

room per doctor. We would like to provide two examining rooms for each doctor, which would facilitate and speed up the process. We hope we will have the support when we offer this amendment to restore the \$206 million cut by the Committee on Appropriations.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m., the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

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□ 1100

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker.

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#### PRAYER

The Most Reverend Augustin Roman, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami, Miami Shores, FL, offered the following prayer:

Father in Heaven, Lord and Ruler of all the Earth and its nations; You have given all peoples one common origin and Your will is to gather them as one family in Yourself.

Look upon this assembly of our national leaders and fill them with the spirit of Your wisdom so that they may act in accordance with Your will. Through their deliberations, may they seek to overcome the selfishness that divides our human family and thus help secure justice for all their brothers and sisters. For it is justice guaranteed for all and denied to no one that rightly orders our liberty while accepting Your lordship over us and so assures the security of a true and lasting peace worthy of man created in Your image and likeness. Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas [Mr. GENE GREEN] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The Chair announces that there will be 20 1-minutes on each side.

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#### A WELCOME TO BISHOP ROMAN

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning we were blessed by hearing Auxiliary Bishop Augustin Roman of the Archdiocese of Miami deliver the opening invocation. My colleagues, LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, BOB MENENDEZ, and I welcome him.

We have recently come to the floor to remind our colleagues of the great contribution that immigrants make to this country. Bishop Roman is another perfect example.

Bishop Roman arrived in the United States in 1966, after having been expelled from Cuba by the tyrannical regime of Fidel Castro.

In 1979, Bishop Roman became the first Cuban in 200 years to be named a bishop in the United States. The bishop holds advanced degrees in theology and human resources and serves as director of the "Ermita de la Caridad," a shrine to Our Lady of Charity, which he helped create. He has been a spiritual guide for the people of south Florida during troubled times.

Bishop Roman is also active in seeking freedom for the Cuban rafters detained at Guantanamo.

When called by the local press a hero, the bishop humbly responded that "a bishop, a priest is a servant, not a hero." This humility and compassion is what has made the bishop of one south Florida's heroes, or as he would put it, its servant.

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#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of House joint resolution No. 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Washington?

There was no objection.

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#### REPUBLICANS IN 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, last night and this last weekend we heard the Republican majority defend their school lunch changes. It is the great Republican shell game for school lunch.

They promise a 4.5-percent increase under one shell, but they do not tell us what is under the Appropriations Com-

mittee shell. What is under the State shell, when they can cut 20 percent from the School Lunch Program and transfer it to other programs?

The Republicans are playing budgetary shell games with school lunches. They are taking a guaranteed school lunch for children and subjecting it to the authorization process, to the appropriations process, and then subjecting it to whatever a State may want to do up to 20 percent. On one hand they promise an increase in funding, on the other hand the Committee on Appropriations has been cutting the summer youth jobs and other programs for children.

Are we going to protect the lunch program, or are we going to subject it to the Committee on Appropriations and what they are doing now? Will school districts be forced to end programs when massive rescissions bills come down after they have already bought food? Maybe we should go to the kids during the year after they have already had that luncheon say, you need to give it back.

Why is Congress trying to fix a program that has been working since 1946?

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#### REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following: On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third, and cut the congressional budget. We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we kept our promise; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits—we plan to complete that today;

Welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; senior citizens' equity act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty, and congressional term limits to make congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

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#### REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL TO END THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the Republican Party released its most extreme proposal. Republicans voted to dissolve the most successful child nutrition programs in our schools today—the school lunch program. With a 5-year, \$5 billion program cut, the GOP will raise the nutritional deficit of thousands of school age kids.

Republicans need to understand that in their callous and inhuman proposal, they will be hurting the most vulnerable of Americans—our Nation's children. Members of the GOP argue that their program will cut bureaucrats and will not endanger our children. Well I have news for them, cutting school lunches does endanger our children. How can we prepare our youth for the jobs of the 21st century when we deny them the basic requirements for a healthy body and sound mind.

Members on the other side of the aisle need to stop playing schoolyard bully. Their actions are an insult to millions of Americans and their children. I urge this body to defeat any action against the health and well-being of our Nation's kids.

