

moneys that we can save should be going to deficit reduction, and I would certainly encourage the gentlemen when those amendments are offered and certainly when we talk about the lockbox aspects of putting those moneys towards deficit reduction, that we will see that.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Reclaiming my time, I note with interest the gentlewoman from Arkansas preceded me in this Chamber by one term, part of the 103rd Congress, I know not her voting record personally, but I do not know the former majority is on record as voting for the largest tax increase in history, a tax increase which hit so many Americans in the wallet as to be just grossly unfair, and went on with the gasoline tax the average impact of which being in excess of an average of \$400 per year in additional energy payments for every family in America, regardless of their socioeconomic status. So I would contend with the lady and my other good friends on the other side of the aisle, I do not believe we can tax ourselves to prosperity, and nor, although there are certainly some noble aspects to the notion of a deficit lockbox, I believe we have to return the money to the people who earned that money in the first place.

If I could speak for just a few moments on the 5 minutes I have, I thank my good friends on the other side for their restraint. I would also add that I certainly welcome tonight's meaningful dialog in stark contrast to the hysterics we heard earlier today.

I mentioned that earlier today during the debate I cannot for the life of me understand why anyone from any political party would choose to compare their opposition to the Third Reich of Nazi Germany or to slave holders. I believe that was inexcusable, but I welcome certainly the tone tonight which has changed.

You and I just happen to have a difference of opinion. I think we also have a different interpretation on some of the numbers, but let me yield in the interests of fairness to my friend from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I just want to say that we have also seen three consecutive years of deficit reduction. I would just like to encourage the gentleman to make sure that he knows that there are those of us who are speaking out for deficit reduction.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Reclaiming my time, I would point out that deficit reduction came at the expense of hard-working taxpayers who would like to keep more of their money in their own pocket, and if we cut taxes and cut the deficit and build this economy, then that will be the answer for everyone including those trapped right now in the prison, if you will, of welfare, and a system that is broken, and we all agree is in need of some radical change.

We asked for that type of change, and that is what we are working to do with your majority bill, H.R. 4. We welcome your thoughts on it, but we would ask

you to take a much closer look at the numbers you purport with reference to the Federal lunch program. One is tempted to recall the words of our good friend from California, "There you go again," not talking about the real numbers. We call for increases in the school lunch program of 4.5 percent over the next 5 years, an increase over 5 years of \$1.1 billion in expenditures, and we are getting the job done while we are hearing a lot of rhetoric.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYWORTH. I yield to my friend, the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman very much.

I would like to reference your remarks where you just said there was an increase in school lunch program, and I want to, and I appreciate the time to respond to that, there is not an increase in the school lunch program. There is a cut.

Mr. HAYWORTH. The gentlewoman has to understand how on Earth can you increase a program, now, in fairness, if you are saying there is a reduction in anticipated increases, I would certainly contend that is an interesting way to define a cut.

Ms. PELOSI. I wish the gentleman would wait until my time so we can continue.

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

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

THE CURRENT WELFARE SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK

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

Mr. PAYNE of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about something that I think we all agree upon. There has been a lot of discussion, a lot of debate today, and it seems that one thing that we do agree upon is the current welfare system simply does not work, and instead of requiring work, it actually punishes those who go to work. Instead of instilling personal responsibility, it encourages dependence on the Government, and instead of encouraging marriage and family stability, it penalizes two-parent families and rewards teenage pregnancies.

We all agree welfare must be drastically changed, and that welfare should only offer transitional assistance leading to work, not leading to a way of life.

Now, I am one of the cosponsors of the Deal substitute, and we are committed in our bill to making some pretty major changes. Our bill is the only bill that will be considered which en-

ures that its savings are used for deficit reduction.

Now, I think that is an important goal that many of us share, and our bill is the only bill that ensures that our savings will be used for that purpose. We support welfare reform that emphasizes work. It emphasizes personal responsibility. It emphasizes family stability.

The Deal substitute imposes some pretty tough work requirements while providing opportunities for education and training and for child care and health care to support working people.

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It provides States with the resources necessary in order for welfare reform to succeed without shifting costs to local governments or without creating unfunded mandates, and it gives the State the flexibility to design and administer welfare programs they need without sacrificing accountability of the Nation's taxpayer's dollars. We believe that real welfare reform must be about replacing a welfare check with a paycheck.

The Deal substitute's time-limited work first program is designed to get people into the work force as quickly as possible by requiring all recipients to enter a self-sufficiency plan within 30 days of receiving their benefits.

The Republican welfare bill allows recipients to receive cash benefits for up to 2 years before they are required to work or even to look for work.

The Deal substitute also encourages welfare recipients to leave welfare for work by providing adequate funding for safe child care and by extending transitional medicaid assistance from 1 year to 2 years.

The Deal substitute provides the necessary resources for welfare recipients to become self-sufficient, but it also requires recipients to be responsible for their own actions by setting clear time limits on benefits. No benefits will be paid to anyone, and this is extremely important, no benefits will be paid to anyone who refuses to work, who refuses to look for work or who turns down a job.

In addition to making individuals responsible for their own welfare, we demand that both parents be responsible for their children. The Deal substitute includes the toughest child support system ever to make sure that the noncustodial parents simply don't walk away from the children that they helped bring into this world.

The sponsors of the Deal substitute recognize that in order to reform welfare States must have the flexibility to design and administer welfare programs that are tailored to their unique needs, to the unique characteristic of their States. And we believe that States should not have to go through any cumbersome Federal waiver process in order to implement innovative reforms in their welfare programs.

