

As a mother and teacher, Roz has been quite active in the area of education. She has served on the Los Angeles Unified School District's Gender Equity Commission, the LAUSD's Parents' Collaborative and on the Intergroup Relations/Multicultural Education Committee. She has otherwise worked with pro-choice groups and on issues such as welfare reform and affirmative action. She is truly a model of civic involvement.

We ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Roz and Barney Cooperman, whose devotion to each other and their community is a model for us all. May they have many more years of happiness together.

DISMANTLING THE SAFETY NET

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, in the few short months since Congress has embarked on the misguided and destructive mission of welfare reform, the dismantling of the safety net necessary for the health and well-being of our Nation's most vulnerable populations—our children and the elderly—has reaped deadly effects. The Republican wish has come true. Republicans have successfully removed the neediest Americans from the rolls—permanently.

In March of this year, one man took his own life to avoid the uncertainty of the future. After receiving a letter informing him that he might be cut off of Social Security, Ignacio Munoz, a 75-year-old elderly legal immigrant, put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. Mr. Munoz had worked in the United States for 40 years, but the Social Security Administration had payment records only for 10 years. Mr. Munoz committed suicide because of extreme fear of being cut off from his only means of support. Mr. Munoz' fear of being left out in the cold continues to grip the legal and elderly immigrant community.

Still, with vehement opposition from State and local governments, advocacy groups, and poor and disabled Americans themselves, Republicans continue to turn a deaf ear while unashamedly forging ahead. As the Ways and Means Committee begins the welfare reconciliation markup, I believe it is important to heed these predictions from experts concerning the impact of welfare reform:

CHILDREN

In California, nearly 250,000 children would be denied benefits.—Children's Defense Fund

Nationwide, nearly 1/2 of all children with disabilities, or 140,000, will lose SSI.—Children's Defense Fund

Nearly 3.3 million children would be denied welfare assistance.—Children's Defense Fund

1.14 million children will be driven into poverty, making one child in four poor in America.—Children's Defense Fund

Nearly 134,000 children in New York State would be impoverished.—Children's Defense Fund

300,000 children will be cut from SSI.—Social Security Administration

50,000 children will lose Medicaid benefits.—Social Security Administration

Over 57,000 children in Texas would be reduced to poverty.—Children's Defense Fund

Nearly 64,000 children in Michigan would be made poor.—Children's Defense Fund

1.2 million legal immigrants, including 450,000 children, would lose SSI and/or food stamps.—Children's Defense Fund

10% of all families nationwide would lose some benefits.—Children's Defense Fund

For families with children, more than 20% would lose some benefits.—Children's Defense Fund

20% of families with children would have their incomes reduced by \$1,300 a year.—Children's Defense Fund

LEGAL IMMIGRANTS

500,000 legal immigrants will be cut off the SSI rolls.—Washington Post, May 3, 1997

Nearly 1,000,000 legal immigrants will lose food stamps.—Washington Post, May 3, 1997

400,000 elderly legal immigrants will not receive SSI.—Los Angeles Times, June 5, 1997

100,000 severely disabled legal immigrants will be cut off SSI.—New York Times, June 5, 1997

1,000,000 legal immigrants could lose food stamps nationwide.—Los Angeles Times, May 2, 1997

Four states—California, New York, Florida, and Texas, with 1/3 of the House of Representatives and all with Republican governors—would be the hardest hit under this new law.—Newsday, April 10, 1997

Legal immigrants account for 5% of those in the U.S. who receive welfare, but will bear 44% of the cuts.—San Francisco Chronicle, February 13, 1997

Legal immigrants—including those poor legal immigrants over 75 or permanently disabled—are wholly ineligible for food stamps.—Center on Budget

CALIFORNIA

224,000 legal immigrants will be cut off in California.—Rocky Mountain News, May 17, 1997

Over 3,000 elderly legal immigrants will lose welfare benefits in Sacramento County.—Sacramento Bee, May 17, 1997

41% of all legal immigrants who are scheduled to lose disability payments live in California.—Los Angeles Times, May 2, 1997

427,000 legal immigrants live in California.—Los Angeles Times, May 2, 1997

135,000 legal immigrants over 65 years old live in California.—San Francisco Chronicle, April 19, 1997

Three-fold increase in the number of new homeless.—Alameda County Health Care Services

In California, hundreds of thousands coming off the welfare rolls would vie with one million already on the unemployment rolls for entry-level jobs.—San Francisco Chronicle, January 10, 1997

