

than \$25,000/year, compared with less than 42% of men who work. Social Security provides progressive benefits that replace a higher portion of preretirement income for low-income workers.

Fourth, women are more likely to be widowed than men. Longer life expectancy, combined with the fact that women, on average, marry older men, means that most women die unmarried. More than one-half of women ages 65 and older are unmarried. Three-fourths of unmarried Americans ages 65 and older are women. And four in five nonmarried older women are widowed. Social Security is the one source of retirement income that guarantees benefits to widows. The elderly survivor program is especially important to women.

We cannot jeopardize the solvency of Social Security because a strong Social Security is critical for older women. Today, 60 percent of all Social Security recipients are women. Of recipients over age 85, nearly three-quarters are women. These women rely on Social Security for nearly 90 percent of their income. Without Social Security, over half of elderly women would be poor. If elderly women cannot rely on Social Security when they retire, they will need greater financial assistance from their middle-aged children.

For elderly people of color and women, the challenges confronting the Social Security system are cause for alarm, because elderly African-American and Hispanics rely on Social Security benefits more than elderly Whites. According to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, from 1994–1998 African-Americans and Hispanics and their spouses relied on Social Security for 44 percent of their income while elderly Whites received 37 percent of total income from Social Security. And, 43 percent of elderly women received their income from Social Security during the period 1994–1998. This fact is important because on average, Social Security payments replace 54 percent of women's lifetime earnings in relation to men, coupled with the fact that women tend to live longer than men, which results in us receiving more benefits for a longer period of time.

Today, Social Security works in ways that are important to women because of their different life experiences. The administration's proposals threaten the guarantees that make the current Social Security system so beneficial for women. We must work together to protect the future of women and children.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the important issue of energy independence for the United States.

We have seen very clearly since the developments of 9/11 that we have significant foreign policy complications emerging from the development of Muslim fundamentalists, extremist violence in the Middle East, and of course, we have seen the tremendous tensions that have been raised in re-

cent months within the area of Israel and Palestine and the tremendous conflicts, and in particular, the very, very difficult situation of the suicide bombers who are blowing themselves up in cafes and restaurants and killing innocent men, women and children, in many instances, leaving often dozens of people severely maimed and deformed.

What is particularly disturbing is to read news reports that one of our supposed allies in the region, Saudi Arabia, has actually been paying the families of these suicide bombers, essentially aiding and abetting the commission of these horrific acts of violence against innocent civilians by these suicide bombers.

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Mr. Speaker, the situation that exists today is that the United States is dependent on foreign oil for about 50 percent of our energy requirements. I believe for us as a Nation that is an intolerable situation and that we need to take stock of this.

The President put forward a very positive proposal to open up for drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and pursue a host of additional reforms that we passed out of this House and the other body is taking up, and I applaud the other body for finally getting to the issue. I believe we need a more aggressive proposal to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, specifically Middle Eastern oil over the next 10 to 15 years. What I put forward is that we begin an aggressive program using every tool that we have available in our research and development budgets, in our Tax Code, to do things to make electric vehicles more attractive for people to purchase, to develop alternative energy sources.

We have a tremendous potential with wind energy, with solar energy. Indeed, I sit on the Committee on Science and Technology, and we have held hearings on the concept of space-based solar power, energy that can be collected by satellites from space and beamed to the Earth, energy that can be collected from the surface of the Moon and beamed to the Earth.

The potential for fusion energy is another great area where we should be investing more. We in the United States need to embark in the months, weeks, years ahead on an aggressive proposal to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and specifically Middle Eastern oil. I believe many of our so-called allies in the Middle East are not allies at all. They are working directly contrary to the interests of the United States and, really, democratic nations all over the world. We should be about the business of moving any dependence we may have on those nations; and the best way to secure that for our future and the future of our children is to develop these alternative energy sources so that we as a culture and society can deal with those countries on a more even basis.

It is very obvious to me when we look at what is going on in Europe that

the European community is collectively too dependent on Middle Eastern crude. I believe we in the United States could end up in the same way in the next 10 to 20 years; and, therefore, I believe we need to develop these alternative energy sources, and we need more conservation. This should be a long-term project over the next 5 to 10 years where we employ every tool available to us so we are no longer importing oil.

Not only do I believe this would be good for our foreign policy positions, I believe it would be good for peace throughout the world. I think it would be good for peace in the Middle East; and certainly it would be good for our domestic economy, our balance of payments. I implore the House of Representatives, particularly those who serve on the Committee on Science and Technology, those who serve on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Appropriations, to collectively come together in the weeks and months ahead and develop a cogent solution to deal with this pressing problem.

WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the next couple of weeks we will have a very rewarding experience explaining to the American people the success of welfare reform by the law that was passed in 1996, but also we will have an excellent opportunity to show how rewarding the reauthorization will be as proposed by President Bush.

I am a newcomer myself to Congress. I was sworn in 17 weeks ago today after a special election on December 18. This follows 17 years that I had the privilege to serve in the State Senate of South Carolina. I am honored to be on the Welfare Reform Task Force. I was appointed by the majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). I am on the task force to study and promote welfare reform. It is a particular honor for me because there are only two freshmen on the task force, myself and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART). I am certainly with a quality crew serving on that task force.

My education in the area of social services, I give credit to my wife, Roxanne. She served for 14 years on the welfare board in our county, the Department of Social Services in Lexington County; and in that capacity I learned first hand of the great work of professional social workers working with persons who needed financial assistance, the problems of elder care and foster care, child care; and I learned firsthand that we have got the best people working to promote services to the people of our country.

