

reached \$325 billion; if this continues, it will cost the country approximately \$500 billion in 1998.

Instead, our proposal moves in the opposite direction. It saves the taxpayer approximately \$60 billion over 5 years. Under the plan, people who honestly need a helping hand will be given job training and education to rejoin the work force.

The current welfare state has been the families downfall. Our plan will remedy this, we will offer incentives adding up to 10 percent to States which successfully reduce illegitimacy rates.

Let us work together, to create a system, which restores pride and opportunity for the American people.

STOP THE WAR ON KIDS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, thousands of children and their parents staged a "Lunch-In" on the steps of the Capitol to protest Republican plans to cut the School Lunch Program. The message that these families sent to the Republican majority is simple: Stop the war on kids.

We all agree that there is waste in Government and that there are programs that do not work and should be eliminated, but the School Lunch Program is not one of them. The School Lunch Program works. It works to help our kids stay healthy, alert, and ready to learn each day.

If we are going to cut spending and reform Government, why not start by cutting corporate welfare. We could save \$5 billion if we eliminate the tax breaks given to pharmaceutical companies to manufacture offshore. Why not start there, instead of starting by cutting programs for our children.

□ 1415

IT IS TIME TO OVERHAUL THE WELFARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we begin today to discuss the debate the Republican welfare reform plan.

Now, our Democrat colleagues have tried to put their own negative spin on our plan. However, they still have not got it quite right.

Let me explain the entire bill in a few simple words: Work, family, personal responsibility, and hope for the future. Now, how hard is that to understand?

Republicans are going to replace a failed system of despair with a more compassionate solution that will work to get people off the public dole. Through the dignity of work and the strength of families, we will offer hope for the future of millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come finally to completely overhaul the welfare system.

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we begin the debate today on a proposal that would transform welfare eligibility, affect Federal spending, and shift social services responsibility from the Federal Government to the States.

This is major reform, without a doubt, welfare reform, they say. I support welfare reform.

Proponents of the Personal Responsibility Act say that the bill will result in saving over \$60 billion. We say the bill cuts almost \$70 billion from women, infants, children, and the elderly. Proponents say the bill will streamline bureaucracy. We say the bill creates 50 other bureaucracies. They say the bill will reduce deficits. We say the bill fuels the deficit by adding to health costs. It is penny wise and pound foolish. They say the bill puts people to work. We ask where and how will they work?

It has been said that one person's profanity is another person's lyrics. This debate is not whether we are cursing. This debate is about whether we are cursing or cheering America.

The people will decide who we are benefiting and who we are hurting. This bill should be helping America and not dividing us.

THE ONE-PENNY BUDGET CUT

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

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, last week I sent every Member of the House one penny.

One penny that is what we were talking about in the budget rescission passed last week.

The rescissions package the House passed represents approximately one one-hundredth of the Federal budget for fiscal year 1995.

If we cannot cut that from the budget, what are we doing here in Congress?

Mr. Speaker, my home State of New Jersey went through this same process years before Congress did.

Then, as now, the doomsayers said the difference of a penny would ruin the Garden State.

Well, the doomsayers were wrong then and they are wrong now.

We will show the American people that cutting one penny on the dollar off the budget will not ruin our Nation. Rather as Congress decides to make the difficult decisions to turn our fiscal situation around, our Nation will only get stronger, not weaker.

Mr. Speaker, for 40 years, the other party has shown that they do not have the resolve to cut even one penny. For

America's sake, we do, and we did last week.

WASHINGTON POST POLL SHOWS MORE PEOPLE TRUST REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS

(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, the Washington Post poll that my colleague just cited had other interesting numbers in it that he failed to mention:

More people trust Republicans in Congress to cut taxes rather than President Clinton.

More people trust Republicans in Congress to reform the welfare system than President Clinton.

More people trust Republicans in Congress to reduce the deficit than President Clinton.

More people trust Republicans in Congress to reduce crime than President Clinton.

More people trust Republicans in Congress to handle the Nation's economy than President Clinton.

And finally, more people trust Republicans in Congress to handle the main problems facing our Nation today, more so than the liberals and President Clinton. The poll is very clear, Mr. Speaker. They trust the Republicans. We are on track with welfare reform this week. We hope success will be here by the end of the week.

OSHA CUT WOULD DELAY PROTECTION FOR WORKERS

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the action of the House last week in passing the DeLay amendment, which cut an additional \$3.5 million from the current year budget for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, was reckless, counterproductive, and just plain stupid. In the name of stopping the ergonomics standard, the House made cuts that cannot and will not stop work on the standard, but will hurt health and safety by cutting workplace inspections and consultation visits. Thousands of workers will be hurt, and some may die if these cuts are allowed to stop the effort to make our workplaces less dangerous.

Mr. DELAY says we have to send a signal to OSHA not to ignore the moratorium bill. But that bill is not law; we do not have a one-House veto. Mr. DELAY cannot singlehandedly delay progress. And the Senate probably is not going to pass the silly moratorium bill in any event.

