

what each of them will do to the children of America.

First off, taking food from children. The welfare bill that we will have before us later this week when all is said and done with the various block grants on nutrition programs will mean a loss over the next 5 years of \$6.5 billion compared to what would have been provided to hungry and needy kids. Where all does this take place? Well, in the very, very successful program for women, infants and children, early childhood care, we will have a cut that will deprive over 400,000 needy families that were otherwise entitled to help under the WIC Program.

School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs under the new block grant, even if fully funded at the authorized level, will be almost \$2.5 billion below what would otherwise have been required under existing law, a really penny-wise and pound-foolish strategy given all of the data we have about how effective these school feeding programs have been in improving learning in this country.

Food stamps will be cut by over \$14 billion over the next 5 years under the welfare bill that will be coming up under Republican sponsorship, changes that would take food stamps away from over 2 million Americans over the next 5 years and reduce the level of support to the participants that remain.

At the level estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to be necessary to carry out the revised program if unemployment remains low, we would have those kinds of deficits in coverage, but just think what happens if the economy slows down and more families with children become eligible for assistance? And also keep in mind, and it is a sad statistic but one that puts this in perspective. One in five children in America today depends upon food on the table from the food stamp program.

Passing on from nutrition, which is certainly a central issue, to day care. Under the welfare bill that will be coming up from the Republican side, we will be cutting funding for child care programs by almost \$2.5 billion over the next 5 years, or a 20-percent drop compared to where we would be under current law. Sadly, for all the talk about how important it is to move welfare families on to work, to free them from dependency, unlike the current law, the bill that the majority party would bring to the House will have no requirement that in States that have work requirements for welfare, no requirement that these families also get child care. Again parents will be put to the Hobson's choice of no good child care but requirements for work in order to remain eligible for any kind of assistance to their children.

This bill will also greatly unravel the general safety net for kids in this country that is represented by aid to dependent children. Again, even if fully funded at authorized levels, which is a

big question given the resort to annual appropriations rather than entitlement status, nearly \$12 billion is to be cut compared with levels projected under current law. As the gentleman from Massachusetts commented a few minutes ago, it is truly a sad commentary that this bill will require that we deprive kids who happen to be born into the wrong kinds of family of any prospect for assistance when they are in need. The changes in the AFDC Program are estimated to leave something like 1.3 million needy children without assistance by the end of the century.

It is even worse when we look at disabled kids now entitled to some help under the Supplemental Security Income, where changes proposed in this legislation would cut nearly \$11 billion over the next 5 years. Within 6 months, over a quarter of the 900,000 kids that now depend on SSI would lose assistance.

This is not good for America. It represents a perverse desire that in order to relax the capital gains tax formula for people over \$100,000 a year, we are going to water down the baby formula for poor kids on WIC. Instead of putting money into the lock box for deficit reduction, we are going to have a tax cut that puts it into the safety deposit boxes of the wealthy.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Personal Responsibility Act. With this act, we will make tremendous strides in changing the incentive structure to make people more responsible for their actions. We will bring an end to the failed welfare system that has done so much more harm than good over the past 30 years. And we will do so over the objections of those who refuse to see the disaster that the system has become.

Mr. Speaker, can anyone seriously argue that the welfare system has been a success? The welfare system was supposed to be a safety net. Instead it has become quicksand that few people ever return from. Of familiar now on AFDC, 65 percent will remain on welfare for at least 8 years. The average length of stay for people on the rolls at any given time is 13 years, 13 years. And what do we as a nation expect in return for supporting people for years and years? Nothing. We have no real work requirement, job-training requirement, or education requirement for people receiving welfare.

Mr. Speaker, the welfare system has caused the disintegration of the family. Fathers have become irrelevant, replaced by a welfare check as the family provider. In 1965, 7 percent of children in this Nation were born out of wedlock. In 1990, 32 percent of children in this Nation were born out of wedlock.

Could welfare have possibly been more destructive to the family? Mr. Speaker, as we study the welfare system, I am absolutely certain of one thing—we could do nothing worse than to preserve the current welfare system.

Mr. Speaker, the Personal Responsibility Act is about changing incentives. It is about forcing people to take responsibility for their actions. Unlike the current system, after 2 years on welfare, you will go to work. Unlike the current system, if you are under 18, you will not automatically receive a check for having a child. Unlike the current system, if you are on welfare, having an additional child will not automatically mean another check. Unlike the current system, if you father a child, we will find you, and you will take financial responsibility for your child.

The Personal Responsibility Act will give the States the ability to deal with these issues, and it will remove power from the hands of Federal bureaucrats. Contrary to the Democratic myth, in the area of child nutrition, we are increasing funding by eliminating the costly ransom taken by Federal bureaucrats. We will give the States the opportunity to make real change, as in Wisconsin where welfare payments were reduced for those who left school, and high school drop-outs returned to school to finish their degrees. We will give the States opportunity to get tough as in Michigan, where a serious work requirement for welfare recipients met with harsh criticism from liberals, and now the welfare rolls have fallen to their lowest level in 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge the other side to join us in an honest debate about the failed welfare system. I ask you to join the debate about changing incentives and forcing people to take responsibility for their actions. But I realize some of you cannot accept my challenge; I know that some of you are too dependent on the protecting the role of Government; to you I say this: If you can do nothing more than defend this morally bankrupt system, if you can do nothing more than obscure the facts in a desperate attempt to protect the status quo, well then I would have to say I feel sorry for you. Because the American people are calling out for change, and they expect more than weak and spurious defenses of a failed welfare system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, to defeat the forces of the failed status quo, to confront those who will distort the truth, and to do what is right and long overdue for America.

CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS POSE THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. BROWDER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWDER. Mr. Speaker, I was not surprised by yesterday's nerve agent incident in Tokyo. Now I am concerned about what might happen here in the United States.

