

significantly or dramatically without affecting the quality of life of all of us. We all live in America and as they are affected, we are also affected.

If poor become poorer in our society, the resources from those of us who are affluent and rich certainly will be drained. If poor people are not involved in the mainstream of our economy, the mainstream of America will suffer as a consequence of that.

In our blind rush to change things, it seems that we are ignoring these changing factors. To review some of these changes, let's consider that again according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the low-income elderly will be the hardest hit by a rescission. Why? Because the low income energy assistance program will be eliminated from these cuts. More than half of a million senior citizens will no longer have assistance in the cold of winter for heating purchases.

Also the low-income housing assistance program will also be drastically reduced. Poor children will be hit very, very bad by this bill. Excluding the housing and the energy assistance programs, \$5 of every \$6 proposed for the cut will affect children and youth. Children and youth thus far will face a double hit, because they also are assisted by the assistance for housing and also for fuel assistance.

More importantly, to receive no assistance means that low-income families with children must bear a disproportionate burden. The availability of housing for the poor will be made far more difficult if, indeed, the rescission package goes through.

These are fundamental changes in the quality of life of our citizens. While poor children will be cold, they may also be malnourished. Despite facts and statements to the contrary, more cuts in nutrition will indeed, occur, Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the opposing side is saying that that will not happen.

Consider this fact: The WIC program will be cut by \$25 million in this rescission package, even before we get to the welfare reform next week. So to suggest that we are not cutting, we are going to make sure that children, pregnant women, and the very small suffer the most.

Why are we doing this? Where is the rationale for making these drastic cuts? In a sense, Mr. Speaker, we are imposing unfunded mandates on the States. I submit to you, by cutting these funds we are shifting the burden from the Federal Government to the States. And it will be, indeed, the expectation of the poor and those who have come to rely on these, they will now go to the States or to their local Governor expecting them to bear up this burden.

The States will have very little, I suspect, in responding to those who are cold in the winter, who are ill-housed. Therefore, Mr. Speaker we should not be doing this.

Funding for safe and drug-free schools, as my colleague has just mentioned to you, will be drastically cut. Some \$482 million will be lost, including \$9 million, Mr. Speaker, from my State of North Carolina. And for those lucky enough to receive training, they will not have jobs to go to because transportation will be cut.

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the rescission bill really is a contract for disaster for poor people in America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.) the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Pour down upon us, gracious God, the mercies and the judgments of Your word. Where we have missed the mark, grant us correction; where we have denied Your spirit and gone our own way, grant us forgiveness; when we have spoken the truth and done good works, give us encouragement; when we feel alone or in need of Your healing care, grant us Your abiding peace. We place before, O God, our prayers and the secret petitions of our hearts asking that Your word speak to us in the depths of our being. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HASTERT] objects to the

vote on the ground that quorum is not present and makes the point of order that a quorum is not present.

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on the question will be postponed until 5 o'clock this afternoon.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FUNDERBURK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF REVIEW PANEL OF THE OFFICE OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAYS). Pursuant to the provisions of rule LI, the Chair appoints to the review panel of the Office of Fair Employment Practices the following employees of the House of Representatives: Ms. Elizabeth Haas, legal counsel, Office of the Clerk; and Mr. Randy Johnson, workplace policy coordinator, Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will require Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the Congressional budget.

We kept our promise.

It continues that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we kept our promise; unfunded mandates legislation—we kept our promise; line-item veto—we kept our promise; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we kept our promise; national security restoration to protect our freedoms—we kept our promise; Government regulatory reform—we kept our promise; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits—we kept our promise; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for middle-income families; Senior