

off welfare and into jobs. It forces education and training to take a back seat to tax breaks for fat cats and special interests.

Mr. Speaker, with this bill, the new majority has declared war on our children and war on our workers. It must be defeated.

I have heard from workers across the country about the new majority's effort to weaken workplace health and safety rules. Over and over again, spouses, parents, and children tell me that they are willing to see some of their taxes go toward enforcing health and safety rules so that they can be assured that their loved ones will come home from their jobs in the mines and other dangerous jobs, so they come home at night safe and sound.

The majority, however, do not see it that way. The Labor-HHS appropriation bill makes it clear that the new majority would rather invest in a tax break for the wealthy few than in education, training, health, and safety for American workers.

In fact, if this HHS bill passes, they will be showing a triple feature down at our local theaters in the near future. It will be called "Dumb and Dumber" with "Sick and Sicker" and "Poor and Poorer." And let me say to my colleagues, it is not going to be a bargain matinee. No doubt about it. This sweeping and radical legislation is going to harm American workers and cost this Nation dearly in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier, the faults of this bill are much too numerous to mention. I urge all Americans who care about the health and safety and the education and training of workers and for all of their loved ones to tell their representatives to oppose this dangerous bill.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

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

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I join today in decrying the Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We will be funding the Labor Department, and in what the bill provides, it is an outright attack on working men and women throughout this country. The Republican majority is using this appropriations bill to circumvent the appropriate legislative process in order to push through an antiworker agenda.

The 30-percent cut in funding of the National Labor Relations Board and language restricting the Board's authority to use its enforcement tools is a direct attack on the basic rights of employees to organize unions.

The right of workers to join together as one unit and bargain collectively for better wages, health care, and other benefits and safe working conditions has been an integral part of American

law for more than a half a century. The National Labor Relations Board protects this right and resolves disputes between employers and employees.

Even without 1 hour of hearing, this appropriations bill, by cutting funds, undermines the ability of the National Labor Relations Board to protect the rights of working men and women and by legislative proviso ties their hands regarding enforcement. Unfair labor practices brought to the Board will languish, violations of law will go unchecked, and labor disputes will be prolonged.

Anyone with experience in business knows that timeliness is crucial to both employers and employees in the resolution of labor disputes. When disputes linger, productivity suffers, workers suffer, and families suffer.

This is not about protecting a bureaucracy. It is about protecting working people, people who get up every morning and go to work to face hazardous working conditions or unfair treatment. It is about protecting their ability to band together and petition for decent working conditions and decent wages.

The Republican bill is a blatant attempt to get rid of longstanding protections for working men and women in this country. I urge my colleagues to vote against this repudiation of the rights of working people.

MEDICARE RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled this weekend when, having thought that perhaps we were going to bring a lowered style of rhetoric to the debate on Medicare, in fact, what happened is that the administration brought out, along with some of the liberal Democratic leaders of the Congress, they trotted out the big lie again for the centerpiece of their campaign to save Medicare, or is it the centerpiece of their campaign to smear and attack Republicans?

It seems to me that what has happened here is we have gotten into an incredibly demagogic style of rhetoric regarding Medicare, and it is just not right. It simply is not fair to senior citizens that we should be dealing in a partisan way with what is clearly a policy problem. It is a problem for everybody who is 65 or older, or whoever thinks that they might be 65 or older, because it is a problem with the fundamental question of whether or not we are going to be able to pay for the Medicare program based on the way that it is projected to go forward at this time.

It is very clear from this summary, which is a status report; what it is is a summary of an annual report that has to be made to the President and to Congress as a matter of law.

Every single year, the trustees of the different trust funds have got to make a report, and this is their report, and it is not just the Medicare trust fund. It is also the Social Security trust fund and the disability insurance trust fund.

The one that is the most telling and problematic is the Medicare trust fund, and it is absolutely the job of every responsible legislator in this body to both read this, take it seriously, and do something about it.

This is also not a partisan issue. It is not a partisan document. This is a document that was signed by three members of the President's Cabinet, Secretaries of Labor, HHS, and Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Rubin, and it was also signed by Shirley Chater, who is the Commissioner of Social Security, also another Presidential appointee.

If it is a partisan document, then it is a Democrat partisan document. It is certainly not a Republican partisan document, and it says very clearly, in plain language that every American should read, the Medicare trust fund is going broke. It is going to be without money. It is bankrupt next year. It is without any money in 7 years. It is spending more than it takes in next year. It is exhausted in 7 years.

That is under not the worst-case scenario, according to the trustees. That is under the middle scenario, and it does not take into account the real problem that comes forward in about the year 2020 when people of my age, baby boomers, become eligible for Social Security and Medicare.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED OSHA CUTS

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the war on workers and families in America will be escalated this week when the Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill reaches the floor of the House.

For all matters concerned with workplace protections, this Republican appropriations bill is not focused on appropriations. This is, instead, a stampede into radical authorizing legislation. The authorizing Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities is rendered obsolete by what the Committee on Appropriations is doing. The antiworker, antiunion Republican overlords have chosen to bypass the authorizing process and implement their war against the workers by cutting the funds for OSHA, MSHA, and NIOSH.

We have also provisions which require that OSHA cannot use but two-thirds of its funds, present funds, for enforcement activities, cuts the enforcement budget by 33 percent. It also cuts out economically targeted investments. It bans the use of such funds from the pension funds for economically targeted investments.

