

and to reduce the burden of Government, which in turn reduces taxes for the American people.

States will have authority to design their own programs to lift the poor out of poverty and to give them hope for the future.

We can not deny this opportunity for the citizens of this country. Let us join forces to pass this pro-country, pro-responsibility, and pro-family legislation.

DEMOCRATS UNITE

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, last night Democrats united on welfare reform. We showed the American people that Democrats from across the country, from Mississippi to New York, from New Mexico to Maine, from left to right ideologically were able to come together and fight the Republican war against hard-working middle-class Americans and children.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of Republicans walking around with broken arms nursing their wounds because of the pounding they took from their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic plan says no work, no welfare. Our plan is tough on fraud and abuse in welfare. It cuts Federal bureaucracy and gets people back to work. It puts savings into deficit reduction for middle-class Americans and prevents Republicans from giving special interests a tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican contract with special interest America is collapsing. Democrats are back. Our contract is with hardworking middle-class America and we are going to keep it.

CHANGING THE WELFARE MESS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when President Clinton was a candidate, he promised to end welfare as we know it. But for the past 2 years, neither the President nor the Democrat-controlled Congress did a thing to change the welfare mess.

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Then came November, and the American people said it is time for a change. Now the Republican majority is doing something that the Democrats could never bring themselves to do. We are changing the current broken-down welfare system that traps people in a hopeless cycle of dependence into a system that offers hope for the future.

Tough work requirements, personal responsibility, and emphasis on the family. The change is here.

WELFARE REFORM

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the welfare reform legislation we have been considering this week has critical implications for our Nation's children. Coupled with the rescission package this body passed last week, and the promise of further cuts in programs for our children to pay for tax cuts for the richest percent of Americans, we are facing the complete dismantling of the safety net for children.

This past weekend, I held a town meeting in my congressional district to seek the views of those from the front lines who deal with troubled children on a daily basis on the consequences of the welfare reform package pushed by Gingrich and the Republicans. The rescission proposals. I heard from a broad spectrum of people—children's advocates, the educational and medical communities, professionals in child care and child protection services, the mayor of our largest city, parents and children themselves.

The picture they painted was one of abandonment—abandonment of the Federal commitment to supporting children and families. In these times when entitlement has become a dirty word, they graphically reaffirmed why entitlements exist, and how critical they are to the well-being of the children of this Nation. They also confirmed that we will be shortsighted, indeed, if we cut the fiscal lifelines that mean education, jobs, innovation, training, in our low-income communities, and our children will suffer more.

THE CONTRACT AND WELFARE REFORM

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, this morning we will pass the Personal Responsibility Act of 1995. This is by far the most sweeping and far-sighted piece of social welfare legislation to come out of Congress in the last 40 years. We not only provide a true safety net for those less fortunate in our society, but we do so in the larger contexts of fiscal accountability and personal responsibility.

We save hard-working American families \$69 billion, while putting more food on the plates of hungry children. This is the true spirit of our Contract With America.

Last November, Americans decided that they no longer wanted a government at odds with the people, but rather a government that worked in partnership with the people. A subtle yet striking difference in leadership.

This welfare reform package, and the contract as a whole, give the American people the leaner, more efficient, and dramatically more responsive Federal

Government that they demanded last November.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of this legislation, and I am proud of our contract. We are keeping our promises, and I believe that is what our democracy is all about.

MAKING WAR ON POOR CHILDREN

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

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans say that the war on poverty has been lost so they are making war on poor children instead. I have got to hand it to them, though, they do not just target welfare kids, the Republican contract on America cuts income and food stamps and school breakfast and lunches, and nutrition for young mothers and care for abused children, and day care for children while their parents work, \$50 billion in cuts for nearly 10 million families whose income is less than \$20,000 a year, both working families and nonworking families, the Republicans do not seem to care which, families where more than 20 million children get their start in life.

Are the Republicans using those \$50 billion to cut the explosion of deficits from 12 years under voodoo economics? Not on your life. They are using those \$50 billion taken from low-income families and their children to give tax cuts to the richest 2 percent of Americans.

Only in NEWT GINGRICH's America would taking \$50 billion from 25 percent of Americans and giving it to American millionaires be even thinkable.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY

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

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to talk to you about the drug taxol. Taxol was first used on a trial basis in 1983 to treat ovarian and breast cancer. Today, it is the most effective treatment for achieving remission in advanced ovarian cancer. It took researchers over 20 years, testing thousands of plant and animal extracts from all over the world to come up with a safe and effective compound able to kill cancer in humans. Now, taxol gives new hope to many of the women who suffer from breast and ovarian cancer, which now kills almost 40,000 women a year.

This amazing drug was originally derived from a tree called the Pacific yew. The yew tree is found in the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest and was once burned as scrap. It takes from 3 to 12 trees to provide enough taxol for each cancer patient. Each tree takes about 100 years to reach maturity.

It is important for us to see the connection between the Endangered Species Act, biological diversity, and taxol.

WHO IS IMMORAL AND WHO IS CORRUPT?

