

WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago, I was a single mom with three small children, and even though I was working, I needed Aid for Dependent Children to make ends meet.

When Congress passed welfare reform in 1996, I warned that getting women off the welfare rolls and into dead-end jobs would not be enough, and that the goal of welfare must be to break the cycle of poverty, not just get women jobs that pay slightly above minimum wage.

With TANF reauthorization, we have an opportunity to fix what went wrong by allowing education and training to count as work, and by expanding child care to include weekend and evening work.

Welfare moms can only succeed if they have skills needed for a job that pays a livable wage, and if their kids have access to quality child care. Welfare must break the cycle of poverty and strengthen our families. Let us use this TANF reauthorization to make welfare a success. Learn from the last 5 years.

COPYRIGHT AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the Copyright Society of the USA, a nonprivate organization, has chosen the week of April 22 to foster interest in and advance the study of intellectual property, especially copyright law.

It is virtually impossible to conceive life without the arts. I can hardly imagine, Mr. Speaker, for example, what our world would be like without books, music, and movies.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, I am particularly aware of the important role copyright law plays in sparking the creative abilities of artists. The creative community contributes significantly to the well-being of our culture and our economy, and I urge my colleagues to join the Copyright Society in celebrating the contributions of artists to our culture and economy by supporting the copyright law.

TANF

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of America's children. The President's proposal for welfare reform reauthorization increases work requirements for parents receiving Temporary Aid for Needy Families, but

it does not provide any additional child care funding.

The research from the field of child development is indisputable: High quality child care promotes mental development and success in school. Under the current program, only one out of seven eligible children receives child care assistance.

In my State of Massachusetts, there are 18,000 eligible children on a waiting list for child care assistance.

Does the President expect the young children of temporary aid recipients and low-income working families to care for themselves? Does he expect parents to go to work when they do not have a safe place to send their children?

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The President's proposal will make what is already a bad situation worse. If we really want to reduce poverty in this country, we need to make a full commitment to the health and well-being of our poorest and most vulnerable children. Increasing Federal funding for child care will make it easier for parents to work, and it will ensure that children are better able to succeed later in life.

THE HORSESHOE BEND, IDAHO,
RURAL WATER PROJECT

(Mr. OTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I spent last Monday, Earth Day, in Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, with the mayor, Brian Davies, celebrating the announcement of their rural water project. The USDA Rural Development Agency and its Idaho director, Mike Fields, had provided a loan of \$600,000 and a grant of \$260,000 to the city. That money, coupled with \$251,000 from the citizens themselves, and an additional \$395,000 from the community development block grant from the State of Idaho, will assist Horseshoe Bend with upgrading their existing sewer treatment plant.

This is an outstanding example of initiative and partnership formed for the development of a rural community's infrastructure.

Far too often, Mr. Speaker, Federal agencies impede the needed cooperation through excessive regulation or unnecessary assertion of authority. Here is an example of a government agency recognizing a problem and then working with the community to find a solution. It is an encouraging example of government being a partner in finding a solution, rather than an impediment to the progress.

I hope more agencies of the Federal Government will follow the example of the USDA Rural Development Program.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as we work to create welfare reform legislation, we must make sure that TANF recipients have access to higher education and suitable child care. Recipients need to earn higher wages that will lift them out of the cycle of poverty.

Forty-four percent of adults receiving TANF cash assistance in 1999 lacked a high school diploma or a GED certificate. In my district alone, the female recipients there had less than an eighth grade education. In Los Angeles County, about 41 percent of the TANF caseload are limited-English proficient. That is to say that they do not speak English. Their primary language may be Spanish or even Chinese.

Clearly, TANF recipients need educational opportunities before they can qualify for high-quality paying jobs and livable wages, not just minimum-wage jobs.

Given this reality, I am disappointed that the Bush administration has chosen to ignore the need to extend educational opportunities. We cannot get people into good jobs if they only have 12 months of training. We need to extend that to 2 years, at a minimum, so that they can go on into higher education.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2142

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2142.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

KING OF MOROCCO

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding the King of Morocco's visit to our Nation's Capital this week.

I ask the King to reflect on the statement he made to Secretary Powell earlier that Powell should "consider the plight of the Palestinian people." Yes, our Nation must act on behalf of justice for all people. But should not the King of Morocco do that as well?

What would the King say about the hundreds and thousands of Sahrawi people who have disappeared or are languishing in prison? What would the King say about the Sahrawis living in the occupied territory of Western Sahara who are arrested or shot or killed by Moroccan security officials for their peaceful protests about Morocco's policies?

