

high ratings. But we have to hold ourselves to a higher standard. We need to be interested in what works.

Let me tell you, the reforms we have undertaken in the first 50 days have worked, and have put this country back on track for the first time in a very long time. I am hearing that where I am going, and you have alluded to the fact that you are hearing about that where you are going. Are all the constituents you talk to, are they all in one accord about that?

Mr. FOLEY. I don't know if they agree philosophically on everything we are doing, but they agree there is a serious problem. On welfare, they know there is a problem. They know it is not working. They know if you spent \$5 trillion and the poverty level is higher than it was when the war on poverty was enacted, they know there is a significant difficulty.

You were talking about education with the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK]. In Tallahassee, as the gentleman knows, we have a 17-story building designed by I.M. Pei, the internationally renowned architect. That building is as out of character with the landscape of Tallahassee as anything I have seen. It is not about ideas, it is people in that building who have never taught a classroom. That is a fundamental problem with the Department of Education in our State, that people are processing papers about our children. But the results never change for our children. The hands-on experience of the classroom will never get any better if we run it from our capitals of Tallahassee and Washington.

What I am hearing from people again is the fact that they feel that this is the greatest Nation on Earth, but they want to have pride in the people they have sent here. They do not want us yelling across the aisle and screaming at a Democrat. As Mr. DELLUMS said, it is about ideas. I will challenge you on your ideas, on your convictions, on what matters for this Government, but I will not challenge you personally.

What I am hearing when people call when we have been on C-SPAN and have been talking about the very issue of the day, they are delighted we are responding to what is their opinion. Mr. SCARBOROUGH, as you know, we have been accused with the contract of propaganda, of Republican stream-rolling everybody on ideas.

The premises of the contract, the 10 points of the contract were designed from surveys throughout America of what people were asking for, about term limits, about a balanced budget. These are not ideas we sat around at Republican party headquarters and thought up ourselves. This is the American public saying these are the changes we want. We are acting. We are working on an agenda. There is considerable reason for disagreement on some of the premises, but we are working in a collegial body that makes this body so effective and efficient.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Reclaiming the time, anybody who has seen the Department of Education in Tallahassee, as I know you have, knows that that is enough of a bureaucracy for our children in the State of Florida, and I have got to tell you it is a duplication of services, not only in Florida, but all across the country.

It is the same thing with a lot of other departments. We do not need two departments of education to teach our children. We need to free up tax dollars for individuals across this country that educate their children and once again give them choice and give them freedom to have their children taught in the way that they want to have them be taught. And if we listen to the ideas of Madison and Jefferson and the Founders of this great Republic, and if we once again look at the 10th amendment that once again says all powers not specifically given to the Federal Government in the Constitution are reserved to States and citizens, if we follow that path, we will once again become the type of nation we were intended to be, and that is a nation of communities, a nation of families, and a nation of individuals who once again take control of their own lives and can decide the way they want their community to be run, the way they want their family to be protected and taught, and the way they want their own life to be run.

It is a very constitutional premise, and I for one am honored and feel very privileged to be part of this process and to be part of the 104th Congress that actually dares to debate the great issues of the day. If we continue to do this, the second 50 days of our 100-day plan, and of the next 2 years, then this country will see change like it has never seen change before, and citizens across this country, men and women, will be empowered, and once again will have confidence in their country and believe that their elected leaders came here for a reason, and that reason was to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A DISCUSSION OF THE CRIME PROBLEM IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to request the House for 5 minutes and revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for giving me an opportunity to proceed ahead.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Pensacola [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] for his brilliant testimony before the House and his compassion with which he has brought his efforts from the great State of Florida to this body.

But I want to spend a moment of the discussion on crime. We have had a great deal of debate over the last week and a half on an issue that plagues America, and that is the crime in our country. A murder is committed in the United States every 21 minutes, a rape every 5 minutes, a robbery every 46 seconds, an aggravated assault every 29 seconds, a burglary every 10 seconds, and a larceny theft every 4 seconds.

