

from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time.

It couldn't have been because our Nation is the world leader in developing a culture of death in which 20 million to 30 million babies have been killed by abortion. It couldn't have been because we give 2-year prison sentences to teenagers who kill their newborns.

It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution is fact and by handing out condoms as if they were candy. It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions do not have consequences. What the heck, the President gets away with it. No, it must have been the guns.

I think Paul Harvey's statement illustrates the corruption that has permeated our society that leads to things like Columbine. No amount of gun legislation will solve the problems in our society. The answers are complex, and they are multi-faceted. There is no quick fix. It is time that we looked at the roots of our problems and not just at the surface symptoms.

VALUE OF THE UNIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker, my father, Frank Kucinich, senior, was a truck driver and he drove a truck for 35 years, and he was proud of the work that he did, and he was also proud to be a member of Local 407 of the Teamsters Union.

I grew up with a heritage of believing in the importance of people belonging to an organized labor group, and as I was growing up, I saw how my father would attend union meetings. And I would have the occasion to go with him to some of those meetings. And I heard people talk about their desire for a better wage, not just for themselves, but for their families. I heard people talk about the desire for improved health care benefits, not just for themselves, but for their families.

I heard people talk about retirement security, not just for themselves, but for their families, and so what I saw in growing up in Cleveland, Ohio was men and women coming together to try to improve not only their lot but the lot of their families.

All across this country, working men and women are going to work every day with the intention of building a better quality of life, and the only way they can do that is to stay united, and that is what unions are all about. In unity there is strength. And across this country, men and women have been able to have a better wage level and because of that have helped to assure higher wages in the nonorganized sector.

Across this country, men and women have been able to have better health benefits, better retirement benefits because they have united, and that is something that is profoundly American. We have communicated to the world this idea that in unity there is strength, and through working men and women organizing we have demonstrated that even the humblest person should have an opportunity to have a position at the table of great power and that the humblest person in joining with others can have some control over his or her destiny and over his or her quality of life.

□ 1300

I am glad to be part of a Democratic Party which supports working men and women.

WELCOME TO REVEREND STEVEN L. WOLVERTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. ERLICH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRlich. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the Reverend Steven L. Wolverton, who served as my Legislative Fellow in my congressional office in 1997. Steve is in the gallery to the right, and I welcome him to the House of Representatives here today. He is an electrical engineer with the Federal Government, as well as a youth pastor at Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

Steve and his wife, Vicki, lead a dynamic, growing youth ministry in south Baltimore called LifeChangers, which is dedicated to establishing role models and positive life opportunities for inner-city youth. More recently he is working with a Baltimore businessman to renovate an old department store and establish a private evangelical Christian school in the southern Baltimore peninsula. I commend him on the investment he is making on behalf of the young people of Baltimore City.

Steve is a strong believer in serving God and his country, and it is my privilege to welcome him to the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Thank you, Steve, for your inspiring life, and welcome.

CELEBRATING ORGANIZED LABOR FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to America's working men and women. I come from a working family. I come from a union family. I know what it is like to worry

whether one's paycheck is going to stretch to the next one. I know what it is like to be laid off.

I strongly support organized labor because my father was able to put a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs, a good car in our garage, food on our table, and two daughters through college and law school because of the union wages he earned in Las Vegas.

Madam Speaker, 37 years ago my family arrived in Las Vegas with all of our possessions in a U-Haul hooked up to the back of the car. My dad joined the culinary union and landed a job as a waiter at the old Sands Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. That union job was the greatest break my family ever received. It opened the doors to opportunity for all of us.

I am the first person in my family to go to college. I worked my way through college and law school. I waitressed at the Sands Hotel, ran keno at the Desert Inn, and cocktail waitressed at the Hacienda, the Aladdin and Holiday Casino, all on the Las Vegas strip. Each of these union jobs contributed to my ability to put myself through college and law school.

Let me tell my colleagues, I am just one of hundreds of thousands of fellow Nevadans who have benefited from the positive influence of organized labor in my town. Almost without exception, the major employers of the thriving resort industry in Las Vegas have recognized that their industry and the entire city has grown strong because of good wages and good working conditions that good labor contracts have created. The prosperity of Las Vegas, built by the strong minds and backs of working men and women, can serve as a model for other parts of the country.

First and foremost, trade unions build strong families. America needs families earning a decent living, wages good enough to afford that home, that car, and an education for their children. That is how we grow the American economy.

Madam Speaker, I want our workers to have jobs free from the threats of raids on our family leave and our medical leave, free from raids on Social Security and Medicare, and free from raids on the right of every worker to collective bargaining. This country is better off for a 5-day work week, overtime pay, paid holidays and vacations, health insurance, child labor laws, and a minimum wage, all won by organized labor. Organized labor is vital to the well-being of our country, our families, and our communities. It makes a positive difference for all of us, and that is why, that is why I join in this week's celebration of organized labor.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of working Americans and every American, because we have reached a milestone on the calendar. Today, June 22, 1999, ranks as Cost of Government Day.

Now, it is true that yesterday, with the summer solstice gave us our longest period of daylight, the longest day of the year, but, Madam Speaker, I believe all Americans, especially those who work so hard to feed their families, need to know that today marks the day, 170-plus days into the calendar year, when Americans can finally go to work for their families instead of paying the cost of our bloated bureaucracy and government.

