

and disabled children and 500 children will be dropped from the rolls. Vermont will lose close to \$1 million in school lunch funds and 4,100 children will no longer receive free or reduced price meals. Vermont will lose \$1.6 million in child care funds and 990 children will be denied care. Vermont will lose \$3.5 million in funds for the child and adult care food program and 4,150 children will lose their daily meals. Vermont will lose \$9 million in food stamp funds and 25,386 children would receive reduced food stamp benefits.

We all recognize that the current welfare system is not working well, but in reforming the system we do not want to punish some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

This House just passed an unfunded Federal mandate bill and, as a former Mayor, I supported that bill. This welfare reform bill is one of the largest unfunded Federal mandates that the State of Vermont will ever experience.

If we are serious about real welfare reform than we must be talking about a jobs bill which can employ those people who are leaving welfare. We must be talking about increasing child care, job training, and educational opportunities. If our goal is to get people off welfare and into jobs, then we must provide the infrastructure for that transaction. Not to do that is to simply punish poor people for being poor.

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, last week we saw how the Republicans eagerly take from working families, senior citizens and children.

When I went home to my district I stopped by an elementary school—I wanted to see for myself the importance of Federal nutrition programs and to learn what these meals mean to the children.

What I saw were children being fed a hot and nutritious meal—the only decent meal they eat the entire day.

The cold and heartless attack we are witnessing is appalling.

Hunger afflicts up to 30 million Americans, 12 million of them are children. My congressional district, the East San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County, will be the most heavily impacted in all of California. 41,000 children, in my district alone, will be negatively impacted by the Republican proposal to cut nutrition programs.

We all know that hungry students are fatigued, cannot concentrate and end up doing worse than their peers on standardized tests.

I urge my Republican colleagues to visit their schools before denying this small but essential program from our children.

You cannot disguise the fact that block granting nutrition programs is taking food out of the mouths of children, to fill the trough that feeds corporate subsidies.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LATOURETTE] having assumed the chair, Mr. LINDER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending, and reduce welfare dependence, had come to no resolution thereon.

WELFARE REFORM IS ABOUT INDIVIDUAL HUMAN BEINGS

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, the welfare reform debate that we are engaged in is not about politics, and it is not about abstract policy; it is about people, about human beings.

And one person in my hometown of Boulder, Colorado recently had this to tell me: Five years ago I was pregnant and abandoned by my husband. I had no home, no job, no money but I had a goal in my life—to be an education specialist. Today I have reached my goal. I have a happy 4-year-old daughter. I have a job that I love, teaching young children. If it weren't for government programs such as Self-Sufficiency, WIC, section 8, immunizations, Medicaid, food stamps and LIHEAP I would not have reached my goal.

"We can't know," she goes on, "we can't know the individual circumstances of all who ask for assistance. I don't think anyone plans to or wants to beg for help. Thanks for not giving up on me."

We have got to reform welfare but as we do it, we cannot give up on decent young women like this.

Mr. speaker, here is the full text of what this young woman told me:

Five years ago, I was pregnant and abandoned by my husband who was, in his own words, "not ready" for the responsibility of parenthood. I had no home, no job, no money, and no insurance. And I was worried. I had a goal for my life—to be an environmental education teacher. How was I going to do this and be a single parent? I still had to complete my education!

Today, I have reached my goal. I have a happy 4-year-old daughter who, contrary to an article in U.S. News and World Report which states that fatherless children were more likely to have learning disabilities and behavioral problems, is well-adjusted and has been tested as having an above average IQ. I have a job that I love, teaching young children about our environment and how to take care of it. These are children of tax-paying citizens who, through their taxes, supported me during hard time. I feel that, by educating their children, I am helping to repay that debt. If it weren't for State and local government programs such as Project Self-Sufficiency, WIC, Section 8 Housing, Free Immunizations, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and LIHEAP, (low-income energy assistance program), all of which I have received benefits from, I would not have been able to reach my goal. I qualified for and received these benefits while working full time and taking a full course load at the University of Colorado.

