

significantly or dramatically without affecting the quality of life of all of us. We all live in America and as they are affected, we are also affected.

If poor become poorer in our society, the resources from those of us who are affluent and rich certainly will be drained. If poor people are not involved in the mainstream of our economy, the mainstream of America will suffer as a consequence of that.

In our blind rush to change things, it seems that we are ignoring these changing factors. To review some of these changes, let's consider that again according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the low-income elderly will be the hardest hit by a rescission. Why? Because the low income energy assistance program will be eliminated from these cuts. More than half of a million senior citizens will no longer have assistance in the cold of winter for heating purchases.

Also the low-income housing assistance program will also be drastically reduced. Poor children will be hit very, very bad by this bill. Excluding the housing and the energy assistance programs, \$5 of every \$6 proposed for the cut will affect children and youth. Children and youth thus far will face a double hit, because they also are assisted by the assistance for housing and also for fuel assistance.

More importantly, to receive no assistance means that low-income families with children must bear a disproportionate burden. The availability of housing for the poor will be made far more difficult if, indeed, the rescission package goes through.

These are fundamental changes in the quality of life of our citizens. While poor children will be cold, they may also be malnourished. Despite facts and statements to the contrary, more cuts in nutrition will indeed, occur, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the opposing side is saying that that will not happen.

Consider this fact: The WIC program will be cut by \$25 million in this rescission package, even before we get to the welfare reform next week. So to suggest that we are not cutting, we are going to make sure that children, pregnant women, and the very small suffer the most.

Why are we doing this? Where is the rationale for making these drastic cuts? In a sense, Mr. Speaker, we are imposing unfunded mandates on the States. I submit to you, by cutting these funds we are shifting the burden from the Federal Government to the States. And it will be, indeed, the expectation of the poor and those who have come to rely on these, they will now go to the States or to their local Governor expecting them to bear up this burden.

The States will have very little, I suspect, in responding to those who are cold in the winter, who are ill-housed. Therefore, Mr. Speaker we should not be doing this.

Funding for safe and drug-free schools, as my colleague has just mentioned to you, will be drastically cut. Some \$482 million will be lost, including \$9 million, Mr. Speaker, from my State of North Carolina. And for those lucky enough to receive training, they will not have jobs to go to because transportation will be cut.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the rescission bill really is a contract for disaster for poor people in America.

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 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Pour down upon us, gracious God, the mercies and the judgments of Your word. Where we have missed the mark, grant us correction; where we have denied Your spirit and gone our own way, grant us forgiveness; when we have spoken the truth and done good works, give us encouragement; when we feel alone or in need of Your healing care, grant us Your abiding peace. We place before, O God, our prayers and the secret petitions of our hearts asking that Your word speak to us in the depths of our being. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

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.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT] objects to the

vote on the ground that quorum is not present and makes the point of order that a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on the question will be postponed until 5 o'clock this afternoon.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FUNDERBURK 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.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF REVIEW PANEL OF THE OFFICE OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Pursuant to the provisions of rule LI, the Chair appoints to the review panel of the Office of Fair Employment Practices the following employees of the House of Representatives: Ms. Elizabeth Haas, legal counsel, Office of the Clerk; and Mr. Randy Johnson, workplace policy coordinator, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. 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 kept our promise; 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.

BLOCK GRANTS DO NOT FEED CHILDREN

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, after just 67 days in power, the Republicans are now known as the party that cut school lunches.

Today, they are actually trying to convince us that block grants will be better for children.

But that is not what they said in the past.

In 1982, Congressman WILLIAM GOODLING said, and I quote: "a child's nutrition needs do not vary from State to State."

Senator BOB DOLE said: "The nutrition area is one that does not easily lend itself to State responsibility" and added "It is appropriate that the Federal Government retain primary responsibility for nutrition programs."

And Speaker, GINGRICH himself cosponsored a resolution which said, and I quote, "the Federal Government should retain primary responsibility for the child nutrition program and such programs should not be included in any block grant."

Mr. Speaker, block grants do not feed children.

Republicans understood that in the past. But now that they need the money to pay for their tax cuts for the wealthy, they seem to have forgotten.

