

cut. And yet we are having to put people out of work.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. The gentlewoman makes a very good point. I think one of the problems we have in this country is we are blaming the wrong people. When we had the S&I crisis, for example, that hit the TV screen for a few days, a few weeks. And we developed the RTC, and we are now getting to the point we are resolving that whole issue, multimillion dollars.

And when a person who has food stamps, for example, walks into a store. I had the occasion of walking into a grocery store in my own district, purchasing food and standing in line. And then a lady in front of me with maybe one or two kids, who is about to purchase her food with food stamps, she turns around and sees me. And then, all of sudden, she forgot something. And she said, Go ahead, Mr. Fields, I forgot something.

And in a real sense, she did not forget anything. But she was embarrassed because the whole nation is blaming her for the problems, blaming her for the deficit. Blaming her for everything that is wrong with America. And she did not want her congressman to see her purchase her food with food stamps. And it is a shame and a disgrace that we have poor people in America who are being blamed for every ill that we have in this country.

For example, it is amazing that we would take \$30,000 and we would put it in jails and persons, and it takes \$60,000 to build a jail cell in this country. And it takes about anywhere from \$28,000 to about \$30,000 a year to maintain a prisoner in that jail. And we are spending all of that money to put kids in jail who violate the law.

And we find out, we look at all the statistics and all the statistics reveal that 86 percent of the people who are incarcerated, who are behind jail cells, are high school dropouts.

Now, it takes very little discussion and very little debate to pass that kind of appropriation. But if we tried to put more money in schools, we just cut \$100 million out of infrastructure. Prisons and jails in this country are in better condition than our schools. but it would take a literally an act of Congress, not really knowing what the cliché of an act of Congress really means, to pass any appropriation to put more money in education.

It is a clear correlation between education and incarceration, but the problem is, the question is whether or not we really want to address these real meaningful problems.

I feel, and I may be wrong, but I feel the way we address these problems is not by pointing our finger at poor people but by lifting them up, by making sure that every parent receives job training and then provide a job so she can go to work.

I am not against workfare. I am for workfare and making sure that dead-beat dads be responsible dads and make them pay child support for the kids

that they bring into this world. I am for that. And I am also for a kid having a summer job.

That hurts me the most because I know what it feels like to be a part of a summer jobs program during the summertime. And I have been taking this mike now almost every night because these are programs, maybe I am one of the few Members of Congress who has been through most of the programs that were cut, but I know what it felt like to have a summer job during the summertime.

I mean it gave me self-esteem. It gave me pride. It gave me dignity. I was getting up and I was going to work. I went to work, Monday through Friday. And I made a salary. I got a check with my name on it. And I was able to buy my school clothes, and I was able to help my mother pay her rent. And that made me feel good. And that really taught me job skills; taught me responsibility.

And now even the thought that this summer kids will not have the opportunity that I had when I was growing up in Baton Rouge, they will not be able to go into a summer job this summer because this Congress had the gall to cut 1.2 million kids off of the program in the spirit of fiscal reform and personal responsibility, and then talk about how we need to get kids off the streets, my God, where would I be today if I did not have a summer job, many of my friends, when we were growing up?

□ 2230

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I do not understand the rationale and I will yield to the gentlewoman and then I want to talk about something else, I certainly hope the gentlewoman would stay, a little bit about term limits because I have heard some very interesting discussions tonight about that issue.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Well, I thank the gentleman and I could not help but just be absorbed by your recounting of your life's history because I wonder whether or not because of the missing life experiences maybe of some who would argue differently than what we would argue whether this is why we are where we are today.

I certainly was a beneficiary of a summer job and took as much pride as you have articulated in working in the city's parks during the summer, having that check, but most importantly the responsibility, the uniform, the self-esteem. Let me say a great big thanks to all the parks workers throughout this Nation.

