

## SCHOOL NUTRITION

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise our Speaker, one of the foremost figures in the field of American literature, and one of our most famous authors. He has been making generous contributions to organizations which pay children \$2 for every book they read. At the same time his colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle are taking money away from needy children who need subsidies for their lunch.

The teacher is teaching school children a lesson at this time. He is showing there is money to be made in book deals, perhaps enough to buy their own lunch. I would like to share some information that I find important in this callous regard to our children.

The leadership nutritional block grant would terminate all nutrition standards. Seven hundred thousand Michigan children eat school lunch every day. More than half qualify for free or reduced price lunches. Michigan will lose \$107 million a year.

With one hand, the Speaker has offered school kids a book deal do encourage learning. With the other hand, he is taking away their lunch money which provides them with an absolute necessity for proper learning, and that is decent nutrition.

At the rate Republicans are taking money from kids, the kids are going to have to read an awful lot of books to stay fed.

## PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE). The gentleman will state it.

Mr. VOLKMER. Do the rules of the House permit Members to walk in the well, be present in the well while a Member is speaking in the well?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not cross in front of Members while they are speaking in the well.

Mr. VOLKMER. Is it permissible to walk on the other side of the well while a Member is speaking in the well?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not walk between the Member speaking and the Chair.

Mr. VOLKMER. What I am trying to point out to Members on the other side, we have never done it on this side, is not to get your papers up and get ready to make your 1-minute while a Member is speaking in the well.

□ 1015

## PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we will again address private property

rights. And there is only one issue: whether or not we will obey the fifth amendment.

For those who haven't read their constitution lately, I would like to quote these 12 profound words.

The final clause of the fifth amendment states the following: " \* \* \* nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

This is a simple statement that requires little explanation. Just as a thief need not destroy the property he steals to be guilty, neither must the Government necessarily require a landowner to vacate his property for it to be taken for public use.

Mr. Speaker, without these 12 words, we would be little better than a socialistic society.

I, personally, subscribe to the axiom that if a man has done nothing wrong he has nothing to fear. Unfortunately, many law abiding citizens have a great deal to fear from the Federal Government.

Why? Because our environmental agencies create laws and regulations that destroy the value of their property.

In my district, millions of acres of timber lie unharvested because the government exercised its authority to save the spotted owl.

The Government has the authority to take my land. It also has the authority to save owls, but it does not have the right to do so without justly compensating you or me for it.

Mr. Speaker, let's reaffirm the fifth amendment, protect private property rights, and pass H.R. 925.

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of talk of reform and of change in this body over the past month. Some of it real; much of it for show; much of it cynical; and even some of it counter-productive, such as the current talk about cutting child nutrition programs not to reduce the deficit but to provide tax cuts for the very wealthy. But there has been one issue of change that there has been too much silence about, and that is the most fundamental need of all, and that is to reform our campaign spending laws in this country so that we have meaningful, real democratic elections rather than auctions, which is the direction this country is going now.

I am proud to join several of my colleagues in introducing legislation this week which would break the gridlock that currently exists over campaign spending reform by following the military base closure commission model in creating a bipartisan commission to recommend campaign reform legislation. In 1 year Congress would have to

vote on its recommendations up or down, no excuses.

Let us clean up the political process and return it to the people of the United States.

## THE REAL VICTIMS

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I want to read something to my liberal colleagues on the other side of the aisle who profess so much compassion for America's children while defending the current welfare system.

This is from Bill Bennett's article in the current Commentary magazine, which I would recommend that all my colleagues read, Bennett writes:

Between 1962 and 1992, welfare spending in the United States increased by over 900 percent in 1992 dollars. At the same time the poverty rate dropped by less than 5 percent—and illegitimacy rates increased over 400 percent. Children are the real victims of this national tragedy. They are being conditioned into the same habits of dependency they are surrounded by, resulting in an almost unbreakable cycle of welfare.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, we get one liberal Democrat after another parading to the well to tell us how wonderful the current system is and how much the children need it.

The liberal Democrats may need it, but the children do not.

## REFORM AT THE EXPENSE OF SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican meat ax has fallen once again and this time not just on chicken and meat but on tomatoes, on beans, on carrots, on milk, and on orange juice. The latest target is the school lunch and breakfast program.

Now some of them are going to argue, we have not cut it. Ask them then why is there a 20-percent transfer out provision in the block grant? Ask them why is there no inclusion of price increases for food? Ask them why, why is there no inclusion of a recession or unemployment rates? Those are basic questions and, furthermore, ask them why is there not the provision for entitlement for a child in poverty to be eligible.

I am all for cutting billions, but let us cut billions from star wars and space stations and not nickel and dime our lunch programs to death.

## WELFARE REFORM

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

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, why do we call it welfare? Under the current welfare system, people do not fare well—not at all.

