

people—who are truly concerned with improving the welfare system by encouraging work, not abandoning people—are seeing through the charade. I urge my colleagues to vote for genuine, constructive reform by supporting the Deal substitute.

WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE REDUCES THE BUDGET DEFICIT

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk for a moment about some children in my district. I would like to talk about the 20 students in Mary Mills' 5th grade class at Oconee County Intermediate in Watkinsville, GA. When I was sworn in, the share of the national debt owed by Mary Mills' class was \$365,000. Since I have been here, a total of 80 days, they have incurred another \$2,500 of debt. Mr. Speaker, everyday we are spending away the future of those children. Our welfare reform package does significantly reduce the budget deficit. My colleagues on the other side continue to whine and wail that we are hurting children. Some of my more irresponsible colleagues continue to compare our welfare reforms to Nazi Germany. Mr. Speaker, someone has to speak up for the children of the next generation. I would ask my colleagues on the other side one simple question, how will we be able to do anything for our children when we bankrupt this Nation? We can do nothing worse than to keep our current system.

WELFARE AND NUTRITION REFORM

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

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the real stories, not just the stories made up in people's minds, real people at home.

Here is a family, a husband, two teenage boys, one 11-year-old with cerebral palsy; husband works near minimum wage, Social Security for disabled child, receives food stamps. Says hardest time is last week of the month; never skips meals, but makes do with noodles and bouillon or grilled cheese sandwiches. She always worries that the kids are not getting enough protein and fresh vegetables. She feeds the kids first, then she eats, sometimes she does not eat. Delays bills to pay for food, had water shut off; a local program provided turkey and fixings last Christmas, also blankets and other things.

She says it hurts to hear that programs might be cut. She knows that some people sell their food stamps, and that makes others look bad.

She wants people to know that poor does not mean lazy. Her husband works, and she works hard taking care of her disabled son.

Things were better about 6 years ago, when her husband had a good job and she was working, too. Then her mother died, and they almost filed bankruptcy.

Kathleen says she never thought her family would be poor, but is thankful for the small things. "I always tell my kids that we are not as bad off as some people. They should feel fortunate to have a roof over their heads."

WELFARE PROGRAM

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the American people want us to get on with repairing our Nation's broken welfare system. They know, as we do, that what was intended to be a safety net has become a tragic snare for generations of our fellow citizens.

Today, Republicans will reform regulations on food stamps and commodity distribution. These are safety net programs that touch the lives of poor people every day.

Our food stamp proposals will target benefits to those who truly need them.

Our proposals will remove the humiliating piles of paperwork that now plague the poor in these programs. This means that resources now squandered on bureaucratic red tape will instead go to feed hungry Americans.

Mr. Speaker, our reforms reduce paperwork and regulations that weigh about this much to only about this much.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, our reforms will target our tax dollars where the American people want them—on the dinner tables of our Nation's needy children.

THE CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

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

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I went to Lloyd Street School in my hometown of Milwaukee on Monday. I had the opportunity to eat lunch with children who depend on the School Lunch Program.

Republicans howl at the suggestion that their bill to eliminate this critical program and block-grant child nutrition programs is cruel. But their actions are cruel to the children at Lloyd Street School and 13 million children across America who rely on child nutrition programs each day for a balanced meal.

Republicans argue their bill does not cut child nutrition programs, but according to the Congressional Budget Office, this bill cuts nutrition programs by as much as \$7 billion over the next 5 years. You cannot claim that you are spending more and spending \$7 billion less at the same time.

Republicans also argue that their program will cut bureaucrats and will not hurt kids. They are dead wrong. Any savings in costs would be retained

to pay for tax cuts and not sent back to help kids.

Mr. Speaker, today children in America are being asked to say no to many things, but it is dead wrong for Congress to ask them to say no to food.

SUPPORT THE TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT, RESTORE HIGHWAY TRUST FUNDS

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

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as Members of the freshman class, we were elected to restore accountability and honesty to Congress. We have a unique opportunity, indeed an obligation, to fulfill our promise. In 1969, the Federal Highway Trust Fund became part of the unified Federal budget. Since that time, taxes paid by users of the system for the express purpose of improving and upgrading our roads and bridges, have been buried in the budget, masking the true size of the Federal deficit.

Prior to 1969, the Federal Highway Trust Fund was an off-budget program. The pay-as-you-go system allowed repairs to be made as the money was collected. Today, a surplus has amassed at the expense of much needed improvements.

H.R. 842, the Truth in Budgeting Act, seeks to restore the Federal Highway Trust Fund to its original off-budget status. This will put an end to the budget gimmick of hiding the deficit at the expense of motorists. I urge you to join me and nearly 140 cosponsors in supporting H.R. 842, a bill that answers the people's call to improve America's infrastructure, and to make Government fiscally responsible.

A promise is a promise, and it is time for us to live up to ours.

SUPPORT URGED FOR THE DEAL SUBSTITUTE

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as the only former mother in this Congress that was ever on welfare with children, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support Deal substitute that we will be voting on today. I support Deal substitute because it offers welfare recipients a fair deal.