The important thing is that we are speaking in essence out of two sides of our mouth and that is that we ask on one side, stand up and be counted and be independent and then we tell our children and I have been on the local box station if you will, meaning I have gone to where the youngsters listen and talk to them in between their

music to tell them that this is something they need to take up.

The outcry that I have gotten from a parent who is a single parent who says Johnny has been off the streets now for 4 years straight because he has had a summer job, and you know what is even better than that, you know what is even better than that is Johnny's younger brother is aspiring to get the summer job like Johnny, not aspiring to hit the streets to join the gang that is right next door but aspiring like Johnny.

As I conclude, let me simply say what the misnomer is. We go back to welfare. I think we all have seen this documentary about hoops and basketball, a true story about youngsters off the street and aspiring to be basketball players and there were some good endings for those youngsters in there. The one point that really got me is when the mother said, "Do you know we live off of \$300 a month?" Because there is some myth about how much people are living off of.

Then just to reflect on the State of Texas where an AFDC recipient with one child gets \$184 a month, so let us not fool ourselves to think that these folks are rolling in dollars. All of these people would far benefit from cutting the deficit.

When we talk about some sense of independence, we have got the other side of the coin. Say you pulled yourself up by the bootstraps, you got out of high school, how would you get to college? Summer jobs as well as student loans. Do you know what is going to be cut with these tax cuts? We are talking about cutting an enormous amount, half of all of the students attending college would be cut in terms of their student loans or their opportunities to go to college.

I do not know about you because I understand that we have come from different States, but I can assure you how much that will hurt the community that I come from and how important it is to our students who are seeking independence, some of whom have come from homes where they were dependent upon welfare and are now seeking an opportunity through education and look what is happening to them.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding but I had to come and join you and certainly you are raising another issue that I hope I will briefly be able to share with you on that because I think that impacts, if you will, how we run government.

I also have not heard the reasoned hue and cry on the other issue you just mentioned about what we do about people who are in office when I believe truly in the process of voting people in and voting people out. But I will say it is important for people to have a history of what has been done previously by government, people who can bring insight to these issues and reflect upon their life experiences to share.

I hope that we will have the opportunity as this goes to the U.S. Senate, the rescissions bill that we have talked about and now as we move into the tax cuts, that we will have an opportunity through conference, as I am working very hard to ensure that some of these very devastating dollars that have been removed that are not doing anything for the deficit will come back to help people who are seeking to be independent.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I thank the gentlewoman and we hope we are both hopeful that in the Senate there is a much more deliberative debate on these issues. Even if they are not cleared up in the Senate, we would hope that in conference that these issues are cleared up to the best interests of all the people across America. Even if they are not cleared up in that arena, we would hope that the President takes a very, very strong look at these rescissions as well as this Personal Responsibility Act and make sure that children and infants are not penalized as a result of some fault of some third party.

I would like to at this time talk a little bit about term limits. As the gentlewoman from Texas knows, tomorrow we will be debating the issue of term limits on this floor. We will decide whether or not the terms of Members of Congress should be limited.

I have been tussling with the idea of term limits now for about 7 years because when I was a member of the State Senate in Louisiana, being Chairman of Senate Governmental Affairs, I had to deal with the issue of term limits and wanted to give the best possible opportunity for those who felt that term limits was a good idea for America.

But no one, even idea, has been able to convince me that term limits is good for America. You know when I walked into this Congress on January of this year, I raised my right hand and said that I would support and defend the Constitution. And every Member of this body said the same thing, we would support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, this Constitution. I look at this Constitution and article I, section 2 of this Constitution says in no uncertain terms, "The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second year by the people of the several States."

It is very clear in no uncertain terms. That is article I, section 2. I do not understand how one can say they are for term limits and not realize that term limits are already in the law. I think it is an insult to the average voter's intelligence to tell a voter in America that they do not have a right to select a candidate of their choice and we ought to have some self-imposed term limit.

