

over federal subsidies to business—dubbed “corporate welfare”—now that they have cut funding for such social programs as job training, drug courts, vocational education, summer jobs for kids, housing for the poor and elderly and food subsidies for low-income women, infants and children.

San Diego’s freshman Republican, Rep. Brian Bilbray, was here recently and made the same promise: Subsidies are next on the block. However, he admitted that it might be a tough battle cutting some agriculture-related items, such as the \$500 million ethanol subsidy that goes mostly to one company in Illinois.

Big Ag greases the skids in Washington as well as anybody. The constituency favoring corporate subsidies has a lot more money for greasing than does the poor people’s constituency. So don’t hold your breath.

Here in California, federal subsidies are themselves a cash crop. Central Valley agriculture floats on the federal dole. Timber, mining and ranching operations also belly up to the trough. These are the same folks, by the way, who vehemently oppose any government regulation on their land. But they have no problem accepting a government handout.

Let’s take a look at some of California’s natural resource subsidies, starting with agriculture:

The Central Valley Project, a huge federal project that provides water to farmers in the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, has cost taxpayers between \$34 billion and \$70 billion since passage of the Reclamation Act of 1902, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Of the nearly \$1 billion spent just to construct its irrigation facilities, only about \$50 million has been paid back by users.

Central Valley Project water districts pay a fraction of the full cost of water. According to a 1991 federal study, Westlands Water District paid \$8 per acre-foot of water whose full cost was actually about \$46 per acre-foot.

Some federally subsidized water goes to irrigate surplus crops, which receive an agriculture subsidy. A federal study in 1986 found that California crops receiving subsidized water were also getting nearly \$500 million in crop subsidies.

One of the nation’s largest corporate farms, J.G. Boswell Co., tills about 192,000 acres in the Central Valley that are irrigated with federally subsidized water.

Farmers receiving federally subsidized water are negotiating contracts to sell that water to cities like San Diego—at market prices.

Besides water and crop subsidies, most Central Valley farms benefit from subsidized power from government-built hydroelectric dams to pump subsidized water to their fields. Some farms also receive millions to help market products overseas.

Over the last decade, \$1.3 billion in agriculture subsidy checks were mailed, not to rural areas but to major cities and their suburbs, where corporate farms and absentee farmers have their offices. San Diego received \$11.8 million, Los Angeles \$10.8 million and San Francisco \$13.9 million. Sacramento received \$102 million. A corporation based in Rancho Bernardo got almost \$1 million for a farm in Montana.

Those are only some of the agricultural subsidies in California alone. Imagine the cumulative sum we pay for the whole nation.

Then there are subsidies for grazing, mining and timber. Here’s a few goodies:

The National Forest Service alone incurred \$557 million in net losses in 1993 in timber sales, grazing leases and mining subsidies.

A 120-year-old mining law doesn’t require royalties based on the value of metal ores taken from federal land. The only payment for ownership of a claim is a fee of between

\$2.50 to \$5 an acre. A mining company holds a claim to a huge platinum strike in national forests in Montana estimated to be worth \$32 billion. The federal government will receive at most about \$10,000 for patenting the claims and acreage fees.

Ranchers pay \$1.86 a month per animal unit, which equals one cow and calf or four sheep, to graze on public land. The fee on private property is \$10 a month. Federal grazing leaseholders are allowed to sublease their land—at a substantial profit. Many leaseholders are huge corporate ranchers. One rancher in California leases 5 million subsidized acres in California, Nevada and Wyoming.

In California alone, the private use of publicly owned timber, grazing and mineral resources on national forest property resulted in a \$34 million net loss for taxpayers in 1993.

Not all public subsidies to business are bad. Some, such as certain research subsidies for medicine and science, return much greater social benefits than the original cash outlay could buy.

But providing millions of dollars to wealthy corporate farms? Giving away billions in valuable minerals and timber on public land? And perhaps worst of all, subsidizing the destruction of our forests, wilderness, grasslands and fisheries?

What do you call a public policy that does all that while at the same time slashes funds for summer jobs for kids? I can think of several words, but this is a family newspaper.

TRIBUTE TO THE NORTHWEST INDIANA HISPANIC COORDINATING COUNCIL

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the Northwest Indiana Hispanic Coordinating Council for their numerous contributions to northwest Indiana.

Founded on November 15, 1988, the Hispanic coordinating council is composed of leaders from over 40 different Hispanic organizations. These people have committed themselves to improving the quality of life for the Hispanic residents of northwest Indiana. Council president and cofounder Benjamin T. Luna has been instrumental in providing the Hispanic community with motivation and opportunities for excellence.

On April 8, 1995, the coordinating council will present honors to 42 top scholars and athletes throughout northwest Indiana. The council will also present their annual recognition awards to deserving individuals. The council will honor these distinguished people at a banquet which will be held at the American Legion Post 369 in East Chicago, IN.