Additionally, I have a legislative background in the State Senate of South Carolina, and it is very similar to what is going on here in Washington, D.C. Back in 1995, I was honored to be the chairman of the General Committee of South Carolina in the State Senate. At that time people were questioning what the General Committee was. I knew first of all it had jurisdiction over the National Guard; and as a member of the National Guard, I was happy to serve. But I found out later that "general" meant any specific item or agency that did not pertain to specific other committees ended up in the General Committee. That was wonderful for me because the Department of Social Services came under their jurisdiction.

So I was in place to work in South Carolina for the development of the Family Independence Act, along with David Beasley and our lieutenant governor, Bob Peeler; and I also worked with such distinguished persons as the gentleman who is the Speaker pro tempore tonight, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN), who was chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means in the House of Representatives in South Carolina.

We were able to put together a very similar welfare bill and legislation in South Carolina as has been enacted nationally, and there has been a remarkable record of success. The landmark welfare reforms of 1996 on the Federal level has focused on moving recipients from welfare to workfare. The 1996 reforms replaced guaranteed cash assistance with a work requirement. And when I say work, what I am talking about are jobs and education, training and giving persons the opportunity to be fulfilling citizens in our country. It has meant jobs, and it has meant education.

So when we hear the discussion of welfare reform, that is what we are largely discussing. The best characterization that I have read of the success of the 1996 bill was in the Carolina Morning News, which is the Savannah Morning News edition of the low country of South Carolina for Beaufort County, Jasper County, Sun City, for Bluffton and Hilton Head Island.

The editorial last month said the 1996 welfare reform bill passed by a Republican Congress and signed by President Clinton stands as one of the great social policy successes of the last 50 years. It was to the cycle of dependency on the dole what the collapse of the Berlin Wall was to communism, both literally and symbolically.

As we over the next couple of weeks discuss welfare reform, it is wonderful to really make it personal, and that is by having success stories brought to our attention.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) to review several success stories.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I commend him for his leadership

on this. He is newly elected to the House, and he is doing an outstanding job of bringing attention to this very important issue. I first came to this body in 1994. At that time what I had heard from the constituents in my district and people all throughout the State of Florida was what a terrible disaster the welfare system was, locking millions of Americans in a cycle of poverty that they were literally unable to escape from.

In the county that I live in, we had chronically 2,500 people on welfare. With the passage of welfare reform, that number has been reduced to 400 people, an 80 percent reduction. These kinds of reductions were seen all over the country. Millions of Americans have been able to move successfully from welfare to work.

Surprisingly, now that we are in the place where we need to reauthorize this legislation, there are some Members who want to turn the clock back and look at the tremendous success of welfare reform and say it was a failure and we need to go back to the old ways. I want to talk about a couple of people. The gentleman's point about making this personal is important, so I want to talk about two Floridians who made the transition.

Sha-Tee Bonner entered the welfare transition program in October 1999, and was immediately assigned to Job Search, something that would not happen before. She would be locked in welfare. Now under the program, the reform program, she is immediately assigned to Job Search. In November 1999, she became employed at Hollywood Video and began earning enough money to end her cash assistance. Sha-Tee continued to work until she received employment at the Dunes Hotel in March 2001 as a guest service representative. Since working at the Dunes Hotel, she has received pay raises and much praise from her supervisor. In August of 2001, Sha-Tee began the criminal justice technology program at Pensacola Junior College. Her employer at the Dunes Hotel is willing to work around her school schedule because of her outstanding employment at the Dunes.

Mr. Speaker, here is a person who previously had been locked in welfare dependency. People are saying she is an outstanding worker. Sha-Tee believes that the responsibility of raising two daughters as a single parent has made her even more determined to make it through the tough times. She believes that self-sufficiency is an ongoing process. I agree. During the rough times, Sha-Tee and her two daughters lived with her grandmother. Recently, Sha-Tee has moved out to her own apartment and has purchased her own transportation. Pensacola's local Society for Human Resources Management recently honored Sha-Tee for being one of the welfare participants of the year. The award is presented to former welfare participants who have been successful in transitioning to the work environment.

Stephanie Paige entered the welfare transition program in April of 2001 with several barriers to self-sufficiency. She was a 20-year-old single mother of one child. She had already earned her GED, but had no vocational or college education. She was fortunate enough to have a car, but no insurance. In addition, she had several medical problems, one of which required her to undergo surgery in July 2000. Also in that same month, her 4-year-old son had surgery.

The Jobs Plus One-Stop staff in Crestview assisted Stephanie in developing a career plan that would allow her to achieve self-sufficiency for herself and her child. With guidance and support, the One-Stop staff were able to offer her financial assistance through supportive service funds to get the initial insurance set up for her car, after which she has been able to maintain the monthly premium. They were also able to help her purchase appropriate clothing for job placement.

Stephanie was initially placed in a community service work site so she could gain job skills. She worked at the Salvation Army in Crestview, Florida, from June through December of 2001. Her work site supervisor was very pleased with her and reported she was a hard worker. Here we go again. Someone who had previously been locked in poverty is now being described as a hard worker. It has been in those people over the years; we just never had a system that unlocked it.

In November, while voluntarily continuing to put in hours at the work site, she also enrolled in a CNA class at Crestview Nursing Home. Between August and September 2001, Stephanie earned a total of \$225 in incentive payments for her performance and progress. On December 1, Stephanie passed her CNA exam, and 4 days later she obtained employment with Parthenon Healthcare of Crestview, earning \$6.25 per hour. Her temporary cash assistance was closed on January 1, 2002, because her income was high enough that she no longer needed cash assistance. She receives transitional services in the form of subsidized child care and transportation assistance that allows her to maintain her employment.

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Stephanie continues to enjoy her work and has plans to pursue a nursing career.

Mr. Speaker, these are two human beings that have been converted over from being dependent on a failed and broken system to being self-sufficient. Most importantly, more important than anything else, more important than the tax money that is saved is these women are setting an example for their children that there is a value to work, there is a dignity and pride that comes with it. For those reasons, I strongly support reauthorizing our welfare reform package with no watering down amendments that would turn the clock back.

