

Is there any American who deserves so much more by right of God than another that our society should show no compassion and no concern for those who cannot make it? Society does owe it to itself to develop the abilities and definitely the capacity of everybody. Make an investment in education. Society should do that.

The illogical rationalization, the excuse that the Republicans keep using that they want to make people suffer now in order to have posterity, not have the burden of a debt, they are so compassionate for posterity, for the unborn, for the people who come in 10, 20 years from now, and yet they show no compassion for those living breathing souls that are here right now. Compassion has to be a concern at all times, as I said before.

When you stop and think about the fact that all that we have discovered in the past few decades about the rest of the universe, about the solar system, about the Moon, we have not gone to Mars, but we have sent exploratory ships that have been able to take samplings of the atmosphere of Mars. With the samplings that have been taken of the gases that exist out there in the universe, we have concluded that nowhere in the universe is there any other human life, there can be no life similar to the life here on Earth.

It is very possible with all of these planets and all the new expansive universe that is being discovered, that there are no other human beings, nothing like a human being. In this whole vast universe there is nothing out there that has a heart, nothing out there that can dream, nothing like human beings that we stop and we think that with all these people in China and all these people who are producing and in underdeveloped countries and all the population explosion in South America that there are too many human beings on the face of the Earth. If you were to stop and think about the universe, there are too few of us.

We ought to look at every human being as being sacred. Everything that breathes, that is human, has a heart and a soul is sacred. Everything that breathes has a heart and soul is an opportunity for us in terms of if you develop that soul and that heart properly, it will reinvest in the Earth and in our societies on Earth and we will be able to gain from it. Instead, we have no compassion and we have no common sense, so we do not invest in people first.

We have the Rush Limbaughs of the world laughing at programs that seek to help people who need help. The Rush Limbaughs of the world make fun of senior citizens who have to eat dog food. We have the Rush Limbaughs of the world who think slavery is a great joke. That the greatest crime ever created in history is a joke; 232 years of American slavery is funny. We have that kind of prevailing attitude. That jester becomes the counselor and ther-

apist, for great amounts of money, who support a party that has control of the Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Senate. All of this is going on in America. Look with common sense and ask yourself the question, how can we get out of it. Let us start by making an investment in education.

Stop and think about all the kind of cuts that have been made in education. Let me refresh your memory. Overall, the Republican budget cuts in education cut domestic spending. Republican budget cuts cut domestic spending overall by only 4 percent. But when it comes to education, the appropriations bills related to education, they cut the budget by 16 percent, almost \$4 billion to be more exact, 3.9 some billion, but almost \$4 billion is cut in education. When you go onto job training and other programs related to workers, it is 24 percent.

The Republican extremists have declared war on students, on education, and on workers. Workers who were trained in this transition economy to become more productive, workers who drive the great consumer market that makes it possible for us to have prosperity, they are under attack. The greatest cuts are aimed at them. We have increases in the defense budget, we may have increases even in the CIA budget. We have no way of knowing. We certainly do not have the proper cuts in the CIA budget.

As I said before, of these cuts, 1 billion or 17 percent are aimed at title I. Title I is the biggest Federal program for elementary and secondary school assistance. Title I goes to practically 98 percent of the school districts in America. So we are cutting title I, a small portion of the budget, 98 percent of the school districts of America at a time when they need more help than ever before in education. We have eliminated in the same budget the summer youth employment program. The summer youth employment program provides jobs for 600,000 youth across the country. School systems will tell you it is very important in terms of the work that they do to have those jobs available for their students during the summer.

This House had some alternatives. The Republican majority is not operating in the dark. The Congressional Black Caucus put forward a budget which, like the Republican plan, proposed to eliminate the deficit over 7 years. We did not agree with 7 years. We think that, if you are going to balance the budget, you should take 10 years or longer, but 10 years is reasonable. But we had to do it in 7 years in order to be allowed to bring it, in order to gain access to the floor. We were told you cannot bring a budget unless you balance the budget in 7 years. We balanced the budget in 7 years. We did not cut Medicare. We did not cut Medicaid. We increased education by 25 percent, and we still had a balanced budget.

The President has proposed to increase education. Education is one of the few areas that the President proposes to increase the budget at. The President has the support of the business community. The article that appeared in Washington Outlook had a title which said, "Will Republicans Make Clinton the Education President?" This article is about the support that President Clinton is getting from businessmen, from the heads of corporations on this education budget.

They are saying to the President, we would like for the President to forge ahead on Goals 2000. We would like not to turn back the clock on educational reform. We want to continue what Ronald Reagan started. We want to continue what George Bush advanced.

We are all together on this, the corporate executives who make decisions about life and death of America every day in terms of production, in terms of the way we use our resources, they want education to be funded. Many of them are supporting National Education Funding Day on November 18. They understand the good sense of bringing to the attention the fact that education is a top priority. If we cannot read the polls and we do not understand what happened in Virginia, what did Democrats in Virginia do, they made education their primary concern. Identification was no secret. It was a weapon out there on the table, and they ran on an education platform and they pulled a Stalingrad. They showed that the invincible war machine of the Republicans can be defeated. What do these education cuts mean in terms of my home State of New York?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART].

WAIVING PROVISIONS OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI AGAINST CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-335) on the resolution (H. Res. 265) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to proceed out of order for 1 minute.)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if this would be appropriate the time to ask unanimous consent that I might speak out of order in order to inquire of someone on the other side of the aisle what their plans would be for this evening's schedule?

I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT].

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY], I would like to advise all Members that

as things currently stand, we hope we will have not any additional votes tonight.

