

stamp program. However, after checking the rule of the current program, I was shocked to learn that this practice is perfectly legal.

Therefore, today I am introducing legislation to prohibit the practice of selling food purchased with food stamps for profit. Under my bill, called the Food Stamp Conversion and Profiteering Prohibition Act of 1996, the couple that sold the caviar would face the same ineligibility penalties as they would for other forms of food stamp fraud.

As you know, the welfare bill recently signed into law already takes significant steps to clean up the waste, fraud, and abuse in the food stamp program. Combined with my legislation to combat this latest scam, Congress can help restore honesty and accountability to the food stamp program. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, due to delays of my flight from my district to Washington, I was unavoidably detained and missed the recorded votes of Wednesday, September 4, 1996. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 402 and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 403.

I ask unanimous consent that my explanation appear in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYMAN DAN HAUSER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of California's most dedicated and caring public officials, Assemblyman Dan Hauser. I wish that I could be there with his family, friends, and colleagues tomorrow evening as we celebrate his remarkable accomplishments.

Dan Hauser is particularly recognized for serving the people of the north coast of California. A pioneer in ocean protection, Dan has been a strong advocate against offshore oil drilling and has passed landmark legislation making the north coast an ocean sanctuary. His environmental efforts earned Assemblyman Hauser "Legislator of the Year" awards from the Planning and Conservation League, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and the League for Coastal Protection.

As the long time chairman of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, Dan authored and worked on many pieces of legislation to promote affordable housing, improve building standards, protect historic buildings, and assist mobile home residents, condominium owners, veterans, seniors, native Americans, and other groups obtain better housing and living conditions. The California Aging Network named Dan "1988 Legislator of the Year," and he received the "1989 Rural Housing Award" from the Rural

Builders Council of California. In 1992 Dan was recognized as the "Legislator of the Year" by the League of California Cities.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Assemblyman Dan Hauser during this special evening in Bodega Bay. The north coast owes a great deal of gratitude to him for his tireless efforts throughout his over 20 years of public service. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Dan and his wife Donna for continued success in the years to come. They will be missed.

FORT PECK RURAL COUNTY WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. PAT WILLIAMS

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today there are folks who are forced several times each week to travel miles to fill cistern tanks and barrels, carrying it back home so that they have pure drinking water.

This situation is not somewhere in a third country, but remarkably in Valley County in northeast Montana. Because groundwater supplies in this part of Montana are not potable, the residents of these communities drive for hours each week, both summer and winter, to deliver this water to hundreds of people.

The irony of this situation is these folks live adjacent to one of the largest bodies of water ever developed by the Federal Government in the West, the Ft. Peck Reservoir which stores over 18 million acre feet of water.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will authorize the development of a rural municipal water system for residents of the Ft. Peck Rural Water District. This much needed project will tap into Ft. Peck Reservoir to construct a safe and reliable drinking water system for both municipal and agricultural purposes. When this project is completed, it will also enable this area of Montana to attract economic development which up to now has been stifled due to the unavailability of water.

The Bureau of Reclamation has completed a needs assessment and feasibility study on this project and this legislation proposes a partnership arrangement where State and local interests will contribute 25 percent of the cost toward its completion. The feasibility study estimates that the total Federal expenditure will be less than \$6 million.

Mr. Speaker, if we can afford to spend much more than this to help undeveloped nations all around the world to develop safe supplies of drinking water, the Federal Government can certainly afford to do this for folks living in Montana.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3734, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation/Welfare Reform Act. We must set forth a vision for our country. We want an America that gives all Americans the chance to live out their dreams and achieve their God-given potential. We want an America that is still the world's strongest force for peace and freedom. And we want an America that comes together around our enduring values instead of drifting apart.

For the past 4 years, President Clinton and the Democrats in Congress have worked for a responsible, commonsense agenda to revitalize core American values: work, personal responsibility, opportunity, and a stronger family and community life for everyone. We are on the right track, and we must make sure the country continues moving toward an economically secure, militarily strong, more compassionate, and a more fiscally responsible future.

Our country is at a historic crossroads. We can go to the left and return to an irresponsible non-sense agenda that is antiwork, antiopportunity, antifamily and that breeds insecurity, dependency, and despair. We can go to the right and abruptly and cynically abandon our commitment to a safety net for children, seniors, and the disabled. Or we can go straight ahead, following the leadership of President Clinton—each of us, individually and all of us collectively as a Nation—in the direction of prudence and responsibility.

Welfare reform is a monumental example. While there are those who fear that going forward to implement welfare reform will destroy the safety net of security for poor children, seniors, and the disabled, I believe that not to go forward would cause us to aimlessly drift farther away from the core American values of work, personal responsibility, opportunity, stronger families and communities. By going forward with welfare reform, we are ridding ourselves of a system that does not conform to our Nation's guiding principles and replacing it with a new system which will provide the essential tools recipients need to move from welfare to work.

This is the beginning of a process that can transform welfare into an opportunity rather than a way of life.

It is about giving a hand-up rather than a hand-out.

It is about requiring and rewarding work while providing access to job skills and expanded job opportunities.

It is about providing essential child care and health care to give working families a sense of security about the well-being of their children.

It is about cracking down on deadbeat parents and those who abuse the system—but not on innocent children.

It is about creating a welfare system that makes sense.

This means a system that maintains a fair, efficient, and responsible safety net for individuals and families in critical need and one

which empowers people to move out of the shadows of poverty and into a bright new day of productivity and hope.

As one who has worked on welfare reform for many years—first in the Georgia General Assembly, where I helped write the PEACH (Positive Employment and Community Help) program, our State's innovative welfare-to-work plan. And now in Congress—I know how challenging changing the status quo can be.

The proposals originally pushed by Republicans were too weak on work and too tough on children and families. They would have block granted and drastically underfunded the food stamp and school lunch programs; denied Medicaid to our most vulnerable citizens;

and would have failed to provide adequate funding for work programs and child care.

With the strong leadership and perseverance of President Clinton and congressional Democrats, we fought them. And we succeeded. When faced with the realization that Americans want a system that promotes work and responsibility but not the mean-spirited proposals they were pushing, the Republicans conceded.

The law we finally enacted is certainly not perfect. It goes too far in cutting nutritional assistance and cuts off aid to legal immigrants who have worked hard and paid taxes. It has its shortcomings and uncertainties. These we must resolve and correct. I plan to work with

the President and the Members of this body to do just that.

Passing this legislation is not enough. We must now make sure all Americans have the skills they need to get jobs. We must now make sure that jobs are available so all Americans can go to work. We must now make sure that all Americans are empowered with the tools they need to help themselves to realize their dreams and achieve their God-given potential. We must ensure that the American value of personal responsibility as embodied in this bill will not be a stumbling block but a stepping-stone to a better quality of life for all Americans.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.