

cut, 70 percent of which will go to the rich. Well, their philosophy is take from the poor and give it to the rich. That is what they are proposing to do.

We should reject this welfare reform proposal and reject this reverse Robin Hood approach that the Republicans are advocating.

REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM ENCOURAGES RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Personal Responsibility Act, because the current welfare system has been an utter and complete failure. The welfare system encourages people toward three extremely harmful actions. First: Don't get a job. Second: Don't get married. Third: Have children out of wedlock—repeatedly. The current system subsidizes each of these behaviors with a check from the Federal Government. Only the Federal Government could have designed such a destructive system.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will make real change in the system. It will change the incentives to encourage people to get a job, get married, and be responsible in having children. All the while, we will hear the cries from Democrats who are so wrapped up in defending the morally bankrupt welfare system that they fail to see its destructive nature.

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DEMOCRATS SEEK WELFARE REFORM THAT MOVES PEOPLE INTO THE WORKFORCE

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to my Republican colleagues by saying that there is nothing in this welfare reform package of a Personal Responsibility Act that says that we are going to send people to work. What the Democrats have said all along in our debate in the subcommittee and full committee is that we want to link welfare to work. We want people to be able to work, and we want to have a program that will assist them and move them into the workforce. I say to my colleagues, "You punish children, and you are just plain mean to children in this country, just for one purpose, and that is to say to the wealthiest of this Nation that we're going to pass you on a tax cut." It is wrong in the Personal Responsibility Act, for the Republicans to bring it to this floor, to be so cruel and to penalize children in this Nation at a time that we ought to be trying to protect our children because they will be the next generation that will carry this Nation forward.

REPUBLICAN WELFARE BILL PROMOTES FREEDOM AND REWARDS DETERMINATION

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, that is exactly what is wrong here, the Federal Government in control. They want to control our lives and every aspect of it. As my colleagues know, George Washington over there did not want welfare, he did not want taxes.

This week another historic debate is going to begin; another 40-year-old broken welfare program will end. Today the Republicans are going to bring forward a welfare bill that promotes freedom, rewards determination, and establishes self-esteem. Today mean-spirited Democrats, uncaring Democrats, will try to stop reform, cruel Democrats now defending a system that promoted dependency, rewarded complacency, and established self-defeat. They are the ones defending big government.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we believe in our Constitution. We believe that States, not the Federal Government, should be given the flexibility to design a program that will fix the problems that are unique to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, let us not just talk about ending welfare as we know it. Let us do it. Vote "yes" for America. Vote "yes" for welfare reform.

WELFARE SLOWLY DESTROYS THE WILL TO PERSEVERE

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the welfare system has been called a waste, it has been called inefficient, it has been called a destroyer of families, and it has even been compared with slavery. I would argue that these criticisms are largely accurate.

To those who would defend the current welfare system, I challenge them to go outside the Capitol Building and walk around the streets of the District of Columbia or almost any major city in America. Here one can see the results of the welfare culture. Crime, corruption, teenage pregnancy, children without fathers, poverty, unemployment, and on and on it goes. In other words, an almost complete breakdown of community.

The problems that the District and other communities face are not because too little money is being spent on welfare. They exist because welfare creates a perverse set of incentives that suffocate the dignity of work and slowly destroy the will to persevere.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans have promised to not only reform welfare, but to replace welfare. We are committed to the belief that people are more important than government and that strong

children are better than strong bureaucracies.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Hallen, one of its Clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 889. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions to preserve and enhance the military readiness of the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendments to the bill (H.R. 889) "An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations and rescissions to preserve and enhance the military readiness of the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes to the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HATFIELD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GORTON, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. REID to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOOLITTLE) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
Washington, DC, March 21, 1995.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelop received from the White House on Friday, March 17, 1995 at 4:35 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he notifies the Congress of his intention to designate the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a beneficiary for the purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences.

With great respect, I am
Sincerely yours,

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

EXTENSION OF GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES' BENEFITS TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-47)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States, which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without