

this bill cuts \$446 million in the program for dislocated worker assistance.

At the same time, it cuts \$47 million in safety and health enforcement. It cuts employment standards by \$25 million, collective bargaining, \$58.8 million. It does serious damage to the National Labor Relations Board by cutting it by 30 percent, over \$50 million. How can we be doing this to the American worker at a time when we are struggling to be competitive in the world?

America works because we have always had a high regard for the backbone of America, the working class people in our country. We have respected their need for a living standard, not a minimum standard of wages but a living wage. We have respected their need for safety in the workplace. We have respected their need to bargain collectively for unfair labor practices up until now.

All of our competitors who compete with us in a favorable way for them respect their workers. That is why they succeed.

So what we are doing is not only bad for the individual worker, not only bad for our work force, it is bad for our country internationally as we try to compete. Please stop this war on the American worker. Vote against the Labor-HHS bill.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you this morning a story of a friend of mine named Tom.

Tom owns a ranch north of Colorado Springs. A few weeks ago, he was on his way from the ranch to his place of business, and as he got out toward the road, he found—I have forgotten the exact number—but it seems like it was a dozen barrels, 50 gallon drums, some of which were turned over, some of which had spilled liquid onto the ground. Others had liquid in those barrels.

And his initial reaction was to go back to the house, get the tractor and the forklift and lift those barrels up and take them back to the house and decide what to do with them.

Then he thought again and said, no, we ought to do the right thing about this. We ought to call somebody in charge and have them come and take a look at what we have got here. Do not know what it is. We ought to take a look at it.

So he called the officials, and within 2 hours, every agency known to man was out there, practically, some in moon suits. There were ambulances. There were fire departments. There were sheriff's deputies. There were highway patrolmen. Everybody you could imagine was out there on Tom's

property, and they were trying to figure out what it was and what to do with it and how it got there.

And in the course of all this activity, someone happened to mention to Tom, we do not know what it is, but the way, if there has to be a cleanup, you have to pay for it.

Tom says, "What do you mean I have to pay for it? I am the victim. Someone dumped this on my property. What do you mean I have to pay for it?"

They said, "Oh, yes, that is the law. You have to pay for it."

He said, "Aren't you going to investigate? Aren't you going to find out who dumped this on my property?"

Well, maybe we will find that out. Maybe we will not.

So he did his own investigation, and he discovered the name on one of the barrels of a local oil and gas company. He went to the local oil and gas company. He discovered that they had sold the barrels sometime around Christmastime to a salvage company.

He went to the salvage company. He discovered that the salvage company had sold it to a soldier who was getting ready to be mustered out at Fort Carson.

He discovered from a little more investigation that there was a practice of buying barrels, getting a U-Haul trailer, filling the barrels with water, driving the U-Haul trailer up onto a scale, getting a weight slip, and then taking the weight slip to the Government, because the Government will pay you for that last move when you leave the fort.

So it was a fraud on the Government that was being perpetrated. The scale happened to be half, three-quarters of a mile from Tom's ranch. So he weighed the barrels and brought them and dumped them on Tom's property. It was water that was in the barrels, but it cost him about \$1,500, if I remember correctly, to find out through the analysis that it was water, and they said initially that it could have cost him up to \$22,000, maybe even more, depending on what was in those barrels.

So with a little work and common sense, Tom had solved his mystery. He had saved himself \$22,000 or more and proven himself a better and more conscientious investigator than the Government agencies charged with dealing with the hazardous waste.

All of this was due to a Federal law, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. In those States which have not adopted statutes dealing with the cleanup of hazardous waste, RCRA says the cleanup costs fall to the owner of the property where the waste was found, and this is called corrective action.

Now, Tom, the victim, admits that he could have, if he had had to, paid for the cleanup. But he wonders, what if those barrels had been dumped on the property of an elderly couple getting by on a fixed income? Tom may have been able to handle the cost. The elderly couple might have bankrupted as a result of it.

Friends, this is a dumb law. This is an unjust law. This is a law that punishes the victim. It is the kind of law that sets neighbor against neighbor and makes people question whether we have any idea what we are doing here in Washington.

It seems only fair that, in these cases, some efforts should be made to find the polluter and make them pay instead of dumping the bill on the property owner; and, frankly, if the dumper cannot be found, maybe this is a Government responsibility for us to pay for the cleanup. To do otherwise is to undermine the quick cleanup of these kinds of problems.

Our Nation's environmental laws are based upon the idea that people want a clean environment and are willing to make certain sacrifices to see that that happens. To do that, you have got to give people some assurance they are not going to be punished for doing the right thing.

My friend, Tom, could have just simply taken those barrels back to the barn and never said anything about it. He wanted to do what was right. He could have been punished severely for doing what was right. Given what he has been through, do you think he is ever going to do it this way again? We must change this kind of nonsensical law.

WORKER PROTECTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, the health, safety, and lives of our fellow Americans are severely jeopardized by the drastic cuts in the enforcement budget of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Labor-HHS appropriations bill makes a 33-percent cut in Federal OSHA enforcement activities.

Protecting American workers must be a priority. We cannot, we must not be indifferent to their safety.

We are speaking of real people. We are speaking of life-and-death situations: people such as Hector Noble, age 31, who was killed when he fell 30 feet from a balcony as he cleaned windows because the guardrail had failed; José Makina Moji, 46, who was killed in a 25-foot fall from a scaffold. The scaffold had not been inspected by OSHA. Juan Figueroa, age 21, who was crushed to death when the machine he was working with overturned; and Angel Colon Canter, age 50, who was killed by an oven rotating system while he was cleaning a bread oven. He forgot an instrument inside the oven, and when he tried to get back inside the oven to retrieve it, the rotation system caught and punctured him, causing his death.

