

BUILDING BRIDGES

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read this morning a poem from Bill Bennett's book of virtues. It is entitled "The Bridge Builder."

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

(By Will Allen Dromgoole)

This poem speaks of each generation's responsibilities to its successors.

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Mr. Speaker, balancing the budget is not some mean-spirited accounting exercise. It is about preserving the American dream for future generations.

OUR FAILED WELFARE POLICIES OF THE PAST

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

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, the current welfare system is the \$600 toilet seat of social policy. In fact, it is worse. At least after spending \$600 on the proverbial toilet seat, we actually got one that did what it was supposed to do. You cannot say that about welfare.

We spend and we spend and we spend. Yet the problems we set out to solve 30 years ago have only gotten worse and worse and worse.

Illegitimacy and teen pregnancy have exploded, leaving in their wake drug abuse and crime. Family breakdown is a national crisis. Moral confusion and antisocial behavior is rampant.

Welfare has failed children more than anyone. Children on welfare do worse in school. They tend to have other developmental problems. They are three times more likely to end up on welfare themselves.

What a perverse and cruel form of compassion that encourages children to have children, and then condemns them to a dead end cycle of government dependency.

We could not consciously design a system that is more cruel to children which is what makes the liberals' defense of this current system all the more perplexing.

Hell hath no fury like a special interest masquerading as a moral principle.

GO AFTER THE CHEATS, NOT THE CHILDREN

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

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the American people want us to fix the broken welfare system. There is too much fraud and abuse in it, especially in the Food Stamp Program. But they want us to go after the cheats, not the children.

A U.S.A. Today editorial the other day, not a Democrat or a Republican 1-minute speech, said this about the Republican proposal:

Today if people are thrown out of work by recession and their children's nutrition is jeopardized, Federal school lunch aid rises. The GOP plan erases that protection. It could divert up to 20 percent to other programs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, this welfare bill does an amazing thing, it unifies the Children's Defense Fund and the Right to Life Organization who both oppose this bill because it is extreme and it is coldhearted to our Nation's children.

HELP—I'VE FALLEN AND I CAN'T GET UP

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

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, help. I have fallen and I cannot get up.

For 5 million families, the average length of stay on welfare is 13 years. The Democrats have coated the social safety net with glue and millions of Americans are crying for help to become unstuck.

Republicans want the social safety net to be a trampoline off of which people can bounce to new heights.

We simply want to return this money to the State level where people can be helped the most. We don't cut it, we send it back.

Democrats do not trust the States. But it is these same Democrats who are standing in the doors of the Nations ghettos, refusing to let people out.

I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, "Get out of the door. Give people back their dignity by providing them with hope, independence, and opportunity." They want these for more than a handout.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NUTRITION

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, you know being a nurse you understand the importance of nutrition. It did not start with chil-

dren. Poor nutrition was recognized back during World War II when we found that our soldiers were not quite prepared and when they looked for the reason it was because they did not have proper nutrition. So it stands to reason if our soldiers were not prepared without proper nutrition our children simply cannot be. They cannot be healthy adults unless they have access to some nutrition as children.

We have heard that the nutrition programs for children will not be cut. I simply want to call our attention to this graph. If it is not going to be cut, then what does this mean? If it is going to be cut, this \$13.6 billion dollars, \$7 billion to bring it up to \$13.6 billion by the year 2000, when it should be \$15.9 billion, is that a cut with more and more children eligible for school nutrition?

We must look after the health of our children to have a healthy Nation. We are not asking for welfare for adults. We simply want attention being given to our children. Do not punish the children for what parents do not do.

THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has spent \$5 trillion in the last 30 years creating a safety net for the needy. Unfortunately, that net has become more like a spider web—trapping the poor, destroying lives, and crushing hopes and dreams.

The Personal Responsibility Act is an attempt to create a welfare system that really works—a system that provides a helping hand but also encourages work and self-reliance. This bill increases money for WIC and school nutrition, provides more direct resources for child care and child protection services, and allows resources to go directly to the poor—not bureaucrats. And it will end the perverse incentives that drive illegitimacy, destroy families, and punish work.

The time has come for us to recognize that there is dignity in work—not dependency—and create a welfare system that provides a hand up rather than a hand-out. Vote for H.R. 4.

AN APOLOGY DUE WELFARE MOTHERS

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this morning a Republican Member of this body, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. CLAY SHAW, was shown on national TV making a most irresponsible and outrageous statement disparaging welfare mothers by saying, and I quote, "You wouldn't leave your cat with them on the weekend."

CLAY SHAW owes the welfare mothers of this country an apology. How dare him single out welfare mothers and refer to them in such negative terms. There are responsible people in all segments of our society and there are irresponsible people.

