

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak against the runaway legislative freight train that threatens to crush the lives of millions of America's children. In particular, as a Representative for the 18th Congressional District in the State of Texas, I acknowledge that there are businesses, small businesses, there are working people, middle class, but I also say that my district has a wealth of children who are in fact in need of school breakfasts and school lunches.

My Republican colleagues indicate and are the conductors of the unconscionable train. Mr. Speaker, we must realize that we have to stand for the children. We cannot lose \$670 million in my home State of Texas alone between now and the year 2000.

Mr. Speaker, let us not cut nutrition for our children, let us stand up and fight and uphold the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, I must rise today to speak against the runaway legislative freight train that threatens to crush the lives of millions of America's children.

My colleagues from the other side of the aisle are the conductors of this unconscionable train, and they continue to drive that train at breakneck speed through this body without any consideration about what and who they will leave lying bloody on the tracks behind them.

Their agenda—already declared immoral by Cardinal John O'Connor—will slash child nutrition programs—more than \$670 million in my home State of Texas alone between now and the year 2000.

And now, as if nutrition cuts were not horrific enough, the mad conductors of the runaway train have set their sights on summer job programs. Bear in mind, these are the same folks who complain about welfare dependency and cycles of poverty. Do they not see, Mr. Speaker, that denying some 600,000 needy young people a summer job will only make it that much more difficult for them to get the work experience they'll need to break out of poverty?

Mr. Speaker, I fear these Republican conductors do not see the damage their runaway train will wreak because they are blinded by their zeal to cut taxes, with no real focus on the deficit of working Americans.

For the sake of America's children, this train must be stopped.

□ 1130

TIME FOR COMMONSENSE LEGAL REFORM

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this body began the monumental task of reforming America's legal system.

Mr. Speaker, for too many years ridiculous legal judgments have been handed down in frivolous lawsuits where the only real winners are the lawyers.

Mr. Speaker, some have suggested that we should leave this up to the individual States to decide. I am a true

federalist at heart and I believe that in States where the State statute is stronger than the Federal law that State law should prevail. But there are States where the abuses of the judicial system have run amuck.

Case in point, Alabama. Steve Flowers is a 13-year veteran of the Alabama legislature and chairman of the Insurance Committee for the Alabama House.

In 1987 Mr. Flowers was the primary sponsor of Alabama's legal reform legislation, but he now strongly favors Federal legislation in this area.

Why? Because in 1993 the Alabama Supreme Court in *Henderson versus Alabama Power Company* ruled that the Alabama legislature did not have the authority to impose limits on punitive damages.

Mr. Speaker, in the first 11 months of 1994, juries in Alabama awarded more than \$170 million in punitive damages, not including wrongful death actions.

The time is now for true common-sense legal reform. This body must act now to turn the tide of lawsuit abuse and pass this measure to protect hard working Americans from the long arm of the trial lawyers.

CONTRACT PUNCHES HOLES IN CONSTITUTION

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when I showed up yesterday with my hole puncher in one hand and the Constitution in the other hand and represented that the Contract With America was beginning to punch holes in the Constitution, I got calls yesterday saying, "Are you crying wolf?" So I went back and here is the record.

Line item veto, article I, section 1.

Effective death penalty action, habeas corpus, article I, section 9.

National Defense Revitalization Act, this review commission, article II, section 2.

Exclusionary Rule Reform Act, fourth amendment, punched a hole.

Takings legislation, fifth amendment, punched a hole, America.

The Contract With America is punching holes in our Constitution. As the Speaker comes in here to punch a hole in this contract, they are punching a hole in the Constitution of the United States.

WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. I wonder if that applause coming from the other side of the aisle, if those Members who applauded, if perhaps they also voted back on the first day of Congress, of the 103d Congress, 1992, to seat delegates, to allow them to vote in the Committee of the Whole in contravention of article I,

section 2 of the Constitution, punch-punch.

We continue to hear the same thing over and over and over, and it just begins to make you wonder if you repeat it long enough and loud enough, if the big lie might not take effect, might not actually stick.

The fact is that we are increasing the amount of money that goes to School Lunch Programs. Everybody knows that on both sides of the aisle, including when one takes into effect demographics and changes in population.

What is amazing, though, is that the same lie would be repeated. So what is it all about? Is it not really just about power and the loss of constituencies and the loss of bases? I think that is really what is going on here.

Clearly those friends of mine on the other side of the aisle have been supported for years and years by the Federal employees PAC's, and that is really what is going on here.

SUPPORT FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we are pedaling backward fast, crushing kids as we go. Cut the heat at home, cut the lunches at school. There is no escaping the cuts, kids.

Have we forgotten the shameful revelations of hunger and poverty that produced the American majority for school lunches, WIC and low income energy assistance? What about that contract?

Contracts are supposed to be win-win propositions. Tax cuts for the wealthy paid for with lunch money from kids is a rotten tradeoff. As \$5 billion wallop at WIC and child nutrition programs is child abuse.

If Washington cannot afford to feed hungry kids, cash-starved cities like the District will hardly be able to pick up the pieces—or the children. It is time we stopped eating our young and their lunches.

THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX REPEAL ACT OF 1995

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Alternative Minimum Tax Repeal Act of 1995. It is my sincere hope that this legislation will provide a starting point for this Congress to consider eliminating economic distortions caused by the Tax Code and encourage new investment in manufacturing.

This legislation would repeal the alternative minimum tax that was created as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. This tax is a major impediment to