The Deal substitute, in fact, puts into place a Federal model for the work

first program, but it really encourages States to develop their own work programs. And, unlike the Republican bill, the Deal substitute does not remove some existing mandates only to replace them with different mandates regarding payments for children born on welfare or payments to teenage mothers.

I believe that the Deal substitute offers the best approach to welfare reform. It takes a tough approach by setting time limits, and it requires people to be responsible for their own actions. It provides the necessary resources for welfare recipients to realistically achieve self-sufficiency, and I believe that the Deal substitute is the only welfare reform bill which gives the American people what they really want, which is a plan that makes work the number one priority, individuals responsible for their own actions, and welfare reform that gives the States the flexibility they need.

I thank the gentleman. I am sorry I am out of time.

WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. WATERS] is recognized for five minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have said maybe on two occasions today that this is one of the most important debates that this 104th Congress will be engaged in, and it is important for us to understand what we are about to do here.

I know there are a lot of unhappy folks in this country, unhappy about the fact that there are too many families and too many children on welfare. I know that most people want change.

We must be fair in our representations about who wants change. Republicans want change. Democrats want change. Workers want change, and recipients want change. I think it is one thing that we can agree on.

No one has the corner on wanting reform. We would all like to see reform in the system, and it is absolutely incorrect to say that the President or Democrats did not have a bill, did nothing about reform.

The President had a comprehensive piece of legislation that he attempted to get into this Congress, the 103d Congress, and we got caught up in the health debate, and it turned into a nightmare, and there was not the opportunity to move on welfare reform as the President had planned. So it is not true that the President did not want welfare reform.

The difference between the Democrat and Republicans is the question of implementation. How will we do welfare reform? Will it be a plan that will offer real opportunities for people to get off welfare or will it simply be a plan to punish folks because for whatever reasons they have found themselves on welfare?

I think it is time for us to try and speak about this in a language that the

American public can understand. No, they don't really understand block grants and waivers.

Let's put a face on this discussion. We are talking about, for the most part, just plain old poor people and working people. We are talking about people, some of whom were born into situations through no choice of their own that keeps them locked into the cycle of poverty, and there have been no real guidelines, rules by which they can get out of the cycle of poverty.

We have some folks who work every day, and they are poor. They can't take care of their families. They need food stamps. They need some help with their health care needs.

And so these are real people. These are not pawns that should be used by politicians to gain favor with people who are very vulnerable at this time. This should not simply be a political issue where some politician stands up and says vote for me. I am going to save you money. I am going to get rid of all these bad people.

And we should not have politicians simply defining all of America's problems by talking about the welfare state. And we certainly should not have politicians who talk about taking America's children and putting them in institutions, in orphanages.

We need to talk about these problems in a real way. Yes, there are teenage pregnancies, too many of them, and most of us don't like the idea that babies have babies. But we live in a society where sex is glamorized, where it is promoted, where it is expected. In order for young women to be looked upon with favor, they must be sexual. Young women are sought after by young men and old men, some of them in their neighborhoods, some out of their neighborhoods, some of them who are poor young men who have not very much to offer, some of them politicians and others. We know what is going on in American society.

We need sex education. We need jobs. Jobs have been exported to Third World countries for cheap labor. We need jobs for educated people and not-so-educated people. We need a better education system. We need to deal with the root causes of this problem, and we need to build into welfare reform the real opportunity for people to become independent by offering real jobs, job training and child care.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

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

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day in American history. The Republican Majority, with brute and brutal force, has begun a process to undo a half century of laws—laws that have taken this Nation from the depths of depression and malnutrition to soaring

heights of health. This process threatens the very strength of America. Federal nutrition programs were first started when it was realized that many of those poor upon whom we depended to join the military and defend us came to the job undernourished and poorly fed. If they could die for America, we reasoned, we should feed them while they were young.

This Personal Responsibility Act is irresponsible. It is irresponsible, for many reasons. I want to share five of those reasons with you. First, this Bill penalizes children. It penalizes children because, beginning immediately, fewer children than we now help and who need our help, will be helped. More than fourteen million children will receive less in food stamp benefits. More than six million children, born to younger mothers, will be denied benefits altogether. More than three million children, who do not know their fathers, will get reduced benefits, through no fault of their own. But, worse yet, more than 700,000 of those disabled children who received benefits last year will not receive benefits next year, under provisions of this Bill.

The Republican Majority will say they are making the system more efficient. The children born to children, without fathers and with disabilities, will simply suffer.

Second, this Bill has unfair work requirements. Because it does not clearly define the amount of compensation for the requirement to work, it could mean eighty hours of work for sixty-nine dollars in benefits—less than a dollar an hour. That is not fair. That is not just. That is not humane. At the very least, forced labor should require payment of the minimum wage. The Republicans will say that these workers may get a package of benefits worth as much as ten thousand dollars a year. That is deceptive. What about those who do not live in public housing? What about those who do not receive Medicaid? What about those who only get food stamps? What about child care costs? Those recipients will be forced to work for compensation far below the minimum wage. That does not encourage self-sufficiency. Third, the Bill puts people off welfare, without putting them to work.

Time limits for benefits, without job opportunities will not work. If an individual is able to work, we must insure that a job is available. Fourth, reasonable child care options should be a part of any work program. The Majority recognizes this by offering an amendment to increase the amount of money in the Bill for child care. But, the amendment falls far short. Under the Bill, there is a twenty percent cut in child care, affecting some 400,000 children. The amendment, if it passes, will put a small dent in those affected children. And, finally, but certainly not least, The Personal Responsibility Act creates block grants out of federal food assistance programs, thereby shifting the burden of nutrition programs to