

SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN

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

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I have listened these past few days with growing disbelief to the things said by Republicans about welfare and welfare recipients. I ask my colleagues: Do you live in the same America the rest of us live in? Get out of your warm cars. Do as I do; walk, walk, on the streets of America because you will see homeless on the streets of America, and there are thousands and thousands of children who are homeless, and they are hungry, and they are cold, and they are frightened, and they live in America.

I have read so many stories about how religious so many of the new Members are, how they go to Bible study and prayer meetings, and I say to them remember what Christ said. He said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

I ask you, no I beg you, remember that quote and not make the little children suffer any more. Put the children first, not this phony contract with the wealthiest of Americans.

Vote "no" on this cruel welfare bill.

□ 1030

SUPPORT REAL CHANGE IN WELFARE

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

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I am tired of the misleading rhetoric from the other side of the aisle regarding welfare reform.

They talk about real welfare reform. They talk about being mean to children. That is just incorrect.

They would have us believe that every welfare family is an "Ozzie and Harriet" family, the family next door, fallen on hard times. Ladies and gentlemen, those families will still have welfare available to them if they need it.

Welfare reform is aimed at those who are on it for generations and who use the rewards for their personal pleasure, not to help their children.

It is time that if you really want welfare reform you quit saying it and put your actions where your words are. Do not just say you really want change when you really want to just throw more money at a failed system.

WHAT SHOULD THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BELIEVE?

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans claim that they will spend 4.5 percent more money on feeding chil-

dren. They are outraged that we accuse them of cutting spending for kids.

But they have a problem. Because they also say they will spend less on food for kids—\$6.5 billion less over 5 years. They plan to use the \$6.5 billion to pay for tax cuts.

The Republicans say they are cutting bureaucrats, not food. But the entire annual cost to administer the Food and Nutrition Service is \$146 million. At that rate, if we do not spend any money on bureaucrats, it will take 44 years to save \$6.5 billion.

So what should the American people believe? The Republicans tell our children they are not cutting their school lunches, but they are using these savings to cut taxes for the wealthy.

I think the American people know what to believe.

HELPING THE PRESIDENT DELIVER ON HIS PROMISE

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

Mr. LAHOOD. This is it, America. Today is the day. We are going to pass welfare reform. We are going to give to the President what his own party for 2 years could not give him. We are going to give him the pledge that he made to all of America, the pledge that his own party could not help him deliver for 2 years. We are going to pass welfare reform and reform a system that has been lousy.

We are going to require people to work. We are not going to reward people for having more children. We are going to reform a lousy system.

For 2 years the Democrats have controlled this House, the U.S. Senate, and the White House, and they could not deliver on their promise. So today we will do that.

And I know that there will be those on their side that will join us as we pass welfare reform, because they know it is a lousy system, it does not work, and they want to help their President deliver on his promise to end welfare as we know it.

WELFARE REFORM: DO NOT PUNISH CHILDREN

(Mr. MASCARA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me that the debate over welfare reform has not been more bipartisan.

It is clear that a majority of Members on both sides of the aisle agree the current system is broke and needs to be fixed.

All of us agree benefits should be limited, that recipients should be required to find work, and that illegitimate births should not be rewarded.

But the proper way to resolve these problems is to reform the system, not

to punish children for the indiscretions of their parents.

And that is exactly what we stand ready to do today, punish children by cutting back vital nutrition programs which have proven over the years to be so successful.

Last Monday, I had lunch with students at Charleroi Elementary School in my hometown. One-third of the school's 780 children receive free or reduced priced lunch.

During my visit, I also presented a flag from over our Capitol to a fifth grade student who wrote a winning essay on "What It Means To Be an American."

The bill we are about to enact is un-American. It will ultimately cut funding and reduce the number of those children entitled to receive these lunches, in some cases their major source of nutrition for the day.

These children are our tomorrow. If we do not provide for them, we are turning our back on our future.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know this is not right. Vote "no" on H.R. 4.

Mr. Speaker, I include two winning essays for the RECORD.

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME TO BE AN AMERICAN

(By Jared Dumm)

I am proud to be an American because I live in the greatest country in the world. America fought hard to gain peace, freedom, and rights for all her citizens. I would like to describe what the letters in AMERICAN mean to me.

A is for America, the greatest, strongest country in the world.

M is for the monuments, built to remember our great leaders and events in our history.

E is for equality, which insures that, no matter what our color, nationality, or religion, we are treated fairly and equally.

R is for the respect and rights we have, including free speech, religion, press, and the right to assemble.

I is for independence, for which our armed services fought, so that we can stand united and strong against our enemies.

C is for the Constitution, the greatest document in the world, which protects and guarantees us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A is for our anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," which makes us swell with pride when we hear it.

N is for our nation, the best in the world, where we can live in freedom and peace.

For all the above reasons, I feel very lucky and proud to be an American.

WHAT IT MEANS TO ME TO BE AN AMERICAN

(By Holly McLoy)

I'm only eleven years old but my mother has taught me to love my country. I admire the customs and traditions of my country. It makes me have a feeling that I belong.

If I were raised in another country I probably would be a much different person. As an American I can attend the church of my choice. If I lived in another country I may be forced to go to a church not of my choice.

