

As evidence of how unwise this proposal is, I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter I received from the Governor of my home State, Mike Leavitt. This letter urges the deletion of the committee's sunset of the low-income housing tax credit. It also points out that this private sector tax incentive accounts for virtually all of new construction of Utah's apartment units which are affordable to hard working, low income renters.

Mr. Speaker I urge my colleagues on the other side to listen to Governor Leavitt, who incidentally is the chair of the Republican Governors Association. Let's drop this misguided proposal from the reconciliation bill.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

STATE OF UTAH,
WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Washington, DC., September 19, 1995.
Hon. BILL ORTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE ORTON: House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer has released his proposed Budget Reconciliation to members of his Committee. It calls for the sunset of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit [LIHTC] after December 31, 1997.

As you know, the LIHTC is the only incentive remaining today in Utah, as well as the nation, for the production of affordable rental housing. According to the Utah Housing Finance Agency which administers the tax credit program for our state, the 6,000 units financed in Utah by LIHTC accounts for virtually all this state's apartment construction that have rents which are affordable to hard-working, yet lower income renters. This represents fully half of all the new apartments that have been constructed in Utah since 1987. It also finances rehabilitation of large numbers of old apartments into decent and affordable places for low income families to live.

The LIHTC is not a direct spending program of the federal government like so many other housing programs, but rather offers tax incentives to the private sector to invest capital into these difficult to finance housing efforts. Although corporations are the principal investors in the tax credits which finance these low income apartments, the LIHTC is not in any way a form of "corporate welfare". The LIHTC builds partnerships between public and private sectors to very efficiently draw capital into solving this nation's housing dilemma.

Additionally, the LIHTC has played an important role in sustaining the apartment construction industry in Utah for nearly a decade. It is playing a prominent part in the resurgence of a healthy Utah real estate industry. Vastly more important, the LIHTC has produced more than 6,000 rental homes, housing in excess of 25,000 lower income parents and children, in nearly every community in our state. Those decent and affordable places to live simply would not exist without the LIHTC.

Please contact Chairman Archer and ask him to delete the LIHTC sunset proposal from his Budget Reconciliation Bill.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT,
Governor.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GIBBONS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. HOEKSTRA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOEKSTRA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SKAGGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mrs. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE BLACK CAUCUS AGENDA TO FIGHT THE DEATH OF ENTITLEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, from September 20 to 23, the Congressional Black Caucus held its annual legislative weekend conference. More than 20,000 people participated in the various activities of the Congressional Black Caucus' annual legislative conference. It was our 25th anniversary.

I think it was a clear indication to all who are concerned that the Congressional Black Caucus is still very much alive and a very potent force in the politics of this Nation. Some 20,000 people came to various activities, including workshops on major issues like education, transportation, health, et cetera. We reaffirmed a clear Congress-

sional Black Caucus agenda. We call it the Congressional Black Caucus and the Caring Majority Agenda, because it includes so many more people than people who are black. The overwhelming majority of Americans agree with the agenda that we set forth.

We started this agenda when we offered the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget on the floor of the House, and we continue the fight. Today and tomorrow we particularly want to emphasize the fact that we are very upset about the death of the welfare entitlement, the death of the entitlement for poor people in need of assistance. The entitlement is on its last breath, its last gasp, almost. The Senate has agreed to end the entitlement, and the House has previously agreed to end the entitlement. We are afraid the President will not veto this end of entitlements that have existed since Franklin Roosevelt created Social Security.

We are going to particularly focus on that. In fact, we are going to wear black arm bands tomorrow to mourn the death of entitlements, the entitlements related to assistance to the poor. That is just the beginning. We understand that on the table now, everybody should know that on the table now is a proposal to kill the entitlement for Medicaid. We have almost killed the entitlement for assistance to poor people. We have set a precedent, so now we are going to go on to kill the entitlement for Medicaid, which means that many fewer people will be eligible for assistance with health care than were eligible last year, when we were talking about moving toward universal health care.

We have an agenda. We want to fight this. We want to fight the death of entitlements. We want to fight aggressive racist attacks in all forms. The Congressional Black Caucus has pledged to continue the fight against the attacks on affirmative action, we are pledged to continue the fight against school desegregation, set-asides, and the Voting Rights Act. We want to fight for education as a national priority. The CBC alternative budget demanded a 25-percent increase in funding for education. President Clinton has also proposed a large increase for education. We want to fight for this increase. We do not want the President to lose sight of this priority.

We want to fight to stop all of the cuts in Medicaid as well as Medicare. This Nation needs a national health insurance program with universal coverage. We should not take a step backward and end the entitlement for Medicaid. We want to fight to increase the minimum wage, to guarantee the right to organize unions, to end the striker replacement activities, and to maintain safe and healthy conditions in the workplace.

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We want to fight to balance the Nation's tax burden by lowering taxes on