

he replied that he didn't care whether the program worked, he just didn't like it.

Fortunately, at that time, we had a Congress that stood up to such dogma—on a bipartisan basis, I might add—and saved effective programs for children. But those days are long gone. The new extremist element in control of the Congress neither understands the programs nor appreciates their achievements. With a rhetorical tip of the hat to the apparently magical capabilities of state and local governments, with a cynical reliance on the limitless abilities of private charities, they have set about destroying our ability to protect children and give them hope.

You know, they call the Republican welfare reform bill the Personal Responsibility Act. And I am all for people meeting their responsibilities—to their children, to their families, and to their communities. When people don't push their kids to finish school or support their kids, or look hard to find employment, I think emphasizing personal responsibility makes a lot of sense.

But government has responsibilities, too, particular to our poorest, and most vulnerable, children. I have no admiration for political leaders, and make no concession to political strategies, that abandon those responsibilities to America's children.

These people aren't just about taking away the safety net. They want to fold up the tent and put the whole show out of business.

I don't know anyone who's not committed to making the bureaucracy more efficient and the programs more cost-effective. We made important changes in welfare policy, in child care, in services to dysfunctional families and children in crisis, and those policies work, with a lot of hard effort from volunteers and professionals at all levels. And we need to make more.

But you don't cure nutritional problems by cutting one fifth of the food stamp program a program that feeds 14 million children—as the House-passed welfare bill would do.

You don't give kids a chance in the future by denying children with Down Syndrome and cerebral palsy financial assistance, as it would do.

You don't make the foster care system more responsive by eliminating basic children's rights and turning the program over to the states, half of which are under court orders for failing to comply with the law.

So, at a time when should be learning from our experiences and building stronger programs, people like Nancy Daly are trudging to Capitol Hill and meeting with every Senator and aide she can find, as she did this month, urging that they put aside partisanship, ideology and fanaticism and think, as she has been for twenty years, about the children.

Nancy has a lot to teach the Congress.

She can teach them about the value of comprehensive services, about the need for legal advocates, about the contributions (and the limitations) of what volunteerism can do. She can demonstrate to them the need for a responsive government and the necessity of having someone in that bureaucracy whose job to think about children first. She can even show them how a liberal Democrat and a powerful Republican can get along together.

I would have hope that, at this stage, we wouldn't be engaged in a national debate about whether to kill programs or to keep them, but rather about how to make them more efficient for taxpayers and more effective for children. I believe quite frankly, it is a waste of Nancy Daly and many of those in this room to have to exert such effort and influence just to keep up where we are in terms of a national commitment of excellence to children. But I am enough of an historian and a politician to know that some-

times you have to play defense and work and wait for a better time to come. Unfortunately, the children are waiting, too, and millions of them do not have four or eight years to spare while politicians and voters figure out what they really want to do.

I see these obstacles as a challenge to those of us who hold a public trust. I have little pity or tolerance for those who bemoan the loss of a majority, or a chairmanship, or the other accoutrements of power. Other have lost far more than we, and they will continue to lose, to have their opportunities shattered and their futures stunted, if we wallow in self-absorbed anguish over an election.

Nancy Daly serves as an inspiration because she understands that what matters are the results. Beginning without a shred of political power, she has built monuments to the hopes and the futures of children throughout America, and I very much doubt she has given an hour since last November to questioning whether she should do anything but redouble her efforts on behalf of the kids who need her, and us, more now than ever.

Nancy, my warm congratulations to you on receipt of the richly deserved Lifetime Service Award. And since it is a "lifetime" award, I would note that you have several additional years of service that we are all looking forward to.

I am delighted to be able to participate in this tribute to a wonderful woman tonight, and honored that you have allowed me to share this evening with all of you.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY WINNER— JANICE BANKERT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishment of Miss Janice Bankert, a high school junior in my district who won the Veterans of Foreign Wars "Voice of Democracy" State competition. Miss Bankert has a lofty and noble vision for American democracy. One that, I might add, we should all strive to achieve—quoting Miss Bankert, "the barriers that are to be conquered are but foothills to a mountain if we are unified." Indeed, if we "put away prejudices and stubbornness" we can restore belief and faith in the "judgment of (the) government" again.

I salute Miss Bankert and submit the text of her script to be printed in the RECORD.

"MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

I have a vision for America that in my lifetime there will be a revolution of new thoughts which will sweep over this nation and produce in the heart of our society a stronger desire for democracy than ever before. My vision is that the dreary attitudes of leaving the decisions up to Washington will dissipate into the inclination to rise and to speak forth about the laws and principles that shape this country into what it is, and into what it will become. My vision is that on the evening news, instead of an overwhelmingly negative report about the goings-on in the White House, there will be loud acclamation and approval . . . because the people will feel that they are being heard. Instead of just voting, people will write letters, gather petitions, and communicate with the politicians from their districts and regions about what they need, and what they would like to see happen in their

government. Ladies and gentlemen, my vision is that democracy will thrive in this nation by once again being planted and nurtured by the citizens.