As long as there are jobs and recipients are willing to work and play by the rules, the Deal bill will invest up front in education, job training, and child care to ensure that recipients get into jobs and off welfare permanently.

Unlike the Republican bill that does not invest in work and punishes children, the Deal welfare substitute protects children. It also guarantees help if the State experiences a recession or a national disaster, times when the needs are greatest.

Mr. Speaker, the choice comes down to this: We either punish poor people who play by the rules, as the Republican bill would do, or we invest in them so that they can get off welfare permanently.

CURRENT WELFARE SYSTEM HAS NEVER WORKED

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days I have seen an uproar from the friends on the left regarding the restructuring of the welfare system. I hear phrases like "lacking compassion," "mean spirited," "cruelty to children." I am here to tell you that changing a system that does not work has nothing to do with lacking compassion.

What is lacking is maintaining a welfare system that has never worked and has only increased dependence to ensure the survival of a political party, lacking in responsibility, and, yes, lacking in compassion.

□ 1045

Yes, you know, in the last 30 years the Democratically controlled Congress has spent over \$5 trillion on welfare. In that same 30 years AFDC recipients have more than doubled, the number of single parents has tripled, food stamp recipients have quintupled, while these same Democrats stand up and yell about compassion.

Today I join my fellow Americans and say we have seen the kind of work compassion you have offered these last 30 years. Give people back their dignity, give them hope, not a handout.

Pass the Republican welfare bill.

THE SAFETY NET

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, the 104th Congress is not debating the fundamental restructuring of the failed welfare system. We have started one of the most important debates for the next generation. As a former elementary school teacher, I know and realize how important it is for the Congress to end the cycle of dependency and replace it with the dignity of work.

Mr. Speaker, we are ending a welfare system that is not compassionate and replacing it with hope and opportunity. We are ending a failed system and encouraging personal responsibility. These are ambitious goals yet they are achievable goals.

While we are making these changes to the welfare system, we also have to recognize that we will hit some rough spots. That is why our bill retains a Federal safety net called food stamps. This safety net insures that no American will go hungry while we change the system to bring opportunity and dignity. While we retain a safety net

we also require personal responsibility in the form of work.

I urge all to call President Clinton, 202-456-1414, and ask him why he is not joining us to change it.

GOODBYE MILK, HELLO KOOL-AID

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

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, while both parties support welfare reform, there is something terribly unseemly about the debate under way in the House. Well-fed speaker after well-fed speaker has gotten up and argued passionately for the Republican proposal which makes deep cuts in the nutritional program helping infants at home, toddlers in day care and kids in school.

My abundantly nourished Republican friends maintain they are not cutting anything. But the numbers tell quite a different story. The Congressional Budget Office, which they control, says more than \$22 billion will be removed from the nutritional spending. The only way you get this much money from nutrition programs is by sharply reducing the quality and nutritional value of these programs which help these kids who need them so badly. For kids all across the country, it is good-bye milk, hello Kool-Aid. I wonder how my comfortable, well-fed colleagues would like a diet like that for themselves?

A DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I too want to address the debate that is going on on the issue of welfare change. Only my position on this debate is that I am very disappointed in it. I am very disappointed in this Congress. This is the most important issue that we are going to debate in this whole entire 104th Congress. It is going to affect the lives of millions of people, even probably—or hopefully—will change the course of lives of millions of people.

But the debate has turned away from that aspect. The debate has turned to one of name-calling, finger-pointing, and distortion of the truth, all in an attempt to divide people of this country, to divide people by class, divide people by race, and divide people by nationality.

Mr. Speaker, that is wrong. And I can assure you that there is not one Member of this body who wants to do harm to any one child in this Nation. I hope the debate turns better.

H.R. 4 CUTS CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I hold in my hand H.R. 4, the Republican so-called welfare reform package. I urge everyone to read this, to read this and weep. Because in the attempt to improve the welfare system, which we all agree needs to be reformed, our Republican colleagues have cut—yes, cut—the children's nutrition programs that have been an entitlement for America's poor and hungry children for over 50 years.

Our colleagues on the Republican side will wave a CRS report that says they do not cut the School Lunch Program, but they are avoiding the issue. Because what we are talking about is the children's nutrition program, which includes school lunch, which includes the afternoon program and summer programs for children whose parents work and who need child care, something we are trying to encourage: work.

And if you just want to talk about school lunch, let's talk about that. The funds that this bill, H.R. 4, puts in here gives the Governors the authority to spend only 80 percent of the money. They do not have to spend 100 percent. They remove the entitlement; they remove the nutritional standards. Poor children lose a lot in this bill, which rewards the rich, cheats the children, and is weak on work.

I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, last night, during rollcall vote Nos. 257 and 258 on H.R. 4, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on H.R. 257 and "no" on H.R. 258.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 119, and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill H.R. 4.

□ 1055

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending, and reduce welfare dependence, with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 22, 1995, amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 104-85, offered