

who intend to roll back efforts on affirmative action and to call America's war on discrimination over.

I stand firm in my belief "that all men are created equal" and that given the recent history of this country, measures like the 1964 Civil Rights Act and subsequent court rulings were and continue to be necessary. If this were a homogeneous society without its history of hatred of oppression by the majority on the minority and women, there would be no need for affirmative action. This is not a homogeneous society. This is America, black, white, red, yellow, and brown: A nation of great diversity, representing every part of the world. Those who profess to support equality of opportunity while denigrating the remedies available to overcome this sad history, while offering no solutions, do nothing more than pay lip service to what women and minorities see as the most fundamental of human rights: The right to participate fairly and freely without arbitrary and capricious barriers.

I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this great Nation, that we cannot accept as truth, the notion that remedies designed to redress past, present, and future discrimination, are now somehow special rights conferred upon women and minorities. No matter how loud and how often these words are spoken, the truth is that these remedies are designed to lead to a more inclusive society. And on this issue there will be no retreat and there will be no surrender. All Americans should be guaranteed equality of opportunity. This proposed movement away from the inclusive policies of the past, presumes that we are now an inclusive society. The facts however reveal that we as a nation are not yet there.

If America wants to eliminate affirmative action while never frankly discussing her invidious racial past, and never accepting as a principle the equality of all persons; America will see the return of an era gone by. An era of mass demonstrations, boycotts, sit-ins, and whatever else is necessary, by any means necessary, to show this Nation and the world that American women and people of all colors; red, yellow, black, white, and brown, will not go back—and again I state on this issue there shall be no retreat and there shall be no surrender.

□ 1545

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OXLEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, we have now completed 59 days of very hard work in this House, and as I sit back and ponder what we have accomplished in these 59 days I am really struck by the differences in what we on

this side of the aisle are doing and what the Democrats are saying in opposition.

We want to take this country forward. We want to protect our Nation's future by reducing our national debt. But from the other side we hear very meek defenses and sometimes very loud defenses of the status quo.

We hear their cries to save the failed policies of the welfare state that they created over the last 40 years. And we hear their pleas to save the precious bureaucracy, for only the Federal bureaucrats know how to govern this Nation, they say.

Mr. Speaker, we owe very near \$5 trillion. We are adding another trillion every 4 years. We are paying almost \$300 billion annually in interest on our debt. There is no greater thing we must fear than our debt.

A trillion is a large number. I never can keep the zeros correct behind a trillion. But we owe almost \$5 trillion, and maybe to put that in perspective just a little bit, I would say that if we tried to pay off \$1 trillion of our debt and we chose to do that by paying \$1 every second, we would pay off that trillion dollars in 144,000 years. And I remind my colleagues perhaps that organized agriculture only started on this planet 10,000 years ago.

I hope that says to Members as it does to me that though 5 is small, trillion is a lot, and the young people in this room today surely must realize that if we continue on the path that we have been going we are spending their inheritance, and we are spending their future, and those of us who sit over here every day and listen to the mistruths on this side every day are simply trying to bring that in balance.

The Federal bureaucrats who seem to run this Nation are people that are hired by us with our tax dollars. These people are nonelected officials, and it is not my opinion that they know what is best. In this great country, it is true that we are responsible for ourselves, we have individual responsibilities, and the great thing about this Nation is that we are free, and we should all be able to reach for the heavens and be all we can be according to our abilities and our willingness to work without interference from a Federal bureaucracy, and that is what we have been saying for 59 days.

These people must get off our backs and quit taking our freedoms away.

Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to consider all of the things that we have accomplished. On the first day of this Congress we passed reforms to make this body more responsible, to limit the power of the committee chairmen who for years, along with the Speaker have run this government, who had dictatorial control during their Democratic regime.

We have cut the number of staffers, just like we said we would, and we have eliminated funding for the caucuses, just like we said we would. We have made this body more open and more re-

sponsible, all the while every day the Democrats gripe and complain.

Mr. Speaker on January 26 we took a step in this body that the vast majority of Americans asked us to do. We passed the BBA, the balanced budget amendment, after trying for years, and I cannot tell you how excited I was that night when over 300 Members of this body cast their veto giving us finally a balanced budget amendment.

It was exciting because the number was 300, in fact because it was a bipartisan effort, Members from both sides of the aisle finally realized that in order to get this Congress to have the guts to do what they are supposed to do there was no option left but to change the Constitution. Three hundred Members of this body voted for it. And this will basically restore fiscal sanity and bring us back from the brink of disaster that we peer over, and we do.

It was a vote to save the children of this great Nation from a daunting future ahead of them, it was a vote to save my granddaughter from a very uncomfortable future. We did the right thing. I know we did. And even though the amendment did not pass the Senate yesterday, I know we in this body did what we said we would do. We did what 80 percent of the Americans in this country asked us to do: We passed a balanced budget amendment.

And I know that you are watching, I know that the American people are watching, they are watching C-SPAN in greater numbers than any time in the history of C-SPAN. They will remember who stopped this amendment.

They will recognize that those in the Senate who voted against this amendment, though, said just a year ago they would gladly vote for a balanced budget amendment were some of the very same people that cut Social Security benefits to our senior citizens just last year by a tax increase; yet this year they say, no, we cannot have a balanced budget amendment because it might affect Social Security.

The American people will remember the names of those who voted for the amendment last year and against it this year. The American people will remember. And there will be, ladies and gentlemen, there will be accountability for defeating the will of the majority.

