

then the government's war on poverty has been wildly successful. After all, we now have 13 Federal agencies running more than 80 government welfare programs.

But if we judge success based on how many people have been able to rise out of poverty to take care of themselves and their families, these government programs have failed.

So what have we learned after spending \$22 trillion? It is simple: Workfare helps people stand on their own two feet. It helps people get off the welfare treadmill.

For example, before Congress reformed Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, also known as TANF, to incorporate a strict work requirement, there were 4.9 million families on the welfare rolls. Now, thanks to workfare reforms, we have seen 3.3 million families rise out of welfare dependence. That is a success.

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In 2014, when Maine began enforcing workfare for able-bodied adults without dependents who are receiving food stamps, the Maine caseload decreased by 80 percent within months.

The simple requirement that able-bodied adults without dependents should work in order to receive welfare benefits, paired with job search assistance and training opportunities, works. It gets people out of welfare and into the workforce.

We have learned that it makes a profound difference in people's lives when they understand that welfare is not meant to be a handout but, actually, a hand up.

Now, we need to apply these lessons about the benefits of workfare to more government welfare programs like food stamps and housing. That is especially important today because, with the economy growing, thanks to tax reform, job openings recently hit a record high of 6.6 million, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. By taking a stand for workfare requirements, we now have an opportunity to move millions of Americans from reliance on welfare to work and financial independence.

I commend the House for passing a farm bill that includes a strong workfare requirement for able-bodied adults without dependents. We have opened the door to welfare reforms that will help put people on the road to self-reliance, and I encourage my colleagues to build on this foundation and continue to stand up for workfare instead of welfare.

BIZARRE BEHAVIOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, I was on a congressional trip with the Judiciary Committee into the Balkan region. A number of the countries there, living in the shadow of Russia

and, also, the aggression of the Serbian allies of the Russians were very concerned about their security and their future.

Russia has, obviously, invaded Crimea, is supporting rebels in Ukraine, and is deeply involved in Syria to support the dictator there.

Now, in this last week, our President went to Europe, and he went to a meeting of our closest allies and NATO, which these countries on the periphery of Russia feel is critical to their defense. And he seems to—or did—deliberately so dissent and insult our two longest and strongest allies in NATO: Germany and England.

He seemed to be facilitating the Russian agenda there: Let's weaken NATO. Let's cause dissent in Europe.

But that couldn't be. He is the President of the United States. Of course he wouldn't be doing that. No. He was just being a businessman and trying to extract bigger payments out of them. He didn't mean to weaken or threaten the future of the alliance.

Then yesterday, in a sort of very bizarre moment, he meets alone with a professional KGB agent-dictator of Russia, Vladimir Putin. We don't know what went on in that room. Maybe they watched videotapes. I don't know. But the President came out again and, this time, directly attacked the United States of America.

How could this be? He said that he does not believe that our intelligence agencies—his hand-picked head of the DNI, Dan Coats, told him the Russians had interfered and proved to him the Russians had interfered in our election. He said that once about a year ago.

But then he comes out with Vladimir Putin and says: Well, I asked him about it. He says they didn't do it. You know, there's two sides to this. We did it. They did it. Who knows. Whatever. It doesn't matter.

Our basic institutions, our democracy, has been attacked by Russia, and Dan Coats says they are going to do it again in this election year.

What can explain this bizarre behavior on the part of the President of the United States?

I couldn't figure it out, so I went to my bookshelf and I said: Hmm, I'll look around my bookshelf. Maybe I'll find something.

I found two books. It is my recommended reading list to explain President Trump and some of what is going on in America today. The first would be "The Manchurian Candidate." The second would be the dystopian novel, George Orwell's "1984." Read them and weep.

THE 12TH WOMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Meghan is a fourth-generation Texas A&M Aggie. Her decision to attend the prestigious school was never a question

in her mind. It was an amazing experience, until it wasn't.

One morning, while serving as a tutor in the athletic department, a member of the Fighting Aggies football team twice her size exposed himself to her not 2 feet away, making sexual advances toward Meghan and becoming aggressive. Terrified and shocked, she abruptly left the room, trying to remain calm as he followed her. Unbeknownst to Meghan, her assailant had done the same thing to another tutor just hours before.

Mr. Speaker, Meghan feels she did not get justice against her attacker. Instead, she tells me, she was failed by a university that was not totally committed to protecting victims.

Meghan was scared of the upcoming process, scared to go back to work, terrified she might run into this individual again.

Before the hearing, the university claimed she did not need a lawyer; the assailant wasn't facing any criminal charges. So she didn't hire a lawyer. But she received no notice that her assailant had hired a lawyer.

Months later, Meghan's assailant was found not responsible for exposing himself to both tutors, with the panel stating it appeared he had a skin condition and simply couldn't control himself.

The response she received was nothing short of appalling. The school said: Sorry, Meghan, that you were offended, but there is nothing else we can do.

So she appealed the case. She still believed in the university and that the university would provide some justice for her. At the appeals hearing, she was informed that the charge against her attacker had been downgraded from sexual exploitation to sexual harassment; therefore, she was removed from the remainder of the hearing.

Doesn't that seem odd, Mr. Speaker?

Also, no one from the university title IX office ever contacted her. She never received any information regarding what sanctions her assailant received, if any. Of course, Mr. Speaker, her assailant was allowed back onto the football team.

Meghan felt abandoned by the university, and she thought the accused was protected due to his special status.

As a former judge, I agree with Meghan that universities must put the safety and care of sexual assault victims first, make it a priority. Together with CAROLYN MALONEY and JACKIE SPEIER, we have introduced several pieces of bipartisan legislation to end sexual assault on campuses.

First, the Bipartisan Campus Accountability and Safety Act, introduced by Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY, does many things, including establishing a mandatory victim advocate on campus and ensuring assault situations like Meghan's do not occur.

Second, the HALT Campus Sexual Violence Act, which will be introduced this week by Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER and me, makes sure that the universities do not shirk their legal responsibilities when responding to sexual assault crimes.