What does it mean to working families, Madam Speaker? What does it mean to every American? Well, simply this: According to Americans for Tax Reform, Madam Speaker, Federal regulations during 1998 cost American taxpayers over \$1 trillion. That translates to over \$3,800 for every man, woman and child this year. Americans for Tax Reform estimates that working American will work in excess of 1 month, almost 40 days, in excess of 38 days, to pay for regulatory costs.

Madam Speaker, that is why today I am pleased to come to the floor to announce that I will reintroduce on this, the Cost of Government Day, the Congressional Responsibility Act. It is being sponsored in the other body by my good friend, the senior Senator from Kansas Mr. BROWNBACK. The Congressional Responsibility Act requires that new Federal regulations cannot take effect until Congress approves them and the President signs them, or until his veto is overridden.

Madam Speaker, in the weight of this compelling, overwhelming evidence that our government has grown too large and costs working Americans too much, I say it is important to restore what our Constitution said and our Founders, following the beautiful Preamble which serves as more than just a mission statement for our United States; in our Constitution, the very blueprint of our Republic, says this: Article I, section 1. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

In other words, Madam Speaker, all lawmaking authority. But as historians look back upon the 20th century, Madam Speaker, they will talk about the unintended rise of, in essence, a fourth branch of government, the regulatory branch, because to deal with emerging industries, to deal with trying to control so many sectors of our economy, the Congress ceded, delegated its authority to an alphabet soup of acronymed agencies in the executive branch, where, Madam Speaker, unelected, unaccountable Washington bureaucrats, in essence, make law.

Madam Speaker, a personal indulgence. J.D. in my name does not stand for juris doctor. I am not a lawyer; I never played one on TV. That is considered an asset in Arizona. But one need

not be a lawyer to recognize that when Washington bureaucrats make law, the unelected, the unaccountable suddenly have great power in our society, to the point now where we work 170-plus days every year just to pay for the cost of government; where all Americans work in excess of 1 month, in excess of 38 days to pay for regulations.

What we say with the Congressional Responsibility Act is quite simple. Those regulatory agencies can continue to promulgate and formulate regulations, but, Madam Speaker, men and women of goodwill from both sides of the aisle, constitutionally elected by their constituents, are sent to Washington to make tough choices, and what the Congressional Responsibility Act would simply do would be to say this: Once a regulation is promulgated, have it sent to the Congress for an up or down vote. That way, Madam Speaker, accountability, responsibility, authority is restored where our Founders wanted it to be: with those elected to the Congress of the United States, with those who are accountable to the people.

Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join Senator BROWNBACK, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and me in sponsoring and voting for the Congressional Responsibility Act.

AMERICANS' RIGHT TO ORGANIZE: GOOD FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) and others who have come before us to talk about the right of American men and women to organize; certainly, the right to decide whether or not they choose to organize to be represented in the workplace to determine what their wages might be, what benefits they might get, what the safety factors at work might be, what hours they might work, all of those things that many of us have become used to understanding as a valid exercise in the workplace.

Madam Speaker, 74 percent of the American people believe that workers should be able to decide whether they want to join a union, and they should be able to make that decision without interference by management. People support a fair and open process that allows for equal access and equal time, for any discussion of what it means to join a union. And, they support a decision-making process that reaches a timely conclusion on that issue. That means that when workers vote freely to join a union, that decision is honored and accepted by management.

The reality, unfortunately, is far different. Threats, intimidation and harassment are all too commonly used against those who seek to form a

union. In nearly one-third of all organizing drives, one or more workers are fired illegally. If workers are able to overcome those obstacles and form a union, the system allows for endless legal challenges and stonewalling by employers. The laws designed to protect the freedom to form a union are failing, and the penalties for ignoring them are too small to be a deterrent.

This is not a level playing field, and it is well past the time that we restore some measure of balance to the system.

Madam Speaker, we talk a good deal in this Chamber about how we might improve the lives of American families. I suggest that one specific way in which we can do that is to allow for American workers who so choose to join a union. It can make a significant difference in the ability of those workers to provide for their families.

Recently in my district, 24 employees of a small enterprise that made parts for engines being produced by the General Electric facility in Lynn signed cards to join a union. An overwhelming majority wanted that right. They had been earning \$6.10 an hour, and unionized employees doing the same work were making \$14 to \$18 an hour.

Segments of the community, including me, contacted the owner of that company, Metal Improvements, and urged that it respect the desires of the workers and sit down at the bargaining table in good faith. I am happy to report that that was done. Unfortunately, in too many other instances, management mounts an endless series of challenges to the workers' rights to organize. The results can be bitterness and divisiveness that undermine productivity.

Madam Speaker, unions not only serve their members well, they serve the broader interests of our society. When social service workers who care for the elderly and the mentally ill and the mentally retarded earn only \$7 or \$8 or \$9 with little or no pension or health care, as many do in my district, they are often forced to work two or three jobs a day just to make ends meet. Their ability to do just one job well suffers. Turnover is high, and the quality of care is diminished.

Madam Speaker, by joining a union, these workers can raise their standard of living, and they ought to be able to have that right to make that decision.

FREEDOM TO CHOOSE A VOICE AT WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, earlier this year a number of us heard some powerful, real-life stories and experiences of workers from North Carolina and Las Vegas, Nevada, who were trying to organize. Their stories are the