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In Los Angeles County 430,000 legal immigrants could lose food stamps and other federal aid.—San Francisco Chronicle, February 13, 1997

In Los Angeles County, welfare cutbacks will impact 518,000 people.—Children's Defense Fund

Up to 227,600 people could lose health care insurance in Los Angeles County.—Children's Defense Fund

Up to 30,000 women could lose prenatal care in Los Angeles County.—Children's Defense Fund

Up to 21,000 additional children could wind up in Foster Care in Los Angeles County.—Children's Defense Fund

Nearly 200,000 legal immigrants on AFDC in Los Angeles County would lose their benefits.—San Francisco Chronicle, February 13, 1997

150,000 receive SSI in Los Angeles County.—San Francisco Chronicle, April 19, 1997

90,000 receiving SSI in Los Angeles County are children.—San Francisco Chronicle, April 19, 1997

200,000 legal immigrants in Los Angeles County on AFDC face a cutoff.—San Francisco Chronicle, April 19, 1997

In Los Angeles County, 430,000 legal immigrants could lose food stamps and other federal aid.—San Francisco Chronicle, February 13, 1997

Nearly 200,000 legal immigrants on AFDC in Los Angeles County would lose their benefits.—San Francisco Chronicle, February 13, 1997

CONNECTICUT

19,000 legal immigrants in Connecticut are on SSI.—Hartford Courant, January 31, 1997

PENNSYLVANIA

484,000 families on AFDC will be affected in Pennsylvania.—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, March 2, 1997

NEW YORK

The new law will affect 70,000 in New York City.—Newsday, April 22, 1997

85,000 legal immigrants will lose benefits in New York City.—New York Times, May 10, 1997

In an area of Brooklyn called Southside, nearly 1/2 of the 27,000 residents receive some form of public assistance. If thousands lose their benefits, it would bring extreme hardship to this neighborhood.—New York Times, March 10, 1997

FLORIDA

54,000 legal immigrants live in Florida.—Sun-Sentinel, April 20, 1997

39,000 legal immigrants in Florida are over 65 years old.—Sun-Sentinel, April 20, 1997

43,000 legal immigrants in Florida live in just one county, Dade County.—Sun-Sentinel, April 20, 1997

GRAND OPENING OF THE SUTTER ROSEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the momentous occasion of the grand opening of the new Sutter Roseville Medical Center, located in Roseville, CA. The center will officially open its doors to patients on Sunday, June 22, 1997.

Sutter Roseville Medical Center is an affiliate of Sutter/CHS, one of northern California's largest not-for-profit health care systems. The medical center will open with 168 licensed beds and the capacity to expand to 188 beds if the need arises. The inpatient areas of the new medical center will include a dedicated birth center, an emergency department and trauma center that is three times the size of the existing Sutter Roseville, and a beautiful, home-styled skilled nursing facility.

The 315,000-square-foot medical center was designed by staff, physicians and members of the community to be responsive to patient and family needs. A critical aspect of the

medical center's development is its incorporation of user-friendly outpatient services into its overall design. Another hallmark of the new Sutter Roseville Medical Center is the accentuation of the natural beauty of the Placer County oaklands, which provide a healing environment for patients and their families.

It should also be noted that this remarkable facility would not have been possible without the tremendous commitment and support of the Roseville community. Forty five years ago, this community rallied to raise funds to make Roseville's first hospital a reality. Today, after years of planning and preparation and the raising of over \$1.8 million, the Roseville community has once again shown what can be accomplished when people join together toward a common and worthy cause.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the residents of Placer County and the city of Roseville in celebrating the grand opening of the Sutter Roseville Medical Center.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REDLANDS HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine achievements of an outstanding group of students from Redlands High School in San Bernardino County, CA. Earlier this year, the Redlands High School mock trial team participated in and emerged victorious from both the San Bernardino County championship and State championship competitions, earning the right to compete at the national level.

Under the fine coaching of Donna St. George of Redlands High School and legal coaching of Michael Knish, a deputy public defender for San Bernardino County, the 11-member mock trial team won the San Bernardino County championship on March 1. On April 6, these dedicated students defeated the best teams in the State of California to win the State championship in Sacramento. As a result of that victory, the Redlands High School mock trial team traveled to Nashville in May to compete in the national championship. They emerged from this competition with a 16th place finish putting Redlands High School among the finest in mock trial teams in the entire United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in paying tribute to Manuel Aguilar, David Burton, Christopher Carrillo, Jesse Dioquino, Angela Gi, Erica Hagstrom Kevin Hicks, Rachel Julagay, Grace Kong, Candice McNeil, and Tiffany Wang. To say the least, I am extremely proud of these fine students and it is only fitting that the House of Representatives recognize their achievements today.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CARL D. PERKINS VOCATIONAL-TECH- NICAL EDUCATION ACT AMEND- MENTS OF 1997

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Act Amendments of 1997. This bill reauthorizes and reforms the current vocational education statute.

