

way of thinking is finally being scrutinized, I submit these are well-intentioned people with well-intentioned programs that simply have not worked.

After billions of taxpayers dollars we have not ended poverty and in fact, the problems associated with poverty has worsened. Welfare programs should not be judged by how many people are on them, But instead, by how many people are off them.

Mr. Speaker, this situation must end and that is why this Congress must reform welfare now. I remember when our President as a candidate said: "We will end welfare as we know it." Instead of fighting us, instead of using disingenuous scare tactics, I encourage our President to join us in our efforts.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a day for the State of Texas. It is Texas Independence Day. I wanted to ask the House to sing just one chorus of "Texas, Our Texas," but I did not get much response.

Unfortunately, I looked at it and looked at the Republican Contract on America and realized that they are celebrating giving women, children, and senior legal immigrants independence from nutrition programs. They are celebrating by putting in jeopardy Social Security.

Today is also Sam Houston's birthday, the first President of the Republic of Texas. But he was not born in Texas. Actually he was born in Virginia and was a Federal officeholder in Tennessee and in Texas.

But under the bill that passed out of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee last week, he would be ineligible for programs under that Republican bill. Because of the Republican bill, the USDA estimated that \$1.3 billion would be cut over 5 years for the school breakfast and lunch programs. The Texas Education Agency estimated the welfare bill would cut school lunches in Texas \$261 million.

DEMOCRATS DISTORTING REPUBLICAN WELFARE PROPOSAL

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, the current welfare system has been a nightmare for children. It is a fact that long-term welfare dependency harms children.

A study by Child Trends found that children in families dependent on welfare for long periods of time have more developmental problems than children dependent for only short periods. The problem is, most welfare recipients are long-term dependents. So it is no sur-

prise to learn that 69 percent of children in chronically dependent welfare families score in the bottom third of all children on vocabulary and language skills tests.

The sad fact, Mr. Speaker, is that welfare is probably far worse for children than for anyone else involved, because it gets them into the same habits of dependency they are surrounded by, resulting in an almost unbreakable cycle of welfare.

And yet, my liberal Democrat colleagues come to this floor to deceive, to distort, and to disinform about the Republican proposal on the school lunch program. They are so concerned with protecting the bureaucracy that they are blind to the greater tragedy to children that is going on in my State of Alabama and right outside this Capitol. That is sad, Mr. Speaker.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT PUTS SOCIAL SECURITY AT RISK

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, those who are arguing that the current form of the balanced budget amendment puts Social Security at risk are undeniably correct. The amendment says that in the year 2002 it will be mandatory that any surplus from Social Security be used to reduce the overall deficit elsewhere in the Federal Government for the purposes of achieving balance. What this means is that there will be a constitutional imperative to the Congress to cut Social Security expenditures if they need to do that to make up the deficit elsewhere.

That is not an academic threat. The Speaker of this House has demanded that the Bureau of Labor Statistics recalculate the Consumer Price Index. Reducing the Consumer Price Index has as its major impact saying that older people get less of a cost-of-living increase under Social Security.

So when the Republicans push a form of the balanced budget amendment that allows, indeed, compels, any surplus in Social Security to be used to offset a deficit elsewhere and simultaneously argues that we should cut the Consumer Price Index, which has as its major fiscal impact reducing the cost-of-living increase, we see why Senators are right to oppose this amendment in its current form.

LOOK BEYOND THE RHETORIC

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, the House Republicans work hard to change the way Congress does business. The minority party in both Chambers works hard to preserve the status quo. The balanced budget amendment, up for a

vote today, hinges on the cooperation of Democratic Members. Without their help, the hopes of the American people will be dashed.

Unfortunately, the prospects do not look very bright. Of course, once the country goes broke we will have Social Security and all the other programs they complain about being cut. And as the Republicans attempt to reform welfare systems, they are being met by stiff resistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the American people to look beyond the rhetoric. The Republicans are trying to change the direction of this Government. We are trying to pass the balanced budget amendment. We are trying to reform a broken welfare system. Sadly, the Democratic Party now is left defending only the status quo.

DO NOT REPEAL THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in this contract hysteria, let us not lose sight of the things that came into being for a strong national purpose.

The voters in November did not mandate the destruction of a program that has worked well for half a century.

Repealing the National School Lunch Act, which has successfully fed hundreds of millions of hungry children since 1946, will affect children in public and parochial schools, regardless of income.

In 1981, the Reagan administration slashed over \$1 billion from the school nutrition programs.

As a result, over 2,000 schools were forced to drop out of the program, leaving 2 million children without a nutritious school lunch. Under this block grant proposal, States would receive \$2 billion less for school meals over the next 5 years.

Due to drastically reduced funding, a State may choose not to subsidize meals for children who pay full price, forcing the school to raise prices.

BLOCK GRANTING SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM WILL GIVE STATES MORE CONTROL

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I find myself compelled to rise and speak once again on behalf of truth and against the untrue accusations from the other side of the aisle.

In no uncertain terms, the Republicans in Congress do not intend to deprive school children of nutritious meals.

Less than a week ago a Wyoming newspaper's headlines read "GOP Hopes To Abolish School Lunch Programs. Democrats Say Children May