

But here in this legislation, something that we seldom see, at least I have not seen in the years that I have been here, a specific delineation of eligibility or ineligibility for benefits to a group of citizens of the United States merely because their status was initially that of a legal immigrant, subsequently becoming naturalized and still being barred from the rights and privileges of citizenship. I think that is fundamentally wrong and basically contrary to the Constitution that guarantees equal protection and due process.

I regret that the Senate bill makes that further distinction, not just categorizing the legal immigrants as the House bill does. The House bill has a series of prohibitions to the legal immigrants, but those prohibitions stop just as soon as that individual becomes a U.S. citizen. On the Senate side, those prohibitions continue irrespective of citizenship. I certainly think that that is a provision in the law which has gone too far.

For the reasons that I have stated thus far, I am hoping that the White House and the leaders in the administration that have been following this matter will take a hard look at the legislation that has just passed the Senate and review it carefully, and if it comes out of the conference committee in no better shape than the Senate version, I strongly urge that the White House veto that measure.

Again to reiterate, the most egregious change that has been accepted by both the House and the Senate versions on welfare reform is to repeal and nullify and rescind the most important aspect of the aid to dependent children program, and that is the concept of entitlement which guarantees to children, if they meet the eligibility standards, to have the support of the program.

That guarantee has been removed from the legislation in both the House and the Senate versions, and they have moved to a block grant which leaves to the 50 States the total authority to establish the criteria, the benefit package, and the eligibility. So we will have 50 different programs, 50 different standards, 50 different eligibilities.

I believe that that does ill service to this Nation that has committed over and over again its responsibilities to children. Aid to dependent children, that is, the welfare program, is a program for children. We cannot dismiss that. We cannot forget it. That is what the welfare program is. It is designed to provide care and support and sustenance for our children.

There are 9 million children currently on welfare. It is for these children that we have to assume our responsibility as a nation. I believe that the Senate version dismisses that responsibility without considering what the consequences might well be.

We have heard so much of late, as we arrive at the great national debates leading up to the Presidential elections, about the commitment of this

Nation to family values. I stand very strongly on that commitment to family values.

That is what I base my whole approach on in analyzing the welfare reform bill. How closely does it adhere to my principles of family values? To what extent is protection of the child of paramount concern in the legislation that we vote for or we support? It seems to me it is that guiding principle of the family that has to motivate us in drafting legislation.

What is going to happen to thousands of these families that will not qualify for welfare assistance because they do not quite meet the local standards of eligibility is that they will be without funds. There will be charges made by the States of child neglect because the single parents will not be able to provide them with shelter.

We have read in the newspapers numerous accounts of this already occurring, where a single parent is found huddled in an automobile somewhere in the suburbs trying to keep their family together, and then being arrested by the State authorities for child neglect, and the children then being separated from the single parent and being made wards of the State and put into either orphanages or foster care homes. That is not the scene that I believe a nation committed to family values should support.

Our obligation is to try to continue to the largest extent possible the nurturing care that a parent has naturally for his or her children. I fear that this principle is being dismissed too cavalierly in favor of forcing single parents, most of whom on welfare being women, forcing them to work as the moral obligation which we are underwriting in this welfare legislation. The welfare legislation will be forcing them to work rather than staying at home and providing this family care for their children. I think that this is a very egregious mistake.

If the work ethic is so important and has now become paramount to nurturing of our children, then certainly we have to make it possible for these individuals to get the training they need, to get the job that allows them to support their families without government assistance, and the child care that goes along with it.

So the package of reforms that I see as being compatible with the argument of family values is one that is predicated upon our sense of responsibility to our children, making sure that if the parent must go out to work, that there is adequate child care, and that the breadwinner for that family has a job that can support that family without government assistance.

It seems to me that is where reform ought to take us. It seems to me that that is what has been wrong with the welfare program thus far. It has been lacking in the support elements to enable parents to go out to work.

I look forward to continued debate on this issue. I take great umbrage at the

commentators who argue that the debate is over and that it is merely a matter of the two Houses coming together with their two versions and compromising, and the assumption is that the President will sign whatever bill comes out.

I hope that is not the case. I hope the White House reads the fine print, and that ultimately the principles of family values will prevail in the Congress of the United States for the sake of our children.

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#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. VENTO.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. YOUNG of Florida) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FORBES.

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MINK of Hawaii) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. SEASTRAND.

Mr. HINCHEY.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Wednesday, September 27, 1995, at 12 noon.

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#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1456. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled the "Gold Bullion Coin Amendments of 1995"; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

1457. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 95-43: Drawdown of Commodities and Services from the Department of the Treasury to support the continued presence and activities of United States members of the EU/OSCE Sanctions Assistance Missions on the borders of Serbia and Montenegro, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2348a; to the Committee on International Relations.

1458. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

1459. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination 95-38 regarding the eligibility for Mongolia to be furnished defense articles and services under the Foreign Assistance Act