

The arrogance which is regularly shown by Members of the minority party in this House that only those of us here in Washington, DC, are in a position to make that decision is I believe reprehensible. The people who elected us also elected Governors, State legislators, city council members and school board members, and we believe that by eliminating this massive bureaucracy here which oversees the School Lunch Program we can better address those needs.

The Contract With America is alive and well and has the support of the American people; 80 percent of them support our balanced budget amendment which we hope will pass in the other body later today.

STAND UP FOR THE FREEDOM THE FLAG STANDS FOR

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today several Members announced the introduction of an amendment to the Bill of Rights. While its purpose, to protect and encourage respect for the flag, is something we can all endorse, it means, a Government mandate, would do tragic violence to one of our most cherished freedoms: the first amendment guarantee of free speech.

The flag of our country stands for values and ideals that are enormously important and it is a symbol that we all cherish.

One of the things the flag stands for is a people and a government strong enough to tolerate diversity and to make room even for unpopular views. That is what the Bill of Rights and the first amendment is all about.

Respect for the flag does and will always flow from our patriotism, our love of country, but it is time again for us to stand up for what the flag stands for, the freedoms that we cherish in this land.

REPUBLICANS TRUST LOCAL LEADERS TO MAKE DECISIONS

(Mr. LINDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, Georgia's Governor Zell Miller favors the Republican school lunch plan. Nineteen of the Nation's governors want the money and the flexibility to feed the children of their State.

It does not take a straight A student to conclude that if we do not feed the Federal bureaucrats we can feed many more children.

Republican trust local leaders to make better spending decisions than the Federal Government. The creativity of the Governors, State legislatures and parents will be critical to our block grant programs. They will decide where their money is spent. Imagine that. Individuals and localities, not the

Federal Government, will decide how to spend their own money. That is what the November revolution was all about. This is the kind of change that we promised and it truly frightens the pencil-pushers in Washington. Money is power, and the Republicans aim to return that money and power to the States and the people.

Governor Miller—a Democrat—said it best, "Give us the money. We can use it more effectively and efficiently than any Federal bureaucrat."

EXPLAINING THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM TO CHILDREN

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, in light of recent committee action I cannot help but be struck by the irony that next week is National School Breakfast Week. I cannot help wonder what I am saying today to students at Barnard School in Greece, NY, when I go to their breakfast and say what I heard this morning was the Republican contract said that if you give school lunches and school breakfasts it helps to break up American families.

What am I going to say to a group of homeless students tomorrow, students who would not be in school today if the Congress had not provided for their education? Do I explain to them that Congress no longer believes that they are worthy of our support?

Should I say to the school children in the city of Rochester, NY, where over 35,000 students are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunches that they need a more effective lobby? Should I say to the homeless students that perhaps if they were to tie their needs to that of the agricultural industry, they could expect their program to be preserved?

Mr. Speaker, we all love to talk about how our children are our future, but with the recent actions of this body, our children must be wondering how they are supposed to be prepared for it.

SCARE TACTICS

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am tired of the scare tactics the Democrats are using. I legislated and helped write the school nutrition block grants. We had Governors that came before us and the welfare system has failed. I took and separated the school breakfast and school lunch program out of the welfare grants with our contract. I also separated Women, Infants and Children and increased them by 4½ percent, increased them a billion and one-half dollars, yet the Democrats are saying we cut the program. What we did is limit the growth to 4½ percent from 5.2 percent. We did not cut, we in-

creased it a billion and one-half dollars.

What we did cut on this side of the aisle is big Government bureaucracy rules and regulations and made it cheaper to support those programs, and what they do not want to happen is to lose their little fiefdoms. That is what they are upset about. We support the children's nutrition program, and separated and increased the program. Even 80 percent of the money that goes to WIC is more than under the old plan.

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MANY AMERICANS DUBIOUS ABOUT THE CONTRACT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, many Americans are dubious about this contract on America, but I tell you one thing, they are not doubtful about their children. They know what they want for their children, education and an opportunity to learn and, yes, they want school breakfasts and school lunches.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to share the great concern of many of my constituents who have made it clear to me they want me to fight to protect America's children from the unprincipled and draconian budget cuts proposed by the Republican majority.

Texas will lose at least \$1 billion through these cuts. While planning tax cuts and their sacred other cuts which will cause deficits to soar, my colleagues from the other side of the aisle have decided to declare war on America's children.

Mr. Speaker, included with various assaults on child nutrition contained in title V of H.R. 4 is a proposal to eliminate competitive bidding on infant formula purchases under existing programs. According to the Department of Agriculture, competitive bidding saved the States \$1 billion.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that we must concern ourselves with all of America's children. Feed the children. Let us not feed our egos.

HONORING OUR CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, day after day after day they come to the well of the House, the four horsemen of the liberal apocalypse: demagogery, distortion, obstruction, and hypocrisy.

