

sumptuous free lunches for Congressmen at the finest restaurants in Washington, paid for by special interest lobbyists.

While lobby freebies may win tax breaks for special interests, eliminating the School Lunch Program will in the long run increase the burden on every American taxpayer. It is clear where Republican priorities are. They will let the lobby moochers keep their free lunches and eliminate the School Lunch Program for America's kids.

□ 1045

SUPPORT RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REGARDING MEXICAN BAILOUT

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

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today a little bit surprised to see that we are giving away billions of dollars to a country in which the president has been implicated in the murder of another presidential candidate. We are talking about real tax dollars and real money, and I am proud to say that I am going to reach across the aisle and support the Kaptur amendment today to ask some serious questions from our President.

We are planning to give away \$53 billion without any oversight from Congress. It is the people's money and the people need to speak and say where we stand. I stand here saying that Congress needs to know what Clinton is doing with the money from an organization which has no oversight by Congress. I plan to support the Kaptur amendment.

SUPPORT HOUSE RESOLUTION 80, INQUIRY REGARDING MEXICAN BAILOUT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. First let me thank the gentleman from Texas for the bipartisan nature of an important resolution on which we will vote this afternoon. I wish to draw my colleagues' attention to it.

Mr. Speaker, today the American people are going to win the first vote being allowed in this Congress on the misguided taxpayer-backed bailout of the Government of Mexico.

As a result of a procedure we employed to force the leadership of this House to let us vote on the first step in getting to the bottom of this, the House this afternoon will vote on House Resolution 80, a bipartisan resolution of inquiry which requires the administration to answer key questions regarding its \$52 billion bailout of Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on the previous question and "yes" on House Resolution 80. Get answers to questions for your constituents such as who are the private creditors who will benefit from this rescue package? How solid is Mexico's pledge of oil collateral? Demand answers for your constituents.

This will be the first vote in many to follow, I hope, so we can get to the bottom of who our taxpayers are being asked to bail out.

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of March. Today is the first day of Lent. Today is the first day of the third month that we do not have a U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

Is having a Secretary of Agriculture important? Apparently not to this administration. Or maybe it is agriculture issues that are not important to this administration.

And what are agriculture issues? Food stamps, nutrition, School Lunch Programs, to name a few. Yes, that is right. For all the bureaucratic belly-aching over School Lunch Programs, neither the President nor the Senate Democrats have pushed for the confirmation of a new Secretary of Agriculture.

Could there be a slight disconnect here, Mr. Speaker? And what else besides the School Lunch Program is in jeopardy or up for grabs? The 1995 farm bill, the Delaney clause, the Market Promotion Program, minor use pesticides. But forget these. How about every item on your table, everything you buy at the grocery store?

Is it not important enough to the American consumers for the President and the U.S. Senate to confirm a new Secretary of Agriculture?

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA CALLED HIT ON SCHOOLCHILDREN

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

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, in the parlance of lexicography, a contract is something that is a promise to be upheld or fulfilled. But in the common vernacular, a contract is also something that we understand is a hit that is put out on someone.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about the contract on America and it is exactly that. It is a hit on America. But today we understand who that hit is really on. When we read an article in the L.A. Times today that the Agriculture Department tells us that there is going to be a \$1 billion hit on schoolchildren in terms of the School Lunch Program elimination, we understand

what the contract on America really is.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, on Capitol Hill there were more people walking the halls than you could ever imagine, and that is just the beginning.

Yes, the first day of March is the first day of the beginning of the end of the Republican contract on America, because the chickens have come home to roost and we finally understand who the hit is on and it is on the 13 million American children of this country.

BLOCK-GRANT PROPOSAL LOSER FOR MISSOURI

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I am for the balanced budget and I am for welfare reform. Last weekend in my district, I met with concerned child care advocates at a place called Cradles and Crayons which takes care of the medically fragile children in my community. The room was packed with school nutritionists, child care providers, administrators, parents, and concerned citizens. I listened and I learned. They are unanimous in their concern regarding how we balance the budget and reform our welfare system, and their particular concern was with this proposal for block grants for children's programs, particularly the Children's Nutrition Program.

Their historical experience has been that when the Federal Government block grants, that usually means less money. Their outrage was around a program such as school lunches and that a program that had worked for over 40 years would be in jeopardy as a result of this block-grant concept. In the Independence district alone, Harry Truman's home district, they were going to lose \$500,000 under the block-grant proposal put forward by the Republicans. The story was the same in Grandview, in Raytown, all over my district. The State of Missouri would lose lunches for 150,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, the message was clear: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Congress needs to balance its budget but not on the bellies of our children.

