

greatly to all facets of American life in the economic, cultural, and political fields.

I appeal to my colleagues to not be swayed by those who would place all of the problems of this Nation on the backs of immigrants. Let us look at immigrants for what they are: hard working, god fearing, law-abiding, honest residents, who like native born Americans, want to provide themselves and their children a better future.

#### A PLEA FOR FULL FUNDING OF SCHOOL LUNCHES

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago I was a single, working mother with 3 small children forced to rely on AFDC and food stamps, in order to give my children the health care, child care, and food they needed.

Twenty-seven years later, I am shocked that the Republicans are talking about taking school lunches away from almost 7,000 children in my congressional district alone while they are refusing to take money away from pork barrel military projects like the F-22 fighter plane. Clearly, House Republicans are willing to punish children just so they can pay for their Contract on America.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have only one thing to say about the Republican plan: States don't get hungry, children do. And starving children is not the solution to balancing our budget.

Mr. Speaker, children cannot learn when they are hungry. It is time to talk about full funding for school lunches and full stomachs for our children.

#### ENDING WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, Americans are a generous, caring people. We also are realistic and result oriented. We want our private and public generosity to raise ladders of opportunity for those who have fallen behind. We intend our efforts to serve as a hand-up, not simply a handout.

It has been more than 50 years since the Federal welfare system was conceived. Today, Americans overwhelmingly agree it has been an expensive failure and, in many instances, has inflicted disastrous consequences on its recipients, and on our national well-being.

Finally, Congress has accepted the wisdom of the people. And in the next few days, the new Republican majority will bring to the House a number of proposals that will end welfare as we know it.

In its place, we will initiate an era of genuine human compassion, of oppor-

tunity, of personal responsibility and self-reliance and lifted hopes.

That, Mr. Speaker, is our Contract With America.

#### DEALING ON A TIMETABLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY PHASEOUT

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute some brave Senators who are standing up for our Constitution, standing up for Social Security, and standing up to a Speaker of the House who has called them liars and is intimating that they are perpetuating some mythical fraud.

In the rush to judgment on these contract issues that we are facing, we are being told, "Trust us. Go along with our 100-day schedule." We are also being told to go along with the fact that Social Security is not really going to be affected by the balanced budget amendment. But in the more deliberative conduct of the other body the mask has now come off.

Republicans now not only admit that they are attempting to pull the largest daylight robbery in the history of the Social Security fund, but in an effort to get that one last vote they need to pass the balanced budget amendment, they are now trying to negotiate for how long that theft will occur. Will it happen by 2012, 2010, or 2008?

Mr. Speaker, this is Monty Hall's "Let's Make a Deal."

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#### PART OF THE PROBLEM

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, amid the cry from liberal Democrats regarding Republican welfare reform comes one clear message: The liberals are fighting hard for the bureaucratic status quo.

Instead of joining with reformers who want to make current programs more efficient, more effective, and more fair, liberals prefer to make baseless attacks on Republicans.

The liberals claim that our proposals would hurt children. Several studies have proven that our block-grant initiatives will cut a layer of bureaucracy while delivering more services for those in need.

The liberals are instead defending a group of bureaucrats who waste the taxpayer's money and drain precious resources from our Nation.

Someone once said: If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Clearly, defenders of the status quo are part of the problem that most Americans thought they solved in the last election.

#### SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM HELPS THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

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

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to fight back attempts to end the National School Lunch Program. This is one of the best programs we have because it helps those who need help the most.

For 49 years, this program has helped the schoolchildren of this Nation. For many of these children, their school lunch is the most nutritious meal they get all day. This program has meant that poor children do not have to go hungry during the day.

I cannot imagine anything more mean-spirited than taking food away from hungry children. This is certainly no way to promote strong family values. And, it is certainly no way to promote better health and better educational opportunities. Hungry children have a hard time learning.

By proposing to end this national program, Congress essentially is saying to the States, "It's your problem now. Deal with it." I doubt that many States would have the financial ability to meet this need in difficult economic times. During the last recession, 1.2 million additional children received free school lunches. A block grant program certainly wouldn't take up the shortfall during a recession. States like Alabama which serve a large percentage of low-income children would be penalized.

Nationwide, more than 25 million school children participate in the National School Lunch Program. Approximately 56 percent of Alabama's schoolchildren receive free or reduced price school lunches. Approximately 87 percent of Alabama's schoolchildren receive free or reduced price school breakfasts. Under the proposed cuts, our State would lose an estimated \$141.5 million by the year 2000 to feed these children, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I certainly think we can make the school lunch program more flexible and easier to administer for the States. But, under no circumstances should we jeopardize the health and well-being of our Nation's children. They are our most important national resource.

#### REFORM WELFARE NOW

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to be honest with the American people. It is time for us to say that after \$5 trillion our Great Society experiments to end poverty have been an utter failure.

And while there are those who feel threatened by this honest assessment, mainly because their jobs or outdated

way of thinking is finally being scrutinized, I submit these are well-intentioned people with well-intentioned programs that simply have not worked.

