

these children should not be left hostage any longer to elected officials breaking their promises.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to sign the welfare reform today and truly end welfare as we know it.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES SHOULD FOCUS ON REAL ISSUES, NOT NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN ADS

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, at a time when this country has the lowest voter turnout of any major country and millions of Americans are giving up on the political process, it is imperative that the presidential candidates in this election focus their attention on the real issues facing the middle class and the working families and not devote their energy to negative 30-second television ads.

□ 1030

This country has some terribly serious problems, and the American people want to hear those problems discussed. For example, why does this Nation have the most unfair distribution of wealth and income of all industrialized nations on Earth? Why is the gap between the rich and the poor growing wider while the middle class continues to shrink?

What do we do to reverse the trend by which real wages for working people continue to decline and today are 16 percent less than they were 20 years ago with workers now working longer and longer hours just to provide for their families?

What do we do about the reality that most of the new jobs that are being created are poverty level jobs? Let us talk about the real issues.

CHILDREN ARE WAITING FOR WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, how much longer should America wait before we rescue the millions of children who are trapped in poverty by the current welfare system?

Shouldn't we be encouraging work, marriage, and family instead of discouraging them?

How many more children, communities, and cities must we lose to poverty and violence before we say enough is enough?

When it comes to welfare reform, President Clinton has become the maybe man.

Maybe he'll end welfare as we know it and maybe he won't.

Should we trust what the President has said?

Or should we judge the President by what he's done?

The President's record on welfare is two vetoes and delays and denials of waivers for States to pursue innovative solutions.

This week Congress will pass welfare reform for the third time.

Will the third time prove the charm . . . or will the President strike out? The children are waiting.

A NEW WAR ON TERRORISM

(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, America's communities are being terrorized by lunatics. Our law enforcement officers are the ones who are on the front line trying to bring back some tranquility to America's public places. Our law enforcement officers today look like Wyatt Earp. They really do not have any more technology than Wyatt Earp had except they have a car instead of a horse. We could fix that.

We have all sorts of cold war technology taxpayers have paid for that should be opened up to law enforcement and move out there so we fight crime much smarter. If we could trace everything in the world, we ought to be able to trace explosives, and we know how to trace explosives.

It is outrageous that this Congress might think about going home before we deal with this issue. One of the primary reasons for the Congress, according to the Constitution, is to deal with the domestic tranquility. Let us deal with that before we adjourn. Let us open up that wonderful storehouse of research and development that we have paid for for the cold war for this new war on terrorism.

COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM

(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, when President Bill Clinton says that the welfare system is broken, he's absolutely right. Every year, the Government spends more and more money on welfare.

Today, Government spends 1,600 percent more on welfare than they did in 1950 while the population of this country has only increased 72 percent.

Mr. Speaker, it all boils down to common sense.

Common sense tells us that welfare has been a colossal failure—as President Clinton says, the system is broken. Common sense also tells that money is simply not the answer—welfare may give people money but it takes away something far more precious.

It is now time for this Government to exercise a little common sense of its own. Congress will soon give the President a genuine welfare reform package.

It is real; it is common sense; and it honors the basic values of work, family, and personal responsibility.

We hope that Bill Clinton will do the right thing and sign commonsense welfare reform.

THE ISSUE OF TERRORISM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this Friday Congress is scheduled to go into recess, but I do not think we should be recessing unless we address or until we address the issue of terrorism. I have to tell you that right now my constituents in the phone calls to my office are overwhelming that people are concerned and want the Congress and the President to get together on a bipartisan basis to address the issue.

It is not something that is just in other countries now. Clearly, because of the TWA crash, because of the explosion in Atlanta at the Olympics, people feel, and I think rightly so, that they cannot be safe and that we need to address the issue of terrorism.

Basically, the President this week convened a bipartisan leadership meeting to discuss the steps that are necessary to fight against terrorism. As was mentioned by some of the previous speakers, we do have certain tools at hand which we really have not used and we can use on the Federal basis to try to get at the problem.

Mentioned was the expanding the power to use wire tapping, also certain tracers or taggants, as they are called in explosives. These things need to be addressed, and we have to do them before we recess.

THE WELFARE REFORM BILL

(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, each Member had the August 12 issue of the New Republic delivered to our offices.

As everyone knows, the New Republic is a very liberal magazine.

Yet this magazine had a lead editorial entitled "Sign It," urging the President to sign the welfare reform bill.

The President earlier vetoed a welfare reform bill that passed the Senate 87 to 12.

The current bill passed the Senate 74 to 24 and passed by a very large margin in this House.

The New Republic says this bill "will, finally, start the process by which America's underclass problem can be solved."

The editors said the block grant structure of this bill "is likely to point the way to ending the 'culture of poverty.'"

This is a really significant endorsement, Mr. Speaker.

The New Republic ended its editorial with these words:

The continuing agony of the underclass is destroying our cities, our race relations, our sense of civility, our faith in the possibilities of government. It's worth taking some risks to end it.