Well, I have decided to do something tonight that I would hope that all of my colleagues take heed to. For those individuals who believe and truly be-

lieve in term limits, we can have a self-imposed term limit and we can start term limitation tonight and all you have to do is sign this term limit pledge card.

I want to make sure that every Member of Congress receives this pledge card because I am sick and tired of Members walking into that well and saying to the American people, we need to limit the terms of Members of Congress and many times those Members who walk into the well are Members who have served for 16 or 20 years. I do not understand that. I think that is what hypocritical to say the least.

This pledge card is very simple. There is nothing complex about it. "I," and you put your name in it on the line, "pledge to the people of," whatever district you represent, whatever State you represent, "that I will not seek reelection to the United States House of Representatives after" X "number of terms," signed by the Member and dated.

And we put it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and then every Member should live up to that term limit commitment.

You know my term is limited and your term is limited. You cannot serve over 2 years in the House of Representatives without the approval of the people of Texas.

I as a Member from Louisiana. I cannot serve in this Congress after 2 years without the approval of the people, the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana. When I raise my right hand, I take the oath of office for 2 years and 2 years only, and then I have to go back to my district and get reelected. So that, in itself, is a term limit.

Now what puzzles me is how people say, well, term limits or the lack thereof is the reason why we have so many problems in this Congress.

Well, the last three elections, over 200 new Members of Congress were elected. Two hundred new Members of the House now reside in this House of Representatives today. And they were elected in the last three elections, last three elections. The last three elections brought 200 new faces to this institution. You were one of them. I am one of them.

What happened in the Senate? The past 10 years 55 new Senators are now sitting in that august body down the hall, new Members of the United States Senate.

Now, if I am a Member of Congress and if I am doing my job and I do everything that I am supposed to do as a Member of Congress, then the people of Louisiana then make the decision as to whether or not I will return to Washington, DC, as their Congressman.

But for this Congress to tell people in Louisiana in the Fourth Congressional District that they do not have a right to send CLEO FIELDS to Congress or SHEILA JACKSON-LEE from Texas, irrespective of what kind of job performance she had for the past 2 years or 4

years, is wrong. And it is taking away the voice of people.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I would be happy to yield.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. You have raised several important points, and I think tomorrow we will have additional time to grapple with these issues. But I, too, have kept an open mind on this whole question of term limits, looking for the higher ground in terms of the real reasons behind what has been labeled as a movement to ensure that we have term limits. And each time I seek an answer, it comes back simply flat, and let me tell you why.

You have hit on a very salient point. We are now debating this whole issue of let the States do it, the local communities do it. What this debate simply says is that we do not appreciate and furthermore have no respect for the local constituents of each individual Member's district. We have no respect for them.

For we will tell them that what they will have to vote on if we do a term limit amendment is they will have to not vote on a Member that they may want to vote on. They may even want to cast a no vote against the Member, meaning that they would like to vote for someone else with the Member being on the ballot. Just think of it. They do not each have that opportunity.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. If the gentlewoman would yield.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. You make a very good point.

I have heard some arguments that we are to send Members back home, and they need to live with the people and live in the community and work with the folk in their respective communities. And then if they choose to come back then they could run for office after they sit out for 2 years. Well, my God, I do not know about you, but I go home every week.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I am right with you.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I am not removed from the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana. I return home every week. I meet with people. And at the point, if I ever get to the point that I am not returning home and I am not taking care of the business of the people of the Fourth District of Louisiana, they have every right and the responsibility to go to the polls and vote me out of office.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Be happy to be yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I respect my constituents and, you are very, very right, spend a great deal of time making sure that I interact with the great constituents of the Eighteenth Congressional District.

But what I argue is that the real key to the Founding Fathers in terms of the laymen Congress was the whole concept of responsibility and accessibility. I mean, that is what they wanted to ensure when they designed this format. And so that should be the criteria by which you determine whether you have someone you want to return or someone that you do not want to return.

