

there. The solution is real term limits, retroactive term limits. Now, it is hard work to be the Speaker, but, it should not be too much trouble to actually live by the words that you speak.

#### CHANGING THE FAILED WELFARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, one of our liberal Democratic colleagues, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ], said during the general debate Tuesday that the welfare system was originally conceived to help children.

If that is the case, there has never been a clearer example of unintended consequences. For it is a sad fact that the current welfare system has been a disaster for children. Study after study shows that children on welfare do worse in school, are more likely to have other developmental problems, and are three times as likely as the average child to end up on welfare themselves.

Yet my liberal colleagues constantly parade to the floor to defend a system, their system, that has produced nothing but misery.

What do the liberals have against work? What do they have against personal responsibility? Why do they defend a system that has resulted in an explosion of illegitimacy in this country?

The American people are fed up with an immoral system that rewards personally destructive behavior. But this week, we finally begin to change the welfare system.

#### SUCCESSFUL WELFARE ALUMNI

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, we Democrats are for welfare reform, but we are for meaningful welfare reform. We are not for mean-spirited, radical welfare reform. We are not for taking food away from children and infants and giving it to millionaires, because that is what they do.

They take the \$70 billion that they cut from school lunch, from AFDC, from the food stamp bill, and they are going to give it to the millionaires and the big corporations.

I have heard anecdotal statements down here on the floor from that side about what kind of welfare mother we have out there. I want to tell you about some welfare mothers. I am going to give you names. I have not heard one name from that aside.

I am going to give you the name of Ms. Keneetha Jackson, I am going to give you the name of Ms. Reba Brown, and I am going to give you the name of Ms. Shauntel Freelon.

All three of them used to be on welfare, all three of them are no longer on welfare, and Keneetha come May gets a B.A. in business administration from

the University of Missouri, my alma mater. She has worked her way out of it. She does not want to be on welfare.

That is the Democratic proposal. Get them off of welfare. Help them out.

#### ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, for years the American people have demanded that Washington reform welfare.

For years politicians have talked about reforming welfare.

But for years liberal politicians blocked consideration of an overhaul of our welfare system.

What a difference an election makes.

Before the Republicans were even elected, we promised America that we would reform the welfare state if we were elected to the majority.

Today we are keeping our word. We are replacing a system that abuses children, ensnares generations in dependency, and subsidizes illegitimacy and destructive behavior with billions of taxpayer dollars.

The Republican plan will put millions of people now on welfare back on payrolls. Our bill encourages families and stops paying kids to have kids. We will give power to the States so they can develop local solutions to local poverty problems.

The President may speak about ending welfare as we know it, but it took Republicans to actually turn those words into real and responsible legislative action.

Remember today, actions speak louder than words.

#### CONGRESS TURNS BACK ON GROWING TRADE DEFICIT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. January's trade deficit hit a record \$12.3 billion, ladies and gentlemen.

This is absurd. Everyone in this body knows Japan rips us off. Mexico and China literally have slave labor wages. And Congress debates welfare. Congress debates budgets. Congress turns its back on the trade deficit.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Congress of the United States has betrayed the American worker. Harry Truman is rolling over in his grave.

I have never had one constituent ask me for welfare. My constituents want a job. It is a sad day in America when Congress turns its back and allows White House after White House to make false threats and do absolutely nothing.

Shame, Congress. Jobs is a 4-letter word but it is not a dirty word and it is time we start digging into it.

#### WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, we must remember that the American people sent us to Washington to downsize and streamline the Federal Government. Working people have consistently paid more taxes each year to combat the war on poverty—which we are losing.

The current system offers benefits to a record 14.3 million people, a 31-percent increase from 1989, which costs taxpayers \$325 billion. Our proposal will save taxpayers \$66.3 billion over 5 years by streamlining the administrative end and transferring authority over to the States.

This outdated and bureaucratic-laden system subsidizes illegitimacy, breaks up families, and promotes personally destructive behavior.

Let us continue fighting for the taxpayers of America and pass this much needed welfare reform bill.

#### SCHOOL LUNCH

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are for cutting spending and cutting the deficit, but do we really have to start with children?

There has been a lot of discussion about how much the Republican plan would cut the School Lunch Program. So when I went home this weekend, I went right to the source. I had lunch with the students at the Dutile Elementary School in Billerica, MA. They filled me in on the missing details.

According to school administrators, the Republican plan would cut \$210,000 a year from the Billerica school lunch program which means that 600 students who now get free or reduced lunches will have to find some other way to make up the difference.

Chicken sandwiches and carrot sticks may not seem like much to some Members of Congress who are used to dining out with lobbyists at Morton's eating thick, juicy steaks. But for the kids at the Dutile Elementary School, school lunch is often the only way to get through their day.

There are plenty of places to cut spending on entitlements that will not hurt kids, but instead of cutting the wealthy by closing corporate welfare tax breaks, the Republican plan takes money away from low-income school children and hands it over to people making \$100,000 a year.

#### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION'S TIME HAS PASSED

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, of all of the destructive ideas invented by the American left, none has been more

pernicious than affirmative action. It has changed America from a country grounded in individual rights and merit to one where justice is determined by what is done for, and to, one's racial or ethnic group.

