

CUTTING BACK EDUCATION IS BAD BUSINESS

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, here we go again today, another temporary spending bill, or CR, continuing resolution, as it is known. The Republican leadership promised to run Congress like a business. What kind of business can operate this way, where it is now in the sixth month of its budget year, the 1996 year, but still has not passed a final 1996 budget, and is now holding hearings on the 1997 budget?

Mr. Speaker, this is the 10th temporary spending bill this year. This one is for a week. We are not sure what is next, perhaps a day, perhaps 3 hours. Maybe just run the Government from lunchtime to quitting time and then vote again.

Mr. Speaker, whether it is 1 month or 1 hour, the fact is this temporary spending bill continues an already extreme message: stiff cuts in vital education programs. In West Virginia, it means 226 teachers and 90 aides laid off in 2 weeks. It is going to mean 6,500 students next year that will not be able to take advantage of the vital title I program. Cutting back education? What kind of business is this?

THE BUDGET DOES MAINTAIN EDUCATION

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, my head tells me to balance the budget but my heart tells me to do it compassionately. Despite all the rhetoric that we have heard over the past week, the budget policies we have been fighting for maintain the Federal commitment to our children.

Over the past year, I have had the pleasure to visit schools and child care facilities all over my district. Visits to the John Jay High School, the Fox Lane Middle School, the Poughkeepsie Magnet Schools, the Hawthorne Cedar-Knolls School, and the Katonah Country Children's Center, just to name a few, underscore the importance of our efforts to support all aspects of education and child care.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want all of us to believe that we are gutting education, that we are imposing inappropriate cuts to programs which serve our children. Mr. Speaker, I have to ask, how compassionate is it to continue to tax and spend, policies that have left our children a legacy of debt? How compassionate is it to pump millions of dollars into hundreds of programs of education that may actually not work? Compassion is not necessarily measured in dollars and cents, but the manner in which we spend those dollars. It is important. I think this institution may have forgotten that fact.

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GOOD LUCK TO SAN JOSE STATE AND SANTA CLARA IN NCAA TOURNAMENT

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today is the first day of March Madness, the NCAA Basketball Tournament, and I am proud to announce that two local teams from Santa Clara County are participating in this event: San Jose State University, which will face off against Kentucky in about an hour, and my law school alma mater, Santa Clara University, which will take on Maryland tomorrow. I share the excitement of all the students from these schools, and I congratulate the team coaches, Stan Morrison and Dick Davey.

I want to take this opportunity, while the national spotlight is focused on our college athletes, to point out that some of these basketball players, and many more of their fans, rely on Federal loans to attend school. The omnibus appropriations bill that just passed the Congress reduces student aid, including Pell grants and Perkins loans, by yet another 13 percent, raising costs for thousands of students in California, and precluding others from even attending college.

Mr. Speaker, I needed help to go to college, and I know that students today need it even more. I also know that this country needs educated employees to compete in the global marketplace. Many Members are rooting for their teams this weekend; I urge them to support the schools that produce these teams as well. Go Spartans. Go Broncos.

WORKING TO KEEP GOVERNMENT RUNNING AND TO PRODUCE A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 Presidential campaign games are in full swing. While the Republicans continue to work toward a balanced budget to fulfill last year's promise, the President wants Congress to spend an additional \$8 billion on a host of Federal programs. Most of these programs are to appease his liberal constituents in order to shore up his tax-and-spend liberal base.

The President has requested \$2 million for the Ounce of Prevention Council. This 2-year-old program has not administered one single grant during its existence.

Mr. Speaker, we will do everything we can to keep the Government running and to work with the President to produce a balanced budget, but we will not continue to decorate the national budget like a Christmas tree with the President's pet projects. We will not

borrow money from our children's future for this kind of wasteful spending.

SPUTTERING CONGRESS TO LEAVE TOWN WITH WORK UNDONE

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, this is a Congress that operates in spurts, and it is sputtering today as its Members head home for yet another extended weekend with the work of this country not done. The reason that that has occurred, and the reason that this is a Congress of near total failure, is that we have got a Speaker of the House who rejects any meaningful bipartisanship, and we have a whole lot of Members in the Republican Caucus who seem to think that working to achieve common ground to solve the real problems of working families in this country is somehow a sin.

Who bears the brunt of this failed Congress? It is the children of our country. It is the 12,000 Texas children to whom this Republican leadership says, "No Head Start for you. We will give you the wrong start," not the Head Start to be advancing within our society. It is the same Republican leadership that says to over 2,000 pre-kindergarten students in my home of Austin, TX, "You get half the kindergarten that you would otherwise get because we are not going to give you educational opportunity."

We Democrats say more educational opportunities. These Republicans say more education obstacles.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AT WORST POINT IN NATION'S HISTORY

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing from the White House that our economy is booming. I really have trouble with this. The folk in my district, none of them said our economy is booming. They do not feel this.

The fact is, the economy growth has slowed to 1.47 percent a year, the worst period of growth in our Nation's history. That is the fact. The average family has lost about 1 percent of its buying power since Mr. Clinton took office. The wages rose at the slowest pace in 14 years, and they tell me the economy is booming.

Folks in my district are having difficulty right now trying to make ends meet and every day they are squeezed more and more. They are telling people that the economy is booming? I know it is election time, but I think we should be more honest with the American people.

GOP EDUCATION CUTS FORCE SCHOOLS TO MAKE TERRIBLE CHOICES

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, it is springtime in America's schoolhouse but pink azaleas are not going to be sprouting. Instead, pink slips are going to be sprouting for America's teachers.