Let me read, Mr. Speaker, from a special inquiry which I chaired in 1993 dealing with the growing threat of chemical and biological weapons. One of our conclusions was,

The prospects for chemical and biological terrorism have probably increased as terrorists and sponsors of terrorism acquire chemical and biological warfare agents and weapons. As a consequence, the possibility of terrorist use of such agents against the United States or one of its allies cannot be discounted and should not be ignored. The United States should strengthen emergency planning to respond to a potential terrorist use of chemical or biological weapons.

Well-trained and equipped military personnel can survive and fight a chemical war, but civilians cannot deal with chemical attack. Chemical weapons have been called the poor man's atom bomb because they are cheap and easy to make and because civilians are thoroughly panicked by chemical weapons.

Look at today's headlines.

The Washington Post, "Nations Unready To Thwart Mass Poisoning."

The Washington Times, "Subway Gassing Called a Preview of Terrorist Future."

USA Today, "Transit System Alert Urged. Officials Fear Copycat of Japanese Gas Attack."

The New York Daily News says, "New York's Subway Riders' Nightmare. We Have No Plan."

Mr. Speaker, it is only a matter of time before terrorists, extortionists or deranged individuals and groups targeted Americans. That is why I am asking American defense intelligence and emergency preparedness officials to tell me and the American people just what our Government is doing to prepare for chemical and biological terrorism here in the United States.

TAX RELIEF AND REDUCED SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman that just spoke is quite right, and I think looking at old George Washington over there, he would have agreed that defending the country is primary in our interest. I think old George would also have agreed that we don't need welfare, and we don't need high taxes. In his day, there wasn't any income tax.

I stand here to tell you that a promise we made to the seniors that we would give them tax relief by eliminating the 85-percent tax on Social Security is in jeopardy. A promise we made to married couples that they would get relief from the marriage penalty is in jeopardy. A promise we made to give

the people the option of using their IRA's to buy their first home, send their kids to college or help pay their medical bills is in jeopardy. And a promise to families to provide them with a \$500 per child tax credit is in jeopardy.

Why? Because some of your Congressmen on both sides of the aisle want to lower the income level from \$200,000 down to \$95,000. It disappoints me that we have to have an income gap, but it irritates me that some Members want to lower it. Every single American deserves tax relief and it is preposterous that even the Members who signed the Contract With America are now reneging on the promise they made to the American people.

Believe me, I have heard the arguments. "Tax cuts are for the rich. They will increase the Federal deficit." Those are false statements. They really are. Those arguments are shortsighted and they have no concern for our current tax burden that is placed on every American taxpayer.

Did you know that in 1950, the typical American family with two children sent \$1 out of every \$50 it earned to Washington, DC? Last year, just 25 years later, that same family sent \$1 out of every 4\$ it earned to Washington, DC.

A family with five children making \$200,000 a year is not rich. Besides, whose money is it, anyway? We are not taking it back from the Federal Government. We are giving it back to the people who earned it, you the voters, the constituency, the people of America.

The Government did not work to earn the money but I will bet you for sure the Government sure knows how to waste it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose these questions to the American people. Are you taxed too heavily? Do you deserve tax relief? Do you believe the Government spends too much? Finally, do you believe that Republicans should keep our promises?

I urge each of you to call your representatives and let me know you support this bill. Pick up the phone right now and make your Congressman accountable. Tax relief combined with spending reductions will revive America's strength.

WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we had a member from the majority side a few minutes ago talking about joining the debate on welfare reform. I would be more than happy to join the debate with him, talking about the fallacies of both the original H.R. 4 that was introduced but also the H.R. 1214 that we are considering today and this week and which reminds me, since

last year I heard from so many talk show folks about, I wonder how many of those people have read H.R. 1214 who are now talking about it as the greatest thing since sliced bread?

It is not as big as some of the bills we have considered but it is almost 400 pages and I hope that some of the proponents who talk about how great it is have had a chance to read it, like some of us have who were on the committees who dealt with it.

The school nutrition program will be hurt if we pass the, what is now H.R. 1214. The Republicans' shell game continues with our children hanging in the balance. As this flier states, "When It's Budget Cutting Time, You Always Shoot at the Easiest Target." You can see how the impact of that will be when you talk about the WIC program, or you talk about the children's nutrition program.

Your argument should be that we do need to reform welfare, and I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but this bill that came out of both the Committee on Ways and Means and out of the committee I serve on was not a debate, it was just, "We have a plan and we are going to run over you as Democrats. We're not going to agree with you that we need to address children's nutrition through the School Lunch Program. We're just going to block-grant it. We're going to do what we want to do."

So there was not a debate. It was the majority saying we are going to do it the way that we want instead of really making it a bipartisan effort.

When I came to Congress in January, I thought that welfare reform would be a bipartisan effort, but I do not think we are going to see it today or this week because it has not been.

I agree we need to reform welfare. We need to take away the incentive of someone or the tragedy of a person being on welfare. But we do not need to cut the programs that provide the most effective safety net that we have for our children. We should require people to work. We should require a time limit about how long they are on there. We should require them to go to job training. We should require them to do all sorts of things. But when you take the school nutrition program and you say we are going to increase the authorization, whereas now a child shows up in school, they have a guarantee of that lunch if they are qualified and say we are going to authorize 4 percent more but next year in the Committee on Appropriations it may be cut and then we are going to let the State take 20 percent and spend it on something else because of the block granting. That is why this poster is so relevant: "When it's budget cutting time, the easiest target is a child."

Last week a colleague of mine from Texas talked about some of the highway demonstration projects in the rescission bill that were untouched. Yet we cut AmeriCorps, we cut job training, and most of these projects were