

RICHARD LUGAR on foreign policy or JERRY SOLOMON on veterans?

I, for one, do not want to undermine the Constitution. I, for one, want a blend of experience and people who cannot be bought in this Chamber.

I do not support term limits. It undermines the Constitution, and we ought to stand up for what is right for the American people and once and for all put a limit on campaign spending.

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, as we are drawing near to this 100-day closure, I think it is very important to talk about what we have done and look at this.

I think for children what we have done has been absolutely outrageous. It is like we tied them to the tracks, the railroad tracks, and let the contract roll over them like it was a huge, huge freight train.

Why do I say they were tied to the tracks? Well, first of all, we did things that were not quite as serious, I suppose, but the taking away of things or the cutting of the wings of Big Bird and some of the only decent programming on television, cutting of nutrition programs all across the board, the absolute zeroing out of summer jobs for adolescents in the city, strangling the National Service Program which was a way many young people got their college education. We absolutely almost zeroed that out totally, attacking math and science programs in the public schools when heaven only knows we need that, taking on student loans, one of the main ways that young people today are able to get their college education.

Yes, all of those things have been put on the table, and all of those things have been chopped during this first 100 days. And why? Why? To create this great crown jewel of the contract, tax cuts, tax cuts for the special interests that sent people here. It is tax cuts for the rich, and the kids pay the bill.

And I think there is something terribly wrong with that math, and so I am not happy about this first 100 days.

But there is another part of this first 100 days that I think is very troubling. For everyone else in the contract, this contract went rolling along like mad, but when it came to the politicians' interests, the contract comes to a screeching halt.

Watch it come to a screeching halt today on term limits. You are going to find that is the one area of the contract they are going to decide to amend or play with or whatever.

Now I do not happen to be for term limits. I believe the Constitution and this great Republic have lived over 200 years without this and so I do not

think it needs to be there. But many people played on the cynicism that was out there and said this was important.

And yet we are seeing cynicism piled up at the door of this body every single day. We are seeing admissions in Time magazine that they are letting special interests into Members' offices to write the legislation and to write amendments.

Never seen that before. Absolutely rotten, I think. And that may be why kids were on the line. They do not have anybody giving big money that could get into Members' offices and write this legislation.

We saw the gift ban turned down. On the very, very first day of this body, the gift ban got turned down. Nobody wanted to stop the gifts. Well, I did, and I think that is an important reform that we needed.

We have seen nothing moving on campaign finance reform that the gentlewoman from Ohio was talking about that is so important. And we have seen the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct play all sorts of games with the rules. They have changed the rules. And we see ethics violations that are allegedly being piled up at the door, and nothing happening.

So it is very interesting. For everyone else, you are going to get your crown jewel. Special interests, you are getting to write the legislation. The kids are going to pay the bill. And for politicians things aren't going to change.

I do not think that is what the American people had in mind when they started into this whole contract. But I certainly hope they look at this and look at it very carefully.

Because I think if we are going to see more of this after this 100 days, we are in deep trouble in this country as we are breaking all sorts of commitments we shouldn't be breaking to the only hope we have for the next century and that is our children, that is our young people, and to treat them this way and this rashly in the name of paying back the folks who paid the campaign winners' bills in the last election is positively wrong morally and every other way.

TERM LIMITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MCCOLLUM] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOLLUM. I have heard quite a bit of discussion our here today about all the pain that is going on. I have not seen much of it, quite frankly, in the first 100 days except the difficulty of spending the hours that it takes for us to write those programs into law, at least get them passed through the House and sent on to the Senate that we promised as Republicans in the campaign to do.

As you know, I am sure my colleagues do, nothing that we have sug-

gested is all that dramatic a departure except that we are sending things back to the States where I think, and most of us on this side think, that there is much greater wisdom about how to do those things than there is here in Washington, especially things like crime fighting, which is primarily local, and welfare which can be best handled by those back home who know how to do it.

But the money and the resources are going back there. Nobody is going to be destitute because of what we are doing, a lot of hand wringing going on about what we have not gotten to. Well, gosh, we have done more in the first 100 days than any Congress in 50, 60, 70 years has, maybe in the history of this country.

But I come to the point of what we are going to discuss today and tomorrow as the legislative agenda, and that is term limits.

Some on the other side of the aisle, including a couple of the speakers this morning, have alluded to the idea somehow we are not going to be able to fulfill this part of the contract. I do not know if we are going to get to 290 votes, but I know if about 50 percent of the Democrats would help us, we would get there.

We have 85 percent or better of the Republicans who are going to vote for term limits out here, hopefully vote for final passage. I believe they will on whatever version. But in order to succeed it takes two-thirds of the Congress.

We have only 230 Republicans. And quite a number, 30 or more, out of conviction really genuinely do not believe in term limits, are going to vote no.

We need to get a balance on the other side. Fifty percent is at least what it is in the populous out there. Because with nearly 80 percent of the American public supporting term limits, we know that is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans in the general public, but it has not been in this House.

And maybe that is a reflection of why this is the first time in history we have had a term limits debate out here. The Democrats have controlled the U.S. House of Representatives for 40 consecutive years, and only with a lot of pressure in the last Congress did they even hold hearings in committee, let alone consider bringing a bill to the floor of the House for debate that would provide a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of House and Senate Members.

It is time to make this change. It is time to do it deliberately. And let's think about why for a minute.

First of all, if we look back in history, the Founding Fathers of this country could not have envisioned when they wrote the Constitution the kind of full-time Congress we have today or the career orientation that Members have developed.