In all these instances the employer was either indifferent or he was too greedy to invest in his worker's safety

or just plain negligent. Will we in Congress look away and let workers be injured and/or killed by their employer's greed, indifference, or negligence?

These are family tragedies, and I cannot imagine that the families and friends of these individuals see any valid or compelling reason to reduce OSHA enforcement funds. Such cuts assault the average working American families, and we all pay the price.

GOVERNMENT REFORM FIELD HEARINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized during morning business for 2 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that you are in the chair during these comments. We, as you know, went out to Cleveland, Ohio, on July 14 to hold the first of the town-meeting-type field hearings by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, which you chair. The hearing was designed as an open forum where experts in the private sector, such as the executive vice president of TRW, and those in the public sector, such as the mayor of Philadelphia, and the average American taxpayers in an open forum could voice their views on creating a new 21st century Government.

One of the witnesses that testified before the committee membership was the treasurer of the State of Ohio, J. Kenneth Blackwell, who indicated that, "The Federal Government enjoys access to world capital markets that so far has been unlimited. We have been fortunate that foreign investors and central banks still have sufficient confidence in the strength of our Nation's economy to purchase much of our debt. It is unclear, however," he said, "that this situation will continue. The Federal credit card may be reaching its limit."

As Members of Congress, we live with constant reminders of the staggering Federal deficit. The fact remains that our national deficit is four times the size it was just two decades ago. The time of inefficiencies and waste is over. The time for change is now. The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, under your leadership, is dedicated to restructuring our current wasteful and inefficient Federal Government agencies and creating a 21st century Government that will be a reliable source of service to all for many generations to come.

EDUCATION CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. MARTINEZ] is recognized during morning business for 1½ minutes.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, some would say that the new majority leadership has gone way beyond mean-spirited and is now in a cold-blooded kill-

ing mode. Why? Because in marking up the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill, they began what many of us believe is the killing of the American dream by slashing programs that help young people prepare for the future. They eliminate our investment in the future.

They cut Head Start. They cut student loans. They cut bilingual education. They cut special education. They cut summer jobs for youth. They cut title I. They cut safe and drug-free schools. They cut education for homeless children and youth.

And, as long as they were cutting, they cut taxes for the rich, and the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. Eventually, I believe, only the children of the rich will be able to attend college, to compete in the classroom, to get a job at a decent wage.

Mr. Speaker, that does not project the promise of a better tomorrow for anyone.

I have a question. Is that the real agenda?

SPEAKING TO SENIORS ABOUT MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. SAM JOHNSON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely disgusted with the lies and misinformation coming from the Democrats about Medicare. This past weekend, Democrats held town meetings with seniors to spread fear about the Republican efforts to save Medicare. One was held in my hometown of Dallas.

I find it unconscionable that these Democrats can tell seniors that Republicans are cutting Medicare when our budget increases Medicare spending by 5.8 percent every year over the next 7 years. Yes, you heard me right. Medicare spending increases by 5.8 percent every year per patient. Spending will increase from \$4,800 in 1995 to \$6,700 in the year 2002; and that is more of an increase than your usual annual wage increase. It is not a cut, and anyone who says it is either needs to take math over again or try to lie better.

The worst part of this big lie campaign is that the news media has fallen right into their hands. The Dallas paper did not even bother to cover Medicare meetings that were held in Dallas earlier with over 300 seniors at each of three different meetings.

I was there. I held them. We discussed the problems with Medicare and talked openly about the possible solutions with seniors.

I know seniors have the experience with Medicare necessary to provide us with good ideas for reform. So instead of holding meetings to scare them about Medicare, I am making them part of the solution. And I think the seniors deserve that.

This newspaper chose to run an article which, as the reporter freely admit-

ted, was based almost solely on propaganda brochures passed out at the Democrats' big lie meeting. The paper never bothered to check the facts with any member of either one of the congressional committees with jurisdiction over Medicare or anyone else that might be able to clarify facts for this story.

This irresponsible journalism does a huge disservice to my constituents and others around the Nation and only makes the business of saving Medicare just that much harder.

But American seniors should not be as concerned with what the Democrats are telling them as what the Democrats are not telling them. Although it probably was not mentioned at this weekend's meeting, Medicare is facing an enormous crisis.

The Medicare Board of Trustees, which includes four Clinton-appointed Cabinet members, made it clear that Medicare is going broke and will be bankrupt in just 7 years. So unless Congress does something to help the system, there is not going to be any Medicare at all.

Democrats are not being honest with the seniors. They will throw out lies and use scare tactics, but when it comes to the facts, they have nothing to say.

Now I am going to turn 65 myself this year, and I am really worried that there are people like this in this Congress, people who would rather play partisan games than sit down with us and figure out how to help today's seniors and future seniors in America by saving Medicare.

So to the seniors in Dallas I say, I am sorry that you have been dragged into this political maneuvering. This issue is really too important to be left to politics as usual, and I assure you, with or without the Democrats, we are going to pass a bill this year that will protect, preserve, and strengthen Medicare for everyone in America.

SAFETY, EDUCATION, AND TRAINING FOR AMERICA'S WORK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this HHS bill is worse than I ever thought possible. This bill will go down in history because it marks the beginning of the end of the Federal Government's role in education and training. It is sweeping and radical legislation which guts our education system, weakens workplace safety and makes a mockery of our efforts to get families off welfare. It makes college education almost impossible for not only the very poor, but also for the working poor and for middle-income families.

This bill ignores the Government's responsibility to educate our kids. It makes it impossible for mothers to get