I again applaud the gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership on this very important issue.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. We certainly appreciate the gentleman from Florida's hard work for the people of Florida, a proven story of success in yourself.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most beneficial acts that you can have as you serve in the State legislatures is to travel around the country and meet persons that you recognize right away or superstars in terms of future legislative activity. I was very fortunate to have met a State legislator from Pennsylvania. I was so pleased to learn of her election to Congress. I am very pleased to yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. I thank my fellow former State Senator. I think we are really well equipped as those who worked on the State level to implement the 1996 welfare reform to do what we are as we are part of the working group on the reauthorization of the welfare reform on the Federal level.

I thank the gentleman for his kind words and for his work on the task force and also for giving me a few moments to talk about some of the things that have been happening in my area regarding the success stories, as the sign says, replacing welfare checks with paychecks, but also replacing broken spirits with very strong spirits, a lot of moms who are going to be great leaders and examples to their children.

Those reforms have helped so many men and women get off the welfare payroll. We hear the statistics, but it does help, as the gentleman before me said, to hear the real story. One example I have is a woman I met during our time during the district work period named Michelle who was unfortunately left alone by her husband with her two small children. Obviously she had been a stay-at-home mom but was forced to go and find a job and also a new home.

If that did not present her with enough challenges, her parents were also diagnosed with serious illnesses. Michelle moved in with them to take care of them in addition to also caring for her own children. Welfare for her was the only lifeline she had to get her from day to day. But she had a greater future in mind for her family. Fortunately, she did what a lot of welfare recipients are now doing as a part of the normal regimen, taking classes, getting a job. She did both. That was 4 years ago. I am happy to report that today, Michelle does have full employment and she is helping others who are in a similar position to the position she was in.

She is now a case manager for the Lawrence County Social Services Organization. She took her skills, those she knew from her daily experiences and also those she acquired as a student while still receiving welfare. She uses those skills daily to help others who are going through the same difficulties that she faced. She is one of the great

success stories, and now Michelle is going to help create a lot more success stories.

There are other organizations aside from those who are paid within the system that help us make a difference. Especially after the welfare reform law, there were a number of community organizations that stepped up to the plate. One I work with very closely called HEARTH, which stands for Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training and Housing, they have helped so many, mostly women, mostly victims of domestic violence, because they help provide some support via housing for these women as they again continue to struggle and move forward.

The first one I would like to tell you about is Cindy, who came to HEARTH's facility called Benedictine Place with four small children. She wanted to provide a better life for them and for herself but she had been a victim of domestic violence and her self-esteem was certainly not at its highest. One of her sons did not want to live in a shelter. Unfortunately he did go to live with his father, but the other three stayed with Cindy and helped Cindy as she helped them to get a new view on life.

While receiving her benefits, Cindy went back to school. She had some nurse's training from the past, but she knew she needed to update her skills. She took that opportunity, she finished her training and she was eager to get her children established. She got her degree, she got a job, she found a safe place to live. She is now working and is a supervisor at the hospital where she works as an RN. Her oldest daughter said it best to her recently. She said, "Thank you for making anywhere we lived a home." That statement made the struggle worthwhile for Cindy because it could not have been easy. We all know that.

But we know that for Cindy and for Cindy's children, there is a much better future. Not only is she a valuable and contributing member to society, but she is returning the favor to other members of her community by helping them as much as they helped her.

Finally, the last example I want to share with you is of a woman named Jackie. Jackie was in a very poor situation. She did not have any transportation. She had small children as well and needed some support. Obviously the welfare system did help keep her going. But once again, she now said that it was a huge adjustment, but she has now moved into the workplace, she is making enough now to actually rent a house, purchase a car. She has a job with full benefits. Jackie says it is much better for her. She loves going to work each day. She has given back as much as she can. She is now very pleased to be a taxpayer, as she said, instead of a burden on all the other taxpayers.

Granted, welfare has its place. Otherwise, we would not be considering reau-

thorizing welfare. But it is meant to be and has through these women been shown to be a very successful means for transitioning. These are women who have had hope. They have had influence from others who have maybe shown her an example, taken time with her as well as wonderful caseworkers who have done a wonderful job.

Over the break, I had a round table meeting with a number of caseworkers and those who work in the system, as well as some who have gotten through the system and several who are currently on welfare and trying to work their way off, whether they are receiving education, working part-time and moving in the direction of independence. It was a really inspirational meeting, partially because the first woman I spoke of, Michelle, was part of the round table is now a caseworker with Lawrence County Social Services, but partially because I saw the faces of some very strong people whose spirits had once been broken but who are now very much recovered, very much moving forward, and very much an inspiration to the rest of us. They show us just how much people can do if we give them the right tools to move forward. I would like to thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for the opportunity to talk about these women and there are so many others.

I have several other examples I am not going to go into, but they are examples of all the people and put faces on all the people across the country who have benefited because of the changes. I certainly am very happy to be here and to be here now at the Federal level when we can reauthorize welfare reform and encourage both education and work and make sure that these families are on the way to a very prosperous and successful future, along with a great example for their children.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania. Again we appreciate her great service to the people of her district and the enthusiasm that she obviously has for the people of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, another treat that I have run into by being here in Congress and meeting the Members of Congress is to be reassured as to the competence level on both sides of the aisle of people who serve here in Washington. Not only the competent, but very thoughtful. One of the most thoughtful to me was the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina for those very kind and overly generous words. Like my colleague from South Carolina and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania who just spoke, I was a member of the State Senate. I served for 7 years in that body until I was fortunate enough to be elected by the people to come here to Washington. During a portion of that time, Mr. Speaker, I served as chairman of the

Public Health and Welfare Committee in the State Senate in Mississippi, and so I share some of the same experiences that the two previous speakers have had. I think I can attest, Mr. Speaker, to the difficulty we had at the State level prior to 1996 in enacting meaningful welfare reform at that level. God knows we tried and we tried to do our best, but we did not have the flexibility that we needed and that the 1996 Act has brought. We were forced into going individually on a case-by-case, law-by-law basis to the Federal Government for what we called a waiver, and hoping that we could get the department, in both Republican and Democrat administrations, to agree to those particular waivers. It just simply did not give us the flexibility that we needed.

