

can reform their welfare systems. The Clinton Administration has granted 69 waivers—more than twice as many waivers as granted in the Reagan-Bush years. For 75 percent of all Americans on welfare, the rules have changed for good already, and welfare is becoming what it should be: a second chance, not a way of life. Welfare rolls are finally coming down—there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were when President Clinton took office in January 1993.

The President has also taken strong executive action to make sure that the welfare system strengthens families and demands responsibility. He ordered states to require minor mothers to stay in school and turn their lives around so they can get a job and get off welfare for good. He also directed states to require mothers to help identify and find absent fathers so we can make them pay the child support they owe. He challenged all states to require teen mothers to live at home or with a responsible adult. And the President fought to make sure that poor children get health care and nutrition to meet their basic needs.

Now we must finish the job, and pass national welfare reform. Unfortunately, the plan proposed by Senator Dole and Speaker Gingrich was weak on work and tough on children. That is the wrong approach. We should be tough on work and demand responsibility, but we should not punish children for their parents' mistakes. A real bipartisan welfare reform plan should require that, anyone on welfare who can work, goes to work. And we should provide child care and health care so parents can work. We should impose strict time limits so that no one who can work can stay on welfare forever. We should require minor mothers to live with their parents or another responsible adult. If the Republican Party puts politics aside, we can finish the job President Clinton started, and end welfare as we know it across America. Passing legislation is not enough; we should make sure people get the skills they need to get jobs, and that there are jobs for them to go to so they leave welfare and stay off. Welfare reform should put more people to work and move them into the economic mainstream, not take jobs away from working families.

JULY 31–AUGUST 4: DNC STAFF CHANGE
PLATFORM

The President announced on July 31 that he would sign the Dole-Gingrich welfare plan into law—which he did on August 22. Democratic National Committee staff thereupon revised the platform plank on welfare to reflect the President's newly announced intentions. The platform plank on welfare, which previously denounced the legislation Congress had passed, now endorsed it.

AUGUST 5: FINAL PLATFORM ISSUED

The full platform committee met in Pittsburgh, PA on August 5 and approved the changes to the Kansas City draft. The new platform plank on welfare, as changed by DNC staff, was nearly identical to the final version approved by the convention delegates in Chicago on August 27 with the exception of one sentence noted below which was formally added as an amendment during the Pittsburgh session. The new plank reads as follows:

Welfare reform. Today's Democratic Party knows there is no greater gap between mainstream American values and modern American government than our failed welfare sys-

tem. When Bill Clinton became President, the welfare system undermined the very values—work, family, and personal responsibility—that it should promote. The welfare system should reflect those values: we want to help people who want to help themselves and their children.

Over the past 4 years, President Clinton has dramatically transformed the welfare system. He has freed 41 states from federal rules and regulations so they can reform their welfare systems. The Clinton Administration has granted 69 waivers—more than twice as many waivers as granted in the Reagan-Bush years. For 75 percent of all Americans on welfare, the rules have changed for good already, and welfare is becoming what it should be: a second chance, not a way of life. Welfare rolls are finally coming down—there are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were when President Clinton took office in January 1993.

Now, because of the President's leadership and with the support of a majority of the Democrats in Congress, national welfare reform is going to make work and responsibility the law of the land. Thanks to President Clinton and the Democrats, the new welfare bill includes the health care and child care people need so they can go to work confident their children will be cared for. Thanks to President Clinton and the Democrats, the new welfare bill imposes time limits and real work requirements—so anyone who can work, does work, and so that no one who can work can stay on welfare forever. Thanks to President Clinton and the Democrats, the new welfare bill cracks down on deadbeat parents and requires minor mothers to live at home with their parents or with another responsible adult.

We are proud the President forced Congressional Republicans to abandon their wrong-headed and mean-spirited efforts to punish the poor. Republicans wanted to eliminate the guarantee of health care for the poor, the elderly, and the disabled. They were wrong, and we stopped them. Republicans wanted to destroy the food stamp and school lunch programs that provide basic nutrition to millions of working families and poor children. They were wrong, and we stopped them. Republicans wanted to gut child abuse prevention and foster care. They were wrong, and we stopped them. Republicans wanted to cut off young, unwed mothers—because they actually thought their children would be better off living in an orphanage. They were dead wrong, and we stopped them. The bill Republicans in Congress passed last year was values-backward—it was soft on work and tough on children, and we applaud the President for stopping it.

