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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. CRAPO].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 1995.

I hereby designate the Honorable MICHAEL D. CRAPO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and the minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] for 5 minutes.

PROTECT CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to come to the floor to talk about children. As you know, I used to chair the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families, and I just returned from Denver where people are really very troubled by what is happening to children in this new talk about block granting school lunches, money for WIC, and money for non-school child care.

I am very, very proud that in my State we have what is called the Colo-

rado Children's Campaign. A year ago they started something that has been carried on here, this year, by people advocating for these programs.

What they did was dress dolls and then tied a story of a real Colorado child around that doll's neck, to talk about how these programs really do affect children.

For example, here is one that was made by a Coloradan. This young child's name is Wayne. He is 6 months old. He has a big sister. His mother does not want him. So therefore let me tell you what happened to Wayne. Wayne went to grandma. Grandma decided she did not want this little boy. He is now in foster care. This is a child who is going to be dependent upon nutrition services or he is going to not be well raised. I think that is very, very important.

They also brought this little girl. This little girl's name is Susan. Her dad left her mom. Her mom went on welfare. Her mom got job training, finally found a job, and Susan is now in child care. But that child care center receives food from the U.S. Agriculture Department, and that is part of the food that we are talking about block granting.

Now, many of my constituents were trying to move these around the Hill last week and felt very intimidated. People were telling them these dolls were not welcomed in committees, they were not welcomed in the Halls of Congress, because people wanted to be able to cut these programs and not realize what they were really doing.

We talk about numbers, but behind every one of these numbers is a child who is not fortunate enough to be able to pick its parents. Therefore, they are in real trouble if this country backs down on the commitment we have made for the last 50 years to nutrition and making sure that every American child gets a good start.

You know, James Baldwin said it better than any of us. He said these are all our children, and we will all either profit by or pay for whatever they become.

I think that was the motto that started this whole area of child nutrition programs. We know Harry Truman started it in 1946 after they were horrified by the level of malnutrition they saw of young men applying to fight during World War II. So as a consequence, it has grown and grown.

We now have some very disturbing statistics from the Department of Agriculture about what will happen if this Congress moves to implement the block grants that we are talking about. If we implement those block grants, we know that the WIC Program would immediately cut out 275,000 recipients today. If you compared it to what is in the President's budget, it would be over 400,000 recipients. These are low-income women that are getting food to try and make sure that their child is born safely.

Now, that is very important, because in my State of Colorado we have more babies born too small to be healthy this year than any other year since 1976. So our hope had been they would be expanding this program. We know that nutrition during pregnancy is a critical, critical problem, and if we do not feed them, then we end up with all sorts of developmental problems later on.

If you look at the school lunch program, in my city of Denver there is about 70 percent of the kids, 70 percent of the kids in Denver, CO, qualifying for subsidized lunch programs. That is because so many of the middle class kids have left.

Well, if this goes into effect, many children are going to be pushed out or there will be no national nutritional standards. Instead you are going to have 50 different States doing whatever

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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