With that in mind, the interaction with one's constituents is the term limits in and of itself that will be determined every 2 years by constituents saying to you, no, you have not done what we have asked you to do. And, therefore, I raise the question what is this false term limits, in essence?

Because there may be constituents who you have who say, I like the method, the procedure, the way you are doing your business but, more importantly, the way you are representing us. And it would be a disservice to us if we did not get a chance to vote for you or against you based upon our pleasure or displeasure.

We are putting in a false and imaginary buffer between the voting people, the voting public, citizens, owners of the Constitution, and their choice for who they would want to represent them.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. If the gentlewoman would yield.

She mentioned the laymen's legislature and the citizens' legislature, and I have heard those terms throughout the night. But what I find, I find a fault with this argument of the citizens' legislature, laymen's legislature which I would think this legislature should be and every legislature should be. And if it is not, then the people should make the decision as to how it should be, what it should be made of and who it should be made of.

But even States that passed term limits, I find it hard to believe, let us take, say, the State of California, passed term limits. And, by the same token, they talk about how they want to give greater access to people and then they are not implementing the motor voter law, for example.

□ 2245

Giving access to people is by making people a part of this process, and I find it almost unfair to say we want to give people more access to this process and not try to make the voting process as easy as possible, and the voter registration process as easy as possible, because if you really want a citizens' legislature, for example, then you should do everything you can to make sure that citizens have access to the ballot. You cannot have access to the ballot box in this country if you are not registered to vote.

So one of the elements of giving people access to the ballot box is by making sure that we have voter registration laws that afford every citizen the opportunity to partake in the voting process and then after we make sure every citizen can register and we do

not have all of these prohibitions and all of these complicated ways of registering to vote, then we ought to make sure on election day every citizen is afforded that opportunity to go to the polls and vote on election day, and for example, and I will yield back to the gentlewoman, in this past Presidential election, only 35 percent or 37 percent of the people voted. On the average, the maximum we get is 50 percent of the people voting in America. So if you really want to give the citizens of America more access, you create laws that are conducive to giving more access to exercise their constitutional right, registering to vote and then actually exercising their right to vote on election day.

We have four States, as the gentlewoman knows, we have four States in America right now that are refusing to implement the motor voter law, but yet we want a citizens' legislature. Well, afford every citizen in this country the opportunity to go and register to vote in the least complicated format possible, and then encourage them to go and vote on election day. Then maybe we will see some differences in this Congress and in State legislatures across the country if we really want a citizens' legislature.

Let us have voter registration drives in every housing facility in this country, every public housing facility; when you register for section 8, you ought to register to vote at the same time. Public transportation ought to be an element of voter registration. Then we ought to encourage people to go out and vote, and maybe we would change this Congress and more so-called citizens and laymen will be in the halls of this body and other bodies across this country.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. I wish people would listen to the intent of the discussion here, because one of the interesting points, and I think before we have had an opportunity to address the Speaker, is that we find out that this issue is not one that falls along philosophical lines or party lines. There is going to be a vigorous debate, because this is an issue that goes to the very crux of the Constitution.

This should not be labeled as a contract issue, Contract on America, with America. I am not sure what the thrust of it is.

You have got conservative Republicans and others who understand what the Constitution is truly saying, and that is a representative body of government, in fact, a republic, and I always remind my constituents when we say republic, we are not necessarily labeling a party, Republican, Democratic. It is a form of government that is representative.

What helps you be more representative than to encourage people to make their choices to, as you have said, open up the opportunities of registration? I am certainly a supporter and advocate of the motor vehicle legislation and working hard to ensure that it is work-

ing in the State of Texas, but the key is that let us expand the places where people can register. Let us ensure that our educational system has a real body of instruction that deals with the Constitution and voter participation, and how to access your elected officials. That is where I think the thrust should go.