Also, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there was not the solid commitment to a work requirement prior to the 1996 Act. And so I am so very, very proud that at least three of us and many more have been able to come from the State level where we made a gallant attempt to come here to Washington, D.C. Of course I got here with my friend from Florida who spoke earlier with the class of 1994.

We worked real hard for 2 years. I am just so pleased to talk about the progress that we have had. One of our most prominent colleagues from that class is the chairman of the Republican Conference, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS). He has made the statement ever since we arrived in town that we need to measure welfare reform successes differently. We do not need to measure the success of welfare reform by how many people we can get onto the program, how many people we can get onto the rolls.

Quite to the contrary, Mr. Speaker. We need to measure the success by how many people we have been able to move off the welfare rolls into meaningful employment. Indeed, to move them from the welfare rolls to the tax rolls.

I spoke in my 1-minute address earlier this morning about some statistics that I am very, very pleased about concerning the 1996 Act. There has been a 56 percent drop in welfare caseloads nationwide. Just think about that, Mr. Speaker. Over half of the caseloads, gone, a tremendous measure of success. The lowest levels of welfare rolls since 1965. Two million children, children, rescued from poverty whose moms and daddies are now enjoying the benefits of a paycheck and the good life that we seek here in the United States of America. And, of course, the lowest child poverty levels in many, many years.

So I am pleased at the statistics that we can cite, and those statistics are real and they are meaningful. But I am also so pleased that my colleagues tonight have done, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) stated, reduce it to human terms and tell individual facts about individual American citizens who have benefited from this excellent piece of legislation. And so

when I heard that a number of my colleagues were going to present success stories, naturally, Mr. Speaker, I went back to my local welfare office to ask how the TANF program, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program is doing back on the local level where I was able to work with them as a State legislator and certainly now continue to be interested.

And so I was pleased, also, to receive story after story and example after example of ways in which this legislation has benefited individuals on the human level. Some of these recipients did not mind if I used their names, but I thought I would make up a pseudonym for them just for their own privacy. One young woman, I will call her Sara, became a single mom while attending one of our community colleges in northeast Mississippi. Knowing that she needed to complete her education in order to provide for her daughter, Sara enrolled in the TANF program and received help with expenses involving the raising of a child while going to school full-time.

□ 1900

She went to school full-time while working full-time for the community college in the work-study program. After completing community college, Sarah commuted to one of our fine 4-year universities in north Mississippi where she continued her work-study. The TANF program enabled her to focus on the future by paying for transportation costs to and from school and for her daughter's day care expenses.

Now, listen to this, Mr. Speaker. Sarah received her degree, a master's in instructional technology in the year 2000. With this post-graduate degree, this former welfare recipient was able to find a job quickly and become self-sufficient, and I can now report with pleasure that she is the technology coordinator for one of our very fine local school districts in the public school system in northeast Mississippi.

We can all go on and on with these excellent examples of the way this program has worked.

I will simply mention Sandra, the mother of a child with spina bifida, who was able to go on the TANF program and is now a clerk at an equipment store in her local hometown.

I will mention Betty Ann, the mother of four, who for a time had to go on the TANF program, but now is working full-time at the Old Miss law school.

Then there is Jane, who was forced to leave her husband of 11 years because of some domestic abuse allegations, but has now, after being on the TANF program, been able to get back onto her feet, move out of public housing and into her own home.

Then finally there is Marie, the mother of two young sons, a welfare recipient who was able to go back to school and is now a registered nurse. Success story after success story, whether you take it at the individual level or the overall statistical level.

I simply would add this, and then I will yield back to the gentleman from South Carolina with my appreciation for his good leadership on this matter.

More work does need to be done, and it gets harder and harder. If this had been an easy matter, we would have been able to resolve it in the 30 years when we were pretty much going down hill in the welfare area. We need further encouragement of work. We have learned in the past 6 years of welfare reform experience that making work pay is an integral part of actually moving people into a meaningful life. So we need to further encourage work when we are considering the reauthorization of this legislation.

We indeed need to expand State flexibility more so than we have already done. I have already mentioned the importance of having that and giving our State legislators, who, after all, are closer to the people, the opportunity to fit their local needs into an overall Federal program, and then to promote marriage.

I think the statistics more and more become overwhelming that a stable marriage, to the extent that the Federal Government can encourage stable, voluntary, safe marriages, that marriage is the best antidote for welfare problems.

So, I just would say, Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to talk about success, to talk about our determination in this House of Representatives to make the system even better, and once again to thank my very capable new colleague from South Carolina for his hard work in this regard.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much, and thank you for your thoughtful service for the people of Mississippi and all of America.

Mr. Speaker, as we discuss the success stories of welfare reform, as the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) pointed out, you can also look at the facts that confirm the success.

Most important to me, I have got four children, would be to point out that child hunger has been reduced nearly half since 1996. The 4.4 million children who could have been in hunger and were in 1996, that has been reduced to 2.6 million in 1999. That is just an extraordinary achievement for the children and the young people of the United States.

Additionally, I would like to bring to your attention what the gentleman from Mississippi has already referred to, that with the implementation of welfare reform there has been a reduction of nearly half of the number of persons who are on welfare. Beginning in 1996, there were 4.4 million families that were in the welfare system. Currently, that has been reduced, due to the work of the professional social workers of our country, to 2.1 million families.