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, WIC works.

It is a program that services low-income and at-risk women, infants and children.

Pregnant women, infants 12 months and younger and children from 1 to 5 years old, are the beneficiaries of the WIC Program.

For every dollar this Nation spends on WIC prenatal care, we save up to \$4.21.

The budget cutting efforts we are experiencing are aimed at reducing the deficit.

The deficit is being driven by rising health care costs.

When we put money into WIC, we save money in Medicaid.

The equation is simple.

Those who have a genuine interest in deficit reduction can help achieve that goal by investing in WIC.

The WIC Program embraces the unborn; provides nurturing and care; is devoted to maternal health; helps ensure life at birth; and promotes the growth and development of millions of our children.

And, it saves us money.

WIC works. Let us keep it working.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHECK CASHING ACT

(Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD.)

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with great concern for our consumers. Today, I rise to introduce the Check Cashing Act of 1995.

The check cashing industry is growing by leaps and bounds, charging excessive rates in some instances, with no one to watch out for consumers. Mr. Speaker, this industry has more than doubled to a multibillion-dollar business in the past 8 years. In 1993 it was estimated that more than 150 million checks were cashed by check cashing outlets with a face value totaling more than \$45 billion.

My bill only asks that States develop a system to license or register check cashing outlets and that financial institutions cash Government checks. Today, too many of our constituents are paying up to 20 percent of the face value of a check to get their money. This is absurd and uncalled for.

Mr. Speaker, we must work to give our communities every opportunity to improve themselves. With many banks denying consumers check cashing capability and check cashing outlets preying on them our Nation's financial services opportunities are bleak for many low-to moderate-income Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today a head of a household that earns a \$300 pay check is subject to spending up to 20 percent, \$60 of that check, just to gain access to the hard earned dollars. This \$60 is taking away from food for children, rent for a roof over a families head, and transportation to and from work. This is unacceptable and must be stopped.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and my efforts to provide equal opportunities to all communities.

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOR 1992 AND 1993—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURTON of Indiana) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Commerce.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of section 657 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (Public Law 95-91; 42 U.S.C. 7267), I transmit herewith the 13th Annual Report of the Department of Energy, which covers the years 1992 and 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 1, 1995.*

REPORT ON NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on National Security.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 603 of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, I am transmitting a report on the National Security Strategy of the United States.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *February 28, 1995.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 308 of Public Law 97-449 (49 U.S.C. 308(a)), I transmit herewith the Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Department of Transportation, which covers fiscal year 1993.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 1, 1995.*

REGULATORY REFORM AND RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 100 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 926.

□ 1055

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 926) to promote regulatory flexibility and enhance public participation in Federal agency rulemaking, and for other purposes, with Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] will be recognized for 30 minutes, the gentleman from Kansas [Mrs. MEYERS] will be recognized for 15 minutes, and the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE] will be recognized for 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we have good news for our country here today, because we are going to be considering a bill that will go a long way when enacted to bring about job creation and wage enhancement.

Mr. Chairman, for too long, burdensome and complex rules coming out of Washington have strangled small business, have been a drag on free enterprise, have been a drag on job creation, have been a drag on wage creation, have been a drag on the economy. Today what we are about here today is a first step to slay that dragon, to bring about sanity in the rulemaking process of the national bureaucracy, of the Federal bureaucracy.

How do we go about accomplishing that? Well, a bold attempt was made in 1980 during the administration of President Jimmy Carter when there was passed a Regulatory Flexibility Act. That did bring about at least a sense of more involvement by the small business community in the rulemaking process that so adversely had affected it previously.

We are here to say today that even that bold attempt that started in 1980 has not fulfilled the promise that it was expected by the small business community to lift the burden of regulations from their shoulders so that they can venture out into new enterprises and create more jobs. Rather, the reverse took place. There was even more of a vivid flurry of regulations and burdens that came down on their shoulders.

Mr. Chairman, we here today in title I of this particular bill will deal directly with small business. We are targeting small business. We are going to be embracing small business to give them more input into what transpires in the rulemaking process. That in itself would be worth the whole effort of what we do here today, but we go farther. We do something that is so exquisite for the small businessperson, that we have a great, good feeling about it.

We are for the first time providing by law, if this bill is enacted, judicial review. That means that where the previous act, the one I just alluded to from the Jimmy Carter era, prohibited judicial review, we go the other way and overtly provide for judicial review.