

the Republican Party because they were real mean to me over something. I went back to the White House and I asked somebody who'd been there a while in Washington, I said, "Now, why in the world did they do that?" They said, "It's payback time." I said, "What do you mean?" They said, "Well, they think the Democrats in Congress did this to the Republican Presidents." I said, "I didn't even live here then. Why are they paying me back?" They said, "Oh, you don't understand. You just got to pay back." So then pretty soon I was behaving that way. I'd wake up in the morning, my heart was getting a little hard. I thought "Now, who can I get even with?"

You think—this happens to you, doesn't it? Who can I get even with? Sometimes you can't get even with the people that really did it to you, so you just go find somebody else because you got to get even with somebody. Pretty soon everybody's involved in this great act.

You know how cynical the press is about the politicians. They think we're all—whatever they think. What you should know is that the politicians have now become just as cynical about the press, because cynicism breeds cynicism. We are in a world of hurt. We need help. We are in the breach. We are in the hole here.

This country has the most astonishing opportunity we have ever had. We happen to be faced with this time of great change and challenge. We're going into this enormous new world. Instead of going into it hobbled with economic distress or foreign pressures, we are free of any threat to our existence and our economy is booming. It's like somebody said, "Here's this brave new world, and I'm going to let you prepare for it and walk into it in the best shape you've ever been in." Instead of doing that, half of us want to sit down and the other half of us want to get into a fight with each other. We are in the breach. We need you to help us get out of it.

The United States is better than that; we owe more than that to our people, to our future, and to the world. We owe more than that to our heritage, to everybody from George Washington on that made us what we are today. Cynicism and all this negative stuff—it's just sort of a cheap excuse for not doing your best with your life. It's not a very pleasant way to live, frankly—not even any fun.

I try to tell everybody around the White House all the time, I have concluded a few things in my life, and one of them is that you don't ever get even. The harder you try, the more frustrated you're going to be, because nobody ever gets even. And when you do, you're not really happy. You don't feel fulfilled.

So I ask you to pray for us.

I went to church last Sunday where Hillary and I always go, at the Foundry Methodist Church. The pastor gave a sermon on Romans 12:16-21, and a few other verses. But I'm going to quote the relevant chapters: "Do not be wise in your own estimation." It's hard to find anybody here that can fit that. "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. If possible, so far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own vengeance. If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Pray for the people in public office, that we can rid ourselves of this toxic atmosphere of cynicism and embrace with joy and gratitude this phenomenal opportunity and responsibility before us.

Do not forget people in the rest of the world who depend upon the United States for more than exhortation. And most of all, remember that in every scripture of every

faith, there are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of admonitions not to forget those among us who are poor. They are no longer entitled to a handout, but they surely deserve—and we are ordered to give them—a hand up.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, for those words. And thank you for, again, scheduling the prayer breakfast. We're grateful to you for taking the time to be with us, as I believe all of your predecessors for 45 years have spent time at this National Prayer Breakfast. Thank you so much.

Senator Daniel Akaka from Hawaii has been a dedicated member of the Senate prayer-breakfast group and the House prayer-breakfast group, as well. He's renowned on Capitol Hill as a man of kindness and a man of great faith. He'll also serve, incidentally, as the chairman of next year's prayer breakfast. Please recognize Senator Dan Akaka to lead us in our closing hymn.

Senator DANIEL AKAKA (D-HI): Thank you very much, Bill. May I ask all of us to stand, please; open our hearts, and raise our voices to the Lord.

(Senator Akaka leads in singing of "Amazing Grace.")

Representative BARRETT: Thank you so much, Senator.

I would like to, at this time—to deliver our closing prayer—to recognize a man who has distinguished himself both in public and private life, the governor of the state of North Dakota, the Honorable Edward Shafer.

Governor EDWARD T. SHAFER (R-ND): As we gather here this morning in Washington, DC, I am reminded of greatness. This is a great city, and we are here as great leaders. We are leaders of great governments and nations, leaders in great business and industry. We are here as leaders of our faith.

But we gather here not in greatness, but in humbleness, and to give thanks. To remember that it is only through the grace of our Almighty God that we serve our fellow man.

On this occasion, I hear again the words of Abraham Lincoln. He said "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overpowering conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that about me seemed insufficient for the day."

