

poor, we did not realize we were poor because of the closeness of that family relationship. Through my first eight grades in school, as a matter of fact, we sat down together at meals three times a day, because we went home for lunch rather than stay in school. And then when we went on to high school, we still had meals together two times a day. What an important time that was.

Today, we oftentimes hear people say, well, mother and father both have to work. That is not necessarily so. It depends on the lifestyle you want. Yes, I got my first suit of long pants given to me by neighbors. Only one worked away from home.

So oftentimes we find excuses as to why we do as little as we do to keep families together, but I do not think there are any statistics that would prove otherwise than that a family unit is one of the three or four most important things we have going for us in a free society and without it, that society will fall from within.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 288, to recognize the importance of families and children in the United States, and to express support for the goals and ideas of National Family Day.

You know, its no secret that the family is the most fundamental of society's institutions, for it is within the family setting that character, morality, responsibility, ability, and wisdom are nurtured best in children.

Unfortunately, today, the family institution is being steadily dismantled, even held in disdain by many leaders in the political, academic and media elite.

And the erosion has serious consequences:

In 1950, for every 100 children born, 12 entered a broken family. Today, for every 100 children born, 60 will enter a broken family. Each year, about one million children experience the divorce of their parents. 1.25 million are born out of wedlock, and another 1.4 million are aborted. Child abuse is growing steadily and alarmingly sexual abuse amongst children is growing fastest of all.

In short, Americans are literally turning against their children. But adults suffer as well from the breakdown of the family institution. Studies clearly show that those who divorce suffer shorter life expectancies, poorer physical and psychological health and lowered standards of living.

In addition, research continues on the correlation between a family founded on a lifelong marriage and low incidences of crime, addiction, abuse, illness, and underachievement.

Our country must focus national attention on problems whose roots lie in the breakdown of the family institution and marriage, as well as public policies that contribute to those problems.

On the national level, over the last few years, Congress has begun to evaluate how the federal government's policies have been hostile to marriage and the family.

Last month, the House overwhelmingly passed the Marriage Penalty Tax Relief Act, which will stop the government's practice of excessively taxing couples just because they are married. This will keep the IRS off the

alter and provide more money for families that may mean a new washing machine, extra tuition money for a child, a three bedroom home or fixing the family car—this is real relief for working families.

In 1997, we passed the \$500-per-child tax credit, the most important policy advance for the family. And we enacted adoption and foster care reforms so that children are given permanent homes quickly and not left revolving in the child welfare system year after year.

And in 1996, we reformed welfare ending the cycle of dependency for many. We ended the practice of having the government filling the roles of family, church and voluntary associations.

This year, we will take up important legislation establishing education savings accounts permitting parents to put money aside for a child's education.

But, beyond the beltway, beyond this Capitol, is where most of the changes are occurring—as is often the case.

This is where the real change is taking place—and rightly so.

Abstinence education to address the rising rates of out-of-wedlock births, counseling to address the rising rates of divorce and after-school programs to get kids off the street are happening throughout America.

KidsPeace, a 117-year-old non-profit organization that directly helps over 2,000 children in crisis every day at 25 centers across the nation, and millions more through prevention and public education efforts, recognizes all of these facts and has created National Family Day.

National Family Day is a relatively new, annual event held every March to honor and celebrate the importance of the American family.

This year, it will focus attention on the family meal as a time to build healthy communication and lasting bonds with children.

The amount of conversation and the level of interaction between parents and children has an enormous impact on a child's development. Even in intact families, however, children suffer from a lack of intimate time with their parents. One of the sad consequences of the breakdown of society today is that, to pay the bills or fulfill their higher expectations for material comforts, more mothers work outside of the home. This fact coupled with the numbers of single-parent families and the rising rate of divorce, means there has been a tragic reduction in "family time."

Adequate time with parents is critical for the development of every child, especially for self-esteem and confidence. The reduction of time between parents and children is cause for grave concern. It attenuates the most important relationship to a child and correspondingly derives him of the strength he derives from his parents.

As Harvard University child psychiatrist Robert Cole puts it, "The frenzied need of children to have possessions isn't only a function of the ads they see on TV. It's a function of their hunger for what they aren't getting—their parents time."

By 1990, parents were, on average, available 10 hours less per week to their children than they were in 1980 and 40 percent less than they were in 1965.

In a 1990 Los Angeles Times poll found that 57 percent of all fathers and 55 percent of all mothers felt guilty about spending too little time with their children. The poll also found

that 73 percent of all married couples would have one parent stay home full-time with the children if money were not the issue.

I congratulate KidsPeace for their efforts to improve the family structure and call on my colleagues and everyone in our country to join with then in supporting efforts which will create stronger families.

□ 1430

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GEKAS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 288.

The question was taken.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 288.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

#### KERN COUNTY CALIFORNIA LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1680) to provide for the conveyance of Forest Service property in Kern County, California, in exchange for county lands suitable for inclusion in Sequoia National Forest, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1680

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Kern County California Land Exchange Act of 2000".*

#### SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, CAMP OWEN AND RELATED PARCELS, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

*(a) EXCHANGE REQUIRED.—In exchange for the non-Federal lands and the additional consideration described in subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to Kern County, California, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to four parcels of land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service in Kern County, as follows:*

*(1) Approximately 70 acres known as Camp Owen.*

*(2) Approximately 4 acres known as Wofford Heights Park.*

*(3) Approximately 4 acres known as the French Gulch maintenance yard.*

*(4) Approximately 14 acres known as the Kernville Fish Hatchery.*