

The Speaker has constructed a bizarre rule and amendments that are designed to fail. It is time for supporters of the Republican contract to sue for breach of contract, or maybe to invoke the ultimate term limits in November 1996 and vote the rascals out.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, since the 1st day of the 104th Congress, I have been proud to join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to change the way Congress does business.

This week, we will vote on the most important reform yet—term limits. Opponents argue that we do not need term limits since we have elections.

Yet from 1976 through 1994, 9 out of every 10 incumbents were re-elected. Even in 1994, the re-election rate was still 90 percent.

Term limits will give the American people more elections in open seats. They will bring new Members to Congress who have different experiences and fresh ideas.

That is what the American people want. Recent polls consistently show that two-thirds of the American people support term limits.

And the American people will be watching to see who supports real congressional reform, and who votes for the status quo. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for final passage of term limits.

TERM LIMITS FOR INCUMBENTS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, we heard about the cycle of dependency and people living off the taxpayers' money.

And who was saying it?

The same Republicans who have been getting a Government salary for 20 or 25 years, and today are going to talk about fake and phony 12-year term limit.

Last week, Republicans said "you get 2 years to learn job skills on your own, no job training."

But, the gentleman from Florida, sponsor of a 12-year limit, says he needs a longer learning curve to master this job.

Last week, they pointed to pictures of alligators and said that is a welfare recipient.

And then they got a pat on the back.

This week, I have pointed out the hypocrisy of Republicans who support term limits as long as it does not cut into their career, and I am lucky if I don't get whacked over the head.

Last week, I heard about tough love.

Well, this week I want to offer that same kind of tough love to my Repub-

lican friends who are having a tough time kicking the congressional habit. If you love this place, tough.

Vote for term limits that are retroactive. If you have been here 12 years, you are out.

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AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS BENEFITS FROM MULTILINGUAL SOCIETY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, America has a secret weapon in the dog-eat-dog world of global, economic competition: language.

If you don't believe me ask the Japanese. When asked what was the most important language for world trade, a Japanese businessman once replied, "The most useful international language for world trade is not necessarily English, but rather the language of your client." It makes perfect sense. Customers would much rather buy a product from someone who speaks in a language they can understand.

America's secret weapon is the 9.9 million children who come from homes where a language other than English is spoken. These children can help America crack Japanese, Russian, and Latin American markets by speaking to global customers in languages they understand.

Our biggest mistake would be to waste our tremendous language resources by following the simplistic drumbeat of English-only narrow mindedness.

Support American competitiveness and reject English-only.

TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my opposition to the constitutional amendment of term limits.

Mr. Speaker, term limits of Members are already in the Constitution. According to article II, subsection 1, the House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen by the people every 2 years. So we already have term limits, and for those people, I find it very ironic, Mr. Speaker, for the people who talk the most and the loudest about term limits are the people who have served in this body for over 12 years.

So if we really want term limits, I make the suggestion let us lead by example. I want every Member who supports term limits to sign the term-limits pledge to our contract, which provides they would serve "x" number of years and then resign from office.

So if you really are for term limits, then I suggest the Members of this body sign the pledge to say, "I will voluntarily limit my term by a year certain," and if you really want to lead, lead by example and not by taking up some amendment that probably will not pass in the disguise of the Contract With America. Let us have a contract with our district and resign from office after 12 years.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday of this week the Department of Labor will be hosting a ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of passage of the Mine Safety and Health Act. Although I will not be able to attend that ceremony, I do want to call it to my colleagues' attention, and commend those in government, industry, the mining work force, and others, who have helped, over that period of time, to make our country's mining industry the safest in the world.

Anniversaries are a time not only to look back but to look forward. Clearly one of the major challenges over the coming years, in all Government programs, is to determine how can we assure the best use of the taxpayer's dollar. We know now what maybe Congress did not appreciate 25 years ago, that we cannot afford to do everything, and so we have to make sure that when Government spends money, it is getting the most value for the taxpayer's dollar.

In that regard, I would note for my colleagues that the Mine Safety and Health Administration spends over \$550 per year per covered employee, while its sister agency, OSHA spends about \$2.84 per covered employee. We should determine whether it is good use of taxpayer dollars to continue to duplicate many of the functions performed by these two agencies. Just as is true with OSHA, the Mine Safety and Health Administration spends too much time inspecting safe work sites and enforcing trivial requirements.

Over the coming weeks and months, I hope to examine those issues and see whether the answers given 25 years ago remain the right answers today for allowing our country's mining industry to be competitive in a tough world marketplace, while continuing the improvements that have been made in worker safety in this very important part of our Nation's economy.

PROPOSED CUTS TO STUDENT AID THREATEN AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues on the Republican side are proposing to close the door to higher education for middle-income students in order to pay for a capital gains tax cut. Four major student aid programs—subsidized Stafford loans, work study programs, supplemental education opportunity grants and Perkins loans—are targeted for reduction or elimination.