However, I would advise Members that discussions initiated by the Speaker and the majority leader with the President will be going on starting at 10:00 tonight and should those talks yield any agreement that would necessitate action on the House floor, all Members will have 1 hour notice to return to the Capitol.

One other thing I might add is that if the President does veto the CR that has been sent down, we are obliged to pick that up tonight. So I would urge all Members to keep in touch with their respective cloakrooms.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is we are obliged to deal with that tonight if the House is in session.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, that is correct.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if the House has completed its business on special orders and is not in session for special orders, could I ask what the plans would be then and whether under any circumstances Members would have an hour's notice?

Mr. HASTERT. Under all circumstances, we will anticipate that Members have an hour lead time before there will be a vote. We will take special orders and our intention is when special orders are exhausted or finished, we will go into recess and wait for a report from the meeting at the White House. We anticipate that our Members will have the ability to hear what happened at the White House this evening.

Mr. OBEY. Does the gentleman have any idea, is there any point beyond which you would want the House to adjourn or could we expect that we might be in session through 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 tomorrow morning?

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I would not anticipate being in session at that time. I would think that for the remainder of this evening, at least until midnight, the House would be in session so that if there is movement or results from the discussions tonight that we could act upon it or at least be advised.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, if there is not sufficient movement by, say, midnight or so, is it then the gentleman's understanding that there would be a motion to adjourn?

Mr. HASTERT. I would say that if there is not any information or movement within a reasonable time, I would say that would be probably shortly after midnight that the House would stand adjourned.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. BARR of Georgia). The gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying, God bless

the common sense of the American people. God bless the common sense of the American people as reflected in the current polls. God bless the common sense of the American people as reflected in the elections last week. God bless the common sense of the American people because it has brought us through a lot of manufactured crises as well as real crises. This is a manufactured crisis. We do not need to be as mean and extreme as the Republican majority in this House insists on being. We can go forward and we can begin to go forward by supporting education again as a bipartisan effort. Education should be a priority for both Republicans and Democrats.

God bless the American people. God bless their common sense.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 10 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening for a brief period of time to say thank you. Today is my first day back in the session after approximately 3 weeks of recovering, becoming a member of what is known as the zipper club. Never would I have thought that at the age of 48 I would have to undergo open heart surgery, but I did. And I am here to say thank you to a lot of people who made my past 3 weeks very worthwhile and profitable and who certainly helped me in a period of need.

□ 2145

Let me first of all say, Mr. Speaker, that it was 3 weeks ago last Friday, after I had gone to the House Physician, Dr. John Eisold, who I have the highest respect for, and told him that I thought I had a fullness in my chest and sought some advice from him, that he suggested I go to the Bethesda Naval Hospital even though I reside in Pennsylvania. I took his advice that night after taking a stress test under his supervision and the supervision of Dr. David Ferguson, a Navy officer and physician at the Bethesda, and they realized a very abnormal EKG, and therefore the next day should undergo a catheterization process. I did that, Mr. Speaker, on that Friday morning and by 12 noon was under the surgeon's knife because of the need to conduct a surgery immediately. It turned out that I had 95-percent blockage of my main artery. Doctor Edward Zeck actually performed the surgery, and he also was a Navy physician and someone who I also hold with the highest respect.

Mr. Speaker, here I am 3½ weeks later, able to come to the House floor and carry on the business of representing my constituents, and here I am in full health again, on the road to recovery, in fact 15 pounds lighter, although I would not suggest to any of my col-

leagues that this be a way that you lose weight.

But the reason I take the floor tonight, Mr. Speaker, is to thank some people; first of all to thank the Navy personnel who day in and day out provide health care for our enlisted personnel. I, as a Member of Congress stuck in Washington, had no place to go, and because of the recommendation of Dr. Eisold, I was referred to Bethesda. I received outstanding treatment, the same type of treatment that the people in the rooms next to me received, all of whom were enlisted personnel. There is nothing that I can say or do to make the case for the support for the medical services of our military personnel because they were just phenomenal.

I also want to thank God, Mr. Speaker, because without his counsel and guidance and without the prayer of many of my constituents and colleagues in this body perhaps I would not have been able to avoid what the surgeons referred to as the widowmaker, the widowmaker being a 95-percent blockage that I had in my main descending artery. I want to thank my colleagues from this body who called, sent letters and cards, and who made their wishes known from both sides of the aisle. It certainly helped in my recovery. I want to thank my staff, my friends.

I want to thank my family, my wife and five children, who put up with my past 3 weeks at home while watching C-SPAN, day and night, wishing I could be here getting involved in the issues of the day. I also want to thank my constituents who I think understand that I had to take some time off to recover to be able to be back here today to vote on the very important things that are coming before us in this session of Congress.

But, Mr. Speaker, I also rise today, besides thanking many people including the good Navy folks at Bethesda, I rise to encourage my colleagues who sometimes, oftentimes, get caught up in the business of representing their constituents, to make sure they take time to look out for their own health. I did not. I never thought at 48 years old that I would be a prime candidate for open heart surgery. But because of all that fast food, all of those 18-hour days, all of those 7-day-a-week efforts, I did not take time to watch out for myself.

So I come to the floor today to ask my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to take time out to check their own medical condition, to make sure that they take advantage of the medical technology that is out there today to have the kinds of success that I had in avoiding what would have been a catastrophic heart attack if I had not taken preventive efforts 3½ weeks ago.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heart filled with thanks and a heart that is filled with energy, ready to go and take on the battles, and I take time out from this heavy debate here on the