Because one of the interesting things that I think should be noted, and I share it with my constituents, and might I add, I certainly welcome all the representatives or constituents that come in on issues to my office, that means the businesses that certainly have those prepared and paid individuals that come in. I respect them. But I also recognize many times there are constituents who are home in your district who do not get to come to Washington, DC. They do not get to make their voices heard by way of sitting in your offices in Washington, DC.

How do they get to be heard? One, you interact with them when you come to the district and you better make sure that is a realistic and viable part of what you do for your constituents. The other way they inform you of their voices is through the vote and through the vote every 2 years, being able to vote for you or against you, not by an artificial term limits that comes in and intervenes between that citizen, the purest sense of the word, going to the ballot box, not being told by intervening law that they have the very power in their hands to send you back from the great State of Louisiana or, if I am sent back from the great State of Texas, that is the key that I think that we are missing when we engage ourselves in this very benign, in term limits of its meaning, but certainly very devastating debate in terms of what it does of interfering with the democratic process.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Does the gentlewoman know that many of the individuals who say they are proponents of term limits are some of the same, very individuals, who are on a bill to repeal motor voter? I mean, I just find it hard, and maybe, you know, maybe I do not have the wherewithal to understand it. I do not know. But I find it hard to understand a person standing in the well saying, "We want to give voters greater access and we want the voters to be able to have more control of their Congress," on one hand, and then on the other hand, turn around and say, "But we do not want them to register to vote at a driver's license place, we do not want them to register to vote if they are on some kind of government subsidized program, we do not want them to be able to register to vote as easy as they can under the motor voter law, we do not want that at a time when the voting participation is at an all-time low. It seems like if we really want this Congress to be more citizen-oriented, we ought to get more citizens involved in the process by making sure they have

every opportunity to register to vote and participate in the process.

I think another way we can deal with this problem of how we make sure incumbents are responsible, if that is the whole problem with Congress and with institutions, political institutions, and the thing that we want to address, why not have stronger campaign finance reform laws? You know, I would be for having very, very tough campaign finance reform legislation where the average citizen could, in fact, compete in an open election or in an election against an incumbent. You know, I think we can do something in this Congress to make the playing field a little bit fairer as it relates to incumbent versus challenger. I think that is real discussion.

If we really want to give the average citizen, and I consider myself an average citizen, you know, for some reason or another, there is some thought that people in Congress are not average citizens. I mean, I wake up every morning, I go to work, I go home very week and work with constituents, and I do everything that the average people do. I mean, I work hard. I try to make a difference.

But to give access to the so-called average citizen, Let us make this playing field a little fairer. But you cannot do that by having a \$50 dinner, you know, because most Americans, the vast majority of Americans, cannot afford to pay \$50 to go to a dinner where the funds will be put in some campaign coffers to elect and reelect Members of the Congress.

I just find there is a conflict with this whole argument of we are looking out for the average Joe Blow on the street and we want the average Joe Blow to be able to have access to this Congress, and we are tired off all of these career politicians taking over Congress. I think we really insult the intelligence of voters in this country.

I want to speak now not as a Member of Congress. I want to speak now as a voter. I do not want this Congress telling me that I cannot vote for somebody because they served two term limits. As a matter of fact, I just do not think this Congress has a right to tell me who to vote for, because that is basically what you are telling, who I cannot vote for, so you are telling me who I cannot vote for and can vote for, because if you are telling me I cannot vote for this guy because he served two term limits, then you have limited my options. I just do not think this Congress, I, as a voter, do not think this Congress should tell me I cannot vote for a person irrespective of how well SHEILA JACKSON-LEE represented me, and irrespective of how well SHEILA JACKSON-LEE represented me in the State of Texas; she got up every morning, she is my kind of Representative, she works hard, and when I call her, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE returns my call, and she has town hall meetings, and she also goes into schools and she talks to our children, and she is one of the

best Congresspersons in America as far as I am concerned. And I would be insulted if this Congress tells me I could not vote for SHEILA JACKSON-LEE because this Congress wanted to clean the House out. That is my decision.