All the while a small group of Democrats in this body cried about the precious programs that they would lose because of a balanced budget amendment. It is almost as if these programs are more important to them than the fiscal security of this Nation.

We heard much the same arguments when we passed the line-item veto and the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. With the line-item veto we gave the President the same power possessed by most of the Nation's Governors. We gave the President an important tool in our fight against the deficit. We released the States from a choking grasp of unfunded Federal mandates and all the while the Democrats fretted that

we would take the power away from the Federal Government.

Ladies and gentlemen, the power in this country is the power within the people's lands, not a Federal Government. In these 59 days we have made great strides in improving the quality of life in this Nation. Our crime bill, for example, will give local law enforcement the power to attack crime only as they know how. The National Security Restoration Act will ensure that no American soldier in the service of this Nation will die at the whim of an Egyptian bureaucrat.

We have passed legislation to bring the massive regulatory bureaucracy under control, and thank God. We have released the American people from the mindless bureaucrats that inflict billions and billions of dollars of unnecessary burden on the American economy, large business, small business and all.

In passing these acts we have kept our promise to the American people. We have put in more hours, held more hearings, cast more votes than any previous Congress had to this point in recent history. We have shown this Nation, with the work that we have done, that the U.S. House of Representatives can be an effective legislature.

We have shown the American people that Government can get the important business of this Nation accomplished. And we are going to accomplish still more in the next 41 days.

In the next 41 days we will reform the legal system to make our system more responsible and reduce the dragging effect that frivolous lawsuits have on this Nation. We are going to pass term limits to make legislators value public service over professional politics. We will take steps to treat seniors equitably with the Senior Citizens Equity Act, and yes, we will make reforms of our morally bankrupt welfare system.

And we will continue to hear the guardians of the old order whine and cry as we dismantle the system that they created over 40 years. We will continue to hear Democrats tell the American people how the Federal Government always knows best, as they did in the unfunded mandates debate.

We will continue to hear the Democrats say that local officials cannot be trusted to do the right thing, as they did in the crime bill debate. We will continue to hear the Democrats fight to save the power of the Federal bureaucrats, as they did in the regulatory reform debate.

It is offensive to me to sit here and listen day in and day out as they trumpet the capabilities of the bureaucracy to make our life better, as they clamor for the necessity of a bureaucracy that lives in our daily lives from the minute we get up to the minute we go to bed.

□ 1600

The hardworking folks back at home know better. The Federal Government has never been the cure-all the Democrats would like for you to think. The Federal Government is more often than

not a nightmare waiting to happen to the hardworking people of this Nation.

The American people know better, and that is why the Democrats are in the minority today.

Ah, but now, Mr. Speaker, they have finally found a way to disguise this bankrupt argument that the Federal Government knows best. They have found a way to disguise their love of the Federal bureaucracy. We are now beginning to hear arguments that Republicans are out to starve the American children. Mr. Speaker, this is utter and complete nonsense.

I was on this floor last night for 1 hour listening to one lie right after the other about our nutrition programs, lies told by people who know better. If the American people knew how much the Democrats are willing to distort the truth to save the bureaucracy, they would be absolutely outraged. Yes, we are combining many nutritional programs into block grants; yes, we are sending the moneys back to the States where the teachers and the dietitians and the superintendents know best.

But, no, we are not sending less, we are sending more. We are increasing the funding because it involves children. But if you listen to the other side, you do not get the truth. Mr. Speaker, it is exasperating to have to put up with the rhetoric the other side hurls at us. I voted in committee to increase the funding for child nutrition programs, to increase the funding child nutrition programs are getting. Yet people are calling my office worried that we are gutting these programs. Why? We are not. Where do they read such things? Where do they hear such things? It is not happening.

We are increasing funding and eliminating the wasteful Federal bureaucracy to help get more money to the States, more money for food, not for bureaucrats. The charge that we are cutting funding is patently false. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, Americans should consider why Democrats have sought to distort reality to protect Federal bureaucrats. Could it be, Mr. Speaker, for financial reasons? Could it be because Democrats receive millions and millions of dollars in campaign funding from bureaucrats? Could it be because these contributions to Democrats outnumber contributions to Republicans by a margin of 9 to 1?

Could it be that Democrats have a vested interest in protecting Federal bureaucrats?

Mr. Speaker, I would simply ask that the American people look at the facts. It is a fact that we are putting more money into child nutrition, it is a fact that our bill dismantles part of the Federal bureaucracy and it is a fact that Democrats receive significant campaign contributions from Federal bureaucrats.

All I ask is that the American people consider the facts.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress will continue to do what is best for America, this 104th Congress will. We will con-

tinue to keep the promises we made to make this Nation a better place, even in the face of distorted arguments made by the other side.

Mr. Speaker, if the Democrats really cared about children, they would stop fighting to save the bureaucracy and engage in an honest discussion about how to improve our welfare system.

For the good of this Nation, I surely hope they will join us in doing what is right for America.

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

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ARCHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes on March 8.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today and on March 7.

Mr. SOLOMON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DICKS, 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. BROWDER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Ms. MCKINNEY.

Mr. FARR.

Mr. FOGLIETTA.

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. WARD.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Ms. ESHOO in 11 instances.

Mr. COLEMAN.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. MCDERMOTT.

Mr. OBERSTAR.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Ms. MCCARTHY.

Mr. RAHALL.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. PORTMAN.