We know the new bill passed by Congress is far from perfect—parts of it should be fixed because they go too far and have nothing to do with welfare reform. First, Republicans cut too far into nutritional assistance for working families with children; we are committed to correcting that. Second, Republicans insisted on using welfare reform as a vehicle to cut off help to legal immigrants. That was wrong. Legal immigrants work hard, pay their taxes, and serve America. It is wrong to single them out for punishment just because they are immigrants. We pledge to make sure that legal immigrant families with children who fall on hard times through no fault of their own can get help when they need it. And we are committed to continuing the President's efforts to make it easier for legal immigrants who are prepared to accept the responsibilities of citizenship to do so.

But the new welfare plan gives America an historic chance: to break the cycle of dependency for millions of Americans, and give them a real chance for an independent fu-

ture. It reflects the principles the President has insisted upon since he started the process that led to welfare reform. Our job now is to make sure this welfare reform plan succeeds, transforming a broken system that holds people down into a working system that lifts people up and gives them a real chance to build a better life.

States asked for this responsibility—now we have to make sure they shoulder it. We must make sure as many people as possible move from welfare to work. We must make sure that children are protected. In addition to health care and nutritional assistance, states should provide in-kind vouchers to children whose parents have reached the time limit. We challenge states to exempt battered women from time limits and other restrictions. [We challenge states to ensure that hard-earned, federal taxpayer dollars are spent effectively and fraud and abuse are prevented.] (The preceding sentence was added as an amendment to the platform during the Pittsburgh meeting.) We challenge the business community to provide more of the private sector jobs people on welfare need to build good lives and strong families. We know that passing legislation is not enough; we must make sure people get the skills they need to get jobs, and that there are jobs for them to go to so they leave welfare and stay off. We want to make sure welfare reform will put more people to work and move them into the economic mainstream, not take jobs away from working families.

We call on all Americans to make the most of this opportunity—never to use welfare reform as an excuse to demonize or demean people, but rather as a chance to bring all our people fully into the economic mainstream, to have a chance to share in the prosperity and the promise of American life.

Following the Pittsburgh meeting, in an August 6 Washington Post article by Kevin Merida entitled "Democrats Play Down Platform Differences," White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes was quoted as characterizing disputes over platform planks as "some fusses around the edges," and as stating, "I can't think of any changes of consequence since the drafting" of the platform in Kansas City.

In an August 29 Washington Post column entitled "Bathos and Nothingness," columnist Robert D. Novak wrote, "The platform's denunciation of Republican welfare reform was obediently reversed, with neither protest nor debate, once Clinton signed the bill. Nor was the change mentioned on the convention floor in the non-debate preceding voice-vote approval of the platform. Far from being debated, the declaration of party principles was not even explained." Indeed.●

TRIBUTE TO THE VERMONT EXPOS

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I stand here today to pay tribute to Vermont's only professional sports team, the Vermont Expos, who won the New York Penn League baseball championship last week.

In 1994, the Vermont Expos arrived in Burlington thanks to my good friend Ray Pecor, who worked exhaustively with State and local officials to bring professional baseball back to Vermont. He wanted the Expos to be a team the entire State could be proud of. Now,

after just 3 years in Vermont, the Expos are champions.

This year, the Expos played with a never say die style. They came from behind regularly to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. In the championship series, the Expos came from behind to win in three of their four playoff victories. This never say die attitude not only made baseball extremely exciting in Vermont this summer, but helped the Expos develop a mystique that many teams take years to build.

The gritty style of play the Expos showed throughout the year reflects the attitude of their manager, Kevin Higgins, who had the responsibility of molding a team of rookies into a championship ball club. After the Expos beat the St. Catharines Stompers, 4 to 3, on Wednesday to win the championship, Higgins acknowledged that "these are the best fans in the league and I think they know it."

The workmanlike efforts of the Expos also reflect the hard work of their General Manager, Kyle Bostwick of St. Albans, and his predecessor, the late Tom Racine of Burlington. These two men were major factors in bringing a championship ball club to Burlington.

Never before have I seen a community become so attached to a team so quickly. Take John Douglas of Colchester, who housed Expos teammates Jamey Carroll and Shannon Swaino for the season. Douglas said he treats the two young men as if they were his own.

But the bond between the team and their fans goes beyond the cool summer nights at Centennial Field. It stretches into the very culture of our State. In Vermont, we take pride in our work ethic. We believe that hard work will be rewarded. In all my years of following professional sports, I have never seen a team that so typified the culture around them. I can honestly say this group of young ballplayers will never be forgotten.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Vermont Expos and their fans for winning the 1996 New York Penn League championship. Now there are two "Champs" in Vermont.●

ENTHRONEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP SPYRIDON

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, a new chapter commences in the life of the Greek Orthodox Church of America this Saturday with the enthronement in New York of new Archbishop Spyridon at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City. Archbishop Spyridon, the first American-born hierarch to hold this position, assumes this important responsibility at a time when the Orthodox Church in America faces great challenges and opportunities. All Americans of Greek Orthodox faith have great hope that this new spiritual leader will continue the Greek Orthodox Church's positive role in the religious life of our country.

