

Mr. BARLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is an election year, so President Clinton is campaigning as a born again conservative, but talk is cheap.

Take welfare reform. In his Saturday radio address, the President said: "Four years ago, I challenged America to end welfare as we know it."

Something funny happened to welfare reform after candidate Clinton became President Clinton. For 3 years—nothing. Then President Clinton vetoed comprehensive bipartisan welfare reform not once, but twice.

The President bragged that he has approved 38 waivers for State welfare reform.

The President neglected to mention that 27 States are still waiting for waivers or that the average wait for the President's approval is 210 days.

The President singled out Maryland's welfare reform for praise.

The President forgot to say that Maryland's Governor Glendening boasted that his personal friendship with the President reduced the waiting period before Maryland's waiver was approved to only 6 months.

It's outrageous for President Clinton to insist that Washington retain its grip on a failed national welfare system.

REPEAL OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, a few of the previous spokespersons on the other side talked about welfare reform. If we are going to reform welfare, we have to pay a livable wage for work.

Today, after months of prodding, we are finally going to get an amendment to raise the minimum wage. Only the Republican leadership could, under the guise of raising the minimum wage, actually repeal the minimum wage for millions of American workers. You see, currently those companies that do less than half a million dollars gross per year do not have to pay minimum wage if they are involved in interstate commerce. The Republicans think that is a mistake. So today, they say they are going to fix that.

What they are really going to do is to open the door for garment industry sweatshops, for industrial piecework. This is done in the home for sheltered workshops, for farm workers across this Nation who support their family, not to make a minimum wage. They are going to try to lower wages, see that there is no overtime pay, see that we are returned to long work hours, that we get rid of child labor abuses, protections. We have a situation where they are concerned about computer operators making a livable wage, waiters and waitresses, but they are not concerned about ECO's making 220 times what their workers make.

DEVICE FOR SELF-EXAMINATION OF BREASTS

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if I asked the Members of the House what this simple device is, I doubt that very many of my colleagues could tell me what it is. It is actually a breast sensor pad which is designed to be used by women to self-examine their breasts to see if they have breast cancer lumps.

Mr. Speaker, it took the FDA 10 years to approve this simple device for limited use under a doctor's prescription for women to self-examine their breasts. The gentlewoman from Nevada [Mrs. VUCANOVICH] and myself are introducing today a bill that would make this device, which literally could save thousands of lives each year, available over the counter so that millions of American women can go into their drugstore and purchase this and in the privacy of their home self-examine their breasts to see if they have cancer lumps. We desperately need to get this device available.

Nancy Brinker, whose sister, Susan B. Komen, died of breast cancer, and who has established a breast cancer research center in her sister's name, has told me that this simple device is very, very useful and should be available to every American woman who wishes to purchase it. Please join Congressman VUCANOVICH and myself in sponsoring this bill.

EXPLOITING PEOPLE

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to get a vote on the minimum wage, but unfortunately under the amendments offered by Speaker GINGRICH and the Republicans, they will repeal and take away the benefits of the minimum wage for up to 10 million American workers. For the students who work while going to school, for people who work all day in the sun to put food on our table, for the people who work in sweatshops, for people who wait on us in restaurants and for the disabled who are trying to earn a living and support themselves with their disabling condition, 10 million American workers will find that they will no longer have the protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the minimum wage.

NEWT GINGRICH is once again going to bring back the ability of employers to exploit children in the workplace, to exploit women in sweatshops, to exploit the disabled in sheltered workshops. This is not what the American people want. The American people want an increase in the minimum wage so those individuals who have chosen work over welfare will have the ability

to support their families, not to exploit those people.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last night on the national news it was reported that Americans who have lost their jobs in the 1990s have had to stay out of work much longer than those who lost jobs in the 1980s.

In addition, those who have lost jobs in the 1990s have almost always ended up having to take jobs paying much less than the ones they lost, paying much less than the ones they lost. One and one-half million people have lost good jobs due to corporate downsizing in the last 3 years. We lost 3 million jobs last year due to our trade deficit with other countries. Our unemployment rate is relatively low, but our underemployment rate is terrible.

Most college graduates cannot find jobs in their degree fields, and we are ending up with the best educated waiters and waitresses in the world, yet our Federal Government continues to overtax and even worse overregulate our economy.

Today Government regulations and redtape are making it extremely difficult for small businesses and small farms to survive. We hear about economic insecurity, but many have been lulled into a false sense of complacency, primarily because the stock market is high.

THE POISON PILL IN RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, by now it is abundantly clear that the Republican leadership wants to kill the minimum wage with a poison pill. Let me explain. Right now 80 percent of the American population wants a raise in the minimum wage. There is bipartisan majorities in both Houses who support an increase in the minimum wage. Today we will have a bill to increase the minimum wage. So what is the problem? Where is the pill?

Well, in this bill there is an amendment that would exempt two-thirds of the companies from the requirements of the bill. That is to say, two-thirds of the companies would not have to pay the minimum wage, which means up to 10 million workers would not get the minimum wage. So we are witnessing today a sham, a minimum wage bill that the people want, that the majorities in Congress want, but that the Republican leadership refuses to bring forward.

They will not bring forward a clean minimum wage. They would rather perpetrate this sham and undermine real minimum wage increases.

