

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 dessimate 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-wings 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

people want the Brady law to keep saving lives.

The American people will fight to keep it.

SAVE THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, obviously I am not going to talk about the Brady bill, being from Texas.

But let me talk about school lunch programs and the importance of making sure that we save that program.

In the Houston Independent School District next year we would lose a half-million dollars for the school lunch and breakfast program. In the State of Texas, we would lose \$261 million in a 4-percent cut. The first round of cuts included the school breakfast and lunch programs. The second round of cuts last week from the Committee on Appropriations included funding for safe and drug-free schools.

I think this is a war on schools and a war on education and a war on children, and I would hope that we would then look at this Contract With America and see whether providing increased funding, including \$11 million for two new airplanes the Army did not request, \$20 million for a new runway for a base that is on the Base Closure Commission, \$1 million for a bike trail in North Miami Beach, I think we see the priorities have changed.

We are taking money away from breakfast and lunch programs and providing it in this new Contract on America.

PROVIDING VFW MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY TO VETERANS WHO SERVED IN SOUTH KOREA

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 257) to amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to make eligible for membership those veterans that have served within the territorial limits of South Korea, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object at a later time, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, this is genuinely noncontroversial legislation. S. 257 would amend the Federal charter of incorporation granted by Congress to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1936.

Specifically, this legislation would amend the eligibility requirements for membership in the VFW, so as to include those servicemen and service-women who served "honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949." This would recognize the heroic service and sacrifice of the American troops who have served in Korea, including those stationed in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

This measure has already passed the other body on February 10, 1995. The principal sponsors of the counterpart House bill (H.R. 623) are the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], the distinguished chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee; the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee; and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY], the distinguished former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. All of these colleagues have been instrumental in moving this legislation forward.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 257, a bill to amend the congressional charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Recently, I introduced identical legislation in the House, H.R. 623, along with my good friends, SONNY MONTGOMERY and JERRY SOLOMON.

This legislation would allow virtually all veterans who have served in Korea to be eligible for VFW membership. We are all familiar with the extremely dangerous nature of duty along the DMZ and the constant threat of war in Korea. Clearly, those veterans of Korean service after June 30, 1949, who served honorably for not less than 30 days or a total of 60 days, should be able to belong to the VFW.

But under the VFW's current charter, only veterans who received an expeditionary badge are eligible to belong to the VFW. Many veterans who served honorably in Korea cannot belong to the VFW because they did not receive the required expeditionary badge due to restrictive DOD eligibility criteria. The VFW's initiative to include these veterans of Korean service among its membership is most commendable.

Mr. Speaker, today I mostly want to take time to thank the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, HENRY HYDE, and his staff for their expeditious consideration of this bill.

The Judiciary Committee has been working extremely long hours for several weeks. I sincerely appreciate their taking the additional time to consider this matter of great importance to the VFW.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I

rise in support of this measure and commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] for expediting the vote on this measure.

As they are well aware, I joined the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] in sponsoring this bill which is now before us.

Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is one of the most highly regarded of the many veterans' service organizations that exist today. The VFW is a volunteer organization, and this bill would simply make more veterans who served overseas in Korea eligible to join the organization.

Mr. Speaker, with that brief statement, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 257

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 5 of the Act of May 28, 1936 (36 U.S.C. 115), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. A person may not be a member of the corporation created by this Act unless that person—

"(1) served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service has been recognized as campaign-medal service and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the Government of the United States; or

"(2) while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, served honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949."

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 96 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1022.

□ 1145

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.