#### REFORM FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, in trying to help the least advantaged among us, our Federal Government has instead created a culture of poverty that is destroying the next generation. It created a safety net that works as a hammock instead of a trampoline. It created reliance when we wanted self-help. And it started a cycle of dependency when we wanted charity. The clients of the welfare system have instead become its victims.

Now Congress has the opportunity to change the system. We have the obligation to reform the system. And we have the moral imperative to transform this system of dependency. While others have come to defend the welfare state, they have instead declared war on our children of the next generation because they don't recognize this era has raised the white flag over the current culture of poverty. Mr. Speaker our welfare system is normally bankrupt and only through a mixture of compassion and tough love will we be able to keep our country from declaring moral chapter 11 and defaulting on the next generation—our children.

#### TOP 10 REASONS FOR SUPPORT OF 1-800-BUY-AMERICAN

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the top 10 reasons to cosponsor my 1-800-Buy-American bill.

No. 10, the bill pays for itself. No. 9, it passed the House last year overwhelmingly. No. 8, no government bureaucrats. No. 7, no more Ross Perot specials and graphs. No. 6, the Chinese are coming. No. 5, it beats all those 1-900 phone sex calls for your family. No. 4, the American workers demand it. No. 3, Japan hates it. No. 2, it should be a part of the Contract With America. And No. 1, David Letterman is absolutely fed up with those Chinese toasters.

1-800-Buy-American, H.R. 447, passed the House, the Senate did not show the wisdom. Cosponsor H.R. 447.

#### LIABILITY LAWSUIT SYSTEM

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, America's liability lawsuit system has imposed huge costs on the economy and our society. Even Little League baseball has not been exempt. Its liabilities insurance rates have climbed 1,000 percent in 5 years. So Americans are going to have to pay more for their children to play baseball.

I feel safe in saying that if our current liability system had existed 100 years ago, we would not be flying airplanes. And being from the air capital of the world, Wichita, KS, that is a startling thought. Americans are brave and adventurous people. We like to take risks. We have historically been willing to pay the price for progress. But all we are paying today is the cost of frivolous and predatory lawsuits brought by lawyers who in many cases are only out to protect their fees.

Mr. Speaker, \$300 billion a year. That is what our system costs Americans each year in higher prices and lost wages and in lost jobs. While we need to ensure that people with legitimate grievances have access to the justice system, we also need to make common-sense reforms.

#### SCHOOL LUNCH

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the war on kids just got extremer and meaner yesterday. We all know about the war on the lunch program and paper plates are coming in in the mail every day to my office saying please save it, please save it. But yesterday we saw one more step that I really could not believe.

We saw them take out of the Child Support Enforcement Act a provision saying a deadbeat parent could have their driver's license taken away. Now, I think that is amazing.

As they are taking away a child's lunch, they are not at all hesitant to leave a deadbeat parent with their driver's license. Heaven forbid.

What is a child supposed to do? The child, I guess, is supposed to pick better parents before birth. I do not think that is a good answer.

#### WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the defenders of the old order have been telling us for weeks how much they want to help the children. But their idea of helping children is expanding a welfare system that has proven to be a failure—especially for children.

Consider this recent poll result. When asked, "do you think children are generally better off today or worse off than when you were a child," 60 percent of all Americans—and 77 percent of black Americans—said children today, were worse off.

All you have to do is look around to see that the people are right. And the welfare system is a large part of the reason why.

So why do the Democrats fight so hard to save a failed system?

I think it has a lot to do with the poverty industry that has grown up around the Democratic Party.

The Democrat Party may need poverty, but America does not.

It is time to act, Mr. Speaker. It is time to change a failed system that has done irreparable harm to America's children.

□ 1115

#### CHILDREN AT RISK WITH CUTBACKS ON SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, let me see if I can get this right. The Republican approach is to lower taxes for the rich by taking the school lunch away from the children. The contract with America is undoing the legend of Robin Hood.

Republicans who were elected last November never told the voters that they intended to bring pain to the children of our country. The mean-spirited Republicans continue to set their sights on attacking those members of our society who are least able to fight back.

This time they have gone too far and the American people are aware of the all-out assault on children in this country. The Republicans can try to mislead the people about the Social Security cuts but they are not going to be able to hide their attacks on the school lunch program and the children in our country.

Day after day, Republicans come up with a new way to hurt helpless little