RUBBER PRESIDENT

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

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I bring to your attention an editorial which appears in today's New Hampshire Union Leader entitled, Rubber President, Here's Bill Clinton, Contortionist Extraordinaire.

The editorial discusses the fact that the President has twice vetoed welfare reform and yet, if I may quote, it says, "Knowing BOB DOLE has scheduled a major speech today on the subject of welfare, Mr. Clinton did an about-face over the weekend to declare his support for Wisconsin's Republican welfare reform plan. Unbelievable."

Governor Tommy Thompson's innovative Wisconsin Works program embodies more reform, a lot more reform, than either of the two bills Mr. Clinton vetoed. But now the President says he thinks Governor Thompson's approach is just peachy.

Republicans should call Mr. Clinton's bluff. They should not let him get away with telling the voters he is for welfare reform while vetoing sensible reform bills. Congress should present him with a welfare reform bill based on the Wisconsin plan and dare him to veto what he says he supports.

That is what we will do today, Mr. Speaker. We are going to introduce a sensible welfare reform bill.

ROLLING BACK THE CLOCK

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, the entire Gingrich-Dole Congress that we have seen for the last year and a half has been about one thing: rolling back the clock. Whether it is on Medicare, the environment, educational assistance that we give from the Federal Government, it has been about rolling back the clock.

Here we go again. Now under the guise of raising the minimum wage, which is at a 40-year low in purchasing power, they are in fact going to repeal the minimum wage for millions of American workers.

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Just think of the cynicism that reflects, the opportunity of helping people who are trying to get ahead, people who are playing by the rules and trying to stay off welfare. They are using that as an opportunity to take millions off the protection of the minimum wage.

We only need to remember what the Gingrich-Dole leader of the Congress said. "I will resist a minimum wage increase with every fiber of my being," he said. And do my colleagues know what? What they are doing today makes me sick.

NO MFN FOR BARBARIC PEOPLE
LIKE THIS

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I have a picture here showing Chinese security forces lining men up and putting pistols in the back of their heads and shooting them, and then they take their kidneys and their cornea for transplantations and sell them to people in the West.

We are going to give MFN to a country like this?

What baffles me is, as a Member who has served in this body during the 1980's when Sakharov was under house arrest, and it was his 75th birthday yesterday, and Sharansky was in Perm Camp 35, no Member of the Congress would have had the courage to come to the well of this House and ask for MFN for the Soviet Union, and yet this administration and this Congress are really going to consider doing that.

Members may not want to hear this, and the administration may not want to hear this. This may be the fundamental moral human rights issue that this Congress has to deal with.

Take a look, Members, and I have the film, the 13-minute film. Call my office, we will bring it by. Lining men up, putting pistols in the back of their head, shooting them, and then taking their kidneys and corneas for transplant. No MFN for barbaric people like this.

REPUBLICAN EXTREME AGENDA
CONTINUES TODAY ON THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today we are going to see the rest of the story, the rest of this extreme agenda that the Republican leadership has been playing out all this term of Congress. We have seen it in Medicare, we have seen it in an erosion of occupational safety, we have seen it in an effort to allow the big cats to raid pension plans, we have seen it in wage and hour laws changes, and today we see the rest of the story: They are coming today to try to do away with the minimum wage.

Now they are talking about giving a minimum wage increase, but the truth of the matter is this bill will attempt to repeal the minimum wage for three-fourths, 75 percent, in fact, of the companies in this country, and that is outrageous and unacceptable and extreme.

The rest of the iceberg will be seen today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BREAST
CANCER DETECTION ACT

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

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

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, what is pink, round, was stalled at FDA for 10 years and now can be obtained only by prescription? No; it is not a funny riddle. The sad truth is it describes the sensor pad, an important tool which could be used to aid breast lump detection.

While the FDA has finally approved this product, it is available only by prescription. Instead of paying only \$21.95, women must first go to a doctor to get a prescription, making costs rise substantially. FDA's action restricts access to women who simply cannot afford to go to the doctor unless something is truly wrong.

This year it is expected that 184,300 women will find out that they have breast cancer. Since there is no cure for breast cancer, we must continue to give women encouragement to perform breast self-examinations and take part in other early-detection practices. Today I am introducing the Breast Cancer Detection Act to make this examination aid available. I urge Members to cosponsor this important bill.

GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
WHAT THEY NEED: A RAISE

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

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, this GOP minimum wage bill is a hoax; it is really indecent. All year long the Republican House and Senate have refused to raise the minimum wage, even to have a vote on it. Now we know why: because Republican leadership, between GINGRICH and DOLE, are devising an excuse, a scheme really, to gut and repeal the existing minimum wage. One step forward, two steps back, a measure which would give a license to the Republican corporate friends to exploit the work force, working families. Working families do not need bait-and-switch. They need, working families do not need, political games. They need a raise. They need empowerment, a wage that takes them above the poverty level, and a Congress that votes for a minimum wage on the level.

Mr. Speaker, the best welfare program is a job and a job that pays a living wage. Let us vote for a clean minimum wage bill and give the American people the type of empowerment that working families need: self-sufficiency with an adequate living wage so they can take care of themselves.

PRESIDENT OUTRAGEOUSLY
CLAIMS HE IS COVERED BY THE
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS RELIEF
ACT

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