

That is why it is extreme to stand up here and talk about it in this bill. What Members of Congress should focus on is the shell game that this does. It takes away that guarantee of that school lunch for an authorization and maybe an appropriation, maybe.

In the amendment today we had a chance to vote on the school lunch program in Mr. DEAL'S amendment. The school lunch program would have been protected in current law. But we saw on a party line vote who wanted to protect the school lunch program, and that voted failed on the Deal substitute.

Current law provides that school districts are reimbursed for every meal and the Republicans' promise of an increase again depends on what will happen in their Committee on Appropriations.

Let's take for example what happened last week in the rescissions bill. We have a track record already in the first 100 days of cuts in summer jobs programs for students, and I would hope the U.S. Senate would take that out. I would be glad to pin my label on there for the State of Texas, because our comptroller estimates we will lose \$35 million in school lunch funding.

HOUSTON, TX.

Hon. GENE GREEN,  
Longworth House Office Bldg.,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR GENE GREEN: My name is LaDeirdre C. Lane and I am an 8th grade student at Kentwell, Aldine I.S.D. In my history class our teacher gave us an assignment to write a government official talking about an issues that we feel very strongly about.

I feel strongly about the welfare reform. I feel that this one proposal that shouldn't get past Congress. For one, it would take money out of our school lunch plan. Many of the students in my school already eat free or reduced lunch. For some of these students it might just be the only hot meal that they get all day. Secondly there are people out there who abuse these government fundings, but for every one who abuses, there are two who really need it. Without welfare many families would end up starving and in poor health.

Also another reason is stated in the preamble of the Constitution that we the people must promote the general welfare and in this one saying that must take effect. I would appreciate if you would take my ideas into consideration.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that my ideas have begun to turn the wheels of progress. I will be waiting to hear a response from you.

Sincerely yours,

LADEIRDRE C. LANE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. COLLINS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. COLLINS of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### MODERN WELFARE SYSTEM HAS NOT WORKED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Tennessee [Mr. BRYANT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the issue before us this evening is what has worked and what has not worked in the modern welfare society of America. Clearly the current system has not worked. It has encouraged dependency upon the Federal Government; it has encouraged illegitimacy; it has discouraged self-reliance and the basic idea of work.

In short, it has promoted many of the behaviors and values that are exactly opposite of what every single Member of this body would raise their own families by.

Mr. Speaker, the original intent of the welfare system has been lost. What was intended to be a compassionate provision to help people has turned into a destructive and permanent fixture of dependency for many who are entrapped within it. Sadly, many of these people have chosen to make their living for themselves and their families without working by choosing to take AFDC, food stamps, and countless other programs which cost over \$300 billion annually. This is wrong and unfair for them and taxpayers, and it must stop.

What the Personal Responsibility Act aims to do is to require individuals to look to themselves and their families and not to Washington in order to become productive members of society.

I cannot help but consider it worthy of mentioning a couple of startling facts about a county in my home State of Tennessee, one that I partially represent, the county of Shelby, which includes Memphis. According to the Commercial Appeal, the local daily newspaper in Memphis and Shelby County, one out of every four families with children under the age of 18 draws monthly welfare checks. According to the same publication, when Federal welfare dollars are combined with State welfare dollars, that total amount is the single largest source of money for Shelby County, TN. Not the payroll of Maybelline, not the payroll of Schering-Plough, not even the payroll of Federal Express; not the payroll of any single business or industry can match the welfare dole of the government in Shelby County, TN. That is what welfare is doing for one of Tennessee's most populous counties. And while maybe not to such a large degree, that is what welfare is doing to all the rest of the country, and that is what we are trying to change.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened in recent days to the inappropriate charge that children are going to be hurt with our bill. I sat here and listened as we have gone about our Contract With America and attempted to make those changes we said we would make in our contract. On the balanced budget amendment, I have heard about poor children there. In tort reform, I heard about poor children being hurt there. In regulatory reform, I heard about poor children being hurt there. Unfunded mandates, the

same thing. The crime bill, the same thing. Even in the national security bill, I heard about poor children being hurt.

I am most eager, as we begin to talk about term limits next week, to see how they are going to say poor children are going to be hurt by that. But we are not going to hurt children by term limits.

Just as we heard from the other side that Republicans do not have a monopoly on Christianity, and I agree on that, the Democrats do not have a monopoly on love of children. We have got some fathers and some grandfathers on this side, and to do that you have to have children.

We are not going to hurt children. What is hurting children is the current system of welfare. It encourages kids to have kids, and fathers to abandon their responsibilities, and families to set poor examples for their children by not working. The Republican welfare reform plan requires work and other responsibility. It changes the status quo. It encourages dignity, and it gives hope to all who may use it to succeed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California, Mr. FARR, is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FARR addressed the House. His remarks will appear in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### VICTIMS OF THE REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, last Friday in Duluth, in my congressional district, I met with a group of people I can only describe as victims of the Republican contract: College students who will lose their financial aid; poor, elderly people who will lose their home heating assistance; elementary school children who will lose their school lunch and school milk programs; and foster grandparents who work with disadvantaged youth.

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Then at the end of the day, late that evening I got a phone call from my son Ted, A graduate student in theology, saying he would lose his summer job if the Republican cuts are enacted.

Let me tell you about Ted. He is a Notre Dame graduate with a double major in theology and great books.

Following graduation, he committed a year to volunteer service at a job placement center for the homeless, Saint Joseph the Worker in Phoenix, AZ, living with five other Notre Dame graduates on \$60 a month. And on weekends he volunteered in youth ministry at a neighborhood parish.

Ted then spent 2 years in campus ministry at Sacramento State University and is now in his second year of