That is a sad commentary on our country. That is a sad part of America's heritage that we must change.

On average, violent offenders are released from prison, receive a sentence and serve an average of 7.8 years, but they only serve 3.1. More than 40 percent of murderers released from State prisons are arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor within 3 years. A 40-percent recidivism rate. More than 20 percent are arrested for violent crimes within 3 years, and 1 in 15 is arrested for another homicide. At least 30 percent of murders are committed by people on probation, parole, or bail.

Another sad commentary is violent crimes by juveniles. Of those arrested for violent crimes between 1987 and 1992, 29 percent were under the age of 19. Between 1985 and 1991, the number of 15-year-olds arrested for murder jumped 217 percent. We had the sad tragedy in Florida of a British tourist being killed. The perpetrator, alleged perpetrator, of that crime had been arrested 53 times. Fifty-three times he had been arrested. Sadly enough, the person was 13 years old that is accused of committing the murders on those British tourists.

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How are we going to change the statistics in our country? How are we going to ensure that our young people are safe on our street? How can we look at our families and our communities across America and give them some assurance that they can walk to the mall in their local communities, that they can take the dog out for a walk? That they can feel comfortable going to their car in a parking garage in an office structure throughout our cities? How can we be as certain of that safety for America?

We have enacted some very, very strong issues this week on the floor:

H.R. 3, Victim Restitution Act. I told you on the floor of what happened to me when my home was broken into years ago, and the young fellow, the juvenile, had been arrested 17 times, 17 separate occasions. The father came to the courtroom and said, "Your honor, we're trying, our son's a good boy." And each time the judge would allow probation for the child who had robbed 17 homes.

On this particular occasion, the judge looked down from the bench, the father started that same excuse, the judge looked down and said,

Let me make you a deal, sir. Mr. Foley has lost \$3,000 because of your son and he can't seem to remember where the merchandise is

from his home. I'll make you a deal. You be here with a check made payable to the clerk for \$3,000 by noon tomorrow. If you're not here at 12:01, there will be a bench warrant issued for you and your son and I'll put you both in jail until you decide who's going to be boss of the family.

With that the father hits the kid in the head and said, "Look what you got me into." It took money out of the father's pocket to make him recognize he was responsible for his son.

That is what we are doing with victim restitution, making the victim whole from their tragedy, from their loss, having the criminal repay not only their debt to society by serving time but paying the victim back for their losses.

The Criminal Alien Deportation Act is something very important to me, because 5,500 people that are locked in the prisons of Florida are illegally in our country. The bill we passed last week will allow for deportation prior to their sentence completion back to their countries.

What do we do now? We allow them to serve the time in jail, then we release them and give them a hearing date to come back for a deportation hearing. They are criminals, they are not returning to a courtroom to be deported out of this country. They disappear; 48,000 failed to appear last year alone under that scenario.

Our bill provides that they can be deported from inside the jail cell to their countries, not allowed to roam the street, not allowed to commit other crimes. That is going to make big headway in the problems in America. It will also open up beds so that we can keep the rapists and murderers out of our prisons.

Local government law enforcement block grants, sending the money to the States and allowing them to decide what is the most important crime-fighting mechanism within their community.

These are a number of the things that we enacted this week. But something strikes me that we did not discuss what we need to discuss in America and we need to discuss it forcefully, is the protection of our children from sexual exploitation and sexual violence.

Sean from my office told me that there is an incident that is going to be reported tomorrow morning in the paper in our community about child pornography and the people that were involved. Once again we read in the headlines of another child dying or being abused or used in such a nasty and disgusting way that we allow our children to fall prey to these types of people.

These are the things that we must fight as Americans. We must protect our children from sexual violence, sexual abuse. We need to act together as a Congress to make certain that the children today and in the future know that they are safe, know that they will not

be abused and feel comfortable in this great country of ours, in America.

