

States like Florida show that this is the approach we should be taking.

I urge my colleagues to take a stand for positive, commonsense welfare reform and support this legislation.

□ 1030

DEMOCRATS WANT WELFARE REFORM, BUT NOT EXTREMISM

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have not heard anyone here on either side of the aisle defend the present welfare system. All of us want change. The difference is, on my side of the aisle, we do not want extremism. We do not want a system that is going to just punish and not find a way out for independence.

I am from Texas, and I can tell the Members that the child nutrition program has been helpful. Every report tells us that once the program started, children are attending school better, their attention span is longer, and they are achieving grades. We cannot, as a nation who cares, send our children through life without some kind of caring.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to create 50 new bureaucracies by sending it to the States, then we will have more government than we ever bargained for. State's rights for poor children in Texas has never worked. One out of every nine children in Texas is now hungry. Almost half of the low-income families are now hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Members that most of these families have at least one working person. Are we going to throw our children to the wolves to give a tax break for the rich? I hope not.

WELFARE REFORM: REAL CHANGE VERSUS FALSE HOPE

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I do not know what is more disheartening, the vicious cycle of dependency perpetuated by the current system of welfare, or the mindset on the part of some Members of this institution that a national welfare bureaucracy is the only way to help those in need.

The American taxpayer has not lacked in generosity. We have invested well over \$5 trillion on welfare in this country since the mid-1960's, and welfare spending continues to rise.

And yet, despite this commitment, illegitimacy rates have risen, welfare dependence remains constant, and fewer recipients of assistance are working. Five million families received AFDC benefits in May 1993, up from 3.7 million in 1988, and over half of those families will remain dependent on welfare for over 10 years.

As working women and mothers, who among us does not remember earning their first paycheck, meeting that first payroll, or the pride of seeing our own child bring home their first paycheck. It is this sort of restoration of self-esteem that we must achieve.

The Personal Responsibility Act of 1995 fundamentally restructures the way in which we think about welfare. It maintains a system of support for those in need, while restoring the notion that welfare recipients have an obligation to use this assistance to better themselves. We have an opportunity to accomplish real reform, and instill real hope in the lives of those caught in the welfare trap.

SAVINGS FROM REPUBLICANS' PLAN TO CUT CHILDREN'S SCHOOL LUNCHES WILL GO FOR TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan to decimate the school lunch program will penalize millions of America's kids, working families, and women, and the Republicans will use the savings to serve up a free lunch of tax cuts and tax concessions to millionaires and large multinational corporations.

Conservatives often say that the deficit will be passed on to our kids, but their approach to deficit reduction will mean that our kids will pay now and that they will pay with their potential. Their block grant proposal will block the future of 140,000 kids in Illinois alone.

The school lunch program is one of the most successful, one of the most cost-effective, and one of the most important programs that the Federal Government has ever administered.

I urge my colleagues to stop the Republicans from keeping this program and America's kids hostage to the Republican Contract on America.

REPUBLICANS' WELFARE REFORM PLAN OFFERS A HELPING HAND-UP, NOT A HANDOUT

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

Mrs. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, according to the Congressional Research Service, welfare spending in 1992 reached an all-time high of \$210 billion. This is nearly three times as much as we need to abolish all poverty in the United States.

What does the American taxpayer get for this? What do we have to show for it? I will tell the Members: a bureaucracy that is wasting our money. Even worse, we have higher crime, higher illegitimacy, family disintegration, low educational achievement, neglect, and moral confusion.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think the devil himself could have come up with a better scheme to destroy America and her children. Yet, the Democrats come here day after day to defend a system that has produced nothing but misery for America's poor, and the poor children. They have done this after controlling Congress for over 40 years, building this system of misery.

We have pledged to change the failed liberal welfare system, not by giving a handout, but by giving a helping hand up.

SCHOOL LUNCHES ARE IMPORTANT FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, the proposal to change the Child Nutrition Program into block grants will hurt the children of the 25th District in Texas. This week the Texas School Food Service Association visited me and explained the consequences of this proposal.

With the new block grant scheme, which in essence will give fixed sums to the States, Texas will lose big—close to a 30-percent reduction in moneys to the children of Texas. It is estimated for instance that the Houston Independent School District [HISD], one of many school districts in the 25th District, would lose \$1.677 million next year to provide nutritious breakfasts and lunches for children.

I do not believe that HISD will fail to serve these children. Instead other educational programs will have to be cut. If we want our kids to learn and grow up to be productive citizens, we cannot expect them to starve in the process. In many cases, school meals are the only nutritious meals that children will receive each day.

This Republican proposal will actually create 50 new bureaucracies in 50 States. In addition, the new program will not have one national nutritional standard. Without a good meal, many children will have trouble learning. We need to invest in our children to ensure our future. The School Lunch Program today successfully feeds an average of 13 million children each day with a well balanced meal.

