

matters that have been State law since the beginning of this Constitution, they took it away from the States and gave them orders. When it came to lawsuits of any kind, not just manufactured products but automobile accidents, people slipping and falling on the stairs, the Republican Party put through an amendment that makes those matters of national concern. We are going to be debating term limits. I said to a couple of the Republicans, well, are we going to have uniform national standards?

They said, "Of course," some of the Republicans have said, "We can't leave that up to the States. That's too important." The fate of poor children, that is not too important. And we know that the States are subjected to a competition among themselves for industry, industry which can decide whether it is from overseas or here where to move. They will tell a State, "We don't think your taxes are low enough. We think your benefits are too high." So what we have is a deliberate dismantling of this safety net, sketchy as it now is, sent back to the States, and the absolute predictable conclusion is that poor 2- and 3- and 4-year-olds will be poorer and worse off in the future.

The same is true with the school lunch program and with other programs. The military budget will go up. The space budget will be protected. The House gym will stay open. We will be OK, but poor children will be the victims of an assault unlike any we have seen in a long time.

I hope that the House will indeed stand up for America by saying that is not the kind of country we want to live in.

A DISTURBING DECISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am tempted to try and respond to the previous speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts, and I will just simply say we will be debating welfare this week and if the gentleman represented a welfare program that was working, I do not think there would be the need for change and change is what we are trying to do to make it work better. I want to talk about a niche of the welfare problem.

In the 1980's, approximately one-half of the hemophilia community in the United States, that is between 8,000 and 10,000 people, became infected with the virus that causes AIDS through the use of contaminated blood clotting products, products which U.S. Government agencies have direct regulation and oversight over. More than 30 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me already in offering H.R. 1023. It is a bill to establish a government compensation program for the victims of this tragedy. This bill is

known as the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act, named for the 15-year-old Florida boy who died of hemophilia-associated AIDS in 1992, that I knew.

Its premise is that the Federal Government which has taken on the unique obligation to safeguard the blood supply and regulate the sale of blood products failed to respond to clear warning signs in time to prevent the tragedy. Records indicate that there were serious red flags about the dangers of blood-borne diseases even in the early 1980's although our understanding of course of the implications of AIDS has evolved in the years somewhat after that.

Hemophilia sufferers are often described as the canaries in the coal mine because when something goes wrong with the blood supply they usually succumb first because they use a blood clotting factors known as Factor. A single dose of Factor is often manufactured from the pooled blood of thousands of people, placing hemophiliacs at an extraordinary risk for blood-borne diseases.

According to industry estimates from the early 1980's, the blood of one infected donor could end up contaminating between half a million to 5 million units of Factor, potentially infecting as many as 125 hemophiliacs in a given year. The risks for hemophiliacs were enormous during that crucial period of time and we are seeing the results today. Nearly 2,000 hemophiliacs died of AIDS between 1981 and 1993 from contaminated blood and many more including members of their families are now suffering from its debilitating effects. My view has been that the Federal Government must share their part of the responsibility for what happened with the industry that manufacturers blood products because we have responsibility for oversight.

The hemophilia community is currently seeking redress from four major pharmaceutical companies through the courts. They have always known that this would be an uphill fight. Manufacturers of blood products have special protection from liability under most State laws which grant them status as providers of services, not products, when they make blood products. As a result, seeking judicial redress for harm caused by these products is a very difficult undertaking. Still, hemophiliacs believed in their case and have pursued their legal options as is their right in a free society. However, over this weekend, something very disturbing happened. The Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Illinois issued an unsettling ruling in a pending negligence class action lawsuit.

Writing for the court in overturning an earlier ruling regarding certification of the class, Judge Richard Posner appears to have concluded that this group of victims may not constitute a class because doing so could "hurl the industry into bankruptcy."

The judge seemed highly concerned that despite the protections that al-

ready exist for blood product manufacturers under State law, a jury in a class action case could provide awards that would ruin the industry.

I am troubled by what appears to be a greater concern on the part of the judge for the solvency of a multibillion-dollar industry than the rights of victims to join together in seeking justice here in America.

As a member of this House, I have no intention of becoming involved in a pending matter before the judiciary obviously, especially since reports suggest that the claimants will appeal the ruling. Still as we seek to do our part in meeting Government's obligation to victims of hemophilia-associated AIDS, we have got to recognize that the judicial option may be closing for these victims, perhaps providing even greater impetus for relief coming from the U.S. Congress.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to look closely at H.R. 1023, the Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Fund Act. It is the right thing to do and may be the only way out for these folks. It is the right thing to do now, this week especially, because this is the week we are discussing meaningful ways to deliver relief to truly needy Americans. Believe me, these 8,000 to 10,000 victims are people who are in desperate need.

WELFARE REFORM OR CUTS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a little of my time at first to talk about what I call the very mean-spirited, very radical welfare reform proposal that is being proposed by the majority Republican Party that would take money away from school lunches, from school breakfast programs, and take it away from needy kids.

I have spent some time in the last couple of weeks visiting with some of those programs. It is not just me saying this, but the State of Missouri, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, has analyzed their proposal and points out that there will be about 10 percent reduction in some of the programs for our school lunch kids. Then I look at the part that has to do with the food stamps and AFDC and I see further just cuts, not reform.

I thought we were here for welfare reform. This is not reform, these are just cuts. How do I say that? Not just me again, but again the State of Missouri saying the same thing, not HAROLD VOLKMER saying that. We know that they are cutting a total of well over 30, \$40 billion from these programs, just cuts, to take things away, along with, just like last Thursday, we did the cuts from the elderly for the heating assistance in the winter, we cut back on the

Job Training Partnership Act funds, and I will talk about those a little more and show how important they are, they cut that back.