Originally affirmative action was designed to protect men and women who had actually suffered direct discrimination. But now, these laws are used to set aside jobs, contracts, and seats in our best colleges.

Bill Bennett notes that with the helping hand of Federal bureaucrats and an activist judiciary we have actually regressed in race relations because, "you have a combination of resegregation, reseparation, and pseudopsychological nonsense about how skin color means a different identity psychologically."

Mr. Speaker, discrimination is wrong period. It is always wrong and affirmative-action is nothing more than discrimination with the Federal stamp of approval. For the sake of every American it is finally time to end the cult of victimization. It really is past time to end affirmative action as we know it.

#### REPUBLICAN WELFARE PLAN HURTS CHILDREN

(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, out of this debate has come a paradox—a puzzle. The Republicans say that they can save \$70 billion through welfare reform. They say they can save that amount and increase spending, at the same time. We say that \$70 billion in reduced spending is a cut. They want to use the money saved to give a tax break to the wealthiest Americans. We want to use the money cut to give a break to the children of America.

Who is right? Their bill ends entitlements; sharply cuts back aid to disabled children; allows below inflation growth for food stamps; puts a 5-year spending freeze on the largest cash program; reduces foster care; punishes fatherless children; and cuts off benefits after 5 years. They have the power to force this plan on the American people. Whatever piece of this puzzle you pick, the result is the same. They say they are saving money, but they are sacrificing children.

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#### THE DEFINITION OF BIODIVERSITY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, what is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the overwhelming diversity of life. Each species has a definite and specific role to play in sustaining the dynamics of ecosystem processes as producers, consumers, decomposers, parasites, and predators, and each species occupies a specific niche.

Biodiversity refers to the harmony and tension that exist between all species and ecological systems on the plant. Remove or sufficiently damage one of the components and the entire structure is weakened.

The value of biodiversity to humanity goes far beyond economic utility. Humans are a part of the diversity of life. We rely on it to sustain our existence on this plant. We cannot continue to exist without interaction with other species. We rely on diversity for the air we breathe and the water we drink. The value of biodiversity lies not only in the utilization value of resources, it lies in the intrinsic value of its ability to support life.

#### CHARGES AGAINST SPEAKER GINGRICH ARE NOT FRIVOLOUS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON is right this morning when she says that the charges against Speaker GINGRICH are not frivolous. The fact is from across the country the evidence and the calls for an investigation are mounting up. In this last week the Baltimore Sun, the Boston Globe, the Los Angeles Times, and the Chicago Tribune all raised questions about Speaker GINGRICH'S actions as Speaker and his service in the House of Representatives, raised questions about whether or not he has violated the gift rules in receiving gifts from corporate interests, whether or not he has violated the use of his staff in the production of his book and production of his TV show and his classroom, whether or not he violated the rules of this House by peddling his tapes on the floor of the House.

These are serious questions. Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON, the chairman of the Ethics Committee, is quite right. These are not frivolous, but they also are so serious that they should call for a special counsel to provide for an independent investigation of whether or not the Speaker is peddling his office, his position, and his power.

#### ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S CAN-NOTS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the misinformation swirls around the welfare debate, it is important to remember a few principles that have passed the test of time. Our great President Abraham Lincoln had a list of "Lincoln's Can-Nots." Mr. Speaker, here are just a few:

You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man's initiative and independence.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

But, Mr. Speaker, the failure that we call a welfare system snubs these principles. It saps initiative; it does for its victims what they should do for themselves; its defenders stir up class hatred to protect it. It replaces principle with pork, and confuses reason with regulation. As a result, children are born into a world without hope or independence.

Mr. Speaker, answers start with principles. Our welfare reform bill works because it is based on solid, enduring principles. Lincoln would have approved.

#### THE PHYSICS OF SCHOOL LUNCHES

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

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a simple law of physics: "For every action there is an equal, but opposite reaction." Although it is not a difficult concept to grasp, I would like to offer an example to help my colleagues who may not understand.

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to visit two schools in my district to observe the large number of children participating in the School Lunch Program. My district has been hard hit by a base closure, defense downsizing, and high unemployment.

At both Alessandro and Monterey Elementary Schools, over 80 percent of the children participate in the School Lunch Program. These schools are typical of the numbers of students whose nutritional needs are supplemented by the School Lunch Program in San Bernardino.

If we skimp on meals for hungry school children, we may save money in one area. But those savings will be lost due to increased medical expenses for undernourished children and higher education costs as children are held back in grades because they are not learning at the expected rate, unable to concentrate on an empty stomach. Our local schools may also lose much needed aid due to increased absenteeism due to sick, malnourished children having to stay home.

Throughout the balanced budget amendment debate in this House, my Republican colleagues took to the floor stating that unless we passed that one piece of legislation, our children and grandchildren would face a grim future. What could be more grim than 2 million children going hungry because congressional Republicans cut the School Lunch Program?

These may be simple cuts to make today, but the chain reaction set in motion could be disastrous for our country. Cutting school lunches is not the answer to this country's economic problems.

Let us be sure that we fully understand the opposite reaction to the action of cutting school lunches.