

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE POLICEMAN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer an important piece of legislation, the policeman's bill of rights. It is fitting to offer a legislation at this time when the House is focused on the issue of crime control. If we are to successfully combat crime, there is no greater resource than the men and women who put their lives on the line everyday to protect their communities. I'm talking, of course, about our law enforcement officers. We owe it to them to give them every resource necessary to do their jobs well and with a certain level of security. That is the purpose of this bill.

This legislation guarantees basic due process rights to law enforcement officers who are charged with administrative disciplinary infractions. I want to stress this legislation does not apply to criminal matters. I also want to stress that the rights under this measure apply to all law enforcement officers. Furthermore, this measure does not apply to emergency situations where the police officer is suspected of committing a crime or where that officer is a threat to others.

But police officers should have the right to be informed of the charges against him or her, to respond to those charges, and to be represented by a lawyer. These are fundamental rights, and I think this legislation is the least we can give to those who risk their lives for us and I urge Members to support this legislation. Also, I would like to express my thanks to my colleague, BART STUPAK of Michigan for his work on this issue. I hope all Members will give this measure their support.

REPUBLICANS LEAVE WORKING AMERICANS BEHIND

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in the Ways and Means Committee, the contrast between the Democratic and Republican parties was made clear.

The purpose of yesterday's committee activity was to help expand the net of health insurance coverage to a few more Americans. What began as a bipartisan effort was turned into a purely partisan affair by the new Republican majority.

In vote after vote, the new Republican majority struck down on straight party-line votes measures that would bring fairness and assistance to working Americans. Some measures had no cost to the Government. Others that did were fully paid for.

One amendment I proposed would have removed the time limitations on COBRA health

continuation coverage. This would have had no cost to the Government nor to employers, because under COBRA former employees and their family members pay full health insurance premium plus an administrative fee. Our amendment would allow individuals and families to continue coverage at a group policy rate rather than convert to an individual policy rate—the difference is often the difference between having and losing coverage. This was voted down by the Republican majority.

In the clearest example of how Republican partisanship operated without regard to the good of American workers and taxpayers, Republicans unanimously voted down an amendment offered by my colleague from Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, to extend deductibility of health insurance costs to employees when an employee is not eligible to participate in employer-sponsored health insurance coverage. Under the bill to be amended, self-employed individuals would be allowed to deduct 25 percent of the cost of health insurance. The cost of this assistance to working Americans was fully paid for—in large part by a change in tax law for individuals who renounce their U.S. citizenship in order to evade paying U.S. taxes.

How anyone can justify creating a new permanent entitlement for the benefit of employers and leave out employees is amazing. But it appears to be the new order of the Republican day.

I hope that before deliberations begin in the full House of Representatives on this bill, Republicans will have rethought their partisanship just long enough to allow the interests of all American workers to prevail.

FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF WYOMING VALLEY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 9, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley. I am pleased to join with the community in commending the professionals involved in this vital social service agency for 100 years of caring for those in need.

In 1895, a meeting was held at St. Stephen's Church in Wilkes-Barre in an effort to consolidate charity organizations in the area. The Charity Organization Society of Wilkes-Barre was formed, with George Riddle Wright as its first president. Membership dues were \$1. A year later, the group changed its name to United Charities Society, calling it a refuge for the poor, and it undertook the task of feeding and housing the homeless. Moneys were raised by sending donation forms home with school children, a method which was the predecessor to the fair share pledge system used today by the United Way. A building was renovated to be used as its headquarters, and by

1914, electric lights were installed. By this time, the agency was providing lodging for women and children awaiting trial and, at the request of the county commissioners, added a room for wayward women.

In the early 1990's, the agency also obtained work for the unemployed, found foster homes for orphans, and actually oversaw the humane treatment of animals and the proper shoeing of horses. The influenza epidemic of 1918 brought normal operations to a near standstill and the floors of the building were literally lined with the ill and dying. Hundreds of children were orphaned. Over the following years, the agency provided almost every social service to those in need. When the Children's Service Center was formed in 1938, the agency was left with the family as its primary concern. In 1941, the agency became known as the Family Service Association. They moved into new quarters and began providing professional counseling services for members of the community, regardless of economic status.

Mr. Speaker, when the Susquehanna River spilled her banks following Hurricane Agnes in 1972, the need became clear for a central phone number where any and all information could be obtained. Family Services undertook this task and a 24-hour hotline was initiated. Now called Help Line, this division of Family Services handles more than 40,000 phone calls annually. The agency extended its services many times in the following years and today provides family education, assistance, and counseling to thousands each year.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the people of Northeastern Pennsylvania have a strong tradition of taking care of each other. From the very beginning, the community has joined together to help those less fortunate and those in need. The Family Service Association today employs the finest professional staff and is funded entirely by donations and foundation sources. This is a true example of the humanity of the American people and I send my sincere appreciation and congratulations to the board of trustees, directors, and the outstanding staff of this historic agency on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

EFFECTIVE DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 729) to control crime by a more effective death penalty.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 729, the Effective Death Penalty Act. This legislation is long overdue. I am pleased that the House has moved so quickly to bring it to the floor.

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