

Mr. Speaker, we have laws, precedents, and standards which should govern our actions. The people of Connecticut will have every right not only to be surprised but amazed that these decisions have been set aside.

REAL WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for 40 years the Democrats controlled the Congress. They did nothing but protect and expand to the tune of \$5 trillion a cruel welfare bureaucracy.

For 2 years the Democrats controlled the House, the Senate, and the White House and still promoted this destructive government-run, one-size-fits-all program that perpetuates a cycle of dependency.

For 2 years the President talked and talked and talked about ending welfare as we know it but did nothing, and this year, guess what? He is still silent. But since January 4, the Republican Congress has replaced talk with action, replaced rhetoric with real change.

The Republican welfare bill does not lack compassion. It is born out of compassion. The real lack of compassion was shown by those who stood by and did nothing while more and more Americans were pushed further and further away from the American dream.

Today we will pass real welfare reform and give America back that dream.

PAN AM 103 AND THE CIA

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, there is a record \$4 million reward out on the heads of two Libyans accused of blowing up Pan Am 103.

I say this is not a reward, this is a diversion. Records show that it was Iran, not Libya, that ordered the destruction of 103. In fact, Iran hired Syria and Ahmed Jabril picked 103 because it was insulated by our own CIA whose operatives were helping them get some of our hostages released. They say "nonsense" at the CIA.

Ladies and gentleman, it is time for the CIA to tell the American people and the families of the victims the truth. As an old sheriff, let me tell you this. If Qadhafi was responsible for 103, these two guys would have choked on a chicken bone by now. The families of victims overseas are demanding a new investigation.

My God, Congress. Let us get to the bottom of 103. This is a diversion.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I hear the other side wail and whine that we are hurting the children. Perhaps they are so busy defending the status quo that they fail to see the dismal failure our system has become. Perhaps they think it is compassionate for our system to encourage illegitimacy. Perhaps they think that it is OK for 1 in 3 babies in this Nation to be born out of wedlock. Perhaps they think it is OK that the average length of stay on welfare today is 13 years. But it is not OK, Mr. Speaker. It is unbelievable that we ever allowed the Federal Government to become the caretakers for so many people. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the American people know better. They realize that we can do nothing worse than to keep the current system. It is just sad to see that the other side is so wedded to big government, nanny-State programs that they fail to see what is right. * * * What is right is voting to end the current welfare system today.

A BAD REPUBLICAN WELFARE BILL

(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, I was proud last night to join all my Democratic colleagues in voting for real welfare reform. The Deal substitute was real welfare reform—it demands more responsibility by requiring that welfare recipients go to work after 2 years, and it provides more opportunity by making sure that that work pays more than welfare.

But the Republican bill before us today is more intent on punishing our children than in putting welfare recipients to work.

This bill would cut \$2.3 billion from school-based nutrition programs and \$7 billion from all child nutrition programs over the next 5 years. That means 2 million children would be thrown out of the School Lunch Program—20,000 in my home State of Connecticut alone.

This Republican bill punishes children in order to pay for a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, the richest 1 percent of the people in this Nation. That is what this is all about. Today we can stop this war on kids. Vote against a bad Republican bill.

SAVE THE CHILDREN: END WELFARE AS WE KNOW IT

(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 really feel sorry for the liberal Democrats. They call their \$5 trillion welfare

nightmare compassionate. Their system is not compassionate, their system is obscene.

Today, we have an unprecedented opportunity to save the lives of millions of children who would otherwise be trapped in the system which has ruined previous generations. We cannot be intimidated by the liberals in Congress and in the media who offer no solutions, only scare tactics. They throw out words like "cruel" and "mean" but I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what is more cruel, what is more mean, than to condemn a child to life on the liberal welfare dole. That is the cruelest punishment imaginable. We cannot allow another generation of American children to fall victim to the "compassion" of the American left. We must be strong, we must be bold, and we must act now for H.R. 4. Our children deserve no less.

VOTE AGAINST H.R. 4, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I too voted for real welfare reform under the Deal bill. But the Republican welfare bill, commonly known as the let-the-children-go-hungry-so-the-rich-can-feast bill, cuts \$66 billion from school breakfasts and lunches, food stamps from the elderly retirees and working poor, child care from working mothers, and yet the mean-spirited radical right majority says they are not cutting any of these programs but spending more.

Sorry, folks. They are cutting \$66 billion from the needy, from school lunches and breakfasts, from the Women, Infants and Children Program, from food stamps, from AFDC and from child care, in order to give those billions to large corporations and the wealthy in tax cuts next week.

It is a sad day for our great Nation when this Congress, the people's house, takes food from the mouths of innocent children so that the rich can have pheasant under glass.

Vote against H.R. 4. It only punishes babies and children and it does not reform welfare.

REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the average American family has spent over \$50,000 in taxes on the war on poverty since 1965. This is an obscene amount of money, especially since it has gone to an unsuccessful cause. We must reduce this heavy burden which has been placed on the working family.