Today I am happy to know that some of my taxes are going to help others like myself who are trying to reach their life goals, in spite of difficulties, obstacles, and hardships which are beyond their control.

We can't know the individual circumstances of all who ask for assistance. I don't think anyone plans to or wants to beg for help. I also don't believe that two years of assistance is long enough for most people to complete education or job training and find a job that is going to pay all their bills. I would like to take this opportunity to

thank all the taxpayers, friends and family who have helped me over the past five years to reach my goal. Thanks for not giving up on me.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WESTERN COMMERCIAL SPACE CENTER LEASE SIGNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, last Friday the 25-year lease agreement between the Department of the Air Force and the Western Commercial Space Center—better known as the California Spaceport Authority—was finally signed. It was an arduous process that tested the commitment to commercial space development on all sides.

Although this agreement had been agreed upon in principle for months, it was nearly derailed by an overzealous civilian bureaucracy within the Department of the Air Force. In essence, what would have taken less than 30 days in the private sector took several months because of the arcane manner in which the federal government tends to operate.

There were two key issues at work: first, the release of \$3 million in previously awarded Fiscal Year 1994 Department of Defense grants to the Space Center; and second, signing the lease itself which would then allow construction to begin on the first polar orbit commercial spaceport in America.

The DoD grants were awarded in Fiscal Year 1994. They were awarded independently of the 25-year lease with the Air Force. On October 28, 1994, when Secretary Widnall announced the Air Force's intention to negotiate a lease with the Space Center, no mention was made of a link between releasing the grants and signing the lease. Yet, for some reason, release of grant funds because tied to the lease signing.

This lease had been agreed upon in principle for more than four months. During a December 15, 1994, meeting between the Air Force general counsel's office and the Space Center, the Space Center was told they would have a draft of the lease by January 1, 1995—and that the lease would be signed by January 15, 1995.

On January 30, 1995—30 days after it was promised by the Air Force general counsel's office—a 76-page lease with 26 conditions was submitted to the Space Center.

For weeks, the lease was traded back and forth. Signing was set to take place twice, yet both deadlines passed because civilian bureaucrats kept adding new conditions. For example, condition 15 of the original lease addressed liability and stated that damages were

not to exceed \$10 million. But the bureaucrats decided to add environmental language to the lease—despite the fact that the environmental issues had been addressed and resolved during three review processes and the fact that no launches would take place for two years thus eliminating the possibility of an environmental problem.

Then the civilian bureaucrats decided that the Space Center would have 60 days to submit a certified insurance policy. Clearly unreasonable because insurance companies rarely, if ever, issue certification of policies within 60 days.

Then, the bureaucrats decided that there should be no cap on the amount that could be sought and awarded in a liability suit—then Spaceport could be sued for any amount of money. Obviously no reasonable insurance company would issue a policy where they would be required to pay unlimited damages.

In the end, due in large part to bipartisan support and participation, the primary lease between the Space Center and the Air Force was signed.

Mr. Speaker, the process by which this lease agreement came to be signed should not be a model for future negotiations. It should have never reached an 11th hour deadline. It should have never reached a point where the Space Center was in danger of shutting its doors. It should never have reached a point where hundreds, and ultimately thousands of jobs, could have been lost. It should never have put tens of millions of dollars in private sector investment in jeopardy. It should never have put the future of commercial space development in California on the line.

One of the reasons the voters of America responded as they did during the 1994 elections was because of problems such as this. The American people have demanded a smaller and more efficient federal government that puts the interests of its people ahead of everything else. This ladies and gentleman, is the essence of the Contract with America.

While spaceport development and commercial space are not part of the 100-day agenda, they are very much in line with the goals and spirit of the 104th Congress. Our government must be willing to make America a strong and vibrant competitor in the international commercial space market. Further, the government must demonstrate to private industry that they are committed to making America a leader in the international commercial space market.

Mr. Speaker, the time for action is now. All of our international competitors—France, China, Russia, Canada, Japan, Australia—are moving forward in the commercial space arena. We cannot fall behind. Spaceport development must go forward in conjunction with an aggressive U.S. commercial space policy.