When you see what the House Republicans are doing, every school district is going to be forced with the following decisions, either fewer teachers and larger classes and cancelled drug education programs and cancelled remedial education programs, or raise local taxes. Those are terrible choices.

Why in the world are the House Republicans insisting upon sacrificing our children's future upon the altar of deficit reduction? That is exactly what they are doing. They have an altar of deficit reduction and they are saying we are just going to have to sacrifice the children's future, because there is no one who says larger classes, fewer teachers, drop drug education, and drop remedial education is the progressive way to go.

Let us stand up. We now know who is for America's kids and who is just kidding. Fight back.

UPCOMING PRODUCT LIABILITY MEASURE PROMISES FREEDOM TO RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIERS OF MEDICAL DEVICES

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Americans even at this moment are benefiting from medical devices that have saved their lives or improved their chances for good health, knee and hip joints and brain shunts and pacemakers, all sorts of ingenious devices that over the years have improved the health care capacity of our Nation.

Yet, they are in danger, these device makers, these wonderful people who are developing these kinds of apparatuses for the improvement of health. They are in danger of losing their capacity to produce them because of suits against the suppliers of the raw materials that go into these medical devices.

Next week we are going to take a giant step in trying to prevent the slowdown of the production of these medical devices by putting in with the product liability measure that we will be considering a safeguard against the raw material suppliers, so that they will feel free to keep supplying these components that make these wonderful medical devices.

CUTS FOR SCHOOLS AND THE SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, \$3.3 billion in cuts for our

schools and major cuts for our teachers and for our young children. Then when our young children grow up to try and have a sense of independence and work in the Summer Youth Program, what do the Republicans do? They cut it.

Let me tell Members about a young person in my community. At the age of 2 and shortly after her mother married her stepfather, her family was involved in a car wreck that left her father permanently disabled. As a result of the wreck, this young child was injured so severely that she lost her spleen and left kidney. Yet she participated in the Summer Youth Program.

She lives at home. She keeps a little of her money and the rest of it she gives to her family for their needs. The family is on SSI. She has worked for the Smiley High School, the Texas Children's Hospital. She is trying to make a difference in her life.

There is no Summer Youth Job Program in this budget by the Republicans, no hope for our youth. No schools, no teachers, nothing for our young children and nothing for our youth. What are we talking about? Summer jobs are hope for the future.

HISTORIC PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN IRELAND

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

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, during the past 2 years, the people of Ireland have made historic progress toward a true and lasting peace. I am a cochairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs, along with the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. NEAL], and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON].

The Ad Hoc Committee today is issuing a statement for St. Patrick's Day. We are urging that all parties to this process continue on the path toward peace. Specifically, we are calling upon the Irish Republican Army to immediately recommence the cease-fire. We are calling on the British Government to make every good faith effort to answer any questions that parties to the conflict have regarding the recent communique issued in London.

We also call for the commencement of all party talks by June 10 without the imposition of any preconditions by the British Government, and we call upon the President to continue his policy of active and constructive engagement in the Irish peace process. The people of Ireland have come too far to allow recent incidents to deter them on their path toward peace.

Mr. Speaker, on a bipartisan note, which should characterize this policy toward Ireland, I commend the President for issuing a visa to Gerry Adams to enter this country, and I commend Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith for standing up to the Anglophiles in the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, I include our committee statement for the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IRISH AFFAIRS, ST. PATRICK'S DAY MESSAGE, MARCH 14, 1996

We, the members of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, ask all Americans to join with us in praying for peace in Ireland as we celebrate this Saint Patrick's Day.

The people of Ireland have worked too hard, and come too far on the road to peace to abandon the remarkable progress made in the past two years. The people of the United States—of Irish descent and otherwise—have shared in the joy of the Irish people at the significant steps forward just as we share in their disappointment and despair at recent setbacks.

To avoid squandering the hard-won gains toward a just and lasting peace for all Ireland, the government of the United States must remain engaged in the Irish peace process, both as an honest broker and as a guarantor of the equity of that process in ensuring that the legitimate aspirations of all parties to the conflict are fully represented. With this goal in mind, the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs:

Deplores the recent return to violence by the Irish Republican Army, and urges the IRA to reinstate the ceasefire immediately;

Calls on the British government to make every good faith effort to provide to all concerned political parties explicit clarification of any provisions of the recent joint communique by Prime Minister John Major and Taoiseach John Bruton;

Calls for the commencement of meaningful all-party talks by June 10th, without the imposition of any preconditions by the British government; and

Calls upon the President of the United States to continue his policy of active and constructive engagement in fostering the Irish peace process.

The 104th Congress has worked in bipartisan cooperation to support the Irish peace process. In addition, we have made substantial progress in addressing one of the root causes of the problems in the north of Ireland by moving closer to the historic passage of the MacBride fair employment principles as part of our contribution to the International Fund for Ireland.

We, the Members of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, are committed to ensuring that the United States continues to use its influence as a force for positive change in Ireland.

BEN GILMAN,	<i>Cochairman.</i>
RICHARD NEAL,	<i>Cochairman.</i>
TOM MANTON,	<i>Cochairman.</i>
PETE KING,	<i>Cochairman.</i>

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO NEIL SMITH

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

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay special tribute to one of my constituents. On game days, he wears the number 90 on a red and white jersey and is every quarterback's nightmare. I am speaking of the Kansas City Chiefs all-pro defensive lineman, Neil Smith.

Today I want to take note of Neil Smith's efforts off the field. Instead of sacking quarterbacks, Neil Smith is