

people refused to believe that a former slave could speak so eloquently, so passionately and with such command of the English language. This prompted Douglass to write his first book: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, which Douglass wrote while living in Lynn, MA.

One hundred years ago this week, Frederick Douglass died. His legacy should serve as a source of strength and hope for all Americans regardless of our own ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Desire for freedom and social justice is not limited to any race, gender, or political party. And desire to bring about positive change in our society should never be stifled by those who stand in the way of progress.

Later in life Douglass was asked by a young man, what could be done to change things. Douglass said. "Agitate. Agitate. Agitate."

In our efforts to fight for meaningful change we should remember these and other words of Frederick Douglass, "Fellow citizens, ours is no newborn zeal and devotion—merely a thing of this moment."

THE MEXICAN HOLDUP

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, the Mexican holdup continues, aided and abetted by the White House and the congressional leadership. Despite overwhelming opposition across the country, the Clinton administration sidestepped the people's House and handed the regime in Mexico City \$20 billion.

What did the American people get for this sweetheart deal between Wall Street and the one-party dictatorship south of the border? They got nothing, except of course laughs from the bankers and the politicians who once again put one over on them.

Mr. Speaker, you would expect that the Clinton administration would have the sense to demand something from Mexico in exchange for our money—such as denationalize every Mexican company, end wage and price controls, stop propping up Castro's brutal regime, or start patrolling the Mexican side of the border to stem the wave of illegals. Unfortunately, that is asking too much, because Wall Street, the international bureaucrats, and Mexico City want to ensure that they can maintain business as usual and continue fleecing the American people.

If congressional Republicans do nothing to stop this Mexican holdup, we will have fulfilled George Wallace's declaration that there isn't a dime's bit of difference between Democrats and Republicans.

□ 1440

A BREACH OF CONTRACT WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BATEMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met with 25 constituents from the eastern panhandle of West Virginia who were as amazed as I was and could not believe what had happened, and that is that this Congress, under the Republican Contract for America, honestly was proposing and, indeed, appears hell-bent to eliminate the School Lunch Program by putting it into a block grant, a program that has been with us now since 1946.

Let us talk about what the School Lunch Program does for West Virginia and, in so doing, for the Nation.

The School Lunch Program serves 180,000 lunches per day in our State. It serves 77,000 breakfasts per day. The Child Care Program serves facilities such as Head Start and day care, serves 38,000 meals per day. Fifty-seven percent of school lunches in West Virginia go to those eligible for free or reduced meals. Seventy-seven percent of school breakfasts in West Virginia go to that same category. The West Virginia school lunches cost \$98 million, of which \$55 million is Federal. The balance comes from students and their parents, from county and State contributions.

Twenty-one of our fifty-five counties in West Virginia are severe-need counties, meaning that 60 percent or more of these students qualify for free or reduced lunch. In my district alone, the Second District, the severe-need counties include Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Lewis, and Randolph.

The average price for a school lunch in West Virginia is 85 cents for breakfast. It is 50 cents, the actual cost per meal being \$2.12, making the Federal subsidy per meal \$1.36.

The history of the National School Lunch Act enacted in 1946 was done under the national security heading in the Constitution. And why? Because so many young recruits were failing their draft physicals due to nutrition-related diseases.

In 1966 Congress enacted the Child Nutrition Act in recognition of the demonstrated relationship between food and good nutrition. Today that program serves 25 million students a day. The School Breakfast Program serves 5 million a day.

Now, let us talk about what this means. They say they want it in a block grant. What that means is you take the School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, now you mix it up in a pot, you put it in with WIC, Women, Infant, and Children Program, put it in with the Child Care Nutrition Program, cut the money, but say you are giving flexibility and send it all to the States, and then you let the States decide which of the children

do we feed. Whom do we feed? Do we feed the WIC child, do we feed the toddler, or perhaps the 6th grader? Which child gets it? Which child does not?

There is something else that is not talked about in this legislation, the reality of the matter is that you will close hundreds, if not thousands, of school lunch programs across the country. Why? Because in order to make enough money to keep the program going, you are going to have to charge far more to those who are able to pay the full cost, thus pricing it further out of the market.

We saw this happen already. If you remember the halcyon days of President Reagan, when catsup was going to be a vegetable back in 1981 or 1982 in the School Lunch Program, and we saw, because of the new regulations then, we saw many lunch programs close down.

And so I have a great concern, and obviously total, opposition to this measure.

Well, I hope that people across this country, Mr. Speaker, will rally on this. Send in those, tear off the lid from the milk cartons from the school lunches, send them in to those who think this is such a good idea. Let your legislators, your Representatives, your Senators know, your Members of the House of Representatives. There are lots of things we can have legitimate arguments about. But taking apart the School Lunch Program? Ever try to educate a child who has a rumbling tummy? Ever try to educate a child who has nutrition or protein deficiency? Ever try to educate a child who does not get enough to eat?

In many areas of our country this is the way children get enough to eat.

We did not talk about the Summer Lunch Program either, because that is another one that will get pitted against all the others. We are going to make our children in our States compete for food. That is what this is all about.

This is one that I think everyone can say that is not a part of the contract we want. This is a breach of contract with the American people, and I urge there be strong opposition to this provision in the Contract for America.

