But to return to welfare, I think there are principles in our welfare reform bill that are very, very important. The first one is the able-bodied should work. The second one is that there should be time limits. We do not want to see one generation after another generation, four or five generations, caught in welfare.

Another idea that is very important is that for those welfare recipients who are under the age of 18, there should be strong incentives for them to continue and stay in school. You do not receive benefits unless you are living with an adult and unless you are in school because, if you do not stay in school, there is very little chance that you are ever going to get out of the trap of the welfare system.

So I think there are a lot of good things that we have been trying to do. I would like to go to one thing, though, and that relates to what we are talking about in terms of cuts. An example is the most recent HHS appropriations bill, where for the Department of Education we increased funding this year by roughly $2.4 billion. That was somewhere between a 4- and a 5-percent increase.

Now, within that we shifted some of the funds around. We took it out of the Washington bureaucracy and we gave it back to the States and the local areas. That is crucial because, when we talk about education, I want to see an increased teacher-student ratio, and I want to see a decreased bureaucrat-teacher or bureaucrat-student ratio. And that is what we are trying to do here. We are trying to get power back to the States, to the local areas.

People can do jobs better when government is closest to them. We want to do it in a responsible way, and I think that I am very optimistic with the progress we have made.

I will just yield back to the gentleman for a final closing statement.

Mr. SHAYS. This Republican majority is working to get our financial house in order and balance the Federal budget. We are looking to save our trust funds for future generations, and we are also looking to transform our caretaking social, corporate and agricultural welfare state into a caring opportunity society. In the process we are looking to bring power, money and influence out of Washington and bring it back to local communities.

In the process we are looking to empower people who are in our communities. So it is an effort that we are working hard at. Very candidly, we are not looking at the polls. If Abraham Lincoln had looked at the polls, we would not be one Nation, under God, indivisible. We would be two nations very much divided. For us the polls simply do not matter. What matters is our kids.

Mr. Rabin, the former prime minister of Israel, said you and I, politicians, are elected by adults to represent the children. And frankly that is what this is all about, representing the children.

Mr. GANSKE. I am happy to join the gentleman I think on some of the principles that we want to accomplish. We want to accomplish an opportunity society. We want to help make government smaller and more responsive to the citizens. And we basically want safer and sounder families. I am happy to join my colleague in his work.

Mr. SHAYS. I appreciate my colleague for that and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for taking the time to listen to us. With than we yield back the balance of our time however short it may be.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably detained because of surgery on my son. The surgery went very well, but I was not able to be in town; therefore, I missed votes.

If I had been here, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall vote 332, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 333, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 334, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 335, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 336 and, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall vote 337.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of official business.

Mr. MANZULLO (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of illness in the family.

Mrs. MORELLA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. NETHERCUTT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for today, on account of attending a funeral.

Mrs. LINCOLN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of medical reasons.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of a death in the family.

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. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. STOCKMAN, for 5 minutes on July 24.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes each day, on today and July 23, 24, 25, and 26.

Mr. MCINTOSH, for 5 minutes on July 25.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes each day, on today and July 25.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KINGSTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEKAS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT, and to include therein extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost $1,033.

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

Ms. HARMON.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. MANTON.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Mr. STOKES.

Mr. HILLIARD.

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

Mr. QUINN.

Mr. FORBES.

Mr. DUNCAN.

Mr. WOLF.

Mr. PORTER.

Mr. SPENCE.

Mr. PACKARD.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GANSKE) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. MOAKLEY.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois.

Mr. GOODLING.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Ms. FURSE.

Mr. BARCIA.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Oversight, reported that that committee did on the following date present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

On July 18, 1996:

H.R. 743. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act to allow labor management cooperative efforts that improve economic competitiveness in the United States to continue to thrive, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, July 23, 1996, at 9 a.m. for morning hour debates.