The number of individuals receiving cash assistance has decreased by 56 percent. The number of families, as I indicated, has decreased and dropped from 4.4 million in 1996 to 2.1 million in 2001.

Welfare rolls have fallen 9 million, from 14 million recipients in 1994 to just 5 million recipients today in the United States.

Welfare caseloads have not been this low since 1968. Child poverty rates are at their lowest level since 1978. African American child poverty rates in poverty among children and female heads of families are at their lowest level in history.

Another fact: at 11.3 percent, the overall poverty rate in 2000 was the lowest since 1974. A fact that we can all appreciate, because of what this means again for children, the rate of births to unwed mothers has leveled off; 2.3 million children have been lifted out of poverty.

Another fact: child support enforcement, making parents pay for child care, is up by more than 210 percent.

Another fact: the number of children living in single parent homes has declined, while the number of children living in married-couple families has increased, especially among minority families.

Another fact: since 1996, nearly 3 million children have been lifted out of poverty.

Finally, another fact: before 1996, recipients stayed on welfare for an average of 13 years and few worked; but that is changing, because people are getting jobs. They are having opportunity. They are leading fulfilling lives.

I over the last couple of weeks have continued a practice that I have done in my prior service in the State Senate of visiting the Department of Social Service offices; and in the past several weeks, I have visited Allendale County in South Carolina. The director is Ms. Lee Harley-Fitts. I met with Mr. Fred Washington of Beaufort County, the Director. I went by and met with Bernie Zurenda of the Hampton County Department of Social Services. I met with Mr. Bill Walker of the Lexington County Department of Social Services. And I was very pleased to meet with Ms. Richelynn Douglas of Richland County, which is the capital of South Carolina.

In each case I met with the social workers, and I delivered to them letters of appreciation for what they had done to create the extraordinary and historic social development of the change in welfare in the United States. It is these people who are frontline, and I had a wonderful time going by and visiting with them.

Additionally, by telephone I worked with our State director, and this is bipartisan. She is, of course, a member of the cabinet of our Governor, Ms. Libla Patterson. It just is heartwarming to see these people on the front line working so hard and so enthusiastically at the office in Lexington.

I will never forget that the intake persons who worked there are called cheerleaders; and in fact, that is what they do. When people come in, they cheer the people up. They tell the people who are applying for TANF that they can achieve, that they can have jobs created.

Another office had pictures on the wall of success stories right there in the office. As the people would come in, of course, they would be down and out, discouraged; but they could look around and see pictures of people who had succeeded.

I, too, as my colleagues, have run into specific situations; and in the interest of protecting privacy, I would like to read statements from persons who have truly benefited from the reforms of welfare in the United States that we need to continue, as the President has proposed.

Robin, who currently now works at the Sunshine House Daycare Center, says that "DSS builds your ammunition to get a job. The classes made me feel better about myself. They inspired me to get a job. Now I feel on top of the world."

We have, as was indicated by the gentleman from Mississippi, situations where people have gone back to college. We have Melissa, who is currently at Benedict College in South Carolina. It is one of the largest Historically Black Colleges in the United States with 2,900 students. I was there last week with President David Swinton; and I was happy to be there with my special assistant, Earl Brown, who is a very proud graduate of Benedict College.

Melissa says, "I used to think badly about DSS, but DSS has helped me with bus tickets, a check, class, helped me when I thought I couldn't make it through. They even helped me move, with Christmas presents. DSS made me do things myself. I have a job now and I can go higher. I want to apply for a promotion and go back to adult education. I know now that I can make it."

There was Kimberly. Kimberly currently works with Scientific Games in Columbia, South Carolina. "I feel 100 percent better since getting a job. I no longer have to struggle. Now I only have to work. I am no longer living day by day and worry if my food runs out. Now I have my own transportation. DSS helped me with financial and moral support. They helped with my resume, even faxed it, and they told me to write thank you notes. I am thankful I have a job."

Then there was Christy. She currently works for a billing service in Lexington. "I have accomplished a lot with the help of DSS. I feel independent and self-sufficient. Getting a job has changed my outlook on life. I was in a slump, without transportation. Now I have a car that I bought with my taxes. DSS helped enable me to provide more for my kids with less assistance."

These success stories are just so heartwarming, and they remind me over and over again of how important it is here in Congress to work for the principles to make the changes that can make it possible for people to have jobs and change welfare in our country.

Currently, there are four principles that the Republicans have adopted and are using. First of all, it is to promote work, to strengthen the path toward independence on the State and Federal level. What that has meant is that we are very supportive of education programs, of training programs. We all understand that we need to provide quality child care, that we need to provide health care for the children for the persons who are on temporary relief. We need to provide for work to be proactive in regard to transportation, and even relocation assistance, if necessary, to move to locations voluntarily where jobs may have better pay and be more prolific.

A good example on transportation in our State is that we were confronted with an extraordinary dilemma when we adopted welfare reform, and that is that persons could not qualify because they had excess assets if they had a vehicle which was worth more than \$2,000, so the vehicle they had to own had to be \$2,000 or less.

In looking at this, we received information from both sides, Democrats and Republicans, that made it real clear. There was one outstanding feature of a vehicle that is worth \$2,000 or less: it does not work. The other feature is it would take an extraordinary amount of money to promote the fixing of the vehicle. So we changed that to where persons could have a car that was worth \$10,000.

A second principle is improving child well-being and lift more children out of poverty. We have done that through working for stronger support enforcement for child support. Persons are required now to maintain current child support.

Third, we are promoting healthy marriages and strengthening families. This, of course, was referred to by the gentleman from Mississippi. Even the Washington Post has identified that this is a very legitimate concern in an editorial on April 5 promoting marriage in our country, because we already know that the prior welfare laws were ones that promoted breaking up of families and of marriage. So the penalties of marriage have been done away with.

