinton Presidency may be the reemergence of illegal drugs and the violent crime associated with drugs.

The American people understand that we cannot solve the crime and violence problem which plagues this country, without an all-out effort to resolve the drug problem. The root cause of violence and crime in this country is illegal drugs. Look at the facts. According to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America:

Drug use is related to half of all violent crime.

Illegal drugs play a part in half of all homicides. In fact, 48 percent of all men arrested for homicide test positive for illicit drugs at the time of arrest.

Over 60 percent of prison inmates are there for drug related crimes.

Illegal drug use is a factor in half of all family violence. Most of this violence is directed against women.

Over 30 percent of all child abuse cases involve a parent using illegal drugs.

The number of drug-exposed babies now accounts for 11 percent of all births in the United States.

Over 75 percent of adolescent deaths are a result of drug related violence.

An important first step in curbing drug demand in this country is to make the so-called casual users and hard core users accountable. The best method to accomplish this involves testing in the workplace. By requiring the testing of all Government employees and officials we can set the standard for the private sector. The bill being introduced today was drafted by constitutional scholars in response to possible court challenges.

The findings provision states that the sale, possession and use of drugs pose a pervasive and substantial threat to the social, educational, and economic health of the United States. The impact of drug abuse if reflected in the violence that it causes and in the disintegration of families, schools, and neighborhoods. The effects of rampant drug use is amply illustrated by national violent crime statistics across the United States. And recent studies demonstrate that drug use by young people is on the rise.

The legislation introduced today is a starting point of the action this Congress must take to turn around the war on drugs, including:

A bill to require random drug testing of all executive, judicial, and legislative branch Government employees and officials.

A bill to deny Federal benefits upon conviction of certain drug offenses.

A bill to ensure quality assurance of drug testing programs.

A bill to require employer notification for certain drug crimes.

A bill to require mandatory drug testing for all Federal job applicants.

A bill to provide the death penalty for drug kingpins.

A bill to prohibit federally sponsored research involving the legalization of drugs.

A bill to deny higher education assistance to individuals convicted of using or selling illegal drugs.

These bills will increase user accountability. It is imperative that we put tough new laws on the books to hold both casual and heavy drug users accountable. These new laws will establish that involvement with illegal drugs has clear consequences. We must increase the social and legal costs of illegal drug consumption.

Mr. Speaker, I would conclude by quoting the chairman of the Partnership for a Drug

Free America, Mr. James Burke, "We cannot and will not make progress with crime, violence or other ills until we make a long-term commitment to addressing a common denominator in so many of these problems—drug abuse."

INTERSTATE CHILD SUPPORT ACT

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, during the next few months, there will be considerable debate about personal responsibility. One of the most important parts of this discussion will focus on parents' responsibility to nurture and support their children. Let me emphatically state that this obligation rests with both parents. All too often, the mother is left to shoulder this burden alone. There are both societal costs and personal tragedies that could be averted if we can successfully change this culture of neglect. We must send a clear message that both parents are legally and morally bound to support their children and then be prepared to track down those parents unwilling to live up to their obligations.

While past legislation has improved collections for child support, we as a Nation still have a long way to go. Only half of all custodial parents receive their full child support awards, leaving millions of children without adequate support. Congress must end this disgrace.

Although the Republican Contract With America sets out few details on child support enforcement, I believe this is an issue that we can act on with broad bipartisan support. I am therefore reintroducing child support legislation that reflects many of the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Interstate Child Support, on which I served. The bill would enhance coordination for collecting child support across state lines, improve Federal tracking of delinquent orders, institute direct wage withholding, withhold business and driver's licenses from individuals owing child support, and deny Federal benefits to individuals with large child support arrearages.

It is certainly worth noting that welfare reform cannot succeed without better child support enforcement. We cannot ask young, poor mothers to go out and get a job, only to let young fathers evade their responsibility. Not only would enhanced child support enforcement reimburse certain welfare costs, but in some cases it may prevent families from going on welfare in the first place.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in sending a clear message that both parents have a responsibility to provide for their children.

FORCED BUSING MUST STOP

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration recently decided that over \$1.3 billion of Missouri tax dollars are not enough.

Since 1981, taxpayers in the State of Missouri have watched as their money constructed an Olympic swimming pool, supported fencing teams, and financed court-ordered forced busing. And now, when nearly everyone in Missouri has come to agree that desegregation efforts have failed miserably, the Clinton Administration wants the State to do more than spend money, it wants the State to show results for students.

Unfortunately, the administration does not understand what people have been saying for years: increased education spending does not automatically lead to increased learning. At the same time that the State of Missouri has been struggling to meet its court-ordered obligations in Kansas City and St. Louis, children in the rest of the State have gone without in their schools. Enough is enough.

I am extremely concerned that instead of admitting that forced busing does not work, the administration wants to broaden desegregation efforts. In fact, the Clinton administration is working against Missouri's efforts before the Supreme Court because it is worried that if the Supreme Court sides with the people of Missouri, it could become easier for dozens of other jurisdictions nationwide to end school desegregation cases. This is wrong, and once again I am introducing legislation to amend the U.S. Constitution and prohibit any governmental entity—including Federal courts—from compelling a child to attend a public school other than the public school nearest the student's residence.

While I am hopeful that the Supreme Court will correctly decide in favor of the State of Missouri and against the Clinton administration, this legislation is necessary to ensure children, parents and communities are protected from liberal civil rights lawyers, Federal courts and Washington bureaucrats. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. If court-ordered desegregation is not currently happening in their districts, it is most likely only a matter of time before they find themselves in the same situation as the people of Missouri. This resolution will prevent this disastrous situation from repeating itself across the Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF IRA PROPOSAL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Individual Retirement Options Improvement Act of 1995. This legislation makes changes to the Internal Revenue Code to improve Individual Retirement Accounts [IRA's].

The purpose of this legislation is to increase our national savings rate. The legislation consists of two major components which are to encourage savings by increasing the amount of deductible contributions which may be made to an individual retirement account and to allow homemakers to be eligible for the full IRA deduction. First, the legislation allows an individual who is an active participant to deduct the allowable amount and to deduct 50 percent of the excess amount for that taxable year. This provision increases the deductible