Let me state for the record that this legislation is not, nor is it intended to be, comprehensive school reform. Neither is this legislation intended to be school-to-work or expansion of the School-to-Work Act. School-to-work is a separate freestanding act.

Seventy-five percent of our Nation's youth do not receive a 4-year college degree. It is imperative that our youth receive a high quality education whether they are bound for college, the military, further education or training or directly into the work force.

Too many high school graduates are functionally illiterate—unprepared to meet the needs of the next century. I believe this bill—which focuses on strengthening the academics of vocational-technical education—will work toward eradicating this problem. According to a witness who testified before my subcommittee on the legislation, functional illiteracy costs U.S. business \$300 billion annually.

Our Nation's youth deserve a quality education—whether they pursue a vocational-technical course of study or college prep. We should have high expectations of our students.

Education is the key to our Nation's future economic prosperity and the cornerstone of equal opportunity in American society. It is my hope that this legislation broadens the opportunities for vocational-technical students after high school. We held a hearing at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax, VA and were told by northern Virginia business leaders that 18,000 jobs are currently unfilled in northern Virginia because individuals do not have the skills to fill them. The average salary for these jobs is over \$45,000.

If we are going to ensure that America meets the next century as a world leader, we need to focus on making sure our citizens have the technological skills to compete. I want to eliminate the functional illiteracy that permeates our work force.

It is my intent with this legislation that we do not leave behind the 75 percent of students who do not receive a 4-year college degree. I truly think it is time that we stop telling 75 percent of our country they are not good people because they do not have a baccalaureate degree.

This bill would also send 90 percent of funds to the local level. If we are going to see true change in vocational-technical education, it is not going to come from the Federal level. It is going to come from the local level—from the teachers who are in the classroom making a difference.

I have been working very closely with the ranking member of the subcommittee, MARTY MARTINEZ, and hope that he will support the bill and that we can have a bipartisan bill with a broad base of support.

Concerns have been raised regarding the authorization level of the bill—that the number is too low. The 1990 amendments reauthorized the program at \$1.6 billion—a number that was never reached. Current appropriation amounts for vocational-technical programs are a little over \$1 billion. I believe we should authorize more closely to actual appropriations amounts. Some have suggested using such sums for an authorization amount. While I support this idea, I have been told that the Congressional Budget Office for scoring purposes recommends an actual dollar figure.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL TELEVISION COMPETITION AND DIVERSITY ACT

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a substantive piece of legislation regarding the duopoly rules of broadcast ownership under the current law.

In the historic Telecommunications Act that was introduced in 1995, the Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives included provisions in its version of the act that would have allowed ownership of two broadcast stations in a local market. The members of the House Commerce Committee who supported duopoly reform believed that allowing one person or entity to own two such stations would not have a negative effect on local communities, but would in fact promote programming diversity and would strengthen local broadcast owners who could not operate their businesses in a way that provided the best programming services to their local communities.

Unfortunately, our efforts were not agreed to by our Senate colleagues and the duopoly provisions were not a part of the final conference report to the Telecommunications Act, which was signed into law by President Clinton in 1996.

In order to rectify this situation, I have introduced this legislation to provide for real duopoly reform. The heart of the legislation would allow a person or company to own two stations in a local market, but one would have to be a UHF station. Therefore, such an entity could own two UHF stations or a VHF-UHF combination. Notwithstanding, however, the FCC still would have an override of that duopoly condition if they significantly harm diversity in their opinion.

This bill also would allow the FCC, under unusual and compelling circumstance, to allow a person or company to own two VHF stations. Relaxation of the duopoly rule will mean more local programming in the market, more news, more sports, and more children's programming. This change is necessary to ensure that free, over-the-air television continues in a multichannel world.

The communications marketplace today is vastly different than when the television local ownership rule was last examined in 1964. Since that time, there has been a substantial increase in the number of broadcast television stations and phenomenal growth in other video technology and outlets, including cable, DBS, wireless cable, and Internet broadcast.