

democracy in Cuba and in defending American interests.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FAIRNESS ACT OF 1996

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

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to cosponsor a bill I am introducing today, the Social Security Benefits Fairness Act of 1996.

Under current law, no Social Security benefits are paid for the month of a death. When a person dies, their family is not entitled to the benefits and must send back the Social Security check, even if they lived to the end of the month. This happened to a family in my district.

Phyllis Strunk's husband, Royden, died on May 31, 1996, at 7:04 p.m. almost living the entire month and incurring living expenses. His wife was told she would not receive her husband's benefits for May because he did not live 4 hours and 56 minutes longer.

This is unfair and absurd.

My bill will put fairness and security back into Social Security. Under my bill, if a person dies before the 15th day of a month, the family will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ of the month's benefits. If a person dies after the 15th, the family would receive the entire amount of the benefits.

It is simple and fair. Please join me in this effort and cosponsor the Social Security Benefits Fairness Act of 1996.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RADIO STATION WBHF FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1946, World War II had ended. Thousands of young men were returning to their hometowns all across America, establishing families and seeking new opportunities. With their eyes on the future, they welcomed change and sought progress. On July 17, 1946, in Cartersville, GA, they first heard the voice that would champion the future of Bartow County: radio station WBHF went on the air, to begin its continuing commitment of service that has lasted for 50 years.

WBHF has become a valuable resource to its many listeners. As a news source, it has chronicled the years of change from the small southern town in 1946, to the thriving city Cartersville is today, recognized as one of the best communities in all of Georgia. In times of National disasters or local victories, the people of Cartersville can count on WBHF to be there, often as their only information source.

I am proud to extend congratulations today to radio station WBHF, and to

Herschel Weisbram and Lee Burger who run this fine radio station, for 50 years of service to Cartersville and Bartow County, GA.

SWEATSHOP PRODUCT BAN ACT

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I plan on introducing the Sweatshop Product Ban Act, which I have dubbed the "No Sweatshops Where GI's Shop Act."

Through defense commissary and exchange stores, the Department of Defense exercises a purchasing power of well over \$9 billion. However, there is nothing in law that prohibits one of the largest retailers in the Nation from purchasing goods manufactured under inhumane conditions. This bill would specifically prevent the commissary and exchange stores from inadvertently supporting child labor, prison labor, or goods produced under human rights violations. It would also come closer to insuring that our GI's around the world do not sport any products produced by children who work under deplorable conditions, 14 hours a day.

Congress can encourage private industry to police themselves by allowing companies to have access to these minimum labor standards. Corporations such as J.C. Penny and Levi Strauss have already agreed to monitor their contractors as publication of potential violations by these retailers pose a threat to sales. My bill would take it a step further: As consumers, the Defense commissary and exchange stores can take the lead and influence corporations to adopt better labor practices through the power of their purse.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Sweatshop Product Ban Act.

DO WE REALLY NEED A SURGEON GENERAL?

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, all of us fondly recall President Clinton's first Surgeon General, Jocelyn Elders. She is the one whose valuable contribution to medicine was to suggest, and let me put this delicately, that schoolchildren quit playing with each other and—well, never mind. Now, for that bold contribution, which many of my colleagues remember, and I am not going to allude to it any more than that, but she was run out of office. So now the new Surgeon General has come out with a study, but she is playing it safe, daringly sticking right in the middle of the road. She has come out with a study paid for by thousands of tax dollars that comes out with this revelation:

"Exercise is good for you."

Yes, I promise, that is her study: Exercise is good for us. Imaging the possibilities. Next thing we know, the private sector will be coming out with health spa chains.

Next the Surgeon General plans to study does the sun cause suntan? Does the rain get things wet? Does climbing stairs get you higher?

I ask my colleagues this:

Do we really need a Surgeon General? Is this the way we should be spending tax dollars instead of pursuing real goals?

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THE CIA AND THE FBI: BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR INEPTNESS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the CIA and the FBI never found out who killed those two CIA employees outside of CIA headquarters 3 years ago. They did not find out who was responsible for the bombing of Pan American 1034. They never found out who carried out the recent Saudi Arabia bombings. But lo and behold, the Washington Post has uncovered that the anonymous author of the book, "Primary Colors," is Newsweek writer Joe Klein.

Let us check this out. The CIA and the FBI get billions of dollars from Congress every year and they cannot seem to find the restroom around here. I say something is drastically wrong when a newspaper can solve a national mystery and a TV network has to notify America that there is a military invasion in Kuwait, but the CIA and the FBI cannot even tell us who hired Craig Livingstone. Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. I yield back all the deceit, coverup, and lies in this FBI Filegate matter.

SUPPORT THE BONILLA DISCHARGE PETITION AND REFORM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

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

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, the time is now for reform of the Endangered Species Act. Our people have waited long enough. Private property owners are sick and tired of the Federal Government taking their land because it cares more about bugs than people.

Today I am submitting a discharge petition to bring the Endangered Species Management and Conservation Act to a vote. The current ESA has failed the people and it has failed species.

This ESA reform bill works by providing incentives to encourage private property owners to conserve species. ESA reform establishes a cooperative framework for these landowners to work together with the Government to protect species.