The doomsday prophets of the lost battalion of the left, with chilling contempt and complete disregard for the will and wisdom of the American people, they ignore the call for change that sounded across this Nation last November. The question becomes: How

long will they remain dead to the urgent pleas for a new direction and blind to the overwhelming evidence against the failed liberal agenda of the welfare state? How long will they pay headlong allegiance to a philosophy of unlimited government and limited personal freedom, more spending, higher deficits, and more bureaucratic regulation of our lives, our economy, our future? How long will they go on trivializing and reducing the national debate to its lowest common denominator? How long will they persist with the politics of fear and with scare tactics calculated to incite class warfare and divide Americans one against another?

It is time to end the futile mission of the lost battalion of the left and honor our Contract With America.

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, for more than 50 years this Nation has had a commitment to its children. In less than 50 days some have moved to abandon that commitment, and by doing so, to abandon our children.

This Nation is strong not because of its military might or its technology. This Nation is strong because of its compassion. We care about those among us who are weak; the young, the old, the poor, the frail, and the disabled.

If our citizens are weak, we are weak as a nation.

Last year we spent just \$26 per American taxpayer for AFDC programs. Child nutrition programs represented just one-half of 1 percent of the total Federal budget outlay of 1994. The average food stamp benefit is served for 75 cents per meal, just 75 cents.

Children are not driving up our deficit. Senior citizens are not the cause of our economic woes. Programs for the poor do not represent pork.

Indeed, confronting hunger in America is a serious matter, not a partisan matter. It is a moral matter. It is irresponsible to put children's and our senior citizens' health at risk.

THE FOLKS AT HOME DO A BETTER JOB THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I want everyone to understand, and I want them to understand clearly, spending for the school meal programs will actually increase next year by at least 4 percent.

In addition, cutting an entire layer of Washington bureaucracy and limiting administrative costs of these programs by 2 percent will give more money to be spent on food programs.

Listen to this, the Republican proposal spends more money on the school

lunch program and the school breakfast programs.

Now, let us talk about who really cares here. There are 535 people in this organization in Washington here who make decisions for the whole country. There are three people who really care about the people in Wyoming, and the number of delegates that you have in your States that really care or know you. There are thousands of people in the State of Wyoming who care about feeding children, who care about our future, who care about our seniors, and those folks at home are responsive, and they will do a better job feeding our children than the Federal Government will.

CONTRACT OUT OF STEP WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, no matter how many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to get up and tell us that what they did last week is untrue, they are, in fact, cutting the child nutrition programs. They are cutting the breakfast program. They are cutting the school lunch programs. Do not let them get away with it.

Mr. Speaker, as the American people learn more about the uncaring and extreme agenda of the Gingrich revolution, they are realizing that the Contract With America is not worth the laminated paper it is written on.

This New York Times poll released today confirms what Democrats have been saying—that we need to focus on crime, jobs, and health care. Those are the core challenges of our time.

But, instead of fighting crime by taking guns off our streets, the Gingrich revolution promises to overturn the assault weapons ban.

Instead of focusing on job creation, the Gingrich revolution promises to cut programs like the Summer Youth Program that creates public-private partnerships that put kids to work during the summer.

Instead of focusing on health care reform, the Gingrich revolution has produced legislation that will dismantle the Medicare Program, hurt seniors, and shut down hospitals.

Contrary to what they want to say, Gingrich Republicans may walk in lockstep toward their 100 days, they are clearly out of step with the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ZELIFF). The Chair would like to remind our colleagues not to interrupt or interfere with other Members' speeches.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY OUT OF THE MAINSTREAM

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today's New York Times poll demonstrates that the new right-wing Republican majority is thoroughly out of the mainstream and completely out of touch.

On issue after issue the American people overwhelmingly reject the extremist proposals being offered by the right-wing Republicans.

Just look at the Republican agenda: They refused to protect Social Security from the budget ax, they gutted legislation to put 100,000 new police on the beat, they promise to cut student loans, and they slashed school lunches for hungry children.

To middle-class parents struggling to send their children to college the Republicans say: Tough luck. They tell 7-year-old children who cannot afford a school lunch: Go hungry. To seniors worried about Social Security the Republicans say: Take our word for it—the check's in the mail.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats know that the American people want sensible change—not a radical right-wing revolution. It is time for the Republican reign of terror to end.

THE BRADY ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly today to celebrate the Brady law.

Unlike so much of the ideological silliness that is being rammed through this House to meet the new majority's train schedule, the Brady law was carefully weighed in the legislative balance. The Brady law works.

The Brady law is saving lives.

Because of the Brady law, men, women, and children all over America are living today. These are living, breathing Americans who—without question—would have been murdered by handguns if the Brady law did not exist.

Before the Brady law, convicted felons could walk into gun stores all over America, slap down their money, and walk out with a handgun. Those guns killed thousands of innocent people.

The Brady law stopped that madness. In 1 year alone it stopped at least 15,000 illegal gun sales, and probably as many as 40,000.

I am proud I sponsored this common-sense life-saver. And I warn the NRA and its allies who want to repeal Brady and put guns back into the hands of convicted felons.

Get ready for the fight of your life.

Because the American people demanded the Brady law. The American