

the States. Instead of one nutrition standard, we will have fifty different standards. Instead of promoting our children-our future-we punish them.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Majority has the votes to force this Bill upon the American people. But, what they want and what we want are clearly different. They want block grants. We want healthy Americans. They want cheap labor. We want fair labor. They hurt children. We want to help children. They call the seventy billion dollars in benefit reductions "savings". We call them "cuts". They want to use that money to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans. We want to use that money to give a break to the children of America. They want change. We want change. Their change is mean and cruel and will cause misery. Our change is for improvement. We want to put people to work, get them off welfare, prevent teen pregnancy, nourish infants, feed needy children and prepare our young for a productive future.

When the record of this period in our Nation's history is written, we want it said that we took people off welfare and put them to work, at a livable wage. We want it said that we fed children in their stomachs so that we could feed them in their minds. We want it said that while some wanted to hurt the people, reason prevailed, and we helped the people. I urge my colleagues to reject the Personal Responsibility Act. It is irresponsible.

□ 2230

CHILD NUTRITION IN THE WELFARE REFORM BILL

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today utterly and totally appalled by what I am reading in the bill H.R. 1214, the so-called "Personal Responsibility Act."

If this bill passes, and it just might—judging by the rapid-fire way this and other ill conceived "Contract With America"-inspired legislation is making its way on and off the House floor—the GOP itself should be held "personally responsible" for creating a measure that could create the specter of millions of hungry American children.

Let us take a close look at what will be cut and, if I may, let us use South Carolina as a case study on just how these cuts will affect some of the nation's neediest children.

First, the bill proposes to cut almost \$70 billion over 5 years in low-income assistance programs. As a part of these cuts, the bill will end the entitlement status of all federally funded child nutrition programs in lieu of State block grants, for the States to do what they will.

On the surface, this may sound like big government savings. But a closer look at this bill reveals that these sav-

ings are being made at the expense of our children.

On the chopping block are school breakfast and lunch programs, summer feeding programs, the special milk program and the commodities portion of school nutrition programs.

In South Carolina alone, the absence of the school lunch program could mean that 400,000 children will be denied what may well be their only balanced meal of the day.

Further, the bill repeals the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, better known as WIC.

In South Carolina, the WIC caseload is close to 124,000. WIC has been proven to be highly successful in meeting nationally standardized nutritional needs of women and children.

All totaled, South Carolina would receive \$96 million less in Federal funding for the school lunch and WIC programs.

Also on the cutting board are food stamps. This bill will cut spending by \$20.3 billion in the Food Stamp Program over 5 years. This portion of the bill would impose a rigid cap on food stamp expenditures, with no adjustments for inflation. It would also require certain recipients to go to work without providing any funds to States for job creation.

This portion of the bill would affect over 350,000 food stamp recipients in South Carolina and the State would receive \$174 million less in Federal funding for food stamps over 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I have had a steady stream of visitors to my office in the past few weeks—bipartisan visitors—from the South Carolina PTA, the South Carolina Guidance Counselors, the South Carolina Food Service Association, the South Carolina Dietetics Association—people who are horrified at what this bill contains because they know first-hand what the true affects would be on children if this measure were to pass.

What is the impetus behind the GOP trying to pass a measure that has raised the ire of such diverse groups as the National School Board Association, the United States Conference of Mayors, the American Heart Association and the National Education Association?

Why are they so bent on passing a plan that would literally take food out of the mouths of the Nation's young?

It is not secret that Republicans intend to use the revenues raised from cuts to welfare programs to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

Well, this "steal from the poor to pay for the rich" Robin Hood-reversal scheme has come under fire from all corners.

And the fact of the manner is, even though the Republicans would like to pretend that welfare mothers and their children are the bane of the Federal budget, the realities do not bear them out.

For even if the entire welfare program were totally cut today, it would make only a dent in deficit reduction.

So, this mean-spirited attack on welfare, and in particular, this hatchet job being waged against child nutrition program, is totally unnecessary and will not make any significant cuts in the Federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, when this 104th Congress began, much reference was made to the orphanage heralded in the movie "Boys Town" as a model for the Nation on how to deal with children born to poor mothers.

Now, the Draconian measures proposed in this bill brings to mind another movie image, that of young poor and hungry "Oliver Twist," his small child's hands cupped, standing before a scowling orphanage director, piteously pleading, "More, sir?"

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

SACRIFICES IN THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, we have debated for many hours today on the welfare reform bill, the so-called Personal Responsibility Act, and it is a very important piece of legislation indeed.

The Republicans say that this bill is about sacrifices. And indeed there are going to be 5 million families, and in those 5 million families there are 9.5 million children who are indeed going to make some sacrifices. Because for each one of those families, for each of the next 5 years on average, they will use nearly \$2,000 worth of income and food and care for children while the parents go to work and care for abused children and such.

And every one of those 5 million families has under \$15,000 of income at the