If I wanted to clear SHEILA JACKSON-LEE out of the House, then I would do it with my vote, and you cannot tell me and you cannot speak for me, because I am going to do that very well, and I am going to do it at the polls, and I think that is what this argument is all about.

Are we going to let the people decide who sits in this body, or are we going to pass a law saying, it is almost like we have a reputation of doing this sort of stuff, three strikes and you are out, now we have three terms, you are out. Everything is almost like a baseball game here. I do not understand it. I am speaking as a voter. I just do not want this Congress to tell me I cannot vote for a person that represents me well.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. There are so many points, if the gentleman would yield, that you hit upon that are so very important.

First of all, let me commend you for the untiring manner in which you have come to the House floor to speak about issues that take away from what we have come here for, and that is to enhance freedom. As we stand here and debate and dialog with each other, Americans might be wondering, the lateness of the hour, they might be looking at the Chambers and they might be wondering, and I would simply say that you are to be commended for the commitment, because we are standing here to be able to educate the American people and certainly to reflect upon the great constituents that we represent.

You talked about campaign finance reform, and you might be puzzled about that, because obviously that is not part of the contract. That has not been part of the 100-day session that we are in which should have been. That is a reasonable response to ensuring that the average fellow, if you will, can engage themselves in running for office without this enormous amount of dollars that is very important, and then it is interesting that you had your pledge card. You do not hear a lot of debate about retroactive term limits, because if we are truly going to be pure, and I am looking at an amendment that is being raised by two Members, DINGELL and PETERSON, that talks about if you are going to pass term limits, then make it retroactive, knock out, if you will, all of the Members at this immediate time. You do not get serious debate on that.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Half of the Members proposing it would not be able to serve tomorrow.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. That is why I am wondering, is this truly a realistic debate and an honest debate with the American people, or are we trying to make, if you will, a coverup on what actually we are supposed to be doing,

or the contract is supposed to be complying with?

But we are not going to really do an honest review of term limits. We are going to act like it, play around the edges of term limits. I want to be forthright and honest about it. I truly believe it would be an intervening force that would negate the activity of citizens to vote for persons of their choice.

But if we were to do it, then I think retroactivity should be a viable part of any legislation that comes, because you hit it on the nail, hit the nail on the head, you are saying this is the 104th Congress. Well, the 104th Congress would be telling the 105th and 106th and 107th individuals elected by their constituents what to do on something which is so personal and strongly meaningful as voting upon the person whom you would represent.

Let me lastly say to you, what is the structure of Congress? Seniority. How do you help to enhance your constituents? Yes, we have done, as they say, major tasks in just plain hard work, and I respect that. But I do not hear anyone trying to rid this system of a seniority system that, in fact, requires that Members at least have a 2-year term to respond to some of the urgent needs of this American people.

So I would like for it to be an honest debate. Campaign finance reform is not even on the agenda at this time. The issue of seniority that has not even been raised, and then the question of whether or not it is appropriate that if you talk about term limits in a honest manner that you talk about retroactivity which means that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would immediately have to leave this body, and I am sure they would not mind it in their majority State because they truly believe in term limits.

Let us have a fair and open debate. That is what I think is important.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I agree with the gentlewoman. Congress is, I mean, every 2 years we have to face the voters. I mean, I think we have the most awesome term limits there is probably in public life, because most offices are 4 years. The U.S. Senate, for example, every 6 years, but the Congress, every 2 years we must go and face voters.

But let me ask the gentlewoman a question, because I have toyed with this question for a while in my mind. If I had to choose between a person who could serve only one term, because there is a term limit, and a person who can serve as long as he is responsible and as long as the voters choose to go to the polls and elect him or her, to me, I would feel more frightened by this person who has a term limit of one term, for example. He knows and she knows in his or her, in their own minds, that they cannot run for reelection, and you tell me, who do you think you would have the most trust in, a person who will never have to come and ask for your vote again; we

elected this person, he goes to Washington, he never is going to have to appear on the ballot as a congressional candidate again.

