

the 1950's, our Nation emerged as a world superpower and Congress joined the civil rights battle. The 85th Congress confidently and effectively addressed these pivotal national issues.

The threat from the Soviet Union was crystallized in 1957 when the U.S.S.R. launched the Sputnik satellite.

To address this menace from the sky, the Democratically controlled Congress established the National Aeronautic and Space Administration to direct the Nation's outer space program.

In 1958, Mr. Speaker, this Congress passed the National Defense Education Act. This act is probably the most important human investment program undertaken in our Nation's history.

Because without it, millions of Americans would not have been able to go to college.

In addition, this act improved the teaching of science, mathematics, and foreign languages to our children. It provided an educational foundation which enabled the United States to put the first man on the Moon in 1969.

However, the accomplishments of this Congress were not restricted to the heavens. The 85th Congress passed the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1957. This act created the Commission on Civil Rights and a new Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice, laying the foundation of the Federal involvement in protecting civil liberties and individual civil rights.

Building on the 84th Congress' passage of the Interstate Superhighway Program, the 85th Congress, passed both the Federal Highway Act and the National Transportation Act. These two acts expanded road building programs and provided loans to the Nation's failing railroads.

Both of these actions created opportunities for American businesses to expand and compete both here and abroad.

The Democratic party has always believed in investment—investment in human capital and in physical and financial infrastructure.

Over these 40 years the Democratic Party has demonstrated a strong commitment to providing the necessary resources to educate children, to defend constitutional rights and to expand our national transportation systems.

The return on these investments are clear and indisputable. Investments made 40 years ago continue to yield results today.

As a party we should not be fearful of committing these necessary resources and redirecting our efforts into helping every citizen of this country.

As we enter the 21st century, this commitment to human investment will ensure that every American is equipped to reap the benefits of national prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few examples from the 85th session of the U.S. Congress. Promoting our country,

preserving our national interests and protecting individual rights have always been part of the Democratic Party's legacy. As a Member of the Democratic Party, I strongly urge my colleagues to regularly remind themselves of the fundamental commitments that make us Democrats.

We must allow these commitments to guide us in our actions. I urge my colleagues to examine the historical records, to see what our party has achieved and to allow this vision to carry us into the future.

CHILD SUPPORT NOW

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today is day 28 of the Contract With America. We have passed the quarter mark for the first 100 days. Until day 27, we heard nothing about child support being included in the contract.

In the past, we heard child support is important and would possibly be addressed at a later date. Why was child support not an original provision of the Contract With America? How could we possibly delay acting on such an important issue?

I was under the belief the contract was to benefit all Americans. If we are going to benefit all Americans we really have to have provisions which help our children because they are our future. I have carefully reviewed the Personal Responsibility Act and there are no child support provisions.

As I have stated before, welfare reform cannot be successful without child support. Child support is the cornerstone of welfare reform. Strong child support enforcement provisions are necessary.

When I reviewed the Personal Responsibility Act, my initial reaction was the legislation punished women and did not require men to face up to their responsibilities. Without taking action on child support, we would require young mothers to be responsible while we give fathers a free ride. This is the wrong message to send.

We have to send a message to the American people that we are serious about welfare reform. A tough child support system requires both parents to live up to their responsibilities.

On day 27, we heard the Republicans will include child support enforcement provision in the Personal Responsibility Act. We had to wait until day 27. Where were the child support provisions? What message was being sent to the American people? Was the message, Fathers do not really need to be responsible?

How could we have welfare reform without child support enforcement provisions? Child support is welfare pre-

vention. For every \$1 spent on administrative expenses, \$4 is collected in child support.

On day 27 we heard child support would be included in the Personal Responsibility Act. I am pleased the Republicans have finally recognized the importance of this issue. Today, 63 percent of absent parents contribute no child support. We can and need to do better than this.

The potential for child support collection is estimated at \$48 billion per year. Only \$14 billion is actually paid. This leaves an estimated collection gap of about \$34 billion. This gap needs to be closed. It was not until day 27 that it was decided to address the issue of closing this \$34 billion gap.

One in four children now live in single parent homes. Without better child support enforcement, too many of these children will not have the support they need and deserve. In 1992, 17.6 million children lived in single parent homes. We need to improve these statistics now.

My home State, Massachusetts, has been very successful with child support enforcement and would serve as a role model for the rest of the country. Massachusetts has increased its child support collection rate from 51 to 67 percent over a 3-year period. We must make an improvement on the Federal level.

On day 27 we heard child support enforcement was going to be included in the contract. It is day 28 and we do not know what type of child support provisions will be included.

A comprehensive child support strategy is necessary to help parents become less dependent on AFDC and stay in the work force. A comprehensive child support strategy needs stronger requirements for paternity establishment.