The people of Texas want to conserve species and protect the environment. They also want to be able to live their lives and enjoy their property without the threat of Government seizure. Texans have been patient in waiting for ESA reform. The time for patience has passed and the time for action is now. Please join me and support the Bonilla discharge petition.

INTRODUCING THE HEALTHY FAMILIES ACT

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Healthy Families Act, a bill to help prevent child abuse. A 1994 survey of child welfare agencies reported more than 3 million cases of child abuse. Three children a day died.

My bill will make Justice Department funding available for local programs following the principles of the healthy families initiative, a pioneering child abuse prevention program. Communities adopting the healthy families model use their existing social service network to provide voluntary, culturally appropriate, intensive in-home visits to new mothers and their families by professional counselors to teach them how to avoid child abuse. The counseling which healthy families provides those families who want help with the training and discipline needed to prevent child abuse are important for our children.

Because of the success of this program in Hawaii, Mr. Speaker, the healthy families approach has been adopted by communities across the country. Earlier this year I visited a program site in the Washington State district, which I represent. The effort to prevent child abuse that I saw during my visit encouraged me to introduce this legislation.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS IN THE REPUBLICAN PLAN FOR WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan for welfare reform has five pillars: Welfare reform should not be a way of life; we should have work, not welfare; we should not pay welfare to noncitizens and felons; we should return power and money to the States; and we should restore personal responsibility.

Unfortunately, the President's plan has no time limit as far as how long you can get welfare, no real work requirement. It continues to pay noncitizens and felons, and it has maximum Federal control, not States' rights.

Mr. Speaker, what we need to do is be concerned about the welfare recipient.

Pass a good welfare reform bill that restores respect, increases initiative, and provides a brighter future for welfare recipients.

THE REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM: MORE MONEY, MORE MONEY, MORE MONEY

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, with its candidate for President on the ropes, the Republican majority is trying to find another divisive wedge issue. Last week it was same-sex marriage. This week it is welfare. Next week it will probably be abortion. There are rumors that the Republican majority is about to abandon a bipartisan welfare reform. Is this indicative of a new strategy to resurrect the Willy Horton issues?

Mr. Speaker, let us talk about the Republican prescription for campaign finance reform: more money, more money, and more money. They see the control that they have of the Congress in jeopardy, and want their special interest buddies to rescue them. I cannot wait to hear what is next.

ENOUGH DOUBLETALK FROM THE PRESIDENT—WELFARE REFORM IS NEEDED NOW

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, just this week, and in connection with what the previous speaker was talking about, where are we on this whole thing, where really is the President on all of this? He changed his mind about welfare again. He said in a speech to the Nation's Governors just 2 days ago that he is going to sign welfare reform. He also said he is committed to supporting Wisconsin's welfare reform plan. I can hear the White House spinmeisters now spinning their wheels and saying, "how do we explain this to the public?"

Who knows where the President is? Maybe he will sign the very same welfare reform he has vetoed twice. Perhaps he will okay Wisconsin's welfare waiver. Who knows?

My Democrat friends in the Congress have said if you do not like where the President stands, just wait a while. Enough of the doubletalk, I would say. Enough of the flips. It is time the President lived up to the 1992 promise to change welfare as we know it.

Our current welfare system has failed miserably over the last 30 years. It is time to get under the hood and fix the problem.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE BILL WILL BRING MASSIVE INFUSION OF MONEY TO FINANCE MEMBERS' CAMPAIGNS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that tomorrow the Republican leadership is going to bring up a campaign finance bill that will essentially allow a massive infusion of money from wealthy individuals and special interests to finance our congressional campaigns.

Speaker GINGRICH has said over and over again that there should be more money in politics, not less. He is quoted as saying that one of the greatest myths of modern politics is that "Campaigns are too expensive. The political process in fact is underfunded. It is not overfunded. I would emphasize far more money in the political process."

That is where we are. Under the guise of campaign finance reform, we are going to get a bill that allows the wealthy and the special interests to contribute even more. The public interest groups unanimously have come out opposed to this campaign finance bill tomorrow. The New York Times today says it is obscene, essentially, in their editorial.

Even my fellow Republicans, rational in some cases, have come forward with a Dear Colleague letter they sent to their other Republican colleagues saying this is a travesty, and that this campaign finance bill should not pass.

I hope we listen to that on both sides of the aisle.

HYPOCRITICAL CRITICISM OF SPEAKER GINGRICH BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to read something. President Clinton and Vice President GORE said this in their book, "Putting People First": "We will scrap the Health Care Financing Administration and replace it with a health standard board made up of consumers, providers, business, labor, and government." No cry from the press about that.

But let us see what the Speaker is being criticized for when he talked about "wither on the vine." This is what he really said. The Democrats have taken it out of context. What did he say? "Okay, what do you think the Health Care Financing Administration is? It is a centralized bureaucracy. It's everything we are telling Boris Yeltsin to get rid of. Now, we don't want to get rid of it in round one * * * we want it to wither on the vine."

Speaker GINGRICH was not referring to the Medicare Program, but he was referring to the big government bureaucratic machine that processes it.