For my fantasy to become reality the people for which this nation was first built must build it again with their own hands. Like the "amber waves of grain" is the power and greatness of this country. This nation is a harvest that has already been planted, and now needs cared for every moment, to be gathered with thankfulness and satisfaction. It is a fruit so fertile and awesome that it will take the unity of a nation to reap it . . . and enjoy its bounty. To do this, every person must invest time and effort. We all must work to change what is adverse to our common goal, an America we can take pride in, and like farmers in a field, weed out our enemies: hate, discord, indifference, and defacement of hope.

The task that faces us is not an impossible one if we are unified. The barriers that are to be conquered are but foothills to a mountain if we are unified. Our victory is not invisible if we are unified. Unified . . . each of us putting away prejudices and stubbornness, ignoring petty issues, believing in the judgment of our government, and having faith in the banner that has long been the embodiment of our allegiance to the democracy that began over two-hundred years ago, and continues today . . .

My vision for America is one that is common, but will only live if we, as citizens of the United States of America, actively birth it from our hearts, and allow it to suffocate no longer.

My vision for America is for each individual to feel as part of a union and to proudly, joyously say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

HONORING THE CESAR CHEVEZ WRITING CONTEST AWARD WINNERS OF THE EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remaining winners of the first annual Cesar Chavez writing contest held by the East Side Union High School district in San Jose, CA. I had the great privilege of attending the award ceremony honoring the student winners on March 31, 1995, and would like to continue sharing the essays and poems written by the student award winners with my colleagues.

On April 4, 1995, I began by sharing the essays and poems of the Grand Prize Winners and three of the First Place Winners. On April 6, 1995, I shared the five remaining First Prize entries, and the first three of eight Second Place winning entries. Today, I will share the remaining five essays and poems of the Second Place Winners.

The Second Prize winning essays and poems of Marie Aloy of Mount Pleasant High School, Mark Papellero of W.C. Overfelt High School, Raymond Ramirez of Piedmont Hills High School, Ester Martinez Estrada of Santa Teresa High School, and Anthonette Pena of Silver Creek High School follow:

UNTITLED

It was all very irrelevant to me. I'm not a farmer. I didn't live during the Great Depression or the years following. I don't grow fruit or pick it for that matter, and I'm not even of Hispanic descent. The dates and strikes and marches are just another group of history facts that I am asked to know and memorize for one reason or another. So far my life and the life and accomplishments of Cesar Chavez have no relation or commonality to bind him to my memory—except for one thing.

Something that I value greatly, that earns my genuine respect and admiration, I found hidden in a comment made about the great and greatly known Cesar Chavez. Actually it was his nephew Rudy Chavez Medina who inadvertently helped me find my way to relate to Cesar Chavez. Rudy came and spoke to us a few days ago about his famous uncle and mentioned offhandedly that his uncle Cesar was never afraid to ask for help. He was not the type to put himself on a pedestal for everyone to worship. When a goal was achieved he didn't credit it to his magnificent leadership. He praised everyone involved, and humbly made himself equal to every individual in the crowd. In a position of such great power I am amazed and in awe that this man could remain so wonderfully humble.

The "equality" of the man staggered me. He had opportunities, as all celebrated leaders do, to leap from poverty into a more comfortable life. But I'm sure he knew that that separation between his life and the lives of the farmers and laborers he inspired would lessen his effectiveness as a leader. So he sacrificed his own comfort for the welfare of the organization, for the thousands who needed his guidance.

They say he is comparable to Gandhi and took his passive resistance techniques from Martin Luther King, Jr. as well. He never put peoples' lives in danger. He wanted only a better world and envisioned achieving that new existence in a peaceful manner. No riots or destruction, only marches and calm demonstrations. Usually human nature turns people to the dark side of things. It is uplifting to learn about someone who wanted only to help and made sure that he didn't hurt anyone in the process.

No facts or figures, just feelings. That is what binds us together and that is what creates a bond in my mind and heart. I never really knew who he was, and the bits and pieces I had grasped had little to do with my life. Now I know who he was and what he did. I know that he was humble to the core and self-sacrificing in all that he did and a truly great man.

