

□ 1030

CONGRESS SHOULD ERADICATE POVERTY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this Congress has a moral obligation to eradicate poverty; to be able to stand up for those that cannot speak for themselves.

Tragically, in the backdrop of an administration who celebrates an economy that is on a track going toward a train wreck, the President's statement about a positive economy came 1 day after disappointing job numbers showed our economy created only 78,000 new jobs. This number is one-half of the 150,000 jobs that must be created each month to keep up with our increasing population.

Americans need to work. Americans need to have the opportunity for an income to provide for their families. This tragedy of job creation is the worst since Herbert Hoover. And of course our congressional colleagues believe that we should be excited.

Well, my challenge is if poverty is raging in America, we have a moral obligation to those working at Burger King and elsewhere to give them opportunities to move up. Why do we not stop the war in Iraq, invest in America, and eradicate poverty?

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN CHEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend one of the finest citizens in North Carolina's Fifth District, Mr. Norman Cheek.

As the owner of Toyota of Boone, Norman is famous throughout northwest North Carolina for being the "Little Dealer With a Big Heart." I could not think of a more fitting description for this wonderful man.

Norman is one of the most thoughtful and caring people I have ever had the privilege of getting to know. Recently he was recognized by the North Carolina National Guard for being a top business supporter. He spent countless hours spearheading an effort to collect food, supplies, and games for local troops serving in Iraq.

In addition, Norman has worked hard to keep local high school students safe. He has raised well over half a million dollars during the past 16 years for Project Graduation, a drug- and alcohol-free celebration for high school seniors. Since the project started, there have been no fatalities on graduation night.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to acknowledge Norman Cheek and a privilege to recognize June 15, 2005, as Norman Cheek Day in North Carolina's Fifth District.

MEDICAID REFORM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, when you hear Governors talk about Medicaid, the one word they use, regardless of party or what region of the country they represent, the one word they use over and over again is "unsustainable."

In 2005, the Medicaid program has grown to become a program that costs Federal and State governments \$330 billion a year and covers 50 million beneficiaries. States grapple with the cost of the program, providers struggle to participate in Medicaid, and beneficiaries ask whether it is meeting their needs.

Mr. Speaker, if we were creating this program today, I doubt the current Medicaid system is one that any one of us would visualize. We should not shy away from reviewing this program to ensure that it is meeting its stated mandate: to provide quality care for the disabled, poor, elderly, and the frail.

Is the program meeting this mandate? In terms of sheer magnitude, the Medicaid program has become unworkable, and growth is a constant. The program cannot continue to grow at its current rate and meet the needs of those that it covers.

Oftentimes health care policy is a study in crisis management. We have come to a point with Medicaid that we will be pushed to make trade-offs. We must ensure that Medicaid serves as a true safety net, and we must have the institutional courage to review this program and make changes where necessary prior to its ultimate collapse from its own weight.

GIFT PARCELS TO CUBA

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to indicate that I will be offering an amendment later to the State Department appropriation bill that will prohibit funds from being used to enforce new restrictions, new as of a year ago, that limit gift parcels to Cuba.

This amendment is called the toothpaste and toilet paper amendment because we prohibit those personal hygiene items from being shipped from a family member in the United States to a family member in Cuba. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that is not what this country is all about. That is not what we should be doing.

When these new rules were promulgated, the Department of Commerce and the Department of State said we will come out and change those because of public input. Guess what? Over 1 year later, they have not. Those provisions remain in effect.

Family members here in the United States are prohibited from sending

toothpaste and toilet paper and other personal hygiene items to family members in Cuba. The people of Cuba have enough to deal with just living daily life there under a dictatorship. We need not burden them any further.

U.N. REFORM

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

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, previously I introduced an amendment to the appropriations budget which would have called upon the committee to remove 50 percent of the United States' annual dues to the United Nations. I did so to expound upon a point and to presage a prospective debate.

As we debate the Hyde bill or the Lantos substitute amendment to it, let us remember that there is an American cost to the United Nations' corruption.

For example, by reducing the annual dues to the United Nations, within this budget alone we could have increased funding for violence against women prevention and prosecution by \$45 million, increased trade adjustment assistance by \$40 million, increased spending on minority business development by \$50 million, increased spending on the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships by \$40 million, and increased money for the United States Institute of Peace by over \$6 million.

So as we enter this debate, let us remember that out of the oil-for-food corruption and the scandals of sex-for-food in the Congo, that if the United Nations does not cleanse itself, that American money could be better spent here at home.

HENRY J. HYDE U.N. REFORM ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, staffers at UNICEF's Kenya office defrauded or squandered up to \$10 million. In the Congo in the last year, U.N. peacekeepers and civilian personnel stand accused of widespread sexual exploitation of refugees of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a \$10 billion oil-for-food scandal. Mr. Speaker, it is time for U.N. reform with teeth. It is time for the Henry J. Hyde U.N. Reform Act.

In the Hyde bill, this Congress will bring about a new prioritization of programs, increased accountability and oversight, and strengthen human rights institutions within the body. Under the Hyde bill, the U.N. must meet 32 of 39 reforms, 14 of which are mandatory, or they face the potential consequences of a 50 percent reduction in U.N. assessed dues in the very near future.

It is time to save the U.N. from scandals and mismanagement. It is time for U.N. reform with teeth. Let us pass tomorrow the Henry J. Hyde U.N. Reform Act.