I have the freedom of attending public school instead of being forced to attend school separated from my family.

As a child I respect the American flag. It is very special to me. The flag represents the United States of America. When the flag passes in a parade I place my hand over my heart.

As an American I feel free I can do as I please, I can choose between right and wrong and tell the difference between good and bad.

I am proud to be an American. When I attended a parade in Belle Verion honoring all the men and women who served their country in Operation Desert Storm I was sad and happy at the same time. I was happy the war was over but sad for the ones that died. This occasin made me more aware that I was an American. America is a great land to live in.

REFORMING THE WELFARE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today is truly a historic day in the House as it is on the verge of doing what should have been done many years ago, reform a welfare program that does not work for the poorest Americans.

The Republican welfare reform bill will cap benefits and allow States to decide for themselves how to prioritize their resources. Our bill tightens up enforcement provisions against deadbeat dads, encourages welfare recipients to work, and discourages illegitimacy.

I have a message for the other side of the aisle and it is the same message the American people sent last November: The time has come to reassess the Federal Government's role in the lives of the American people. That means making the tough decisions and learning for the first time in Washington to say "No."

Mr. Speaker, our position is clear: The new majority is passing its contract. Bills that matter to the American people. Meanwhile, the minority is reduced to scare-tactics aimed at children and the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, the wheels are not coming off this contract, they are just beginning to turn.

THE LINE-ITEM VETO

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, have you seen the line-item veto bill that the Senate passed last night? In order to take care of their concerns, their legitimate concerns, that some of us in the House share about the potential unconstitutional nature of allowing a President a line-item veto, of allowing a President to reach inside of an appropriation bill and strike a section of it, in order to get around that constitutional provision, they passed a line-item veto bill which would require the President to veto not 1 of 13 appropriation bills that we would send him; we would now send him one bill for every item appropriated.

We would now, under line-item veto, send the President a minimum of 10,000 appropriations bills, 10,000 appropriation bills instead of the current 13.

I think that, instead of trying to find Rube Goldberg convoluted ways to subvert the Constitution, we ought to pay more attention to trying to discipline our own spending habits.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DEPENDENCY

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our current welfare system erodes the basic building blocks of our society, discourages work, destroys families, and forces reliance on the Government.

Just since 1989, the welfare rolls have grown 31 percent.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said in 1935, to dole out relief is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.

That is why we are here this week, to break the cycle of dependency created by the narcotic of welfare and restore hope and independence to millions of Americans. The Republican welfare reform plan would help able-bodied people come off welfare with job counseling, job training, and job placement.

It increases funding for school nutrition programs, day care for children, and WIC, and lets States decide how best to run their own welfare program. It eliminates discriminatory delays in adoption.

That is sound, compassionate policy, Mr. Speaker. It is time we applied the principles of family, work, and self-reliance that built our country. The Republican welfare reform plan moves us significantly in this direction.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren, let us reform welfare now.

CONTRACT AGAINST AMERICA'S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, last night we witnessed an all-out war waged by the Republican majority against the most vulnerable of our society, our impoverished children.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will tell us that block grants will actually provide more services for less money.

Well, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the American people that this is not the case.

Under the Republican plan, actual disbursement funds for school lunches and WIC programs will be cut by more than \$2 billion.

Over the past several weeks I have received thousands of letters, cards, and drawings from young children in my district, who under this plan, will be forced to carry the burden of tax cuts for the wealthy on their tiny

shoulders. They tell me how much they need these programs to grow up healthy and strong. They tell me that without school lunches they will go to school hungry and not ready to learn.

Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing an all-out attack on the most defenseless of our society by the majority party in Congress. We must make a stand against these callous actions. We cannot let the poor and the hungry in the Nation fall victim to this outdated and cold-hearted legislative agenda.

SUPPORT AND PASS THE NEW WELFARE REFORM PACKAGE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this country has spent \$5 trillion over the last 30 years on a system that has produced more people than ever in poverty. It is a broken system that teaches exactly the wrong things. It is antiwork, it is antiproperty, and it is antifamily.

Because of this system, we have condemned second and third generations to the same life of poverty, not only financial poverty but poverty of spirit.

People need to work. You cannot have self-esteem without accomplishment. You cannot have accomplishment without work.

Let us give our people hope, dignity through work. Let us pass H.R. 4, the new welfare reform package.

THE DEAL SUBSTITUTE SOLVED THE WELFARE MESS

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, everyone concedes, Democrat, Republican, and Independent alike, that the welfare system in America is a failure. My political party, the Democrats, should not be so proud that they do not concede that fact as well. But the Republicans should not be so spiteful or short-sighted as to believe that just ending or getting tough on welfare will solve the problem.

We have got to take people off of welfare and put them to work. That is why we had 205 Members, 1 courageous Republican, and all of the Democrats on this side of the aisle who voted, voted for the Deal substitute last night. Liberals, conservatives came together and said, "Let us put people to work."

Why does the Republican welfare reform bill fail when it comes to work? Because they will not invest money in education, training, day care, the obvious things you need to bring someone off welfare.

What do the Republicans do with the money they save from their welfare reform? They put it into a tax cut, a tax cut for the privileged few. Now, does that make sense?