

home there will be less food. In the morning when they wake up there will be less or no food, and when they go to school there will not be any breakfast program at the school for them.

How are they going to learn on empty stomachs, their stomachs growling and turning around and churning because they have not gotten the nutrition that they need?

The majority party, quite simply, does not care if poor children in this country eat or not.

Is the majority party taking this mean-spirited approach in order to reduce the deficit? Oh, no, Mr. Speaker, not to balance the budget, not to reduce the deficit, but to give a tax cut to the wealthy. How callous can you get, taking food from children to give fat cats more money?

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Let us look at it. These young children out here, we have got a man and a wife working part-time, making a little over minimum wage. They are making about \$20,000 a year, \$19,000, \$19,000 a year. They are scraping by. They have got two kids. They are eligible for food stamps. In some ways they are eligible for a reduced price for the school lunch.

But when they pass their bills on welfare reform, they call it, those folks are not going to get anything.

Well, they say, hey, we are going to give you a \$500 per child tax cut. That is what we are going to do for you.

But for that couple, folks, and those children, that \$500 is zip. It is nothing, because it is not a refundable tax cut. So they do not get a thing.

But what they are doing is, they are saying, those kids, you do not need any help, because your parents are making all of \$20,000, you do not need any help.

You know what they say who really needs the money, folks? Who really needs that money? Well, under their tax bill, the man and wife who are making \$200,000, \$200,000, they are going to get, for those same two kids, they are going to get \$1,000; \$1,000 is what they are going to get. And they tell you those people making that \$200,000 need it. They need it for their kids. But the one making \$18,000, \$19,000, they do not need anything, they need less. And that is what they are going to get from the majority party.

You know why they say that \$200,000 couple needs that money, that thousand dollars for their kids? They need it so they can be the leaders of this country, so they can go to Harvard and Yale and all those other places and they can sock the money away. So if you have ever seen Robin Hood in reverse, just watch the next 35 days, America.

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

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

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, from yesterday morning into the wee hours of this morning, for 15 hours, the Committee on Agriculture marked-up title five of the Personal Responsibility Act. That bill, with great reductions and many restrictions on feeding hungry Americans, is now poised for consideration on the House floor. Leadership of the committee is to be commended for eliminating the mandate for block granting the Food Stamp Program.

A State option on block grants, however, remains in title five and will be an issue on the floor. Also, during mark-up, the committee accepted my amendment, which requires persons 18 to 50 years old, those who must work for food stamps, to be paid at least the minimum wage for their labor. Without my amendment, the bill would have forced many food stamp recipients to work for less than 1 dollar an hour. The agriculture committee was wise to support the amendment. But, with action by other committees, the block grant issue continues to loom large and will be hotly contested during floor consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge our colleagues, as we consider the block grant issue, to recall their days in school. Recall the importance of a hearty breakfast and a healthy lunch. Recall the necessity of the mid-morning and mid-afternoon milk or snack break. Recall the sense of urgency each of you felt the first time you experienced the pangs of hunger. And, recall how the ache of not being fed in your stomachs prevented you from being fed in your minds. Mr. Speaker, this debate is not about party or politics or pocketbooks. This debate is about our young, and our old. This debate is about strong bodies and clear minds. This debate is about the future of this Nation. Understanding the future, however, sometimes lies in remembering the past. Recall the infant mortality rate in America before the WIC Program. That rate has been lowered by as much as 66 percent, in some cases. WIC works. Babies don't die today like they died in the past, because we invested in life. Recall the fact that since the Institution of Nutrition Programs, the gap between the diets of low-income and other families has narrowed, significantly. Stunting has decreased by 65 percent. Anemia has dramatically improved. Low birthweights are down. Mr. Speaker, it is easy to forget. Members of Congress dine at some of the finest restaurants. Eating is taken for granted. Hunger is unknown. But, while it is easy to forget, it is dangerous to fail to remember. This Nation is strong because we

care for our weak. Every citizen is important. All can make a contribution. But, none, who is hungry, can participate or contribute in any meaningful way. Even those incarcerated in our jails and prisons, throughout the United States, are assured of three square meals a day. Surely, our children and seniors should get nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I have been increasingly concerned about how rapidly we are making major and dramatic changes to the way our Government functions, indeed, many of our colleagues have commented on the pace of this Congress. It seems that we are emphasizing quantity at the expense of quality, and, more importantly, at the expense of the American people. The U.S. Constitution has been amended just 27 times in more than 200 years, yet this Congress has proposed several new amendments in less than 50 days. Moreover, in the space of fewer than 3 months, we have proposed a balanced budget amendment, passed unfunded mandates legislation, proposed a Presidential line-item veto, rewritten last year's crime bill, passed a plethora of regulatory reform measures, acted on defense spending and national security matters in a couple of days, considered term limits, welfare reform and rescissions, and we are now in the midst of tort reform. In our rush to meet an artificial, 100-day goal, it is a fair question to ask, are we hurting more than we are helping? Consider an article which appeared in today's New York Times. When the Personal Responsibility Act was marked up by the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the language passed resulted in 57,000 children of military families being denied access to the State feeding programs that would be established. To restore this feeding program for the military, it will cost the Pentagon more than \$5 million for meals and another \$5 million for administrative costs. It seems, Mr. Speaker, that we profess to want a strong military, yet we pass legislation that will cause military children to go hungry. These actions are either mean spirited or grossly negligent. Either way, America suffers.

I urge my colleagues to stand up against nutrition program block grants. Let us demonstrate that a wise and thankful Nation really does remember.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, the House will take up comprehensive, real and historic welfare reform. The object of that bill will be an historic and fundamental change in the direction of our welfare policy, away from a failed system that is destroying the poor and towards a system of relief