"THE LIVES OF WORKERS"

4:00 am
Wake up! Time for work!
Here's a piece of bread and tiny glass of powder milk.
Now go or you'll be late!
5:00 am
Plow. Have to work hard.
Plow. Need to support the family.
Plow. Need to survive.
Plow. Simple.
6:00 am
The sun rises.
Plow. Plan. Need clean water.
Plow. Plant. Pesticides in my lungs.
Plow. Plant. Tired.
7:00 am
The sun grows warm.
Plow. Plan. Lift. Need to rest.
Plow. Plant Lift. Pesticide grows strong.
Plow. Plant. Lift. Sweat.
8:00 am
The sun is warmer.

The grower comes.
He demands. He orders. He pushes.
He is mad. He gets his way.

9:00 am
The sun gets hot.
Plow. Plant. Lift. Carry. The work is too much.
Plow. Plant. Lift. Carry. I am the pesticide.
Plow. Plant. Lift. Carry. The condition needs to change.
Plow. Plant. Lift. Carry. Sweat and Ache.
THIS TREATMENT HAS TO STOP. WE HAVE TO OVERCOME.
Plow. Plant. Lift. Carry. Six more hours left.

CHAVEZ Y LA CAUSA

Just a man
No more, No less
Victim of intolerance
Who just wanted the best.
For his people
The workers of the field
With words of compensation
For the crops that they yield.
La Causa or The Cause
A movement without fear
It was forged by its people
And it streamed like a tear.
They said it was impossible
Pero si se puede hacer
With hearts filled with determination
Y amor para la mujer.
He carried on for years
Giving only of himself
He did it all for love
And cared nothing for wealth.
His presents was mighty
His movement was strong
And although he is gone
His glory lives on!

A HERO TO THE MEXICAN COMMUNITY
(By: Ester Martinez Estrada)

No words I can write can describe how Cesar Estrada Chavez dedicated his heart and soul to love and justice as we all know. He was a leader that influenced strongly on rights.
A man that went out there and suffered with others day and night.
Cesar Chavez supported nonviolent actions on their part. For he declared, "truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for justice," and this came from his heart.
Farmworkers gathered in his demonstrations and his strikes to unite the true Mexican pride.
A pride no Mexican can hide.
They came together for the security of justice in peace.
They came together with strength to see their work environment rights to be released.
They came together to rise out of the fields and stand up and never sit 'till they were treated with respect and good pay.
They came together to revise their situation and at least get minimum wage.
Cesar Chavez joined hands with his line of Mexican blood without fear.
Cesar Chavez led the Mexican community hoping their aim and dream was near.
For they all knew that they had to start today for the * * * of the future's eye.
Together and always together they had to rise.
Together they all struggled and prayed.
Together they knew justice would serve one day.
Cesar Chavez and his fellow farmworkers came out of nowhere and bewildered all on their way to their destination.

Without the help of Cesar Chavez, injustice would have gone on for generations. Cesar died peacefully in his sleep and is now up above.

He symbolized the brown pride and that strength of respectable love.
Now is the time Mexicans can stand proud and say, "My hope is Cesar Estrada Chavez and no one can ask why."

CESAR CHAVEZ

As a young boy, Cesar Estrada Chavez experienced the hardships of being the son of a migrant farm worker. As his family worked in the crops, they learned how to survive in the harsh conditions such as lack of shelter, money, and even food. Racism was also an issue that affected his life. Although his family were third generation Americans, because his ancestors were Mexicans, he was classified as a second-class citizen.

After working with the Community Service Organization from 1952 until 1962, he then moved on to found the National Farm Worker's Association. Under the NFWA, he organized nationwide boycotts of grapes, wine, and lettuce in an attempt to pressure California growers to sign a contract which would increase the farm worker's pay and provide them with a minimum amount of safety. Cesar Chavez became a symbol of hope for the people.

In particular, youth can look up to Cesar Chavez as a role model because it is at this point in our lives that we want to take an active role in mending society's flaws and begin to stand up for what we believe in. However, many of us are unsure of the role we should play and how far we are willing to go to stand by our decisions. As children, we had the vision of making a difference and had dreams of leading a successful life. At this age, reality begins to take its toll and we realize that if we really want to make a difference and lead a successful life there are things which we must do to accomplish these goals. Like Cesar Chavez, we must be willing to put ourselves on the line and uphold our principles and defend our sense of morality.

Cesar Chavez was a man who was not only determined, but courageous as well. "The only way is to keep struggling," he says. "Fighting for social justice is one of the most profound ways in which a man can say yea to man's dignity, and that really means sacrifice. There is no way on this earth in which you can say yes to a man's dignity and know that you're going to be spared some sacrifice."

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA TAX
RELIEF ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. LEWIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1215) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the American family and create jobs:

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1215. In taking this position, let me first make it clear that I have consistently supported efforts for real tax relief for our Nation's working citizens and their families.