

America. Moreover, this agreement will usher in a new era of commercial launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and will be a catalyst for greater private industry investment in commercial space activity across America.

Mr. Speaker, many people deserve thanks and credit for going the extra mile to work out this lease agreement. As we have discovered once again, when the national interest is involved—in this case the U.S. commitment to commercial space—both sides of the aisle can come together to do what is best for America.

#### REPUBLICAN RADICAL APPROACH TO CUTTING SCHOOL LUNCHES

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, as I traveled around my district over the weekend, I met with school administrators who are concerned about what is going to happen to the School Lunch Program under the Republican radical approach to cutting school lunches.

One of the biggest things that became apparent to me as I traveled around and talked to people, and I asked people what they knew about the Contract With America, I found very few that ever heard of it and about two or three of all the people I talked to even knew anything about it.

It seems all these speeches that are being given here every day about this contract are not soaking in back home.

One thing they did ask me about invariably, wherever I went, what has happened to the NEWT GINGRICH investigation? What happened to the book deal? What happened to the COPAC investigation? Why is not something being done about that?

That is what I hear about all over my district. That is what the people want to know: Why is not this House investigating the Speaker's actions and what he has done on the book deal and other things?

#### FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing wetlands legislation intended to replace section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Section 404 governs wetlands regulation and has long been in need of review and reform.

The new section would classify wetlands by their function and value, and balance the farmers' and landowners' property rights with the need to protect our Nation's functionally important wetlands.

I strongly disagree with the current wetlands regulation process. The

congressional section 404 is a bureaucratic quagmire that fails economically, constitutionally, and environmentally: Local development is constrained to spare the destruction of marginal wetlands, private property rights are ignored as Government declares citizens' property unusable, and State programs offer little to no incentive for local land owners to preserve and enhance vital wetlands.

The new legislation surpasses the current 404 program in many ways. Most importantly, the legislation recognizes that not all wetlands are the same. Wetlands would be classified into three types with the most valuable class being more strictly regulated than under current law. The middle class would be treated similarly to current law, but benefiting from the injection of a new balancing approach to the system. The third class, which provides no wetland functions and values, would be virtually unregulated.

The legislation also makes important strides in recognizing the rights of private property owners. For farmers, prior converted cropland would not be included within the scope of the wetlands regulation. Furthermore, land owners, who have lost the right to use a portion of their land due to a Government taking, would have the option to seek compensation at fair market value and transfer that the title to the Government, or to retain the title to the property land abide by the prohibition established for type A wetlands.

In addition, the legislation also provides for the protection and growth of our Nation's most functionally important wetlands. First, States are required to develop mitigation programs to enhance wetlands growth. Second, this legislation expands the list of activities that require permits in type A wetlands.

For all of these important reasons, I am pleased to offer this bill to the House.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, as one of the authors of the Violence Against Women Act, I was proud to join President Clinton at the White House earlier today to announce the appointment of former Iowa Attorney General Bonnie Campbell to direct the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice.

The Violence Against Women Act, which passed with strong bipartisan support, is the first comprehensive Federal effort to fight violence against women. Long before Nicole Simpson was a household name, violence against women was one of America's most serious crime problems and most hidden secrets. Unfortunately, our local agencies were often inadequately trained, or hindered by scarce resources, and unable to tackle the problem.

Today, we say, "no more." Funding will begin to flow to the States to bolster their law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services that address violence against women. A national family violence hotline will be established. As a result of the rape victim shield law, which prevents abusive inquiries into one's past, victims will no longer be the ones put on trial. And individuals convicted of certain Federal sex abuse laws will be ordered to pay restitution to their victims.

Crimes against women are rising much faster than total crime.

Today we say, "no more."

#### REPAIRING A BROKEN WELFARE SYSTEM

(Mr. RIGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, our welfare system is broken. It encourages dependency, destroys initiative, and robs the poor of hope. As Ronald Reagan said,

You cannot create a desert, hand a person a cup of water, and call that compassion. And you cannot build up years of dependence on government and dare call that hope.

We need to break the cycle of dependency created by four decades and several trillion dollars of Federal payments. We need a welfare system that encourages personal responsibility, that requires work, and that gives States more flexibility to solve their own unique problems. This is not just a matter of fiscal responsibility, Mr. Speaker. For the sake of the people this Government has locked into a dehumanizing welfare system, we need to begin offering a hand up, not a hand-out. This is what the Republican welfare reform plan is all about—caring for the truly needy, while empowering people to help themselves. That is the American spirit, Mr. Speaker, and it is time we restore it to our welfare system.

#### WELFARE REFORM: REJECT THE REPUBLICAN PLAN

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer. Over the last 15 years the top 5 percent, the richest people in our country, have seen their income and assets grow tremendously. The bottom 20 percent, the poorest people, have seen their incomes drop. The middle has been frozen in the same place for that entire period of time.

What does that have to do with welfare reform which we are discussing today? The Republicans' block grant approach freezes welfare at the 1994 level for the next 5 years. At the same time, they propose a \$190 billion tax