Out-of-wedlock births have increased at an outrageous rate. In 1991, approximately 30 percent of all children born were born to unwed mothers. These children need to be given a fighting chance. There is no such thing as an illegitimate baby.

It's day 28 of the contract. Let us work together to address the issue of child support enforcement. We need to work to establish awards in every case. We need to streamline the paternity process. We need full cooperation from the mother.

We need to ensure fair award levels. Awards are generally set too low. If awards were modified to current guidelines, an additional \$7.3 billion, 22 percent of the gap, could be saved.

We need to establish a national commission to study State guidelines and the desirability of uniform national guidelines.

We need to collect the awards that are owed. We need States to have a central registry and centralized collection and disbursement capability.

It is day 28 of the contract. We need to send a message to the American people that we are serious about child support enforcement. Ignoring child support enforcement sends the wrong message. It says that the noncustodial parent who is one-half responsible for the birth of a child does not have any responsibility for supporting that child. We cannot send this message.

We need tough new penalties for those who refuse to pay such as wage withholding, suspension of drivers' and professional licenses, and property seizures.

It is day 28 of the contract. Child support is finally starting to receive the recognition it deserves. Let us not stop now. We have to work together to close the \$34 billion gap.

□ 1010

MORGAN COUNTY, WV, NEEDS ASSISTANCE FROM CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to ask this body to help make government make some common sense.

Let me announce something to you right here: Last week by order of the Morgan County Commission, and Morgan County is a rural county about 2 hours' drive from here, a beautiful county, and Berkeley Springs many of you know for its waters, by action of the Morgan County Commission, Federal overflights are now prohibited in Morgan County airspace. Everyone laughs and says, "How can Morgan County do that?"

You understand, of course, the Morgan County Commission understands it cannot deny airspace. Only the Federal Aviation Administration can do that. It is trying to send a message, and the message is this: "Why will not the U.S. Air Force, the Air National Guard, pay the \$10,886.20 that it owes to the Morgan County Commission when the Morgan County Commission and the emergency responders in Morgan County responded to the Air Force's need?"

Basically the story is this. In 1992 we suffered a real tragedy in the eastern panhandle of our State, when one of the C-130's from the 167th Air Wing based in Martinsburg crashed in Morgan County. Six crewmen were killed.

The county and, of course, the entire eastern panhandle responded immediately with emergency response and all the cleanup that needed to be done afterward as well as reaching out to the families and to the 167th Air Wing. The air wing and the members of the 167th Air Wing are not at issue here. What is at issue is what some bureaucrats in Washington is telling the Morgan County Commission, that despite the effort, despite the spontaneity, despite the outreach, despite the consid-

erable resources expended by the Morgan County Commission by the emergency providers in Morgan County, the Air Force will not now reimburse \$10,886.20 for containment and cleanup of hazardous materials at that crash site.

This is not a county that can easily afford this kind of expenditure.

Now, what is the cost here, the \$10,886.20? For the Air Force it is going to be less than the litigation to litigate this issue. For the Air Force, it is going to be less than the public relations debacle that they are going to suffer. For the Air Force, I suspect it is probably less than five rivets on a B-2 bomber.

The problem with the Morgan County Commission is that when they submitted this voucher, they did not add enough zeroes. That is my opinion. If they had put two more zeroes, made it \$100,000, maybe made it \$10 million, probably somebody would have paid it without a blink of an eye. That sounds reasonable. They did not pad it, did not add zeroes, did not add to it. They just asked to be reimbursed for what they expended.

I am asking this body to help send a message to the Air Force. We think you owe Morgan County \$10,886.20. We think you ought to show the small and large communities across this country when they do respond you will be there to help them and to help reimburse them for their efforts. We think you ought to show Morgan County that, yes, they are entitled to this which they have waited 2 years for already and how many more years to go.

I ask this body's help in having the Air Force and the Air National Guard in Washington respond with some common sense.

I will keep you posted, Mr. Speaker, because I have a feeling this saga has not ended yet.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska] at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

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

O gracious and loving God, You have created us in Your image and given to us the very breath of life, be with all people who call upon You for healing and strength and assurance. We know

that the maladies of life confront people of every age but we believe too that there can be healing and recovery and that we can be renewed by the power of Your hand. May we be receptive to Your presence, O God, and open to Your good spirit that in all things we may know Your peace that passes all human understanding. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GUTKNECHT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states; on the first day of our Congress, a Republican House will: Force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut one-third of committee staff; and cut the congressional budget; we have done that.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded mandates legislation, under consideration now, line-item veto; a new crime bill to stop violent criminals; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans; national security restoration to protect our freedoms; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulation and unfunded mandate reforms; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature once again.

Mr. Speaker, this is our Contract With America.

THE PUNISHMENT IS NOT COMMENSURATE WITH THE CRIME

(Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the