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the King of Morocco to seriously consider the policies of his own country, policies that

have oppressed and persecuted the Sahrawis so that they have had to live in refugee camps in the harsh Sahara Desert for over 25 years. Their government's policy should also ensure that the Sahrawi people are guaranteed their rights and get their property returned.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE OIL SUPPLIES NOT NECESSARILY SECURE

(Mr. HALL of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to address the question of security of our oil supply. The political dynamic that resulted in the crippling Arab oil embargo Americans suffered throughout 1970s is not exactly the same today. Fuel sources today are much more diverse.

However, our oil supplies are still vulnerable. Recently, crude oil and refined product shipments in Venezuela were at a virtual standstill due to the off-again and on-again regime of Hugo Chavez.

Mexico's oil industry has come on strong in recent years with Mexico establishing itself as the second largest producer in the Western Hemisphere. But the state-owned oil company, Pemex, continues to struggle for lack of investment of capital.

Fortunately, the United States can look to Canada for supply. According to EIA, from January through November 2001, the United States imported more oil and refined products from Canada than any other country.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot take any foreign oil supply for granted. We must realistically turn to the development of new domestic sources of oil and gas reserves in the offshore, in the Rockies and in Alaska. We have the know-how and the resources to accomplish this. If not now, when?

WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, in this November's election, there is going to be a lot of talk and debate about Social Security. As a person that has worked for the last 9 years on the Social Security problems; and how we achieve the best possible solution to make sure that we keep this important program, and having served in the last session as chairman of the bipartisan Task Force on Social Security, I would like to make a couple of suggestions.

One is that we do not try to scare people in an effort to achieve some kind of political advantage, but rather that we talk about the real problem of Social Security; we talk about the real cost of doing nothing. Right now we have a \$9 trillion unfunded mandate. It

needs to be rationally discussed; we need to face up to the challenge. It is a serious problem.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the longer we put off a solution, the more drastic that solution. Let us move ahead with real discussion and debate, not demagoguery.

WELFARE REFORM REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to ask my colleagues just one question. As we consider reauthorizing our Nation's welfare program, what do we want to accomplish, a temporary fix, or a comprehensive solution to poverty?

If we truly want a comprehensive solution, we would allow TANF recipients to count education as a work activity so that they can move into living-wage jobs and not end up back on TANF 6 months after they leave. If we want a comprehensive solution, we would invest in quality child care so parents could go to work to ensure their children will be safe in a nurturing environment that is preparing them for success in school and beyond. If we want a comprehensive solution, we would recognize the typical immigrant worker pays \$80,000 more in taxes than they receive in government benefits over a lifetime, and we would restore the safety net for them.

We would do all of this if we wanted a comprehensive solution.

But the Republican proposal does not embody this common sense. What is in their bills is a program that sets low-income people up for failure. Dead-end workfare jobs with no opportunity to pursue further education and escape is a vicious cycle of poverty.

I challenge my colleagues to make good their election year pledges to help America's working families and make these improvements in TANF this year.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MARGE SCHOLLAERT

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Marge Schollaert, a constituent who resides in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Recently, Marge was named the School Counselor of the Year for the middle and junior high level of the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association. Of the nearly 4,000 school counselors in the State of Pennsylvania, only four are honored as counselors of the year.

Marge Schollaert was recognized by her peers for her commitment to the Chambersburg area middle school and

its students. Marge has been a key component in the development of students at Chambersburg Middle School. Among her many accomplishments, Marge took the lead in forming Peer Helpers, a program to facilitate the difficult process for students starting in a new school.

Of the 23 years she has served as a school counselor, 18 of those years have been spent working with the students of Chambersburg Area Middle School.

I congratulate Marge Schollaert on her Counselor of the Year award, and I applaud her steadfast dedication to her profession and her hard work for the students of Chambersburg.

TANF REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, for those who think welfare reform is working well because caseloads have decreased, I ask them to come with me through low-income neighborhoods across the country. Walk into the many ghettos and barrios in distressed areas and tell those individuals that welfare reform is working.

During the caseload plunge, many recipients moved laterally in the employment sector from one low-income, low-wage job to another one.

In order to do real welfare reform, we must put hope in the new welfare bill. We must put in job training, education, and transitional movement. We must have a strong fatherhood initiative. Many of the individuals are parents of children. They are incarcerated, in jail, in the penitentiaries. If there is to be hope, we must make welfare reform a reality. If there is no work, there is no hope, and there is no welfare to work.

INS REFORM

(Mr. SULLIVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to voice my support for the immigration reform bill before the House this week. I commend the Committee on the Judiciary and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of that committee, and the House Republican leadership for this legislation, the Immigration Reform and Accountability Act.

It is absolutely critical that we completely restructure the INS, one of the most inefficient government agencies. The continual ineptitude was only brought to the public knowledge by the events of September 11. I believe the final straw was March 11 when two of the terrorist hijackers received paperwork showing that their student visas had been approved. These visa approvals came well after the two would-be hijackers had completed their training course.