And who stands to benefit from this approach? Certainly space states such as Alaska, California, Florida, Virginia, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas,

Hawaii and others. But, more importantly, our nation stands to benefit. There is enormous economic potential if we are willing to do what is necessary to successfully compete.

As we saw at crunch time on the Vandenberg lease, commercial space is not a partisan issue—it is an American issue. It is an issue where Republicans and Democrats can come together and unite behind a cause that ultimately benefits all Americans.

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WELFARE REFORM: SHELL GAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues once again in exposing the myths that the Republicans keep repeating about their welfare reform proposal and its impact on child nutrition programs. Later this evening, two of my colleagues will demonstrate how the Republicans are misleading the American people and how this block grant plan clearly cuts funding for essential child nutrition programs. But before they begin, here are the facts.

The Republicans claim their block grant does not cut funding for child nutrition programs, only the growth rate of these programs. They would like everyone to believe that their proposal increases funding for programs, such as school lunch, by 4.5 percent each year.

The truth is their 4.5 percent increase in funding for School Lunch is a fabrication. In fact, the bill doesn't even designate funding specifically for the school lunch, breakfast, or any other school-based meal program. The Republicans' numbers are nothing more than assumptions—I repeat, assumptions—of how much States may choose to use for lunch programs.

Even if States spent all of the money they receive under this block grant, this mythical funding increase would fall \$300 million short of the amount necessary to meet real needs. That is because the Republicans' plan won't keep pace with expected increases in program enrollment, inflation, or a possible recession. These needs require a 6.5 percent increase, so even the mythical 4.5 percent increase falls woefully short.

The Republicans' mythical funding also includes only cash assistance and not the value of direct purchases of food goods such as cheese and fruit. These direct purchases of food are a critical part of the school lunch program. In the first year, Republicans cut \$51 million from direct food assistance. Over 5 years, they cut \$600 million. That is a total shortfall of \$1 billion even if they live up to their hollow promise of a 4.5 percent increase in cash assistance.

That 4.5 percent promise comes with all kinds of trap doors that will drop

even more kids from the school lunch program.

The first trap door is that States would be required to use only 80 percent of the school block grant for school meals. Governors may transfer 20 percent to other programs. That means a potential additional loss of \$5 billion dollars from the program—\$1 billion a year. In my home State of Connecticut, if the Governor had this kind of discretion today and exercised it, the School Lunch Program would lose \$2 million in 1995 alone.

The second trap door is that these funding increases are not guaranteed—they will be subjected to the political whims of the annual budget process. So the Congress each year will be able to vote to reduce funding even more and drop even more kids from the program.

The Republicans also claim that their bill will cut bureaucrats, not kids. They couldn't be further from the truth. If Republicans were only interested in cutting administrative costs they would have done their homework: The entire administrative budget for all USDA feeding programs is \$106 million per year. The Republican plan would cut \$860 million in 1996 child nutrition programs alone. The bottom line is their cuts far exceed what is needed to control administrative costs.

The truth is, if the Republican proposal is enacted, 3,600 kids will be dropped from the School Lunch Program in Connecticut in the first year alone, and over half a million kids will be dropped nationwide.

The Congressional Budget Office has concluded the Republican proposal will cut \$2.3 billion over 5 years from school based nutrition programs and \$7 billion from all child nutrition programs over 5 years.

Republicans though don't want to admit this. They actually believe that these are not cuts. They boast that their plan provides savings. I ask you, how can you have savings, if you don't have cuts? This is the biggest Republican myth of them all.

The tragedy in this debate, Mr. Speaker, is that these Republican myths are being perpetuated so that drastic cuts can be made in a program that everybody agrees is working—and working well. And the savings—the money that will no longer be used to pay for a child's school lunch—will be used to pay for a tax break for the wealthiest Americans. It's shameful. It's mean spirited. It's just plain wrong.

WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. WAMP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, as we enter into this debate on welfare in this country, I think it is important to recognize that my colleague from west