Well, I promise you this, Mr. Speaker: the American people will not forget.

PUT THE FARMER FIRST

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that farmers are the backbone of my district. The Second District of North Carolina from Rocky Mount to Dunn is the second largest producer of tobacco in America. We also have hundreds of soybean, peanut, and livestock farms. Unfortunately, Washington treats these hard working Americans like criminals. It taxes and regulates them.

A classic example of Washington's war on farmers is the tax penalty the IRS imposes on those who pass farmland down to their family members. Farmers have 2 years to notify the IRS that someone has died.

The catch is that the IRS has not made hundreds of farm families aware of this requirement. For farmers who do not have time to read the IRS fine print, the tax police demand back taxes and penalties which are so severe, that these farmers are now in the position

of having to sell their farms to pay the tax man.

Mr. Speaker, the farmer has had enough—enough of interference, enough of redtape, and enough of the IRS. Let us do something right for the men and women who put the food on the table. For starters let us pass H.R. 501, which allows farm families to hand their and down from each generation without fear of the IRS.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE ON BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, this is a place where we come to make choices. Many of us, both Republican and Democrat, are ready to make choices to reduce the Federal budget, but today in the Committee on Rules, the Republican leadership of the Committee on Rules is ready to deny us a choice, a series of choices, that the American people have a right to hear us make.

This week on this floor, we will have presented to us a \$17 billion budget cut proposal by the Republican majority. Some of us agree that the budget ought to be cut, but ought to be cut in different places. We want to offer an amendment that would say: "Let us not take home heating assistance away from senior citizens across this country; instead, let us take the money from the S&L bailout. Let us not take money away from reading teachers for children across this country; let us take the money from energy subsidies to huge multinational corporations."

We are not going to get the right to make that choice unless the rule proposed by the Republican leadership is defeated. Honor your Contract With America, open up the promise, and defeat this rule.

REPUBLICANS PROMISE DELIVERY ON FIGHT TO PRESERVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

(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, you will hear a lot of whining, weeping, and gnashing of teeth on the other side of the aisle in the coming days. You see, the liberal Democrats just cannot accept that under our Republican tax relief plan, Americans will actually be allowed to keep more of their own money.

The liberal Democrats think all money belongs to the Government.

They think the Government needs the money more than working families do.

They think Government does a better job of spending your money than you do.

And they cannot accept that the bloated bureaucracy will be reduced to pay for much-needed tax relief.

They think Government should be even bigger.

They think Government does just a wonderful job of delivering services.

They think the Government needs a raise.

But Republicans will put Government on a diet. We will read every page, check every line, and challenge every figure in a search to cut waste, fraud, and abuse.

This is nothing less than a fight to preserve the American dream for our children. And we will deliver.

THE SHAMEFUL REVERSE ROBIN HOOD POLITICS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, why are Republicans cutting school lunches for our children, heating assistance for our seniors, and health care for our veterans? To pay for yet another tax cut for the wealthy.

Last week we finally got a look at the Republican tax giveaway, and we found that 50 percent of the benefits of the Republican tax cuts go to people making \$100,000 or more. The capital gains cut is worth \$8,000 to families making \$200,000 or more, while working middle class families making \$30,000 or less would only get a tax cut worth \$92.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my colleague who just spoke, yes, that is a fact, it is a diet, it is a diet for the working middle class families of this country. Cutting services for the most vulnerable to benefit the most privileged 2 percent of Americans is wrong. The reverse Robin Hood politics of the Republican Party is shameful.

TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE TRUTH

(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, I have come to the floor of the House to confront my Democratic colleagues who seem more intent on distortions, regarding the future of the School Lunch Program, rather than promoting the health and safety of our Nation's most precious asset—our children. I hope these individuals abandon hollow political rhetoric and tell the American public the truth. The Republican plan is growing school meals by 4.5 percent. Tell the American people the truth. By the year 2000, we will be spending \$1 billion more on school lunches than today. Tell the American public the truth, Republicans are cutting out Federal bureaucrats and bringing school lunches closer to home.