The students who will receive awards for outstanding academic achievement include: Patricia Alvarado, River Forest High School; Albert Davila, Merrillville High School; Alyssa Diaz, Highland High School; Guadalupe Gonzalez, East Chicago Central High School; Jessica Herrera, Martin Luther King Academy; Tania Higareda, Clark High School; Maria Lule, Bishop Noll High School; Karla Madrigal, Hammond Morton High School; Xochilt Medina, Hammond Gavit High School; Becky Ramirez, Crown Point High School; Edwin Ramirez, Horace Mann High School; Robert Ramirez, Calumet High School; Jennifer Ramos,

Munster High School; Albert Rodriguez, Lew Wallace High School; Melissa Rodriguez, Hammond High School; Joshua Rodriguez, Griffith High School; Elvin Roman, Horace Mann High School; Aaron Vela, Lake Central High School; Cara Velez, Portage High School; and Brett Sweet, Lowell High School.

The students who will receive awards for outstanding athletic achievement include: Aeric Arrequin, Highland High School; Robert Avila, Andrean High School; Phil Benavides, Lowell High School; Juan Carlos Buezo, Lew Wallace High School; David Brugos, Clark High School; Arturo Corral III, Wirt High School; Jessica Figureroa, Merrillville High School; Victor Garcia, Griffith High School; Eusebio Gonzalez, Gavit High School; Jerome Hicks, East Chicago Central High School; Daniel Mayorga, Hammond High School; Jason Mendoza, Munster High School; Richard Mendoza, Hammond Morton High School; David Ortiz, Portage High School; Matt Rodriguez, Calumet High School; Vincent Rosado, River Forest High School; George Torres, Bishop Noll High School; James Torres, Lake Central High School; Erin Valdivia, Hobart High School; and Tom Zelaya, Crown Point High School.

Aisha Ceballos of Gary Emerson High School will be awarded both an academic and athletic award by the coordinating council at their annual banquet.

The council will also present the outstanding family award to Rafael and Doritila Fletes of East Chicago. This distinguished couple was carefully selected from many qualified families on the basis of their unity and dedication to one another’s successes. Ms. Eliza Vela will receive the community service award. The labor award will be given to Mr. Robert Flores. Mr. Francisco Loza, president of the River Forest and Lake Station School Corporation Dual District Bilingual and Migrant Education Program, will be awarded the president’s award. Finally, Ms. Maria DeLaLuz Murillo Tellez will be honored with the distinguished Caesar Chavez Award, in honor of the late charismatic president and founder of the United Farmworkers.

Media recognition awards will go to Mr. Michael Puente and Mr. Michael Gonzalez, of the Post-Tribune; Mr. Mark Arrendondo and Mr. Jose Alvarez, of the East Chicago News; Mr. Christian B. Candelaria, of the Herald News Group; Mr. Tom Gutierrez, Jr., of WJOB radio; Ms. Terry Serna, of La Voz Newspaper; Mr. Joe Arrendondo, of channel 56/WYIN; Ms. Sylvia Lopez, of WGN; and Mr. Carmello Melendez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other colleagues to join me in applauding all of the award recipients chosen by the Hispanic coordinating council. I feel that all of the participants are most deserving of the honors that will be bestowed upon them. It is my privilege to commend them on their achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 280 and 281 on H.R. 716 and

House Resolution 120, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "yes". I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following rollcall vote Nos. 280 and 281.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY, NY,
CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I have always been proud of the heritage and physical beauty of the 22d Congressional District of New York which I have the privilege of representing. It is for this reason, to savor the history and character of the picturesque towns and counties, that I return home every weekend.

We often forget, Mr. Speaker, that the real America is not Washington, but the small towns and villages where real people live and work. I would like to talk about a collection of such towns today.

On Saturday June 3d, Schoharie County, NY will celebrate its 200th anniversary. This county was formed by the New York State Legislature from parts of Albany and Tryon Counties in 1795. However, its history began long before this official action. The area was settled by German explorers in 1712 when they arrived from the lower Hudson Valley. This frontier region prospered with its rich farmlands, rolling countryside, and quiet streams. In fact, this county adopted the Indian name for the river which ran through the valley, Schoharie.

With its splendid forests and fertile river bed, the Schoharie Valley was an agricultural hotbed for many years. However, the county has changed since those days, like just about everything else in America. Now, Schoharie County employs only 5 percent of its population in agricultural and forest work. Still, it has retained its small town character and charm and the Schoharie Valley remains one of the most scenic regions in New York State.

One thing that thankfully hasn't changed, Mr. Speaker, is the pride and values of the citizenry. On June 3d, residents of Schoharie County will take part in day-long festivities commemorating their heritage. There will be tours of the various historical sites which mark the region as well as parades and plenty of small town camaraderie. I commend the people here for their commitment to their region and the Schoharie County Bicentennial Committee for their hard work in organizing this event.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in an anniversary tribute to Schoharie County, a great place to live.

