

As an American I feel free I can do as I please, I can choose between right and wrong and tell the difference between good and bad.

I am proud to be an American. When I attended a parade in Belle Verion honoring all the men and women who served their country in Operation Desert Storm I was sad and happy at the same time. I was happy the war was over but sad for the ones that died. This occasin made me more aware that I was an American. America is a great land to live in.

#### REFORMING THE WELFARE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today is truly a historic day in the House as it is on the verge of doing what should have been done many years ago, reform a welfare program that does not work for the poorest Americans.

The Republican welfare reform bill will cap benefits and allow States to decide for themselves how to prioritize their resources. Our bill tightens up enforcement provisions against deadbeat dads, encourages welfare recipients to work, and discourages illegitimacy.

I have a message for the other side of the aisle and it is the same message the American people sent last November: The time has come to reassess the Federal Government's role in the lives of the American people. That means making the tough decisions and learning for the first time in Washington to say "No."

Mr. Speaker, our position is clear: The new majority is passing its contract. Bills that matter to the American people. Meanwhile, the minority is reduced to scare-tactics aimed at children and the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, the wheels are not coming off this contract, they are just beginning to turn.

#### THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, have you seen the line-item veto bill that the Senate passed last night? In order to take care of their concerns, their legitimate concerns, that some of us in the House share about the potential unconstitutional nature of allowing a President a line-item veto, of allowing a President to reach inside of an appropriation bill and strike a section of it, in order to get around that constitutional provision, they passed a line-item veto bill which would require the President to veto not 1 of 13 appropriation bills that we would send him; we would now send him one bill for every item appropriated.

We would now, under line-item veto, send the President a minimum of 10,000 appropriations bills, 10,000 appropriation bills instead of the current 13.

I think that, instead of trying to find Rube Goldberg convoluted ways to subvert the Constitution, we ought to pay more attention to trying to discipline our own spending habits.

#### BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DEPENDENCY

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our current welfare system erodes the basic building blocks of our society, discourages work, destroys families, and forces reliance on the Government.

Just since 1989, the welfare rolls have grown 31 percent.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in 1935, to dole out relief is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.

That is why we are here this week, to break the cycle of dependency created by the narcotic of welfare and restore hope and independence to millions of Americans. The Republican welfare reform plan would help able-bodied people come off welfare with job counseling, job training, and job placement.

It increases funding for school nutrition programs, day care for children, and WIC, and lets States decide how best to run their own welfare program. It eliminates discriminatory delays in adoption.

That is sound, compassionate policy, Mr. Speaker. It is time we applied the principles of family, work, and self-reliance that built our country. The Republican welfare reform plan moves us significantly in this direction.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, let us reform welfare now.

#### CONTRACT AGAINST AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, last night we witnessed an all-out war waged by the Republican majority against the most vulnerable of our society, our impoverished children.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will tell us that block grants will actually provide more services for less money.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the American people that this is not the case.

Under the Republican plan, actual disbursement funds for school lunches and WIC programs will be cut by more than \$2 billion.

Over the past several weeks I have received thousands of letters, cards, and drawings from young children in my district, who under this plan, will be forced to carry the burden of tax cuts for the wealthy on their tiny

shoulders. They tell me how much they need these programs to grow up healthy and strong. They tell me that without school lunches they will go to school hungry and not ready to learn.

Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing an all-out attack on the most defenseless of our society by the majority party in Congress. We must make a stand against these callous actions. We cannot let the poor and the hungry in the Nation fall victim to this outdated and cold-hearted legislative agenda.

#### SUPPORT AND PASS THE NEW WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE

(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, this country has spent \$5 trillion over the last 30 years on a system that has produced more people than ever in poverty. It is a broken system that teaches exactly the wrong things. It is antiwork, it is antiproperty, and it is antifamily.

Because of this system, we have condemned second and third generations to the same life of poverty, not only financial poverty but poverty of spirit.

People need to work. You cannot have self-esteem without accomplishment. You cannot have accomplishment without work.

Let us give our people hope, dignity through work. Let us pass H.R. 4, the new welfare reform package.

#### THE DEAL SUBSTITUTE SOLVED THE WELFARE MESS

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, everyone concedes, Democrat, Republican, and Independent alike, that the welfare system in America is a failure. My political party, the Democrats, should not be so proud that they do not concede that fact as well. But the Republicans should not be so spiteful or short-sighted as to believe that just ending or getting tough on welfare will solve the problem.

We have got to take people off of welfare and put them to work. That is why we had 205 Members, 1 courageous Republican, and all of the Democrats on this side of the aisle who voted, voted for the Deal substitute last night. Liberals, conservatives came together and said, "Let us put people to work."

Why does the Republican welfare reform bill fail when it comes to work? Because they will not invest money in education, training, day care, the obvious things you need to bring someone off welfare.

What do the Republicans do with the money they save from their welfare reform? They put it into a tax cut, a tax cut for the privileged few. Now, does that make sense?

If we are going to solve the welfare mess for good, take people off welfare permanently. We need to put them to work. The Deal substitute did it. The Republican welfare plan does not.