The fourth point of the Republican principles and initiatives for welfare reform are to foster hope and opportunity, boosting personal incomes and improving the quality of life.

□ 1915

Of course, to me, that also means that we have tax incentives for persons to hire, persons who were formerly on welfare, but also tax reductions. In fact, tomorrow, I am really looking forward to being here to vote to make

permanent President Bush's tax reductions. That is money in the pockets of either the persons who are newly employed or in the pockets of all Americans so that we can employ more people. It is jobs. So when we hear about tax cuts and providing for incentives by reducing the taxes, think again of how that directly relates to creating employment in jobs.

As I indicated a few minutes ago, one of the key people who has meant so much to me is the former chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the South Carolina House of Representatives, and he is here tonight. At this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. It certainly was a pleasure serving with the gentleman in the State legislature. We were confronted with this same idea back, I guess in the early 1990s, and people said it would not work. People have been caught in this web of successive generations, caught in the web of welfare, and we felt like we wanted to give them an opportunity. I am pleased to have been a part of that and of having the privilege of working with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON). I am certainly so grateful to have the gentleman up here in Washington so that we can renew that same concerted effort to try to make a difference. I think we did back then, and I think this is a good program here.

Mr. Speaker, I rise again in support of welfare reform legislation. As we continue to help people bridge the gap from welfare to work, it is crucial that we not lose sight of the need for further reform. Our welfare system still suffers from decades of mismanagement and unnecessary growth. It is incumbent upon us to further the improvements enacted by Republicans 6 years ago. In shortening the welfare rolls, we strengthen the backbone of working people. By helping hard-working Americans to find jobs, we restore dignity to deserving citizens. The success of our system is measured by the success of working Americans. Six years ago, Republicans took a great first step towards improving welfare. However, we cannot afford to stop short. We must walk the extra mile.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support further welfare reform. The American people must come before petty politics.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN). I appreciate the gentleman's hard work, both in our State and now here in Washington to promote welfare reform.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield?

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. The previous speaker, the gentleman from South Carolina,

mentioned bridging the gap, and that is really what the TANF program is all about, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

The problem with the old system is that the gap was so long, so large, it seemed that we never built a bridge over it and we never got to the end result of actually moving these American citizens from the welfare rolls of receiving a check from the taxpayers on to the job rolls. So that is one of the really excellent things about this new approach and the reason that we need to work harder to reauthorize it and make it work better.

But Mr. Speaker, it takes leadership and it takes a bit of courage to effect change in this city of Washington, D.C., and in this Federal Government. There is a certain amount of inertia there.

Whenever we try to do something bold, as this Congress did back in 1996 in passing welfare reform, the opponents always try to bring out what I call the "parade of horrors," all of the terrible things that are going to happen to our fellow citizens if we do this sort of thing. I can recall the stern warnings that we received from some of our friends, the opponents of this legislation, when we were considering it back in 1995 and then in 1996. As the gentleman knows, it was vetoed by the Clinton administration first before we were able to finally push it through in 1996.

But among the opponents of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, one person said, and I quote, "The people who do this will go to their graves in disgrace." Well, certainly, that is a charge that we had to face, and any time we have the possibility of new public policy, we know that it might fail, but we knew in our hearts that it would succeed, and we certainly do not believe that we will go to our graves in disgrace. I think the author of that remark, Mr. Speaker, probably would not want to come forward and take ownership of that particular quote.

Another said, "In 5 years time, you will find appearing on your streets abandoned children, helpless, hostile, angry, awful; the numbers we have no idea." I am almost sorry that the gentleman from South Carolina took the last poster down because, of course, it showed not only a more than 15 percent cut in welfare rolls, but also approximately a 50 percent reduction in childhood hunger and childhood poverty.

Just a third quote from this "parade of horrors" that we had back in 1995 and 1996. One member of the other body said, and I quote, "The central provision of this law, the 5-year cash benefit limit, would be the most brutal act of social policy we have known since the reconstruction."

Well, indeed, we were able to look past those unfounded charges and move toward really one of the tremendous success stories, I think, of the last 50 years. I am just so pleased to have been a part of it. I want to commend the

leadership of the House of Representatives and of the Senate back during those days of 1995 and 1996 who had the courage to withstand these sorts of unfounded charges, move the bill through time and again, past a veto on two occasions, and on to the desk of the President where it was finally signed into law. We have seen the great results of it.

So once again, we may find ourselves in that sort of debate. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, what exactly we will be hearing from the opponents of this approach. But I dare say that we may have to, once again, show some courage. This time, though, we will be able to point to the great successes that we have had.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I appreciate the gentleman bringing that to our attention. We indeed do have something positive this time to show a proven record of success.

Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to in Congress serve adjacent to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), from the very historic City of Savannah, which is practically becoming the sister cities of the communities that I represent in Hilton Head Island, so we like to claim that we represent very similar and wonderful, positive communities, and at this time I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman north of the Savannah River in South Carolina for his time. I wanted to talk a little bit about what the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was talking about in the 1996 session when we took on the historic welfare reform bill, and as he said, change is difficult in Washington. In fact, I think it was Ronald Reagan who said "If you don't believe in resurrection, try killing a Federal program." That seems to be the case with change often as well; it is just impossible.

We were accused of pushing women and children on the street and turning our back on the poor, some very tough rhetoric that did not match the goals of what we were trying to accomplish, but nonetheless, at the end of the day, we had a bipartisan bill. President Clinton signed it into law. Since that time, out of 15 million people who were on welfare, 9 million are now working and independent. It is a great success story, from anybody's point of view.

Now, with change in Washington, it is an uphill battle, and now it is time to go back into that bill again and say, okay, what is working and what is not working?