Mr. President, First Lady Hillary, Congressman Barrett, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, all distinguished guests, let us open our hearts and minds and bow our heads in prayer.

God Almighty, Lord of all mercy, we your servants from around the world thank you for your goodness and loving kindness. As our lives burst with meaningful events, large and small, help us remember patience and compassion. We cannot live by scoring who wins or who loses, or by getting even or paying back. Let us live as neighbors looking out for one another, as friends caring for each other, and as family loving one and all.

Encourage us to respect, honor and serve each other. Help us remember it is not the words from our mouths but the actions we take that will command your final judgment.

As we depart from this special occasion, we pray that you will give each of us your directions for the decisions that lie before us, that we might govern wisely and lead well those who are in our care. May we have insight and wisdom in our search for justice, mercy and peace.

I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Representative BARRETT: Thank you, governor. This will draw to a close the 45th Annual National Prayer Breakfast. We again thank you for your presence, and we ask that you go wherever with God's love.

IT IS TIME TO BRING OUR TROOPS HOME FROM BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I was not in favor of sending troops to Bosnia and I will admit that. I was fearful of getting bogged down. It is an awful lot easier to get into a situation like that than it is to extricate oneself after getting there. I think it is time to bring our troops home from Bosnia just as soon as we can.

When President Clinton first sent troops to that country, he promised the Congress they would be brought home by December 20, 1996. Today is April 29, 1997, more than 4 months past the deadline. Our troops are still there. The President now says that the troops will be pulled out by June 1998. The big question is why. Why do they need to stay there another 1½ years?

Does anyone remember the original mission? I admit it is kind of hard to remember, because the President never really spelled it out, but it is generally agreed that the mission was to keep the warring factions separate and to maintain peace in the region. These goals have been accomplished, thanks to the dedication and professionalism of the men and women of our Armed Forces.

As I mentioned, the President has now promised that the troops will be pulled out by June 1998. He cannot blame us for being a little skeptical even about that. His record of breaking promises does not inspire a lot of confidence.

The estimated cost of the Bosnia excursion has ballooned from just under \$2 billion to over \$6 billion. And, remember, this is off budget. This is money that gets spent anyway and it is off budget.

I am an original cosponsor of a new bill, H.R. 1172, the U.S. Armed Forces in Bosnia Protection Act of 1997. The bill commits the United States to leave Bosnia by September of this year, September 30, allowing for a 90-day extension beyond that if the President requests it and the Congress approves it. That would mean that the troops would be out by December 31, 1997, 1 year later than the original deadline.

This is eminently doable, at a huge cost savings, and in the best interest of America and in the best interest of the American troops now in Bosnia. At the very least, we must make the President stick to his June 1998 deadline. But by passing this bill, we can get them out 6 months ahead of that and just be a year later than the original promise.

Unless Congress takes action, I think that troops will just stay in Bosnia and stay and stay and stay. I think we must pass H.R. 1172 to end what could become a never-ending mission. It is time to be responsible to the people we sent there. Remember, these are the best combat troops in the world and we

send them there on guard duty, on police duty, and that sort of thing. That is not what they are about.

We need to be loyal to them and pass this legislation and bring the troops home from Bosnia at least by the end of this year, by December of this year.

CHILD CARE FUNDS DROPPED FROM WELFARE REFORM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands [Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 1048, to make technical corrections to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, otherwise known as the Welfare Reform Act. While I support H.R. 1048, I rise today to express my strong disappointment about the fact that a Clinton administration proposal to set aside one-half of 1 percent of mandatory child care funds for allotment among the territories was dropped from the bill during the markup in the Committee on Ways and Means because the Congressional Budget Office scored the provision as having a cost to the Federal Treasury.

I am disappointed, Mr. Speaker, because when the Welfare Reform Act was enacted, no mandatory child care funds were provided for over 4 million U.S. citizens residing in the United States non-State areas, even though residents of my district and the other territories have been operating child care programs under section 402(g) of the Social Security Act.

Mr. Speaker, welfare reform is intended to promote self-sufficiency through work. As a result, securing adequate child care funding will be one of our more pressing needs if we are to be successful in our goal of moving former welfare mothers from dependency into our work force.

