

Mr. BILBRAY. As somebody who grew up on the border, the absurdity of the way local governments are required to handle these situations, to give you an example, you have the mother of a person born here in the United States, but she is an illegal alien. She will get the check for that child. But the law says that while she is here in the United States, she cannot work and she cannot spend one cent of that money on herself.

Then we wonder why the studies in Los Angeles show that over 70 percent of the recipients that are receiving welfare checks that are illegal aliens are committing welfare fraud. It is because the law is absurd, and I want to point this out.

I think the one thing we do is, we focus on the illegal alien issue or the immigrant issue. It is the absurdity of the rules we make in Washington and that they do not apply in the real world. This is a situation where we may be called mean-spirited, but the fact in Washington is stupid and it is irresponsible. We need to change these things and do something that is maybe a little radical to somebody, and that is do the reasonable thing in Washington, so those of us in California and Arizona and Georgia and across this country can do the reasonable thing.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Reclaiming my time, what is radical within this beltway is reasonable to the people of the United States. I thank my good friend from California for mentioning that fact, and I thank my friend from Georgia for offering real-life experiences of his constituents and the challenges they face.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, that brings me back to H.R. 2727, the Congressional Responsibility Act, which I sponsor, which simply again redesignates and reemphasizes what Article 1, Section 1 of our Constitution says: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 272 does not outlaw executive agencies enacted by this very Congress which now exist within the executive branch. All it does is say that all of those proposed regulations, before they become in essence law published in the Federal Register, should come here to the Congress of the United States in expedited fashion for an up or down vote.

Now, the government experts say, "My goodness, that would require too much time on the part of the Congress of the United States." But, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, as has been my honor on several occasions of preside as Speaker Pro Tem of this house, I have presided on at least two occasions where this body was engaged in largely ceremonial debate for a ceremonial vote to name Federal installations after noteworthy Americans. Now, I do not criticize that process, but instead I ask this simple question, Mr. Speaker: If this Congress, in the wake of over the last year having cast more votes than any other Congress before it, still

can find the time to expend hours of its energy on largely ceremonial votes, cannot this same Congress take the time to fulfill its constitutional obligation as stated in Article 1, Section 1 of the sacred document we call the Constitution of the United States?

Mr. Speaker, it is about this: Reclaiming this government for the American people. As my friend from California pointed out earlier, it is nothing radical; instead, it is reasonable. Indeed, the only way it can be called extreme is in the fashion of making extremely good sense.

Let me yield to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. KINGSTON. I wanted to get back to the gentleman's statement and also Mr. BILBRAY's. He said the Washington bureaucracy is stupid and irresponsible. I do not think anybody paying taxes back home would disagree with that. It is also inefficient.

What really happens, though, I know there are a lot of good people involved in government, elected and unelected. A lot of good folks are called bureaucrats. But you know what I think of having been around a lot of teenagers? I know a lot of teenagers who individually are fine folks, but when you get a pack of them in your living room or a pack of them in your kitchen, strange things happen and all those individual good people turn out to do some pretty stupid things as a pack.

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That is what happens in Washington. These folks need to go back home so they can continue to be good folks, because when they get together the association causes some real inefficient and irresponsible results.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, who fast approaches his 45th birthday tomorrow, and again provides the wisdom of his age in the interaction of the teenagers in his household.

Mr. Speaker, I simply thank my good friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. BILBRAY] and my good friend, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON], who joined us during our special hour.

Mr. Speaker, it is all about this document, the Constitution of the United States, and people being free to decide what is best for themselves and their families, instead of relinquishing that power to a centralized authority in Washington, DC.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today, on account of personal reasons.

Mr. FIELDS of Texas (at the request of Mr. ARMEY), for April 17, on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DOGGETT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MINGE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DICKEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, on April 24.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes each day, on today and April 24.

Mr. RADANOVICH, for 5 minutes, on April 24.

Mr. COX of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KASICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RIGGS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MARKEY, for 5 minutes, today.

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:)

Mr. MANTON.

Mr. UNDERWOOD.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. MILLER of California.

Mrs. KENNELLY.

Mr. LANTOS in two instances.

Ms. MCCARTHY.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mr. LIPINSKI in three instances.

Mrs. THURMAN.

Mr. DELLUMS in two instances.

Mr. TORRES.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. HOYER in two instances.

Mr. BONIOR

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

Mr. CRANE.

Mr. BACHUS.

Mr. WICKER.

Mr. ZIMMER.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mr. BEREUTER.

Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. NETHERCUTT.

Mr. WOLF.

Mr. BAKER of California.

Mr. PORTER.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.