

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.

That is the same thing President Clinton and AL GORE said in their book, "Putting People First."

So all this criticism on the Speaker, on his "withering on the vine," comment, is hypocritical. President Clinton said the same thing about the Health Care Financing Administration. In both cases, no one was talking about Medicare. Think about it.

SUPPORT THE CASTLE-TANNER WELFARE REFORM BILL

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, some in Congress have demonized the poor, that they have become the poster children for all that is wrong in America. They have convinced the American people that the welfare mothers and their children have caused a great debt that our Nation has acquired. They have now made the new Joan of Arc out of the teenaged mothers.

Just last week, what do they want to do when they say teenaged children are having children? The President asks for \$30 million, and they did not give one cent. They would rather spend \$6.4 billion after the child has a child. Yet, this week, what do we do for children? If you have a child, we are going to make sure we take your children off of welfare. We will teach the teenaged mother you must not do this, but when we have a chance to make a difference in their lives we do absolutely nothing.

H.R. 3734 is a mean way to reform. Yes, we need reform, and certainly the Castle-Tanner bill is a better way to reform, not the bill that is going to be introduced. This is antichildren, anti the poor. We should do better in this Nation, rather than to demonize the most vulnerable of our Nation.

PRESIDENT SUCCUMBS TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton yesterday once again succumbed to international pressure, this time by suspending part of the important sanctions on the Castro dictatorship that 80 percent of this Congress voted for just a few months ago after Castro killed four Americans over international waters. Incredibly, the President who vetoed tort reform, citing the rights of Americans to sue Americans, yesterday took away the right of Americans to sue foreigners who traffic in property stolen by those foreigners from Americans.

President Clinton showed once again what pressure can get you during this American presidency if you are an enemy of the United States. The North Koreans got billions of United States taxpayer dollars by saying that they

would otherwise build nuclear powerplants. Iraq was allowed to sell billions of dollars of oil again. Iran was invited into Bosnia. Mr. Speaker, despite the collapse of the Soviet Union, a weak, indecisive White House such as the current one is hazardous to the safety of the Nation.

REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM MEASURE WILL WORSEN OUT-OF-CONTROL CAMPAIGN SPENDING

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, this week has been trumpeted as the great Republican reform week. But now, as we begin debate on these so-called reforms, what is the Republican leadership really thrusting on us this week?

The only bill the Republican leadership is offering is a so-called campaign finance bill—a measure designed to make out-of-control campaign spending even worse.

The Republican bill nearly triples the limits on both individual contributions and PAC contributions. And under the Republican plan, a wealthy family of four would now be able to contribute millions and millions of dollars during a 2-year election cycle.

Mr. Speaker, this is not reform. Instead of putting the brakes on this campaign spending train, the Republicans are finding new ways to add fuel to the fire.

The Republican leadership once again has ignored the pleas of the people and is focused on helping the fat cats and the special interests that own them.

The Republican leadership has once again gone too far. Extremism, not accomplishment, is the name of their game.

PRESIDENT MUST HONOR HIS COMMITMENT AND SIGN WELFARE REFORM MEASURE

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, on May 18 during his weekly radio address, President Bill Clinton said the following: "There are bipartisan welfare reform plans sitting in the House and the Senate. They require welfare recipients to work, they limit the time people can stay on welfare, they toughen child support enforcement, and they protect our children. So I say to Congress, send me a bill that honors these fundamental principles. I will sign it right away."

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for President Clinton to keep the commitments he makes to this institution. He has repeatedly misled this body into believing he wants to reform welfare. The time has come to either put up or shut up. This week the House will con-

sider the very same welfare reform measure President Clinton said he would sign. For the future of this country, for all the young men and women caught in the endless cycle of poverty and dependency, for all the children who need strong families and safe neighborhoods, I hope that the President honors his word.

URGING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT OF CASTLE-TANNER WELFARE REFORM BILL

(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, the Speaker has proclaimed this week reform week, and primary among those reforms for all of us will be welfare reform. I urge my colleagues this morning to join in a bipartisan effort, and support the Castle-Tanner bill.

This is legislation that will successfully put people to work, will protect our children, and in particular, provide health care for those low-income children who are essential to our future growth. This bill will provide State flexibility. It will require maintenance of effort, but it will encourage and reward States that achieve that. In times of economic downturn, it will allow flexibility for States to meet those needs. Most important, Castle-Tanner does not raise taxes on low-income working people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge us to continue to work together to produce a bill the President can sign. I am proud to have worked on the Castle-Tanner bill. It does achieve needed reforms, and I urge my colleagues, all of them, to support this effort.

□ 1030

REFORM WEEK

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for months the Republican leadership has been heralding their upcoming reform week. Well—reform week is here but it's looking a lot more like weak reform. What was once a big buildup has become a quiet shutdown.

Not much talk about reform this week. Mostly because the Republican campaign finance reform legislation doesn't actually reform the system but makes it worse. But don't take my word for it—take the words of 10 of my Republican colleagues whose "Dear Colleague" letter reads—and I quote—"Instead of leveling the playing field in elections, this bill will result in greater incumbent protection. The bill actually increases the amounts that wealthy individuals can contribute in Federal elections."

That's right. Under current law an individual can give \$25,000. Under the