Why did they do all of that? Why did they make all these big cuts? Well, here is why. They want to give later on, not next week, not this week, a big tax cut. Who gets the big tax cut? Well, if you make over \$100,000, and members of Congress do that, folks, and they are doing it maybe a little bit for themselves, if you make over \$100,000, you are going to get 51½ percent of the total cuts. People making that money get over half of it.

How did the people on the low end of the scale, say, zero to \$30,000? They get 4.8 percent of the cuts. I guess they do not need anything. It is the wealthy that needs the money. How about people between the wages of \$30,000 to \$50,000? I have got a lot of those in my district. They are middle income. They should get some money. Well, they get 11.6 percent of the cut.

People with wages of \$50,000 to \$75,000, they get 16.4 percent of the cuts. And \$75,000 to \$100,000, now we are getting in the upper brackets again, 15.2 percent of the cuts. So we know what they are doing. They are taking the money from the poor, the needy, and kids, and they are going to give it to the wealthy.

The other thing I would like to talk about are three young ladies, and I met with these three young ladies this last weekend, Ms. Keneetha Jackson, Ms. Shauntel Freelon, and Ms. Reba Brown. Who are they? They have not made national news or anything, but who are they? They are three young ladies who have children who used to be on welfare. They are no longer on welfare. Nor do they ever want to be on welfare again. They have been through the welfare cycle. They are no longer on the welfare cycle because they used some training programs, including principally the Job Training Partnership Act which the Republicans just cut last Thursday in the rescission bill, just last week cut it. Yet that program was primarily responsible so these people did not have to continue to stay on welfare.

They did not want to be on welfare. They did not like being on welfare. But one of them specifically pointed out to me in going through their life's history, each one of them did, that she had no alternative, she tried working after she had her first baby, she tried working at McDonald's and fast food places and she could not make it, she could not provide for her children and do it. So she found out about training programs. She entered into it.

All three of these are very proud of the fact that they are no longer on welfare. We have a lot more people out there that same way that want to get off welfare. Under the Deal bill, which will be a substitute for the Republican proposal, they will have a lot better chance of getting off welfare, of being able to be trained to get off welfare.

I agree we need to get and help people off welfare. We do not need to just give people a handout which we have done in the past. But we need to give them a hand up. We need to help them get up out of there. It can be done.

Here are three success cases. I am going to ask all of you, I know there are a few people out there who know the answer to this but there are not very many. Which one of these 3 that I mentioned this coming May will get a bachelor's degree in business administration from my alma mater, the University of Missouri in Columbia. That is right, folks. They are all determined to continue on this road to success, out of welfare.

I can tell you, it is Ms. Keneetha Jackson. She will be proud to be up there in May getting her degree. Then she tells you, that is not the end. She wants to go further and she wants her children to go further.

I dare say that none of these former welfare mothers' children will ever be on welfare because they too know what their mother has done.

DISTORTION OF TRUTH AND PARTISAN BICKERING IN WELFARE REFORM DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. EWING] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, we have heard here this morning quite a bit of comment and suggestion about the debate that is going to take place on this House floor later today about welfare reform. Unfortunately, I would have to characterize it as partisan bickering. It is distortion of the truth and partisan bickering.

I really believe this Nation deserves better than partisan rhetoric, half truths, mistruths and bickering. We have a serious problem because of our welfare system. Yet the other side of the aisle, who controlled this body for so many years, did nothing to reform that system. Now that we have a reform plan before us, we have partisan rhetoric, bickering, and half truths.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time to put America first. Cut out the rhetoric, the partisan bickering, the half truths.

If you have a better proposal, we will be glad to hear it. But it is time that we address that system. It is time that we put partisan bickering behind us. The American people want and should expect a welfare system that works.

We have a system now that does not ever encourage you to get off. We just keep paying. And, yes, some of the reforms are difficult. But why were those reforms not brought forth before? The majority of the experts on this in this country will tell you it is going to take tough reforms to change our welfare system.

What are we going to be debating here today? Yes, we have to talk about what is wrong with our system. Why we have so many people who get on

AFDC and stay there for years. Why we have families that are on that program for generations and do not get off.

I think if anybody would look at the way the program is set up and would see how we dole out the money, they would realize psychologically it is a trap for people. It is not something that gives you the helping hand up and out.

That is what we will be debating here today. How do we get the people that are on AFDC into paying jobs? How do we give them the self-respect so that they can raise themselves and their families up in our society?

Funding for welfare programs is out of control. It fits right in with the need to balance the budget. Of course on the other side, all we get when we propose a cut is rhetoric and partisan bickering. They do not bring forward cuts to balance the budget. Goodness no, only give the Republicans a hard time because they are trying to balance the budget.

But the welfare costs are going to increase from \$325 billion to almost \$500 billion by 1998. How do we ever balance the budget with runaway welfare programs like that?

We have spent \$5 trillion on welfare. The system has not worked. We still have people mired in this system. There are some very important provisions to the bill that we are going to talk about in the next few days, things that are supported by the great number of working American taxpayers. When we hear the partisan bickering and the rhetoric from the other side, we need to focus on the working American taxpayers who are not being represented in that type of debate.

We want to make a tough work requirement in our welfare system. We want to eliminate awards for having children out of wedlock to get more welfare. We will have many important elements to debate, those are just a few, in the days ahead. But what we do here today is for our children, for the next generation, for the long term, for the survival of our country.

DSG SPECIAL REPORT ON REPUBLICAN CONTRACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to advise Members of the publication today of the first special report being issued by the newly reorganized Democratic Study Group. It is a special report entitled "Cheating Children: The Real Meaning of the Republican Contract." It really is a catalog of the contract's attacks on the kids of America. It goes through in a very systematic fashion the various bills that we have already acted upon, particularly the welfare bill that will be in front of the House this week, and lays out exactly