Some politicians are responsible and some are irresponsible. Mr. CLAY SHAW falls in the category of the irresponsible.

There are many solid responsible welfare recipients who love and care for their children, who attend church on Sunday, who work part-time jobs, who search for jobs, who attend schools in an effort to better themselves.

Welfare mothers and fathers, it is time to speak up. Call NEWT GINGRICH at 202-225-0600 and tell him to help you with a job.

□ 1030

IN SUPPORT OF THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Personal Responsibility Act.

This bill releases the welfare trap by empowering recipients to take charge of their lives and work their way off welfare.

The current system provides little incentive for individuals to work. As a result, only 20,000 individuals on AFDC are working in paid jobs. By rewarding recipients who remain idle and punishing those who try to lift themselves out of poverty, the current welfare system is trapping families in a life of dependency.

It is wrong to deprive individuals the dignity of work. The Personal Responsibility Act promotes work and requires able-bodied adults to work in exchange for their benefits. By 1998, one parent in at least 90 percent of two-parent AFDC families will be required to work. By the year 2000, 2 million single AFDC parents will be working.

The Republican welfare bill embodies the principles that make our Nation strong and provides hope, opportunity, and independence to those unfortunate Americans trapped in the current system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PROPOSALS IMPACT ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, the Republican contract continues to cut and slash our child welfare programs and other essential-type programs which have never been accused of fraud or abuse.

The Republican bill simply goes too far. It eliminates many good, worthwhile programs which benefit pregnant mothers, infants, children, and the elders.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Republican welfare bill is a crude and cruel bill which is going to hurt many helpless Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as most Democrats, I, too, am in favor of a prudent, well-thought-out welfare reform bill. When it comes to cutting out welfare fraud and fat, I was one of the very first Members of this body to call for an investigation of the SSI welfare program which is referred to in the press as crazy checks or dummy checks.

But not since the Biblical days of King Herod have our children been in such grave danger. But unlike King Herod, who went only after the male child, the Republicans have targeted all of America's poor children.

Mr. Speaker, it is necessary for the Democrats to save our future, to save our children, to save America.

ENACT TERM LIMITS THIS YEAR

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for term limitations which this body will take up in the very near future.

Term limits will assure that new people with new energy and new ideas will come to serve in this body and serve the American people. Term limits will assure the intent that the Founding Fathers had of having people from the various districts come to this city and this body and serve with distinction the cause of good government and make a contribution to politics and good government, not to have a career here.

Term limits will encourage more people to serve in this body, to serve in Congress and run for Congress. Term limits will eliminate the automatic election advantage that incumbents have that perpetuates their existence.

Let us follow the example of Abraham Lincoln and the example of many States in this country which have adopted term limits.

Abraham Lincoln served one term. Let us follow his example and enact term limits this year.

IMPACTS OF THE REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM PROPOSAL

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to change our welfare system, and I was 2 years ahead of the curve in calling for reform of the current system.

But, Mr. Speaker, welfare reform should not mean help denied.

If this plan my Republican friends propose passes, in South Carolina 400,000 schoolchildren will be denied a

lunch; in South Carolina, 20 percent of our children with disabilities will be denied SSI; in South Carolina, 5,000 additional children will receive less Federal child care assistance; in South Carolina, the State stands to lose \$522 million for programs to help children.

Mr. Speaker, if this program is approved, over 60,000 people will be denied much-needed assistance.

FOOD STAMP BLOCK GRANTS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today an important amendment will come before us, an amendment that will block-grant food stamps and complete the historic transformation of the Democrat-created, heinous, disastrous, and destructive Federal welfare system.

We must pass this amendment to ensure that the Governors have all the tools they need to create welfare solutions for their States. Without this amendment, our work here will be incomplete.

Two out of three committees responsible for change stood fast and fulfilled their promise to the States, giving them the flexibility they need, but unfortunately one committee did not.

Food stamp block grants will repair that weak link and provide the States with the means to completely break down and bury a system whose time has long since come and gone.

Our Governors want, need, and deserve nothing less than full welfare reform.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEAL SUBSTITUTE

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

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Deal substitute which approaches welfare reform head on by moving people from welfare to work. Under the Deal substitute, each individual must sign a contract which requires them to begin a job search immediately. Benefits would be terminated for any individual who refused to work or refused to accept a job. States would have greater flexibility to develop and administer welfare programs. By providing transitional medical assistance, the Deal substitute provides concrete incentives needed to ensure that a welfare recipient is better off economically by taking a job than by remaining on welfare. The Republican approach has no requirement for work. Even worse, the Republicans would slash the School Lunch Program to fund tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy. The Deal substitute explicitly provides that all savings would be applied to deficit reduction. Mr. Speaker, the American