□ 2300

I got this other guy or lady who can run for reelection; and if they choose to do so, of course, then they will appear on the ballot.

Now I don't know about you, but I just feel much more comfortable as a voter, not as a Member of Congress, as a voter. I feel much more comfortable with voting for this guy where we have got this carrot, and if he does a good job, I am going to send you back.

That is what democracy is all about. You do a good job, I am going to send you back there, and I am going to keep you there.

But this guy here, he knows that I know that he is not going to serve in Congress another day of his life. He does not have to return my phone calls because he does not need my vote. He does not have to do a good job. He can vote against everything that this district believes in. He does not have to hold one town hall meeting.

Now you tell me, who do you feel, not as a Congresswoman but as a voter, who do you feel would be most representative of your views?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Well, as the gentleman from Louisiana well knows, it wasn't too long ago when I was not standing here at the well and was that citizen in my hometown. And I could just see glaring headlines when you were talking, government by reckless abandonment.

That is the fellow over there that has got a term, one 2-year term, does not have to worry about responding to any of the issues that his or her constituents are concerned about, clearly articulates views that are off the mark and off the margin, maybe his or her own personal views, does not have to fight and go to the mat for the issues of that district, whether it be highways or whether it deals with energy laws, whether it deals with welfare, whether it deals with business investment, whether it deals with tax cuts or whether it deals with bringing down the deficit.

You had asked the question what he or she is doing. I would simply say to you again, governing by reckless abandonment. It would be simply what they would want to do.

The fellow or the lady that is dealing with the fact that they have to present themselves to the voters, they have to stand up to the test, and voters can be as sharp and to the point on their issues, do not sell any of those individuals cheap or undermine their understanding. And they ask the hard questions of where you have been over the last 2 years on the issue. And if you want their confidence, that is the question. You are taking away voters giving an elected official the confidence of their vote.

The most high honor that you can get from an individual is their confidence in voting for you. You take that away. You undermine the very system of government, and you leave it to reckless abandonment when you ensure that you have an artificial term-limiting process.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. If the gentlewoman would yield on this final point.

And I really think that what we do, we are saying, what we are saying to voters across America, we are actually reaching into every congressional district, 435 congressional districts across the country, and we are saying to people in those districts, you are too stupid to do what is right. You keep sending the same people here time and time again.

Well, you know, to me that is an insult to a voter's intelligence. If they say people served in this Congress x number of years, it has only been because the people in that district evidently wanted them to serve.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. The choice is theirs.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for joining me tonight in the special order. I thank the Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MFUME, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POSHARD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DORNAN, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 29.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 29.

Mr. FORBES, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes, on March 29.

Mr. HANCOCK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LATHAM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, on March 29.

Mr. DAVIS, for 5 minutes, on March 29.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HILLEARY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, of South Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TATE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRAHAM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. LEWIS of Georgia) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. ENGEL.

Mr. HASTINGS, in two instances.

Mr. GORDON.

Mr. GIBBONS.

Mrs. SCHROEDER.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. STOKES, in two instances.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Ms. PELOSI.

Mrs. MALONEY, in two instances.

Mr. RICHARDSON.

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey, in two instances.

Mr. WILLIAMS.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. FILNER.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. WELLER.

Mr. MCDADE.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. ZIMMER.

Mr. CRANE.

Mr. HOBSON.

Mr. DICKEY.

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. QUINN.

Mr. CASTLE.

Mr. FOLEY.

Mr. EMERSON.

Ms. MOLINARI.

Mr. HOKE.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

Mr. CHAMBLISS.

Mr. SOLOMON in three instances.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. MARTINI.

Mr. GILLMOR.

Mr. PASTOR.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Wednesday, March 29, 1995, at 11 a.m.