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, my dear friends and colleagues, yesterday I was attacked by one of my Republican friends as supporting a corrupt and immoral welfare system, and then he scurried off the floor. This morning, I was attacked by my Speaker for being wedded to an immoral welfare system. But it was not on the floor. It was in a plush hotel in New York City, being dined by some of the most successful businessmen that we have.

Mr. Speaker, wherever you are, whether it is old policy or Old Testament or New Testament, leave that beautiful hotel before you come back to your job and visit the lesser among us, visit those who are hungry, some without homes, without jobs, and without hope and see what is corrupt and immoral when we in this House have seen fit to cut from these people \$69 billion.

Is this to reduce the deficit, is this for our national interests? No, it is for special interests.

Let us see who is immoral and who is corrupt.

REINVENTING WELFARE

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

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, reinventing welfare has been tried six times. The result: More and more spending, less and less results.

Today we will decide whether we want so-called reinvented welfare or whether we want fewer individuals on the cruel cycle of government dependence. Today, we decide if we believe those in our local communities know better how to help their own communities or whether Washington knows best. Today we decide between ending the welfare entitlement mentality or spending more money to perpetuate the current cruel welfare state.

Those of us who are ready to end the failed liberal welfare system have to stand up and cast a tough vote. The defenders of the current welfare state will accuse us of being cruel, not acknowledging that the current system turns welfare clients into its victims. Our vote will begin the process of changing a cruel welfare system into a system of hope, independence and opportunity based on the dignity of work and personal responsibility. We must act today.

CONCEPTS IN THE DEAL BILL WILL SURVIVE

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, the Deal bill did not receive a majority of the votes yesterday but its basic concepts will survive, indeed prevail.

The potentially historic unanimous vote of Democrats on the Deal substitute resulted not only from hard work but mainly from its content.

In a word, Deal is mainstream, the House Republican version is extreme.

The status quo on welfare is dead; the question is what will replace it.

I predict that the version coming out of the Senate will be much closer to Deal than to the House Republican version.

As to work—the key to welfare reform—as the CBO has started, Deal will move people from welfare to work; the House Republican version is mainly a hollow promise.

Likewise on child and medical care for children of parents who should be required to move off of welfare to work.

The Senate also will not adopt the House Republicans' punitive provisions relating to children of teen mothers, second children; hundreds of thousands of seriously handicapped children; kids in foster care or up for adoption, as well as legal taxpaying immigrants.

Deal will indeed live another day.

SECRETARY CISNEROS SHOULD MAKE PUBLIC COPIES OF GIFT TAX RETURNS FOR YEARS IN QUESTION

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros had a reason to lie to the FBI when he told them that he never gave his former mistress more than \$10,000 a year unless he filed gift tax returns reporting higher payments. Federal tax law gives individuals a \$10,000 annual exemption from gift taxes to a single donee, or \$20,000 if the donor's spouse joins in the gift.

Secretary Cisneros ought to make public copies of all gift tax returns for years he gave his former mistress more than \$10,000. If he fails to do so, the Attorney General should broaden her request for an independent counsel to look into possible tax law violations by Cisneros.

A PROMISE OF SIMPLE DECENCY TO IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the chairman of the Ways and

Means Committee pointed with pride to ancestors who came here not with their hands out, but to work.

I must ask the chairman, did any of his distinguished ancestors receive free government land?

The great State of Texas was founded by pioneers drawn there by government land grants. For example, in 1838, Texas gave one John Archer more than a thousand acres in Shelby County.

I guess that is not welfare.

We remember this history with pride because such grants brought to our shores people who built not only the State of Texas, but the wealthiest Nation on Earth.

The time for free land is over. But as the son of immigrants, I ask from the sons and daughters of earlier settlers a simple promise to those who came later: If you come here legally, if you work hard, if you pay your taxes, and abide by our laws, and fall on hard times through no fault of your own, you will be eligible to help your sick child, or infirm wife. That is simple human decency. We do not want land, we just want fairness.

HELPING AMERICANS GET OFF WELFARE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, not long ago a fisherman off the coast of Savannah discovered if he sailed his boats to a certain spot each day and fed a school of dolphins that they would start gathering at that spot daily. Next he observed a lot of Yankees heading south on I-95 who had pockets and briefcases and purses full of money.

So, being an astute entrepreneur, he then put one and one together and he said, hey tourists, want to see some fish? For 20 bucks I will take you out in my boats. You will see hundreds of them, and for an extra 5 bucks I will throw in a fish head and you too can play Jacques Cousteau, and the tourists just kept pulling off I-95 and jamming the exit.

The fisherman was growing rich and the dolphins fat. Then enter Fish and Wildlife. Hold everything, they said, you cannot do this; you are making the fish dependent, you are disturbing their ability to fend for themselves. And they were right. It was not in the best long-term interests of the dolphins.

Question: Why do not we elevate people to the same status of dolphins? Let us consider what the welfare system is doing to our fellow man.

If the dolphin beaches itself, let us help it back out to the ocean. If a fellow American falls down, let us help him get back up, but let us not throw him in a hopeless mire of a welfare system that does not work.