

to me over and over again that government should not try to rescue every one, that government should get off their backs, that they do not want to see their money spent on expanding programs when they are not getting enough bang for the buck now. In short, they want less welfare, less taxes, less spending, and, most of all, less government. They want to shake up Washington.

AGENDA FOR 1995

Although they oppose a big and intrusive government, Americans still have a long list of problems they want addressed. They want us to fix the economy, and for most of them that means boosting their incomes. They still want the health care system reformed. Americans are very concerned about the cost of health care and fear losing their insurance. They like the idea of universal coverage, and certainly want more control of health care costs. They do not want government control over health care decisions. They do not like the stresses put on the family, and want a more effective fight against crime.

Americans want the size and cost of government reduced. They do not favor a passive government, but rather a government that helps them solve problems without overtaxing or overregulating. They feel that government does not benefit them, but benefits somebody else. They want a government that belongs to them. They surely want a reduction in taxes and serious welfare reform. Welfare reform outdistances even a tax cut for the middle class or health care as the top legislative priority of Americans. They want to end welfare dependency, but not end support for people struggling to be self-sufficient. Americans also want us to clean up politics. They do not approve of the way Congress operates and they think most Members have become disconnected from the lives of ordinary Americans.

The agenda for the next Congress will likely revolve around several themes. First, shrink government. We need to sort out what is the reasonable role of government, what can be accomplished by government and what cannot, and what policy areas could be passed on to the states and private sector from a decentralized federal government. My hope is that in the next few years we can move toward decentralization and smaller institutions. Second, restore confidence in government. Several reforms are needed, including ethics reform, campaign finance and lobbying reform, and addressing the problem of negative campaigning. Policymakers need to govern from the center, and adopt a moderate, centrist approach to issues. Third, fix the economy. We need to build on recent successes in reducing the deficit, and pass a line-item veto and a balanced budget amendment. We should pass a middle-income tax cut, provided we can find a way to pay for it and not add to the national debt. I worry about each side trying to up the tax cut proposal of the other side, with the result of a huge increase in the deficit. Fourth, improve personal security. We need to continue our efforts against crime, and work on scaled back health care reform and welfare reform. There is significant momentum for cutting back the welfare system, restructuring it, making it cost less. Fifth, bolster national defense. We need to shore up our national defense and improve readiness, and adopt a position of selective engagement—not being the policeman of the world but intervening only when it is clearly in our national interest.

DIFFICULTY OF GOVERNING IN AMERICA

America has become a much harder place to govern than in the past. It has become larger, more diverse, more crowded. I am impressed with how the public's demand for

services collides with government's eroding ability to respond. In many respects our political circuits today are overloaded, and it is difficult for elected officials to address obvious national problems in a deliberate, thoughtful, and thorough way. Interest groups clamor for more attention and more benefits and then defend them vigorously. With the clash of interest groups and ideologies, developing a consensus and putting together coalitions to pass legislation has become increasingly difficult.

The public debate has become much more polarized. Interest groups are very effective at manipulating the voter. They understand that nothing rouses the faithful like a negative message denouncing the other side as evil incarnate. Polarized rhetoric and extreme positions arouse the faithful, and stimulate membership and contributions. At the same time, the news media seem to believe that the road to the truth lies in finding two extremes and letting them clash. They like to transform every discussion into a debate. They do not want a commentator interested in context, complexity, or moderation—despite the fact that most Americans are not on the extremes but in the center.

I am also impressed with how little confidence people have in the institutions of government. Press, television, talk radio, and politicians themselves enthusiastically join in undermining confidence in government today. I wonder how far this erosion in confidence can go and still have a functioning democracy.

CONCLUSION

Americans are demanding wholesale changes in Washington. They are perturbed by complex and disturbing trends of economic hardship, crime, the decline of the family and family values, and the erosion of the American dream. They are taking a long, hard, skeptical look at the condition of their government, and they do not like what they see—too much wasteful spending, too much bureaucracy, too much intrusion into their lives, too little in the way of results.

Policymakers must sort out what government can still usefully do and what it cannot do. We must prove to Americans that their institutions of government can still achieve something and are worth preserving. We need to be advocates of good sense and effective, unapologetic government but also a government that understands its limits. We also need to be more honest with Americans, letting them know that they cannot have benefits without paying the cost of them.

FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 1985

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Fishery Conservation and Management Amendments of 1995. In the last Congress the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee held 11 hearings in 5 different States and received testimony from over 100 witnesses. These witnesses represented all segments of the fisheries industries and other interested parties including fishermen, processors, environmentalists, State government officials, and administrative agencies. Near the end of the 103d Congress the Fisheries Management Subcommittee reported a bill which

unfortunately was not considered by the full Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Today, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize and amend the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. The bill contains nearly identical language to the bill reported by the subcommittee last year. The major differences involve the removal of certain controversial provisions, inclusion of stronger language addressing the bycatch issue and the unique needs of certain rural Alaskan fishermen, as well as some changes that would have been made had the bill been addressed by the full committee last year.

This legislation addresses all of the major concerns discussed during our series of hearings in the last Congress. While some may not totally agree with the way we address some of these concerns, I think this legislation takes a major step in continuing the management of our Nation's fisheries while also addressing some of the problems we have encountered in specific areas of fisheries management.

Mr. Speaker, there are two areas of concern that I feel must be addressed by this reauthorization legislation. We must allow the Regional Fishery Management Councils to address the issue of bycatch. The councils are in a unique position to create specific bycatch reduction measures, tailored for each fishery that they manage. I have also always believed that community development quotas [CDQs] are a legitimate tool of the councils for use in managing our fisheries resources. I have always believed that CDQ's did not have to be specifically authorized for the councils to include them in their first fisheries management plans and the courts have now finally agreed with me on this point. Community development quotas are just one of many tools which can be used by the councils to address the needs of fishery dependent communities. We will continue to look at this issue as we move those legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to move quickly with the bill, so that we can get on with the sound management of our Nation's fisheries resources. Our fishermen and processors deserve no less.

REDECLARE THE DRUG WAR

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we cannot solve the crime and violence problems which plague this country without an all-out war on drugs. Make no mistake about it. This Republican-controlled Congress will pay a major role in the war on drugs. We'll step up to the plate and assume our full share of responsibility. But so must the administration. Our first, joint priority must be to restore control over the places where Americans live and raise their children.

As a consequence of the Clinton administration's half-hearted effort to fight the drug war we have witnessed a dramatic increase in the use of drugs. Unless the problem is returned to the front burner one of the few enduring legacies of the Clinton Presidency may be the reemergence of illegal drugs and the violent crime associated with drugs.