Mr. Speaker, as we say at home, don't mess with Texas. Mr. Speaker, don't mess with the kids' school lunch.

TRUE COMPASSION AND THE WELFARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the so-called political experts say do not respond to your opponents attacks, just ignore them. But in this case I just

cannot sit idly by while I hear the whining and griping from the bitter defenders of the status quo who defend a welfare system that's bloated, scandal-ridden, and a huge waste of our hard-earned tax dollars.

Forty years of Democrat control of the House brought us this failed welfare system and now they are defending it with all of their might. The truth is they have turned their backs on those who are less fortunate and then they blame Republicans for trying to undo the damage that they took 30 years to create.

After spending billions of dollars on programs that have failed to work and after years of waging a phony war on poverty it is time for the defenders of the status quo to admit defeat and join us in creating a system that understands that true compassion is not measured in the number of our tax dollars spent on welfare, but in the number of Americans who are liberated from the grips of poverty.

CUTTING LIHEAP PROVES THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY CONTINUES TO STREAMROLL SENIORS AND STRUGGLING FAMILIES

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, for 58 days now the Republican majority has had kids and seniors in their sights. Yesterday they hit both with one shot. LIHEAP, the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program, is gone. LIHEAP helps almost 6 million families pay their heating bills in the winter.

The Republican majority is willing to trade the health of children and seniors for tax giveaways for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans. The Republican majority will take away heat assistance from seniors on fixed incomes and families and living on minimum wage or less to give another tax break to people making over \$200,000 a year. Without LIHEAP, 144,000 families in my State of Massachusetts will have to slip meals to keep heat in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have a balanced budget amendment because Republicans would not protect seniors on Social Security. That is a shame. What is worse is the Republican majority continues to streamroll seniors and struggling families. Cutting LIHEAP proves it.

URGING MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, today on this floor we will vote on the Private Property Protection Act. This is critically important legislation, and I

urge each and every one of my colleagues to support it. The principle in America that private property cannot be taken from our citizens without paying them just compensation for that private property is at the heart of our form of government. It is, indeed, one of those values that we as Americans hold sacred.

Yet, yesterday Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt called this legislation an attack on America's great natural resources. Absolutely nothing could be further from the truth. It is a sad day in America when officials of our national government openly advocate taking property from our citizens without compensating that those who own that property.

We are all agreed that we must protect our natural resources, but we must not do that by stealing property from them or by nationalizing their resources. I urge my colleagues to support the Private Property Protection Act.

URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN IN CALLING FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, last year Members of the present majority complained about the investigation by Special Counsel Robert Fiske. They claimed that Fiske was a friend of the White House and that his investigation of Whitewater was not going far enough.

I ask the Members of the House to consider these facts. The current chairman of the House Ethics Committee cast the deciding vote for the Speaker in the 1989 whip's race. The chairman of the Ethics Committee seconded the nomination for Speaker this year. The chairman of our Ethics Committee last year tried to help our current Speaker by closing the pending Ethics Committee complaint against him.

Two other majority members of the House Ethics Committee have had personal dealings with the personal PAC of the Speaker, GOPAC, one of them as a contributor, and another as a recipient for his reelection.

Given these facts, I am sure those who call for a replacement of Special Counsel Fiske will now join me in calling for a special counsel to investigate the allegations against Speaker GINGRICH, and it should not take 100 days.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE). The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, was not the entire speech of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], just a

moment ago, out of order, because it was a direct reference to Members of this body?

The gentleman keeps reminding us of our obligations under the rules. The gentleman has a responsibility to the rules. My parliamentary inquiry is, was not his entire speech out of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not refer to pending Standards Committee investigations.

Mr. WALKER. I have a further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. WALKER. Beyond the pending ethics investigation, he also may have had personal references to the chairman of the Ethics Committee. Is that also not out of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not so refer to the Standards Committee or any Members thereof.

Mr. WALKER. A further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker: My understanding is that what the gentleman has just done in the House was a speech which was entirely out of order before the body: is that correct?

The SPEAKER. The Chair is responding in a general way to the proper debate in the House with respect to ethics investigations.

Mr. WALKER. I thank the Chair.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VOLKMER. Is the Chair ruling that it is improper for any Member to request a special counsel in an investigation being conducted by the Ethics Committee, which action has not been taken by the Ethics Committee?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should not refer to pending Standards Committee investigations, or suggest courses of action within that committee.

Mr. VOLKMER. I thank the Chair.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE). Pursuant to House Resolution 101 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. 925.

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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. 925) to compensate owners of private property for the effect of certain regulatory restrictions, with Mr. SHUSTER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday,