

Under this appropriations bill, inflation will no longer be considered as a factor when determining a family's eligibility for food stamps. This means that families will either become ineligible for benefits or see their benefits reduced as inflation impacts their income and ability to meet their basic needs. The bill also cuts overall funding for food stamps in 1996 by \$1.7 billion compared to this year 1995. States predictably will tighten eligibility requirements in order to try to keep down costs and the result will mean that fewer poor families will be able to receive food assistance. Furthermore, this bill completely eliminates the food stamp contingency reserve which is used to shore up the program when the need for food stamps becomes greater than optimistically low limits estimated. Republicans claim that cutting funding for food stamps and other public assistance programs will move people off of welfare. The question is: where are the children, women and the elderly going? Not only is the GOP cutting food stamps, but they are intent on cutting the social safety net of education, training, child care, shelter, and medical care in numerous proposals and measure being advanced in this Congress.

The WIC program is among the most successful and cost-effective of our Federal nutrition programs and promotes the health and well-being of our country's children. Currently, the WIC program can not even provide benefits for all eligible women and children due to lack of funds. I have supported full funding of this program, which should be a high priority if we value our future enough to care for our children. However, Republicans want to further limit the number of children who may benefit from the program by capping the number of participants at current levels. This will decrease the effectiveness of this program by ruling out any opportunity for a response from the Government when there is an increase in the number of children and families in need of services.

Nutrition programs provide an extremely valuable way to promote good health and prevent disease for some of our most vulnerable citizens. When we fund nutrition programs, we invest in children and families and create economic and social benefits for all. When the Republicans cut back on nutrition programs, we will see a rise in malnutrition and a resulting rise in health care costs. The Republican approach to nutrition programs is to cut off benefits with the notion that you can forcefeed change and reduce poverty through such harsh action. I do not support this approach and I believe that the Federal Government has a role in helping people. I oppose this bill because of the shortfall in funding and the policy changes that are being superimposed through this ill considered appropriation process.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last night my colleagues from New York, Ms. LOWEY withdrew her amendment to the Agriculture appropriations bill which pertains to the peanut program. I commend the gentlelady for withdrawing her amendment and would state that I appreciate the fact that the gentlelady now agrees that the farm bill needs to be written in the Agriculture Committee as opposed to the appropriations process.

We members of the Agriculture Committee have been working very diligently to reform all agriculture programs. I have been particularly involved in working on a reform of the peanut program that will be a more market oriented

program and will still provide a safety net for peanut growers.

That bill will address the concerns of the gentlelady and I think will satisfy the vast majority of those that have objections to agriculture programs.

Again, I thank the gentlelady for allowing the authorizing committee to do its job.

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Chairman, as a former member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I recognize the difficulties faced by the chairman and ranking member and I commend them for their efforts on this bill. H.R. 1976 provides \$15.9 billion in agricultural programs but still saves \$5.2 billion, compared to spending last year. However, with tough challenges come tough decisions, and I am faced with one today. I am concerned about an amendment to be offered later during this debate and the effect this will have on low-income housing for people in my State of Nevada and throughout the Nation. Specifically, 502 direct housing loans help those low- and very-low-income families who are unable to obtain financing elsewhere. Without these funds, it will be difficult or impossible for people to achieve the American Dream of owning their own home. In addition, I am concerned about other reductions to rural programs including rural waste disposal projects and rural development.

Although reluctant, I will support this amendment because it does have some good provisions in it regarding the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program. However, I urge the chairman to continue to fight to restore funding for the 502 housing program and some of the other rural programs in conference.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I cannot begin to express how pleased I am that a compromise was reached yesterday between Agriculture Secretary Glickman and Representative WALSH regarding the implementation of meat and poultry safety rules.

Representative WALSH's withdrawal of his amendment to the fiscal year 1996 Agriculture appropriations bill is a clear sign of his commitment to enact change into the current food handling process. The new agreement will allow for additional public hearings to be held to consider the views of all interested parties throughout the rule-making process. I am relieved that there will not be a delay of the USDA's implementation of safeguards and standards to improve meat inspection.

Unfortunately, the issue of safe food and the devastating effect of foodborne illness are not new to me. I have closely followed this issue since the 1993 E.coli outbreak on the West Coast. I have had the pleasure of working with members of STOP [Safe Tables Our Priority], an organization founded by victims' families who are dedicated to the prevention of foodborne illness.

Until the tragedies were highlighted a few years ago, I do not believe that people were aware of the inherent dangers associated with the consumption of raw meat products. It is unfortunate that a number of deaths occurred before significant changes were made to the current food handling processes.

I think that we would all agree that our Nation's meat inspection policy must be improved. Obviously, a system that was created in 1906, and has changed very little since that time, is in need of repair. A new inspection system based on HACCP or hazard analysis

and critical control points, is needed to prevent problems from occurring throughout the production process.

Once again, I commend my colleague, Representative WALSH, for his willingness to compromise with the administration regarding the procedural problems in an effort to improve the current system. I also want to applaud the efforts of the ranking minority member of the Agriculture Subcommittee, Representative DURBIN, in bringing this matter to the House's attention. I believe that the risks are too high to wait any longer to implement change into the current food handling process. We cannot rest until everything is being done to protect the safety of our food, and provide for the well-being of our loved ones.

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. SHAYS, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Scot M. Faulkner, Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington DC, July 20, 1995.

RE: State of Illinois v. Melvin Reynolds
Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to rule L (50) of the Rule of the House that my Office has been served with a subpoena issued by the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

After consultation with the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

SCOT M. FAULKNER,
Chief Administrative Officer.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. VOLKMER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, after 6 p.m., on account of illness of spouse.

By Mr. BACHUS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) until 4:30 p.m. today, on account of attending a funeral.