I am counting on America, Mr. Speaker, to respond and say we want lunch in our schools.

PROCEEDING WITH GENERAL DEBATE PENDING A VOTE ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 96

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House may proceed to general debate in the Committee of the Whole as though under House Resolution 96 during any postponement of proceedings on that resolution pursuant to clause 5 of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I just want to say to the minority leader that this is a highly unusual request for us to begin debate and finish a rule and then postpone the vote subject to the general debate starting. We certainly are going to agree with the unanimous-consent request out of courtesy to those in the western part of the country, but I just want it understood that this does not set a precedent; that in the future we are going to have to work these things out in advance, and there could very well be votes earlier than 5 o'clock on Mondays in the future.

And having said that, I appreciate the gentleman's unanimous-consent request and will not object to it.

Mr. GEPHARDT. If the gentleman will yield, I would like to make a short statement and perhaps ask a question.

The point I would like to ask is: With this unanimous-consent request, I assume we have accomplished not having a vote until at least 5 o'clock? Is that correct?

Mr. SOLOMON. Absolutely, and it would be up to your side to call a vote, and as I understand it from your unanimous-consent request that we could interrupt the 2 hours of general debate at any point subject to your decision to call for a vote, but you would not be doing that prior to 5 o'clock. Was that your unanimous-consent request?

Mr. GEPHARDT. That is correct.

Mr. SOLOMON. We certainly concur with that.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I made the unanimous-consent request with the express purpose of making sure we did not have a vote until after 5 o'clock.

Mr. SOLOMON. We would certainly, in agreeing to that, hope there would not be a need for a vote on a previous question, and we would hope that we kind of have that understanding, although I know the gentleman could not guarantee it.

Mr. GEPHARDT. That is correct.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HENRY HADDIX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago a small group of Marines raised a flag on a far away island in the Pacific Ocean—Iwo Jima. The scene was immortalized for all Americans in the famous photo and memorial statute near Arlington Cemetery.

The battle for Iwo Jima paved the way to victory over Japan. It was not without cost—6,000 Marines were killed. Pvt. William Henry Haddix was one of these who made the supreme

sacrifice of his life. Today when we think of the veterans who died in those wars, our minds play tricks on us. We sometimes imagine those soldiers as old and wise, but most were very young like Bill Haddix. Bill left behind a young wife Etta, and two small children.

He also left behind a beautiful and precious legacy. Just days before he died he had written his wife and family. Private Haddix's daughter—Susan Haddix Harrison from Jackson, MI—Susan is here in the chamber with us today and has generously shared his deeply moving and meaningful letter with me and I share it with you. The letter includes a poem by Private Haddix about his experience on Iwo Jima. Interwoven in the fabric of the words are the golden threads of faith in God and duty to country.

IWO JIMA

I have landed on an island
in the Pacific salty air
where heat, rain, mud and bugs
are an everyday affair.

The nights are long and dreary
as the pale moon lights the sky,
and I lie awake a thinking
as the hours creep slowly by.

Where men must go on fighting
for land that must be won
In dirt, grit, slime and sweat
beneath the burning sun.

I can't help but dream of home
and the ones I love so dear,
It makes a man cuss the day
he ever landed here.

All luxuries are forgotten
In this land so far away
and it takes a lot of guts
for the guy who has to stay.

I pray for you my darling
every single night
and know God will care for you
because you're living right.

When we meet our enemy
be it day or night

It's do or die for that poor guy
for we fight with all our might.

Should I ever receive a call from God
I know darn good and well,

That I'm bound to go to heaven
for I've served my time in Hell.

WILLIAM H. HADDIX,
*Private, 28th Replacement
Draft, Co B,
3rd Marine Division.*

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Private Haddix did not ask that he may live. He was prepared to die if need be. All he asked is that he may be ready if he was called. And he asked that his sacrifice may not be in vain.

Today, we salute Private Haddix and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him five decades ago. We should always remember their bravery, their honor, and their dedication to our Nation. Our most precious inheritance is freedom, but we should remember that it was not free to those who earned it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BATEMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mis-

souri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WIC: A HEALTH PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support efforts to streamline Government programs to make them more efficient and cost effective. However, as we implement these reforms, we must make sure our efforts are in the best interest of the individuals these programs are meant to serve. Cutting costs should not mean cutting corners.

So, as we work diligently in the days ahead to trim the size of our Government and reduce Federal spending, I don't want to focus only on what is broken or at least expendable. I also want to look at what is working.

When initiatives do work, we should take that knowledge and experience and apply it in other areas. One proven program which deserves our attention is the supplemental food program for women, infants and children—or WIC as it is better known.

Many people may think of WIC as a welfare program but it is really a public health program. WIC is designed to influence a lifetime of good nutrition and health behaviors. It provides specific nutritious foods to at-risk, income-eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to 5 years of age.

WIC has a 20-year track record of providing effective, cost-efficient services to some of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Since 1974, WIC has grown from a program operated by a handful of local health departments, hospitals, and community organizations to one serving more than 6 million people through a network of approximately 9,000 clinics nationwide. In my home State of Florida, WIC serves all 67 counties and over 312,000 clients each month.

WIC results in significant increases in the number of women receiving adequate prenatal care and enhances the