After billions of taxpayers dollars we have not ended poverty and in fact, the problems associated with poverty has worsened. Welfare programs should not be judged by how many people are on them, But instead, by how many people are off them.

Mr. Speaker, this situation must end and that is why this Congress must reform welfare now. I remember when our President as a candidate said: "We will end welfare as we know it." Instead of fighting us, instead of using disingenuous scare tactics, I encourage our President to join us in our efforts.

#### TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

(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, today is a day for the State of Texas. It is Texas Independence Day. I wanted to ask the House to sing just one chorus of "Texas, Our Texas," but I did not get much response.

Unfortunately, I looked at it and looked at the Republican Contract on America and realized that they are celebrating giving women, children, and senior legal immigrants independence from nutrition programs. They are celebrating by putting in jeopardy Social Security.

Today is also Sam Houston's birthday, the first President of the Republic of Texas. But he was not born in Texas. Actually he was born in Virginia and was a Federal officeholder in Tennessee and in Texas.

But under the bill that passed out of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee last week, he would be ineligible for programs under that Republican bill. Because of the Republican bill, the USDA estimated that \$1.3 billion would be cut over 5 years for the school breakfast and lunch programs. The Texas Education Agency estimated the welfare bill would cut school lunches in Texas \$261 million.

#### DEMOCRATS DISTORTING REPUBLICAN WELFARE PROPOSAL

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

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, the current welfare system has been a nightmare for children. It is a fact that long-term welfare dependency harms children.

A study by Child Trends found that children in families dependent on welfare for long periods of time have more developmental problems than children dependent for only short periods. The problem is, most welfare recipients are long-term dependents. So it is no sur-

prise to learn that 69 percent of children in chronically dependent welfare families score in the bottom third of all children on vocabulary and language skills tests.

The sad fact, Mr. Speaker, is that welfare is probably far worse for children than for anyone else involved, because it gets them into the same habits of dependency they are surrounded by, resulting in an almost unbreakable cycle of welfare.

And yet, my liberal Democrat colleagues come to this floor to deceive, to distort, and to disinform about the Republican proposal on the school lunch program. They are so concerned with protecting the bureaucracy that they are blind to the greater tragedy to children that is going on in my State of Alabama and right outside this Capitol. That is sad, Mr. Speaker.

#### BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT PUTS SOCIAL SECURITY AT RISK

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, those who are arguing that the current form of the balanced budget amendment puts Social Security at risk are undeniably correct. The amendment says that in the year 2002 it will be mandatory that any surplus from Social Security be used to reduce the overall deficit elsewhere in the Federal Government for the purposes of achieving balance. What this means is that there will be a constitutional imperative to the Congress to cut Social Security expenditures if they need to do that to make up the deficit elsewhere.

That is not an academic threat. The Speaker of this House has demanded that the Bureau of Labor Statistics recalculate the Consumer Price Index. Reducing the Consumer Price Index has as its major impact saying that older people get less of a cost-of-living increase under Social Security.

So when the Republicans push a form of the balanced budget amendment that allows, indeed, compels, any surplus in Social Security to be used to offset a deficit elsewhere and simultaneously argues that we should cut the Consumer Price Index, which has as its major fiscal impact reducing the cost-of-living increase, we see why Senators are right to oppose this amendment in its current form.

#### LOOK BEYOND THE RHETORIC

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans work hard to change the way Congress does business. The minority party in both Chambers works hard to preserve the status quo. The balanced budget amendment, up for a

vote today, hinges on the cooperation of Democratic Members. Without their help, the hopes of the American people will be dashed.

Unfortunately, the prospects do not look very bright. Of course, once the country goes broke we will have Social Security and all the other programs they complain about being cut. And as the Republicans attempt to reform welfare systems, they are being met by stiff resistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the American people to look beyond the rhetoric. The Republicans are trying to change the direction of this Government. We are trying to pass the balanced budget amendment. We are trying to reform a broken welfare system. Sadly, the Democratic Party now is left defending only the status quo.

#### DO NOT REPEAL THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in this contract hysteria, let us not lose sight of the things that came into being for a strong national purpose.

The voters in November did not mandate the destruction of a program that has worked well for half a century.

Repealing the National School Lunch Act, which has successfully fed hundreds of millions of hungry children since 1946, will affect children in public and parochial schools, regardless of income.

In 1981, the Reagan administration slashed over \$1 billion from the school nutrition programs.

As a result, over 2,000 schools were forced to drop out of the program, leaving 2 million children without a nutritious school lunch. Under this block grant proposal, States would receive \$2 billion less for school meals over the next 5 years.

Due to drastically reduced funding, a State may choose not to subsidize meals for children who pay full price, forcing the school to raise prices.

#### BLOCK GRANTING SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM WILL GIVE STATES MORE CONTROL

(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 find myself compelled to rise and speak once again on behalf of truth and against the untrue accusations from the other side of the aisle.

In no uncertain terms, the Republicans in Congress do not intend to deprive school children of nutritious meals.

Less than a week ago a Wyoming newspaper's headlines read "GOP Hopes To Abolish School Lunch Programs. Democrats Say Children May