The Republican welfare proposal will save the American people approximately \$60 billion over a 5-year period. The savings will go to deficit reduction

and to reduce the burden of Government, which in turn reduces taxes for the American people.

States will have authority to design their own programs to lift the poor out of poverty and to give them hope for the future.

We can not deny this opportunity for the citizens of this country. Let us join forces to pass this pro-country, pro-responsibility, and pro-family legislation.

DEMOCRATS UNITE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last night Democrats united on welfare reform. We showed the American people that Democrats from across the country, from Mississippi to New York, from New Mexico to Maine, from left to right ideologically were able to come together and fight the Republican war against hard-working middle-class Americans and children.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of Republicans walking around with broken arms nursing their wounds because of the pounding they took from their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic plan says no work, no welfare. Our plan is tough on fraud and abuse in welfare. It cuts Federal bureaucracy and gets people back to work. It puts savings into deficit reduction for middle-class Americans and prevents Republicans from giving special interests a tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican contract with special interest America is collapsing. Democrats are back. Our contract is with hardworking middle-class America and we are going to keep it.

CHANGING THE WELFARE MESS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton was a candidate, he promised to end welfare as we know it. But for the past 2 years, neither the President nor the Democrat-controlled Congress did a thing to change the welfare mess.

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Then came November, and the American people said it is time for a change. Now the Republican majority is doing something that the Democrats could never bring themselves to do. We are changing the current broken-down welfare system that traps people in a hopeless cycle of dependence into a system that offers hope for the future.

Tough work requirements, personal responsibility, and emphasis on the family. The change is here.

WELFARE REFORM

(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, the welfare reform legislation we have been considering this week has critical implications for our Nation's children. Coupled with the rescission package this body passed last week, and the promise of further cuts in programs for our children to pay for tax cuts for the richest percent of Americans, we are facing the complete dismantling of the safety net for children.

This past weekend, I held a town meeting in my congressional district to seek the views of those from the front lines who deal with troubled children on a daily basis on the consequences of the welfare reform package pushed by Gingrich and the Republicans. The rescission proposals. I heard from a broad spectrum of people—children's advocates, the educational and medical communities, professionals in child care and child protection services, the mayor of our largest city, parents and children themselves.

The picture they painted was one of abandonment—abandonment of the Federal commitment to supporting children and families. In these times when entitlement has become a dirty word, they graphically reaffirmed why entitlements exist, and how critical they are to the well-being of the children of this Nation. They also confirmed that we will be shortsighted, indeed, if we cut the fiscal lifelines that mean education, jobs, innovation, training, in our low-income communities, and our children will suffer more.

THE CONTRACT AND WELFARE REFORM

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this morning we will pass the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995. This is by far the most sweeping and far-sighted piece of social welfare legislation to come out of Congress in the last 40 years. We not only provide a true safety net for those less fortunate in our society, but we do so in the larger contexts of fiscal accountability and personal responsibility.

We save hard-working American families \$69 billion, while putting more food on the plates of hungry children. This is the true spirit of our Contract With America.

Last November, Americans decided that they no longer wanted a government at odds with the people, but rather a government that worked in partnership with the people. A subtle yet striking difference in leadership.

This welfare reform package, and the contract as a whole, give the American people the leaner, more efficient, and dramatically more responsive Federal

Government that they demanded last November.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this legislation, and I am proud of our contract. We are keeping our promises, and I believe that is what our democracy is all about.

MAKING WAR ON POOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans say that the war on poverty has been lost so they are making war on poor children instead. I have got to hand it to them, though, they do not just target welfare kids, the Republican contract on America cuts income and food stamps and school breakfast and lunches, and nutrition for young mothers and care for abused children, and day care for children while their parents work, \$50 billion in cuts for nearly 10 million families whose income is less than \$20,000 a year, both working families and nonworking families, the Republicans do not seem to care which, families where more than 20 million children get their start in life.

Are the Republicans using those \$50 billion to cut the explosion of deficits from 12 years under voodoo economics? Not on your life. They are using those \$50 billion taken from low-income families and their children to give tax cuts to the richest 2 percent of Americans.

Only in NEWT GINGRICH's America would taking \$50 billion from 25 percent of Americans and giving it to American millionaires be even thinkable.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to talk to you about the drug taxol. Taxol was first used on a trial basis in 1983 to treat ovarian and breast cancer. Today, it is the most effective treatment for achieving remission in advanced ovarian cancer. It took researchers over 20 years, testing thousands of plant and animal extracts from all over the world to come up with a safe and effective compound able to kill cancer in humans. Now, taxol gives new hope to many of the women who suffer from breast and ovarian cancer, which now kills almost 40,000 women a year.

This amazing drug was originally derived from a tree called the Pacific yew. The yew tree is found in the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest and was once burned as scrap. It takes from 3 to 12 trees to provide enough taxol for each cancer patient. Each tree takes about 100 years to reach maturity.