If you think about it, Congressmen in the early days, in fact for the first 100-

plus years of our country, only served 1 or 2 months a year up here in Washington. And they went back home and did their businesses and did the ordinary things they do in the community. And, very frequently, they only served one or two terms. It was a rare exception for them to serve longer.

Then beginning about the middle of this century, moving on until now, Congress became a full-time, year-around job, partly because the size and scope of the Federal Government became exceptionally big.

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While I would like to reduce it, we are not going to immediately reduce it. The truth of the matter is, when that occurred there became a different breed of attitude in Congressmen here in the sense that men and women could not do the jobs back home. They basically had to give them up.

Today, there are actually laws in the books that prohibit certain occupations like attorneys and accountants from practicing their professions, and most Members of Congress today have no outside earnings outside of those investments that a few may have.

Mr. Speaker, today we have a career-oriented Congress, Congressmen who come here thinking that they have to give up a job. And many of them, for security reasons or otherwise, are looking to stay here for longer periods of time.

That has been the pattern with committee chairmen, requiring you to be in service for 12, 15 years to be one, and sometimes committee chairmen serving for 15 or 20 years. That is wrong, and it has led to rather poor decision-making.

Members seeking to make a career out of this place tend to want to please every interest group to get reelected, not to get campaign funds but to please the groups to get votes, to please the groups that are basic to them, whatever group that may be, however small it is. The idea being if you do not displease anybody then you are going to get them to vote for you next time since they are the ones that are the squeaky wheels paying attention.

Consequently, that is why we have so much trouble balancing the budget and getting some common sense in government around here.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me only logical then that the way we can reform and the only way we can truly reform permanently Congress is to change the Constitution to make things balanced again, much like the Founding Fathers had originally thought it should be.

The best way, the only way to do that is to set term limits. I propose a 12-year limit on the House and Senate. My version of the term limit amendment that will be out here as the base bill for a vote tomorrow is one which says that we serve 12 in the House and 12 in the Senate as a permanent deal.

There is no retroactivity. There is no preemption of the States. Whatever the

Supreme Court decides in the pending cases and the Arkansas case before it will be the law of the land. If they decide against the States, then the 12-year limit will be uniform. If they decide for the States, there will be somewhat of a hodgepodge potentially out there.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is I think that a difference between the House and Senate terms, say 6 for the House and 12 for the Senate, would make the House an inferior body to the Senate. It would make it weaker. That does not make sense to me.

I would urge my colleagues to vote for term limits and vote for the 12-year version.

DISAPPOINTMENT WITH WELFARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LONGLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as the only Member of Congress who has been a single, working mother on welfare, I am very disappointed by the welfare plan that House Republicans approved last week.

I am disappointed because we had a real opportunity to fix our broken welfare system, and instead, House Republicans approved a plan that guts the system and shreds the safety net for 15 million children. The same safety net that enabled my family to get back on our feet 27 years ago.

As someone who came to Congress to improve the lives of our children and families, defending them from attacks by House Republicans is not the way I intended to spend my time.

Poor women and their children did not sign on the dotted line of the contract on America, but they are certainly in line to suffer its disastrous consequences.

The bill does nothing, absolutely nothing, to prepare welfare recipients for jobs that pay a livable wage.

There is no job training. There is no education. And while the Republicans have put some money toward child care, following intense pressure from the Democrats, there is still not nearly enough.

And, their bill literally takes food out of the mouths of our kids.

In my district alone, Marin and Sonoma Counties in California, almost 7,000 school children will be denied a school meal.

I have only one thing to say about their plan to wreck child nutrition programs:

"States don't get hungry, children do."

And, starving our children is not the solution to the welfare mess.

I am also disappointed that Chairman HENRY HYDE and I were not given the opportunity to offer our amendment to federalize child support collec-

tion. We believe that federalization is the best way to collect outstanding child support, and we will continue our bipartisan effort to make sure children receive the support they are owed.

Mr. Speaker, the choice comes down to this: We either punish families because they are poor, or, as was the case with my family, we invest in them so they can get off welfare permanently.

As this bill moves to the Senate, it is essential that harsh and punitive measures in the House welfare bill be removed. We can get families off welfare without punishing women and children. We can produce a welfare bill that is worthy of widespread bipartisan support.

PATENT PROBLEMS WITH GATT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRABACHER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw public attention to a great miscarriage of justice that will happen to American citizens starting June 8 unless the Congress acts now.

Most people do not understand the importance of patent rights for the American people, but let me be concise and just say that as we are entering this information age and this new era of technology unless we guarantee the protection for the creativity and genius of the American people and for the investment of American investors in new technology, America will fall behind.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, America has always led the way economically because we protected people's property rights, including their intellectual property rights. In fact, most people do not know the U.S. Constitution includes a strong provision about patent rights. So from the very beginning our Founding Fathers, like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, who were themselves innovators and technicians, ensured that our country would place a great deal of value on the protection of new inventions and intellectual property rights.

In fact, for 150 years the tradition has been that American citizens would have 17 years of protection in which they would own any new technology that they invented. Well, that is what has happened for 150 years.

Unfortunately, last year during the GATT process, during our negotiations with other powerful interests around the world, a provision was snuck into the GATT implementation legislation that was not mandated by the GATT treaty itself. Let me repeat that. Something was put into the legislation for the GATT which is about an international trade agreement that was not required by what we had agreed to with those other trading partners to be in the GATT legislation.