OSHA is following the law and doing the right thing—precisely what we all tell them we want—working with the business community, checking out their ideas in the field, consulting with

workers and managers. At this point there is no ergonomics proposal, just ideas in draft form for tackling the single biggest source of injuries to American workers. Why in the world would we tell the agency not to try to figure out a cost-effective way to protect workers from carpal tunnel syndrome and back injuries?

Mr. Speaker, the DeLay amendment to delay protection for workers was reckless, counterproductive, and just plain stupid.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention two little known animals that are very important to the pharmaceutical industry in the United States. The existence of these animals brings new hope to high blood pressure sufferers and heart attack victims in this country.

First, high blood pressure sufferers look to the pit viper to provide an entirely new generation of extremely effective antihypertensives. Compounds found in the venom of these snakes have led to greater understanding of the human mechanism for maintaining blood pressure. However, number of pit viper species are threatened with extinction.

Second, the Houston toad, on the brink of extinction due to habitat loss, produces alkaloids which scientists believe may prevent heart attacks. These alkaloids also appear to have analgesic properties more powerful than morphine. The Houston toad is native to the United States.

At least 500 species and subspecies of plants and animals in the United States have become extinct since the 1500's. Could one of those long-gone species have held the cure to AIDS, cancer, or the common cold?

Let us reauthorize a workable Endangered Species Act.

STOP PICKING ON KIDS

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I come to deliver a message from our luncheon on Sunday: Stop picking on kids.

Little 10-year-old Touissant Clemmens probably said it best, "Children have to say no to a lot of things. Food should not be one of them."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot for the life of me understand why we are cutting \$6 billion out of the School Lunch Program to provide tax breaks for the wealthy. I cannot understand why we are trying to replace a Federal bureaucracy with 50 State bureaucracies, and why that is a better idea. I cannot

understand why we are eliminating national nutrition standards.

Does someone want to go back to calling catsup a vegetable?

I am concerned, because these cuts are going to finance tax breaks for the wealthy. Fifty percent of the tax breaks go to families making over \$100,000, like Congressmen. I do not think we need a tax break.

Five hundred dollars per child for people making up to \$200,000? I do not understand why. Twenty percent of the tax cuts go to the wealthiest 2 percent of the people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, you like to talk about the average American. Well, I will tell you, when the average American citizen figures out we are taking money out of the mouths of children to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy, I think they are going to resent it. I think they are going to resent it all the way to the 1996 elections.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

WELFARE REFORM BILL: NEW METHODS FOR COLLECTING FROM DEADBEAT PARENTS

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today we begin the process of overhauling a welfare system that traps millions of Americans, especially women and children, in an endless cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

One of the most crucial provisions of the Republican welfare reform bill provides new methods for collecting money from deadbeat dads and mothers. Right now these irresponsible parents in my home State of Washington owe over \$423 million, and \$34 billion is owed nationally to the children and the families.

This is money that, in many cases, could be used to keep children off welfare. These uncaring parents provide neither hope nor a bright future for their children. What these deadbeat parents do instead is three things: They evade their most basic responsibility by failing to support their own flesh-and-blood children, they force their own children into welfare, and they force you, the American taxpayer, to pick up the tab for their irresponsibility.

Mr. Speaker, they force the Government to become the parent.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the status quo welfare system provides little relief to the families trapped by delinquency of the deadbeat parents. The child-support provision of our bill,

which I am pleased to say has great bipartisan support, will begin the process of ending welfare as we now know it and putting our children first by requiring both parents to support their own children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member to support this bill and the children.

INCREASE, NOT REDUCE, THE FOOD PROGRAM

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

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I went to the Henry Suder School in my district on last Friday for the School Nutrition Program, and while I was there, they gave me these paper dolls. They have been coming into the office over the last month or so. They are from various children who are at the school.

One little girl says, and this is to CARDISS COLLINS from Pearl Haye. It says,

Children need quality, nutritious foods to help them grow. If there is no balanced food, they won't be healthy. They will not become healthy citizens. I like to eat well, and I like to learn a lot of skills. Please, increase, not reduce, the food program so that all kids can benefit from it.

You know, it is really amazing to me when people talk about cutting \$60 billion out of the mouths of children. To snatch food right out of children's mouths is absolutely not comprehensible at all to me.

You know, I went to the school, and for lunch they had a little tray with a few little chicken fingers, french fries, a few carrots, an orange, and a carton of milk.

Why take that away from little kids? It does not make sense to do so.

MAKING GOVERNMENT LESS COSTLY AND LESS INTRUSIVE

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

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, straight from the Democratic Party propaganda room, I give you the Washington Post's latest poll that says the momentum of the Republican Contract With America is slowing down.

Mr. Speaker, it is polls like this and scare mongering by our opponents that has given America 40 years of one party rule, bloated budgets, arrogance, and a country on the verge of bankruptcy.

Are the Republicans cutting wasteful spending? Are we working toward a balanced budget? Have we begun to end the arrogance of Washington knows best? And are we working hard to keep our word to the American people? The answer is yes.

Our journey is a difficult one. Fighting the scare tactics of the "let's party on" crown has not and will not be easy. But the American people know better.