Our current system has created a number of welfare addicts, some who will do anything to stay on the public dole. Congress must intervene with some tough love which will stop the addiction and create a more useful, caring society. The welfare plan which is being put forth by the Republicans is the only proposal which has offered people on welfare a chance to improve their lives.

While opponents have termed this proposal mean-spirited, it is nothing of the kind. Under the legislation, spending for school meals will increase by 4 percent next year, work training will be offered in exchange for benefits, and abuses of the system will be eliminated. What is mean-spirited is an administration which keeps feeding the addiction of individuals who cannot help themselves because they are trapped. The Republican proposal offers people an opportunity to break the addiction.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress and the American public to say farewell to our current welfare system so that people in our Nation may actually fare well.

#### HUNGRY CHILDREN AT RISK IN MOVE TO BLOCK GRANT THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, block granting the School Lunch Program, as called for in Contract With America, places our Nation's most precious natural resource—its children—at risk.

We can and should look for ways to improve the School Lunch Program. But we cannot create a block grant, cut the funding, and expect the States to do more with less.

This is not, as some would have us believe, a deficit reduction issue. We need to balance the Federal budget. But we cannot do it on the backs of children. Helen Rankin, a school food service director in Maine, expressed this sentiment very eloquently to me. She said:

As an adult, I am willing to make sacrifices to reduce the deficit, but let us not begin by slashing funds for defenseless children who cannot speak for themselves and do not have the right to vote. As we look after the hungry children of the world, let us continue to protect our own.

This is an ill-considered and mean spirited proposal, and it should be soundly rejected by this Congress.

#### RESPONSIBILITY, FREEDOM, AND COMPASSION

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, mean spirited and callous and heartless.

These are the terms the Democrats use to describe the welfare proposals moving through the House currently. As a former mayor of Charlotte who has seen firsthand the damage done by the welfare system over the years, I prefer the words responsibility, freedom, and compassion. Responsibility to be allowed to work and freedom to get off of welfare, compassion, caring, helping.

We had programs in our city that were innovative and they allowed people to take pride in themselves once again. We can do that through the proposals being offered by the Republican system that is currently underway now. Self-sufficiency is the key, not dependency.

#### IS CONGRESS LOSING ITS SENSE OF PRIORITIES?

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

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, a great American and fellow Minnesotan, Hubert Humphrey, once said that the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life—the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.

For decades there has been bipartisan agreement in Congress on the importance of providing school lunches, and millions of children have been well-fed and well-educated.

But I am concerned today that Congress may be losing its sense of priorities. Clearly, we need to balance the budget. But as we allocate our country's scarce resources, let us be sure to keep things in proper perspective.

Last week this Congress voted to increase defense spending and next week we will consider a proposal to cut funding for school lunches.

That is not what the American people sent us here to do. If we really care about those Americans in the dawn of life, our children, and we should, then we better get our priorities straightened out soon.

#### SCHOOL LUNCH

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

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, it is a personal disappointment and affront to me that Members of the minority party persist in their attack on our plan to provide nutritious meals to the Nation's schoolchildren.

They claim that by block granting the nutrition programs thousands of children will starve. In plain English, that claim is a life and they know it. Funding for the School Lunch Program will increase by 4½ percent per year, that rate is above inflation but below what liberal Democrats think it should be so they label it a cut. Using ac-

counting methods like this that has us headed for a debtor's prison without a get-out-of-jail-free card.

The only thing we will cut is a layer of Federal bureaucracy in the nutrition programs which will save money and allow the States to do what they do so well, take care of their citizens.

The basic difference in philosophies is all too clear on this issue, after 40 years, Democrats cannot bear the thought of independent States, I myself have all the faith in the world in the ability of our State and local officials.

#### LOBBYIST REFORM

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that when that money was cut in committee, it did not take into account future enrollment figures. It did not take into account increases in food prices. They is why it is a cut. And how we can sit here and cut school lunches at a time when the same individuals who had an opportunity to cut lobbyists from paying meals for Members of Congress voted against it? The same Members who would vote to take away the school nutrition programs can be seen on a Tuesday or a Wednesday or a Thursday at the Capital Grill or at Morton's or La Colline or other restaurants around this Capitol having a free lunch paid for by lobbyists. It is a big thick steak.

Let us put that money back into the nutrition program and stop cutting around the issues. We are neglecting children in this country. Let us make investments where we ought to be making them.

#### WELFARE REFORM

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

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican welfare reform plan has been under attack from those who believe that bureaucrats in Washington know what is best for those in need. But after 30 years and \$5 trillion, we know for sure that their way does not work.

No longer can we reward illegitimacy and nonwork. And no longer can we rely on the failed notion that we can just throw more money at the problem. The Personal Responsibility Act will help us end negative incentives and create a system that is leaner, more responsive and more truly compassionate.

The Republican welfare reform plan is based on the notion that giving States the flexibility to develop their own solutions means that we will be able serve those in need better with fewer Federal dollars. Experiments in