#### TIME TO CHANGE THE WELFARE SYSTEM

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

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, it is hard to know what to make of my liberal colleagues as they come to the well and ooze compassion and sport their politically correct ties, when they claim they want to end welfare as we know it. After all, they had ample opportunity to change to system during the last 2 years when they controlled both Houses of Congress and the White House.

But the sad fact is they do not want to change the welfare system, because they like it. They like it because it is good for them politically, and the truth of the matter is that the welfare bureaucracy and welfare recipients have become a core constituency of the national Democratic Party.

The American people know the current welfare system is a disaster, especially for children. Children on welfare do worse in school. They tend to have more developmental problems, and they are far more likely to end up on welfare themselves.

How can my liberal colleagues come down here and defend the current welfare systems, one which promotes intergenerational dependency on welfare, which leads to family disintegration and soaring rates of illegitimacy? How can they look the American people in the eye and say we need more of the same?

It is time to change the welfare system in America, Mr. Speaker, and change it we will for the children of this country.

#### CHILDREN WILL BE HURT BY THE REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM PROPOSAL

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will pass a welfare bill that will cut \$35.1 million out of the school lunches in the State of Texas, according to my outside-the-beltway analysis from our State comptroller in Texas.

Today the Republican majority will rejoice, but the children will be hurt. Many of my Democratic Members have been sporting ties and scarves from Save the Children, and I even heard this morning one Republican Member offered to have a secondary market in used ties.

But I am going to save mine until October and November of 1996, so when the kids start getting their lunches

taken away from them, the voters will remember in November who took those lunches away.

#### MEANINGFUL WELFARE REFORM TODAY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Oregon offered us a scriptural admonition this morning. She quoted the words of Jesus Christ, "Suffer the little children and let them come unto me." No interpretation, no translation of that scripture have I seen that ever said, "Let them go unto a Federal Government."

Mr. Speaker, it is a simple fact, liberal Democrats oppose changing this welfare state. It suits them just fine. They created it, and they have supported it since the 1960's.

Despite the overwhelming evidence that welfare has played a major role in the breakdown of American society, liberal Democrats continue their love affair with this failed system. They seem willing to do anything to defend this failed welfare state, including a curious inability to properly count wholesale distortion of facts and shameful name-calling.

Mr. Speaker, the good news today is that the liberal Democrats' days are numbered. They no longer have a monopoly over this Congress, and their pals in the media can count fewer and fewer followers. The only refuge now for these liberal Democrats is the bureaucracy, but even this will not escape the glare of public scrutiny.

The American people have grown tired of seeing this Federal Government become the charity of first resort. Today we will have meaningful welfare reform.

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#### EFFECTS OF THE REPUBLICAN WELFARE PLAN ON FLORIDA

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

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Deal bill was not about the status quo. But let me tell you what the Republicans do to my State of Florida, and I hope my colleagues from Florida are listening also.

Block-granting cash assistance for needy families will result in Florida receiving \$412 million less.

Block-granting Federal funding for abused and neglected children and children in foster care, Florida lost \$121 million. Repealing nutrition programs including school lunch and WIC for needy families and replacing them with a lump sum capped at less than the rate of inflation will result in \$338 million less to Florida. The Republican plan would impose a rigid cap on food stamp spending allowing no adjust-

ments for economic slumps. As a result, a \$1.2 billion loss to Florida. These are just a few of the cuts. When you add them up, Florida will lose \$3.87 billion.

Mr. Speaker, it is not about change on that side, it is not about change, it is about our children. We are not talking about status quo here.

#### CURRENT WELFARE SYSTEM IS CRUEL TO CHILDREN

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

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days we have spent a great deal of time listening to opponents of the Republican welfare overhaul talking about how cruel this bill is to children. Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what cruelty is. Cruelty is the current welfare system that has wasted \$5 trillion of taxpayer money and yet has failed to lift children from poverty.

Cruelty is the current welfare system that condemns so many of these children to a life surrounded by crime and violence and lack of ambition.

Cruelty is the current welfare system that condemns the children of these children to face the same circumstances in an endless cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what the most cruel and mean-spirited act of all is: It is the cruelty found in the current liberal opposition to our bill. The liberals in Congress built this current welfare system, the system is a failure.

Today the Congress will overhaul this failed system and end cruelty to children.

#### WELFARE REFORM

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, as the Gingrich Republicans prepare for their blitzkrieg against the poor, and say things that I hope they do not mean, I would like to read a letter from one of their supporters, obviously inspired by their rhetoric.

The letter reads:

After watching your Negro boss do her jungle act about bringing back the brown shirts, I think we need some color shirts to control these Negro females who pop out — Negro children like monkeys in the jungle. No, I think the monkeys are more civilized. We real Americans don't intend to support — Negro children who live like rats in a hole and don't have a chance to become human. The welfare system is the cause. Even whites are becoming trash just like Negroes who pop out all these — Negro children. Don't you understand that we Americans are trying to civilize you? Why do you fight it so hard? The jungle is in Africa, though you have turned D.C. into an American jungle. Grow up and become an American.