I remember in 1996 talking to a welfare caseworker and he was telling me the situation of a family where there was a young woman, a young lady, and she was living with a man who was not her biological father because her biological father was in jail. Her biological mother had shot another man, and she was also in jail, and just a broken

family situation. The young woman, 16 years old, in 10th grade, and they were worried that she was going to drop out of school, perhaps get pregnant, follow in some traps. She was in a very, very high-risk, critical stage in her life.

Then, her sister, who was 13 and in the eighth grade, they said, we have to keep her mainstreamed. So one of them we have to have some proactive handholding and the other one, we just have to have some steady guidance. But the problem is, as their welfare caseworker, he said, I cannot do anything about it, because we have one group that handles teen health care issues, another group that handles transportation, another group, another agency, I should be saying, that handles public transportation, and another one that handles public housing, and everything was compartmentalized.

With welfare reform, one of the great advantages was flexibility, so they could go into a family like this and work on the whole family needs, not just piecemeal, to what the human being needed. So I think that welfare, there is a tough side of it, but there is a love side of it, and it is an example of tough love.

When I look at legislation that we passed during the 10 years that I have been in Congress, I have to say this is truly one of the more profound pieces, because of the 9 million people that it had a positive effect on. If the gentleman would continue to yield, I have a true story of a woman in my district who lives in Brunswick, Georgia, and I am going to call her by her first name only. Mary is a single mother of three children. She had not worked in over 10 years when she was enrolled in the TANF, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Work First Employment Services Program. Now, Mary had a history of substance abuse and a history of receiving public assistance. She had attempted several job readiness workshops and job search activities without any success.

When the Ready to Work Substance Abuse Day Treatment Program began in Glynn County through the Gateway facility, Mary was the first referral to the brand-new program. During the next several months, she had spotty results with the program. In fact, she relapsed with her drug problem and spent some time in jail. But she also became involved in drug court and was required to continue her participation in ready to work.

So instead of just saying, well, that is okay, we tried, what this welfare reform bill said is, you know what? We are going to keep working with you until we get it right. We are not going to give up on you, and we are not going to allow you to give up on yourself. So Mary persevered. After returning to the program, she became very involved in it and completed it successfully. She was assisted by the program after that in getting her first job, and now, although she has had some problems, as any parent would have, as any single

parent would have, she is still working, she is drug-free and alcohol free, and she actually has been speaking to substance abuse groups about her own experience.

So she is one of the 9 million success stories that is out there. So I want to say it is just something that we can all be very, very enthusiastic about. Democrat, Republican, rural or urban, big city, it does not matter; we should all share in this.

□ 1930

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Again, I am very honored to serve in the same community with the gentleman, Hilton Head Island. Of course, the gentleman and I are looking forward to the Heritage Golf Classic this weekend, which even relates to the issue at hand, Mr. Speaker, in that in terms of welfare reform, the jobs that are created.

The Heritage Golf Classic will generate \$56 million to the hospitality industry of the low country of South Carolina and Georgia, and then it will create a thousand jobs. So we are grateful for the Heritage Golf Classic that is under way right now.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me say this: Anything we can do to get jobs in this area is part of the welfare reform issue. So whether the paycheck comes from South Carolina or from the State of Georgia, it is good for our area and good for our people.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. And that includes Newport and Jasper, too.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, of course, we are here tonight talking about the success of one single piece of legislation, the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. We are indeed proud, and I think we have the individual stories to back it up, as well as the overall data. But it is all about job creation and moving people from welfare to a meaningful job, and meaningful participation in the American way.

Some people have said, "Well, Congressman, you have a lot of success stories. But actually, I think we could attribute that to the booming economy, not to the Welfare Reform Act."

I think, actually, the statistics show and the experts have told us that a good portion of this success that we have been talking about so proudly tonight does come from the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. But also, I am happy to take credit, as a Member of this Congress for the last 7½ years, for the good economy that we have had, for the most part.

Now, we have had a business downturn, which we are going to have in a free and open and market-driven economy. We are going to have that sort of thing. But I am proud of the tax reform and the tax reductions that I have

twice been able to participate in as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. I am proud of the tax reduction that we enacted last year, the fact that we sent tax rebate checks back to millions of Americans to the tune of \$40 billion, at a time when the economy was just beginning to slow down and we needed a boost there.

So to the extent that our policies in this Republican House of Representatives for the past 7½ years have contributed to a booming economy, certainly I want to give that credit, too, in creating the atmosphere for job expansion. So I think that goes hand-in-hand with welfare reform, it goes hand-in-hand with the job creation parts of our tax reduction bills.

I think at this point, let me just see if I can conclude my part of this special order, if my friend will permit, and he is standing by, I think, with a very important part that my colleagues are able to look at.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the American people will contact us, will contact me and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both houses of this Congress during the coming days of this welfare reform debate, and let us know if they support the concepts that my friend has right beside him, there.

Would they like their Member of the House of Representatives to vote for a piece of legislation that promotes work, something that has been the very foundation of this country for over 200 years, to strengthen the path towards independence for families, independence from the need to receive a welfare check from the government?

Secondly, I hope our constituents will talk to all of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, about the importance of improving child well-being. We have lifted over 2 million children out of poverty. As I said earlier tonight, let us lift 1 more million children out of poverty. Let us let that be our bold goal in this debate.

Thirdly, it would be to promote healthy marriages and strengthen families. I hope we will hear from our constituents and from our fellow Americans about that, Mr. Speaker.

And then, finally, the fourth Republican principle of welfare reform: fostering hope and opportunity to boost personal incomes and improve the quality of life, and permit more of our fellow American citizens to grab hold of that great American dream.

I hope we will hear from our constituents. I hope we will have a healthy debate among our fellow Americans on the floor of this House. I look forward to it.

Once again, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina, for his excellent leadership in this regard.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER). I appreciate his input.

As I conclude, we have been going over success stories, and my colleague,

the distinguished gentleman from the Third District of South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), had submitted a success story that he wanted to be known by people of the United States. And I can identify with that, because I have been a volunteer with Habitat For Humanity.