In pursuing this mission, the new Archbishop will build on a firm foundation established by his predecessors—Archbishop Iakovos, who did so much to advance Orthodoxy in the Americas, Archbishop Michael, and the late Patriarch Athenagoras, who led the church during its early and difficult period in America.

Archbishop Spyridon was born in Warren, OH, the son of Clara and the late Dr. Constantine Papageorge, and spent most of his youth in Tarpon Springs, FL where, as a teenager, he divided his summers between Florida and the Island of Rhodes, the home of his father. The Archbishop graduated high school in Tarpon Springs and then enrolled in the Theological School of Halki near Istanbul, Turkey, where he was graduated with honors. He pursued graduate studies in Switzerland and Germany and is fluent in English, French, Greek, German, and Italian. He eventually was assigned to the permanent delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland, and later served as Secretary of the Orthodox Center of the Ecumenical Patriarchate located in Chambesy, Switzerland. In 1976 he was assigned to duties as Dean of the Greek Orthodox community of St. Andrew's in Rome and later assumed added responsibilities as Orthodox Executive Secretary of the International Joint Commission for Theological Dialogue Between the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. He was elected a Bishop on November 5, 1985; and in 1991 he became the first person ever elevated to Metropolitan of Venice, Italy.

The new Archbishop's responsibility includes serving as the direct representative in the United States of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, the spiritual center of world Orthodox Christianity. His personal and ecclesiastical experience combine a rich grounding in Orthodox spirituality, a meaningful involvement in interfaith-ecumenical activities, and an understanding of the American tradition of religious freedom and separation of church and state.

I join with Orthodox throughout our country and all Americans of good faith who wish His Eminence a long life, a productive ministry, and the strength and wisdom to meet the many challenges which await him.●

SWISS AGREEMENT TO INVESTIGATE JEWISH FUNDS IN SWISS BANKS

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the recent agreement of the Swiss to investigate the issue of Jewish money, as well as looted assets that were deposited in Swiss banks before and during the war.

The Swiss, in responding to overwhelming international pressure have agreed to yet another commission to investigate the issue. I must state that we have heard this before. We were told

at the end of the WWII that the Swiss would look for Jewish assets and they responded by saying that they found nothing. Yet in 1949, the Swiss concluded an agreement with the Polish Government to turn over the assets of heirless, largely meaning Jewish assets. The problem was that they made this agreement with the Communist-run Polish Government and not the Jewish people to whom the assets belonged. According to their own sources, the Swiss had no laws on the books providing for this. Nevertheless, they did the same thing the following year with the Communist-run Hungarian and Czech Governments. While saying all along they had no Jewish assets in Switzerland, the Swiss nevertheless found enough to conclude agreements with other governments to turn over funds that did not belong to them. Clearly they have not been forthcoming with the world.

The Swiss again investigated the subject in the early 1960's. Again, they found money, some \$2 million. Yet, all along there were public statements to the effect that little money would be found.

In 1995, another search was made and some \$32 million in dormant accounts were found. Again, Swiss banks and Swiss Government officials said this proves that there was not a lot of money left over.

One must ask oneself, however, if the Swiss keep saying that there is no Jewish money in Switzerland from the 1930's and 1940's, why then do they keep finding money? Clearly the answer must be that they are in fact sitting on great sums of money and are letting it come out in drips and drabs, only in response to immense international pressure. They seem to think that they can outlast us. Well, they are wrong.

They can create commission after commission to study the issue, but the only way to solve the issue once and for all is to open their books, entirely, and put this all to rest. Stonewalling will not work, we understand what they are trying to do. Enough is enough. Open the books now.●

REV STEVEN D. RILEY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a distinguished Michigan citizen, Rev. Steven D. Riley, who celebrates his 15th year as Pastor of Christ Temple Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, MI.

Reverend Riley was born and educated in Michigan, and is the only child of Geraldine Riley. He was baptized into the Christian faith in 1967, ordained a Minister of the Baptist Church on March 17, 1974, and installed as Pastor of Christ Temple Baptist Church on January 25, 1981. Reverend Riley has traveled across the country conducting numerous preaching revivals in his service to the Christian faith. He has also served the Ypsilanti community at hundreds of weddings and funerals. Reverend Riley's public service