During the markup of H.R. 1048, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW], chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources of the Committee on Ways and Means, stated that there were several provisions that would be dropped from the bill because they were scored as having a cost and not purely technical in nature. The chairman went further to state that his subcommittee will go back and take a look at those issues that were left out of the bill as it came out of the subcommittee markup.

It is my intention, Mr. Speaker, to work with the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SHAW], the chairman, and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], the ranking member, to ensure that low-income parents in the U.S. territories receive adequate child care to enable them to be able to go to work to support their families.

PATHWAY FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today more than ever our children need us to stand up for them. As a parent and as a grandparent, I simply want to pave a path to the future for our young people. Unfortunately, there are those who want to keep them trapped in the past. There could be no more urgent time than this moment in history to make a difference for our children.

Consider this. Every 5 hours, a child dies from abuse or neglect. There is a connection with the fact that every 32 seconds a baby is born into poverty. From the dawn of life to the dusk of life, from birth to early death, far too many of our children are behind when born, live wretched lives and die before they truly have a chance to live.

We can stop this vicious, downward spiral. We can move our children from under the dark cloud of planning their funerals to the bright sunshine of planning their futures.

That is why I am here, Mr. Speaker, to stand up for WIC, to stand up for the nutritional needs of our country's poorest women and children. This is a time when so many of our children are at their lowest and worst point, and we need to call upon our highest and best effort as a nation.

During this Congress, there are those of us who have carried the commitment to children and we have been able to do so because we have fought for it. We carried our fight on a foundation of faith and belief that our fight for children was a fight for our Nation's future, and through this we have made some gains. The fight goes on.

More than 2,600 babies will be born into poverty this day and each day. We want to make a pathway for our children's future. There are those who would want to keep them trapped in the past. We will win the fight because we dare to fight. That is why we are here, Mr. Speaker, to fight the majority that want to cut the heart of our WIC program, a program that nourished over 7.4 million women and children in the year 1996; to fight the majority, as they have cut \$38 billion out of the WIC supplemental, necessary funding for the one government program regarded by experts to be the single most successful social program run by the Federal Government.

Over 180,000 hungry women and children will be dropped from the WIC program, which has proven to be a successful weapon against low birth weight, infant mortality, and childhood anemia. GAO stated in 1992, for each \$1 invested in the prenatal portion of WIC, the Federal Government saves at least \$3.50 in Medicaid, SSI, and other relevant Federal programs.

I implore the Speaker to fully fund the WIC program at the administration requested level of \$78 million and to

give 180,000 American women, infants, and children the nutritional help that they need. We need to move people out of poverty, not into poverty. The President has said we need a lean but not a mean Government. It should not mean cutting nutrition programs which are essential to the well-being of millions of our citizens, people who in many instances cannot fend for themselves and need assistance for their basic existence. They are not asking for much, just a little substance to help them through the day, WIC and other nutritional programs, which in many cases provide the only food that many of our Nation's poor receive daily.

We are all aware that poor nutrition breeds poor development in children. I come from a rural area, a very poor district. Making cuts in this nutritional program will certainly be adverse to my district and to many of my constituents. Let us stop picking on children. Let us stop picking on the poor. Let us make some cuts, surely, but let us make them to the people who can afford them, not to taking food out of the mouths of pregnant and nursing women, infants, and children.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to talk about the Democrats' education agenda. Before I get into some of the details, however, I wanted to briefly touch on the evolution of our plan to expand and improve the Nation's education system. I think it is particularly important to keep the history behind our plan in mind as negotiations over the budget continue the next few days or the next few weeks.

The Democratic Party has historically been the champion and defender of education in this country. The 104th Congress, in fact, illustrated this observation in very stark terms. Upon taking the majority for the first time in some 40 years, Republican leaders immediately set out to dismantle Federal education programs. Led by Speaker GINGRICH and primarily the freshman Republicans who were elected for the first time in the 104th Congress, the GOP proposed the largest education cuts in history.

A look at the record shows that on August 4, 1995, the Gingrich Congress christened its attack on education when 213 House Republicans voted for the largest education cuts in history, voting to slash education programs by 15 percent, or \$3.6 billion. These cuts across the full spectrum of education were particularly heavy on student loan programs. But the proposed cuts left no stone unturned. They targeted Title I, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Goals 2000, Head Start, vocational and adult education, as well as student