This is about Contessa from the Third District of South Carolina. "When I was on welfare, I forgot that I was a valuable person, that my life mattered. I really did not have the proper esteem when I was on welfare. Things are so much better now that I am employed and my self-esteem has improved."

A former welfare recipient, Contessa, like thousands of other Americans, has made the transition from welfare to work. Hired as a receptionist who was told that "There is little chance of opportunity for you," Contessa has continued to move up, and today is a paralegal at a prominent law firm in neighboring Greenwood.

One of the dreams that she has achieved is the ownership of her home. That is the American dream. Contessa has taken that bold step forward. I end with this quote: "I have now purchased a home through the Home Authority Stepping Home Program, where a portion of your rent goes into an escrow account for the downpayment on a home. Becoming a homeowner really changes your whole outlook, as does the change from welfare to work."

I would like to thank my colleagues who have participated tonight. We look forward to the discussion about the creation of jobs, the creation of opportunity with the welfare reform reauthorization.

THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SULLIVAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I join with a group of colleagues, and I hope and expect more to join us as the evening progresses, to talk a little bit about the conflict in the Middle East, but also to talk about the Middle East and talk about the state of Israel.

In Israel today, it is Israel Independence Day, the 54th anniversary of the modern state of Israel. I am joined this evening on the Republican side. Sharing the time with me is the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), as well as a number of colleagues, Democrats and Republicans.

I mentioned the 54th anniversary of the creation of the modern state of Israel, and there is a time line that is relevant that hopefully all Americans have a perspective of, because I think the time line gives us a sense of the issues that Israel is dealing with today.

There has been continuous Jewish occupation in the land of Israel from historical times, from the start of the

common era, from the time of Jesus. In 1917, though, in terms of the modern state of Israel, the Balfour Declaration by Great Britain was issued. As this map shows, it was a mandate that the League of Nations had given to the British empire at that time. Saudi Arabia did not exist.

I think one of the best charts that I have seen, presented by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) when we did a special order last week, was talking about the years the different countries were created. Saudi Arabia was a group of nomadic tribes at this time, and Egypt did not exist as a modern country. It was part of the British mandate. Iraq was part of the British mandate. Syria was part of the French mandate.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEUTSCH. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. It is not shown on the gentleman's map, but I think it is important to point out that Iran did not exist, either. That was ancient Persia at that time.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Absolutely correct. I think it is important just in terms of the issue of why is Israel there as a modern state. I keep referring to it as the modern state of Israel.

The British in 1922 actually divided the mandate that they had along the Jordan River, so there is a line straight from the Jordan River. On the eastern side, they created trans-Jordan, and on the western side, Palestine. Now, trans-Jordan has become modern-day Jordan, and Palestine, let me shift the map and get to what really is the next map, was a partition plan of the United Nations in 1947.

I think this is also a significant map for people to understand and actually to look at, as well. It is significant for a number of reasons. It is significant because, first of all, the Jews that lived in Israel at the time accepted that map. The Arabs that lived in Palestine did not. In fact, in 1947 or 1948 when the British withdrew from Palestine and Israel declared independence 54 years ago, five surrounding Arab countries and their armies, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq, invaded.

The Israelis were outnumbered five to one at that point in time, basically with no outside direct support, and the United States obviously, as most people know, recognized Israel as soon as it declared its existence, but this boundary was accepted by the Jews in the state of Israel. In terms of the five countries that invaded and the Arabs that lived in Palestine, they did not accept the partition.

Let me just follow up with another map, which is a map of Israel today. The significant part of this map, in a sense, is from the last map to this map is four wars: 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. The areas in the West Bank and Gaza and the Golan Heights were acquired by Israel in 1967.

Again, the history of that point in time I think is also very significant. It

is significant because it was not a war that Israel sought, it was a war of defense. I think what is also significant, just to understand the context, the historical context, is that the area of the West Bank and Gaza, which effectively, I think, all parties now understand will in fact become a Palestinian state at some point in time, when those areas were controlled by Jordan and Egypt, neither Jordan nor Egypt wanted there to be a Palestinian state. There could have been a Palestinian state at any point in time between 1948 and 1967 if Jordan, Egypt, or the Palestinians in that area would have agreed to a Palestinian state living side by side with the state of Israel at that point in time.

A significant thing happened in 1974, and really, under the American auspices, the American involvement, in terms of the peace process that really began in 1974. But the real significant event in modern times, or prior to this year, is 1977 when Anwar Sadat visited Jerusalem and made a clear show to the Israeli people of his commitment towards peace. If there were any two peoples who were as diametrically opposed, who had fought very vicious, competitive wars with each other, the Egyptians and the Israelis were those two people.

As we know, under the guidance of President Jimmy Carter, Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the Egyptian treaty at Camp David in 1979. Just moving forward past 1979, I think there are some interesting dates. As opposed to Anwar Sadat, Chairman Arafat's actions in 1982, because of terrorist attacks on Israel at that time, Israel invaded southern Lebanon. In fact, what happened was Arafat ended up getting expelled from southern Lebanon to Tunisia. The Israeli troops remained in the security zone for a period of time.

In 1991, as the chart points out, Chairman Arafat supported Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War. In 1994, another positive step occurred in that King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin signed the Israel-Jordan peace treaty with President Clinton.

In 1997, the Hebron Accords were signed; in 1999, the Wye River Accords; and in 2000, the Camp David attempt by President Clinton had its auspices. Again, as we know, the offer that was on the table of 97 percent of the West Bank, parts of Jerusalem, significant parts of Jerusalem, an independent Palestinian state, was rejected by Chairman Arafat.

□ 1945

I give this as a historical background, and I look forward to my colleagues' statements.

So I would yield first to my colleague sharing the time who has taken a leadership roll and serves on the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for