Last weekend, I met with a group of college students in Maine. They were shocked and disappointed to learn of this proposal. In Maine, nearly 80 percent of all students attending the public university receive assistance from one or more of the targeted programs.

For the vast majority of these students, eliminating this aid will mean that attending college will become a dream turning bleak. Children of working families simply do not have the financial resources on their own to pay for higher education.

Who suffers as a result of this plan? Not just working-class families, but all Americans. Our country desperately needs an educated work force. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. We cannot afford to deny access to education to all but the most privileged. We must defeat this ill-considered plan, and open education up to all.

AMERICA NEEDS TERM LIMITS

(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, we need to adopt term limits. Eighty-five percent of the American people support limits on the time a Member may serve in Congress.

The current system of entrenched power and almost perpetual incumbency has produced a political climate of cynicism and distrust among the American people. Term limits, with their built-in mandate for accountability, can move us toward restoring faith of a wary public in their government in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a partisan issue. While Republicans just won control of both Houses for the first time in 40 years, we are reaching across the aisle and urging our Democrat colleagues to join us in fundamentally changing the way Washington works. It is my hope that the voters' demand for change will not become just another electoral echo but will remain vivid and distinct in our ears.

The American people deserve a Congress that is answerable directly to them. This is the meaning of the 1994 election. Mr. Speaker, we want a Congress that is truly a reformed Congress; that demands term limits now.

SSI AND TRAINING CUTS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with this body a story of individual courage and independence, the type of story that my colleagues from the other side of the aisle like to hold up as the American ideal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of meeting a very special young woman from my home State of Texas by the name of Beth. Beth, by her own description, is retarded. Now, with a low-skills job, she pays taxes. She is determined to get a better job and soon get her own apartment.

But the Republicans' tax cut will not help Beth. While she was growing up in Texas, Beth's working-class family cared for her with the help of supplemental security income, the SSI Program. She has had access to various Federal youth job training programs that gave her help so that she could get into the public schools.

The Republicans' tax cut will not help Beth. Beth and others like her, true Americans asking only for a hand in overcoming adversity, may now be slapped down by the Contract on America, to pay for symbolic tax cuts, tax cuts that do not do any for us any good.

The other side is ready to cut SSI, job training, and student loans designed to give the disadvantaged an opportunity. Mr. Speaker, the only way that we can help Beth is to make sure that we enhance the opportunities. Mr. Speaker, the tax cuts that the Republicans offered are not the right thing to do.

TO THE DEMOCRATS: JOIN US

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, where are the Democrats? We need you. We need you today.

It takes 290 votes. Twenty-two States, many of the States that you all come from, have passed term limits. Why do you not get the message?

Many of these people are Democrats in these 22 States. They need for you to come to the floor today and support the vast majority of Republicans that will vote for term limits.

Do not snub your nose at your people. Come and join us. Help us put the 290 on the board and give the people of the country a chance, an opportunity to debate term limits so it will go out to every State legislature, so all the people will have a chance to debate it.

Do not snub your nose at the voters. Give them a chance to have a say in this. Come and join us. Put the 290 on the board today. Join us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TORKILDSEN). The Chair will caution

all visitors, you are guests of the Chamber, and we do not allow demonstrations for or against any statement made on the floor.

CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I have to respond to the previous speaker in saying that the Democrats must vote for term limits in order to pass it; I would just remind the gentleman from Illinois that he needs to get his leadership and his Republicans to vote for term limits, where the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is not going to vote for term limits; the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] is not going to vote for term limits, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary; the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, is not going to vote for term limits.

It is not the Democrats that are refusing to vote for term limits. It is the Republicans as a body that are not totally endorsing term limits and will be responsible for this matter not going through the House of Representatives.

Now, term limits, they think, is the answer to everything. Mexico has very strict term limits for their President, their Senate, and their House of Representatives. It certainly has not solved all the problems in Mexico, and people like Mr. Madison and Mr. Jefferson served this country valiantly and with courage and responsibility for up to 43 years.

We should not remove that responsibility from people in this country.

URGING SUPPORT FOR TERM LIMITS

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

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, I have only been here for a short period of time, just 3 months, but in that short period of time I have learned something about term limits.

I have learned that there are lots of good people who have been in this House for a long period of time, people with experience who can add a lot to the debate, and if we pass term limits today, Mr. Speaker, some of those people will not be able to stay.

But, Mr. Speaker, for every single person we will lose because of term limits, there are thousands and thousands of other Americans who could serve equally well in this House, because no matter how much experience we have in the House, no matter how many Rhodes Scholars we have in the White House, the genius of our country resides in the people of this country, not in professional politicians.