I urge the President to sign the welfare reform bill.

TERRORISM

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, the image of terrorism are ingrained in our minds. What was often seen as someone else's problem is now our problem.

If America is being terrorized without and within, this Congress should not be terrorized by special interest groups opposed to legislation which would protect us. When Congress passed its antiterrorism bill, the gun lobby opposed a provision which would have required tracer particles in explosives so that law enforcement could track the source of terrorist bombs. Sadly, more than 200 Members of Congress bowed to the NRA and voted to deny the FBI this important tool to fight terrorism.

Now we are being asked to pass additional antiterrorism legislation in light of the recent tragedies. But the gun lobby has once again made it clear that it will oppose any effort to put tracers in explosives.

As America would not be intimidated by terrorists, this Congress should not be intimidated by the gun lobby. Before we go home this week, let us pass an antiterrorism bill that will protect American families, not protect special interest groups.

LEGITIMATE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, using common sense, would we set up a welfare system that told a pregnant teenage mom, Listen, do not live with your parents; we will get you an apartment; do not get a job; do not save any money; you can have any man live with you except for the father of the child and, by the way, if you want more money, have another child out of wedlock?

Let us put party politics aside here. Let us let the American people win for the first time in a long time. Let us pass this legitimate welfare reform bill that we have on the House floor today.

If you are an able-bodied American, you are going to be required to work. We are going to provide child care money for you to transition from welfare to work, and we are going to provide job training.

We have a program in Las Vegas called Opportunity Village. It is a pro-

gram for mentally disabled people. We have enough compassion in Las Vegas to help people that are mentally disabled get into a job. Let us have enough compassion on welfare recipients to help them get into a job.

THE NRA

(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, if you are involved in a hit-and-run accident today, the police can trace the paint on your car to the exact day it was painted, to where it was painted, to the gallon of paint used and where that car was sold and who owns it.

Today if you use your phone in the commission of a crime, they can trace your calls back to that. But if you blow up the World Trade Center or you blow up the TWA airline or you blow up the park in Atlanta, the NRA will not let them trace the powder in those explosives back to the point of purchase and manufacture to expedite the investigation of who those people were that engaged in this terrorism against American cities and against American citizens. That is an outrage.

A few months ago, 200 Members in this Congress voted to deny the alcohol, tobacco bureau the efforts to make that investigation, the FBI to make those investigations. We should now understand that these tools should be available to the FBI. They should be available to the alcohol, tobacco bureau. They should be available for the investigation to protect American lives.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ON WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, speaking to the National Governor's Association 2 weeks ago, Bill Clinton sounded like a Republican. He talked about getting tough on irresponsible fathers; he talked about cutting red-tape; he talked about work; he talked about strong families; he even talked about imposing time limits on welfare benefits.

This week, Congress will send the White House the third welfare reform bill that addresses all the concerns raised by the President. It will have real work requirements and real time limits. It is genuine welfare reform; it is common sense; and it will move people from dependence to work and independence.

As Bill Clinton said in one of his radio addresses: "No challenge is more important than replacing our broken welfare system." Mr. Speaker, he's right. But changing something as big and as entrenched as the welfare sys-

tem requires commitment, it requires honesty, and it requires that politicians keep their promises. We can only hope Bill Clinton will do the right thing and sign the bill.

A POLITICAL ANSWER TO TERRORISM

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, the No. 1 question I was asked when I talked to my constituents on the phone last night and this morning is, why the heck would anyone oppose putting taggants, little tracers in explosives so that we can find those who commit terrorism.

There is no good answer. There is no good substantive answer. There is a political answer.

The reason this House is not going to address the issue of putting taggants, tracers explosives is three letters: NRA.

We all know it is the right thing to do. In fact, at all the hearings our committee held, there were only two groups of people who were against putting these taggants in explosives. Those were either explosive manufacturers or the gun lobby. But the NRA is making a serious mistake here.

The average gun owner does not agree with it. The average gun owner, who has a few hunting rifles or, in the city, carries a gun around for self-defense, they do not see that it is the NRA's business that explosives are tagged so we can find terrorists.

Congress, get with it. Stand up to the NRA and let our law enforcement be able to trace explosives with taggants.

GENUINE WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, liberal Democrats love to portray themselves as the great champions of America's children. The President has even threatened to veto welfare reform for the third time unless, and I quote, it "protects children."

For the last year, Bill Clinton has stood in the way of genuine welfare reform. He seems incapable of showing any determined leadership on any of the pressing social or economic issues facing this Nation. When he does act, he always hides behind children or some other alleged victim.

If Bill Clinton were truly concerned about children and those in need, he would have kept the promises he made in his campaign. He would have kept his promise to end welfare as we know it. He would have kept his promise to balance the budget in 5 years. The list of broken promises goes on and on.

The children of America don't need pandering they need a President who is willing to stand by his word, do the