CONGRATULATING THE WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate the Westfield High

School concert band in Houston, TX, on recently winning the Sudler Flag of Honor, which is presented to the most outstanding high school concert bands in the United States and Canada.

Under the direction of Mr. Philip Geiger, the Westfield High School concert band is just the 31st concert band to earn the Sudler Flag of Honor in the 12 years that it has been awarded. The award is presented by the John Philip Sousa Foundation and is intended to recognize and salute high school concert band programs of international-level excellence.

Winning the Sudler Flag of Honor proves what many of us have known for along time: that the Westfield High School concert band is among the very best concert bands in North America.

The Sudler Flag is designed in red, white and blue and features the logo of the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The flag becomes the property of the band. Each member of the band receives a personalized certificate and the band director receives a personalized plaque.

To be eligible for the Sudler Flag, a high school must have maintained a fine concert band for at least 7 years. Although the band's concert activities receive the most attention in the selection process, the high school's band program must be a complete one and must include a marching band, small ensembles, and solo participation by its members in contests and festivals. Also, the band conductor must have been at the same high school for at least 7 consecutive years and is expected to be involved in professional band and music education organization and activities on the local, State and national level.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you join with me in congratulating the young men and women of the Westfield High School concert band—as well as conductor Philip Geiger—on this significant achievement, and I know you join with me in wishing everyone associated with the band continued success in the years ahead.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE EXPLAINS REPUBLICAN WELFARE REFORM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the San Francisco Chronicle has done a superb job cutting through the deceptive rhetoric of the majority in Congress to reveal the real reason behind welfare reform, Republican style: massive tax cuts for the rich paid for by cutting benefits to the millions of poor, elderly, disabled, and legal aliens of our country. As the editors so aptly point out, simply cutting benefits to our most vulnerable citizens will do absolutely nothing to solve the most difficult problems facing them and our society as a whole.

Meaningful welfare reform must replace dependency with independence while maintaining the safety net for those truly in need. Although real reform will not be simple and it will not be cheap, the alternative—cutting off our most needy citizens—is the epitome of shortsightedness. Mr. Speaker, I commend your attention and the attention of my colleagues to this excellent and timely editorial, and I ask that it be placed in the RECORD.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Apr. 3, 1995]

WELFARE ON THE CHEAP IS NOT REFORM

Any hope that the Senate might salvage some glimmer of actual "reform" from the House-passed welfare bill largely vanished last week when Senate Finance Committee chairman Bob Packwood, R-Ore.—who will draft the Senate version—indicated he would go along with the House in ending the federal entitlement nature of most welfare programs and turning them into block grants to the states.

That basic approach has everything to do with cutting spending for the poor in order to heap tax cuts on the rich—and virtually nothing to do with welfare reform.

As Senator John Chafee, R-R.I., noted last week: "Instead of focusing on employability * * * out-of-wedlock births and * * * intergenerational welfare dependency, the focus (of the House bill) seems to be entirely on how to save money. * * *"

That, in fact, is the basic flaw in the Republican approach: the contradiction between saving money and reforming welfare. Real welfare reform, the kind that ends dependency and self-defeating behavior by putting people to work, costs money, it doesn't save it. It requires, at a minimum, paying for job training, child care and job creation—none of which are adequately provided today.

The original GOP contract spoke of spending \$10 billion on jobs programs. The House-passed bill offers nothing—simply the requirement that welfare recipients must work after two years, whether there are any jobs or not, or lose benefits.

Trying to do welfare on the cheap will result only in a system even less effective and more wasteful than the present one. It is not simply foolish, but mean-spirited, for it arises not from any desire to improve an imperfect system, but from the barely disguised motive of trying to pay for \$190 billion worth of middle- and upper-class tax cuts at the expense of the weakest, most disenfranchised members of society: poor women and children, who are the major beneficiaries of welfare, and legal resident aliens, who have paid taxes and played by all the rules but can't vote.

What would real welfare reform look like? It might well include the GOP demand to turn programs over to the states, as President Clinton has also urged, so that flexibility and experimentation might flourish free of burdensome federal mandates. It would also include more money, not less, for innovative jobs programs.

But the Republican block grant approach simply replaces liberal federal mandates with conservative ones, and it further constricts the states by reducing overall projected spending by some \$65 billion over five years in order to pay for tax breaks.

As the Economist magazine observed last week, the Republicans are passing up a chance "to do welfare reform in a way that is right rather than merely right wing." If the Senate goes along, the only hope for real welfare reform will be the veto pen.

TRIBUTE TO THE MONMOUTH COUNTY URBAN LEAGUE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 6, 1995, the Monmouth County, NJ,