It allows 14 year olds to load bailers and compactors, although as recently

as 1994 a man was killed in a compactor. It moves into such minute detail as removing the requirement that miners are not allowed to drive as part of their work.

It micromanages with dollars. By micromanaging with the dollars, the Appropriations Committee will streamline and accelerate the dirty work which was begun already by the authorizing committee.

The goal of the oppressive elite overclass is to take control of the situation through the appropriations process. What they want to do is create a level playing field for the worst company bosses in America. The goal is to reduce American workers to the level of the desperate, nearly enslaved workers of Bangladesh or the Chinese prison laborers.

Spend no significant money on the health and safety of workers. That is the goal. Turn all American workers into urban serfs or suburban peasants. This is the final solution. This is the ultimate goal. Total control is the Republican goal.

OSHA enforcement, as I said before, has been cut by 33 percent. That is one-third for enforcement. Already, we only have enough inspectors to inspect American businesses once every 86 years. With the kind of work force they have, they can only inspect every business establishment once every 86 years. They wanted to cut that by one-third.

MSHA, cut by 7 percent. NIOSH, which does research on new and dangerous chemicals, is cut by 25 percent. The National Labor Relations Board is cut by 30 percent, all of this in the appropriations bill to carry out the will of the Republican overlords in their war against labor.

Congress must be concerned about the health and safety of all American workers. The blind and furious ideological war being waged by the Republican party against the Nation's labor unions has impelled the Republicans into a search and destroy mission against OSHA. This attack places all American workers in harm's way.

There will be a large number of casualties. Already more than 56,000 American workers die each year as a result of accidents on the job or from disease and injuries they suffer in the workplace. Passage of legislation designed to disable OSHA will greatly escalate this unfortunate body count.

Speaker GINGRICH has recently proclaimed that politics is war without blood. The reality is that the Republican war on OSHA will provide pain and suffering, and in many instances their scorched earth assault on OSHA will also produce blood. Among the 56,000 casualties last year, there were 10,000 who bled and died at the work site as a result of a horrible accident.

There is a contract on the life of OSHA. Reform is no longer the objective of the Republicans. Vengeance is a goal, but vengeance only belongs to God.

Members of Congress who want to dedicate their efforts to the task of

making Government work must labor to promote the general welfare and do everything possible to make it easier for Americans to engage in the pursuit of happiness. Congressmen and Congresswomen should not plot to murder OSHA and MSHA.

Speaker GINGRICH defines politics as war without blood. However, the kind of politics being pushed by the Republican death and injury appropriations act is very much a life-and-death matter. Children will lose fathers. Wives will lose husbands. Parents will lose sons and daughters. Americans will die as a result of these reckless changes being proposed to dismantle OSHA. This brand of politics is too extreme. This kind of political war is too deadly.

OPPOSITION TO EDUCATION CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Rhode Island [Mr. REED] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, the American people believe that Federal support for education represents the most valuable investment we can make in our Nation's future. Yet, throughout this Congress, Republicans have repeatedly targeted programs that help our students reach their full potential. The Labor-HHS bill cuts an unprecedented \$4 billion from education funding, taking Federal investment in education to its lowest level since 1989.

And, where have the Republicans begun their assault on education? They have begun the assault on our youngest, most vulnerable children. To benefit fully from schooling, all children need to come to school ready to learn. Perhaps more than any other program, Head Start is about our future. This legislation would deny 180,000 children access to Head Start over the next 7 years.

This legislation also targets poor and disadvantaged students who need help the most to improve their academic performance. I find it ironic that Republicans want to withdraw support for title I at the same time that they are attempting to abandon affirmative action programs. Democracy is conditioned on fairness and equal opportunity. Enacted in 1965, title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act was part of a powerful demand that American society live up to its ideals by extending equal opportunity to all. This program sends money to more than 1 million disadvantaged students who need help to achieve in school. If equal opportunity does not begin here, then where does it begin? Today, this program represents the largest Federal investment in elementary and secondary education and enables millions of children to receive the extra help they need in reading and math.

Learning is difficult in schools where students fear for their safety or drug use is widespread. I was proud to be a part of the last Congress that took a

strong stand on violence in our public schools. The Safe-and-Drug Free Schools Program helps every one of Rhode Island's 37 school districts to create a safe learning environment. Nationally, this program has enabled 39 million students feel a little bit more secure as they walk the halls of their schools.

Republicans claim that they stand for an American where every individual has the opportunity to compete. This is not the America that the Republicans have shaped in this bill, however. If education is the springboard to opportunity, then this bill causes our Nation to fall farther and farther behind. This bill slams shut the door of opportunity on our youth and our future.

As Secretary of Education Riley has stated, "The American people do not support efforts to close the budget deficit by widening the education deficit". I urge my colleagues to reject this short-sighted bill. Let us not turn our back on our future. The cuts contained in this bill will devastate millions of children and families. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 10:00 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

As we seek to follow Your command, O God, to do justice and love mercy, we are grateful that Your word provides a vision and an insight into the people we ought to be and the paths we should take. Even as we pray for diligence and vigor to walk the way of justice, we pray also for a sense of humility in all we do, knowing full well that our words fall short of Your will and our work can easily miss the mark. May not arrogance cloud our efforts, but let us walk the ways of life with humility and grace. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.