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOSS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 40 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a provision in H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995, that is irresponsible. As written, that provision would convert Federal food assistance programs into block grants. Block grant funds are free funds to State and local governments. They may not be used as intended. This irresponsible provision thus puts at risk various nutritional programs, such as food stamps, school breakfast and lunches, Meals on Wheels, and the Commodity Supplemental Program.

When H.R. 4 comes to the floor, I will offer an amendment to restore the Federal food assistance program. The block grant proposal does not take into account increased school enrollments, changing economic conditions, and national food nutrition standards. Confronting hunger in America is a serious matter. It should not be left to artificial time pressures and blind budget bludgeoning. It is not responsible to put the health of our seniors and children at risk. I invite my colleagues to join me in amending H.R. 4 to make it responsible on the issue of hunger. I will say more about that later. On the first day of this, the 104th Congress, I pointed out to my colleagues, that as we begin our work this year, we must remember that our first responsibility is not to the parties to which we belong, but to the people we represent.

It is for that reason that I supported many of the early votes on reform and several parts of the proposed rules package put forth by the new majority party. I believe the majority structured some important changes to the way we function, and those changes should not have been rejected by Democrats simply because they were offered by Republicans. At the same time, I reminded my colleagues that we must be forever mindful that no Member in this Chamber has a premium on what's best for this Nation. We all have a Contract With America. What makes us a great Nation is the compassion we show for those who live in the shadows of life. We are strong because historically we have been able to make a place for all who live here, including those least able to help themselves—the young, the poor, the disabled.

In this time of increased scrutiny, we must examine each and every program, but we must also consider each and every person affected by our changes. We must ask the question: Who is helped and who is hurt? And, at the end of each day, we must be honest about whether our actions helped the many in need or the few in clover. President

Kennedy said it best, 34 years ago, when he stated, "A country that cannot help the many who are poor cannot help the few who are rich." The contract to which each Member is bound, is to work in the best interest of the American people. On election day, we offered our services to this great country, and voters accepted our offer, from Rocky Mount, NC, and across the United States.

We all have a Contract With America. That contract involves being open to the challenge of change. We, in the Congress, must get beyond partisan politics and move to the high ground of principle. This is a new day and a new time. There are problems which we face that transcend party and politics. Teenage pregnancies stifle an entire community. Violence of any kind, whether driven by drugs or propelled by deep philosophical differences, can not and must not be tolerated. Economic justice must ring true this Congress. No child and no senior citizen should face hunger in this land of plenty.

If welfare reform is to have any significance, we must combine with it a meaningful jobs program. And, welfare reform without minimum wage reform is no reform. With a meaningful jobs program, there would be less urgency for another crime bill. Instead of calls to take back our streets, there should be calls to give our streets back to the average, hard-working, God fearing citizen. Unfortunately, on this issue, Congress has failed to heed the call. Last week and this week, the majority pushed through radical changes in our law enforcement system. They sliced fourth amendment rights, eliminating habeas corpus protections, cut prevention programs, community cops program eliminated and put money in to build more jails. It is a sad and difficult time for our Nation.

I too believe we can make our Government smaller, yet more efficient and more effective. That is why I applauded and supported several of the reforms offered by the majority. But, real reform must include an end to gag rules. There are important amendments that those of us in the new minority party have wanted to offer, amendments designed to improve and perfect the legislation presented. But Members have been muzzled by a majority determined to press their 100-day agenda under any and all circumstances. I will continue to stand up as part of the loyal opposition when I believe pomposity, audacity, and duplicity confront us. No party or person has an exclusive on such things as family values and personal responsibility. Those are standards I absolutely hold dear. And, no party or person should be able to take the right to speak from any of us. Too many have sacrificed for that precious liberty. Let no one forget. We all have a Contract With America. That is why I support the call of President Clinton for an increase in the minimum wage by 90 cents, over the