

In fact, American corporations are experiencing some of the greatest increased in productivity at the same time that they have continued to work under workplace safety standards as promulgated by OSHA.

Mr. Speaker, what is interesting is that in the same bill, while most of the other agencies are subjected to budget cuts of around 7.5 percent, we see that OSHA, that agency which protects our families when they go to work, to make sure that when they leave the house they will come back to the House in the same condition when they left, we see that the enforcement for OSHA is cut by almost 33 percent. A third of its budget is taken away from this agency that is given the obligation to protect American workers.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply unacceptable. We cannot go back to the days when American workers were chewed up in the mines in this country, in the factories in this country, in the places of manufacturing in this country. We still, even with the tremendous successes that OSHA has had in bringing down the injury rate and the loss of life in the American workplace, we still see that each day, some 6,000 Americans are injured on the job, and this costs American businesses billions of dollars a year, and that is unacceptable. But to now take off, to take off the ability of OSHA to enforce the laws, is to suggest that industries and businesses and manufacturers can engage in a race to the bottom where they can decide that they can cut the cost of doing business by having an unsafe workplace. That is not acceptable to America's workers, and it is not acceptable to America's families.

Mr. Speaker, the bill also goes on to say that OSHA cannot even promulgate regulations to try and protect workers who suffer from repetitive motion disorders because of the increased use in computers and some jobs in the assembly segment of American manufacturing. All of us are aware, we see people in the supermarket, we see people standing in line to go to the show, members of our own families, as they wear harnesses on their hands, they wear harnesses on their elbow, they go to therapy because they are trying to stay on the job.

At the same time that this Congress is asking for more ergonomic-sensitive furniture, components, machinery to protect their workers in the U.S. Congress, we are suggesting that we cannot promulgate the regulations to provide that same kind of protection to American workers in the American workplace. Yet we find that millions of Americans suffer from these kinds of disabilities that limit their ability to earn a living, to provide for their families. That is what OSHA is about. It is about Americans being able to go to work in a safe workplace, to earn a wage, to provide for their families. To the extent that they are disabled, to the extent that they are injured, to the extent that they suffer these kinds of

accidents, their capabilities of providing for their families are reduced. This budget cut in this bill is simply an attack on working families in this country and it should not be allowed to stand. The Republicans are wrong-headed in this effort and they should not be allowed to take this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding. I would just like to refer to earlier points you made in your statement that I think deserves a great deal of emphasis. You referred to the fact that our American workers cannot afford to be eaten up, and the fact that productivity has increased today. That is especially true in the coal mining industry.

WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I rose earlier to commemorate this wonderful stamp that is going to be coming out on August 26 that is going to celebrate women having had the right to vote for 75 years in this country.

I must say as we see these women in the stamp marching down the avenue with men who supported them demanding the right to vote, I would be a little leery if I were a Member of Congress, because I think after 75 years women are learning how to use that vote and women are going to be very angry about what this Congress is doing to women and children.

Last week we saw a good example where in the prior Congress there had been a unanimous consent on the Violence Against Women Act, that we really had to get aggressive and do that. It passed this House unanimously. There was not one vote against it. Last week, after first attempting to zero out the funds, we finally had to get excited and be very grateful because we got 50 cents on the dollar. We have ignored it all these years, we know violence is very critical, and it is especially bad when children are learning it in the home—when they are learning it in the home, good luck ever undoing it—so we really made that commitment but we really did not mean it, and if it had not been for the Congresswoman, we would not have even gotten 50 cents on the dollar, because they were quick to say, OK, well, we voted for it, but we do not have the to fund it and it will slip away.

We are seeing women's right to choose go down the chute, we are seeing all sorts of educational programs and opportunities in the workplace going down the chute, and we are seeing all sorts of things happening to children.

In fact, a mother from Denver sent me the poster for what they thing the Labor-HHS bill that we are going to be

taking up this week should be showing. Here it is. It is this wonderful child. I think what the Congress is saying to this child is, "Let them eat mud."

We are going after Head Start. Can you believe that? We have never made our commitment to Head Start. We are going after all sorts of educational programs that this child's future depends on and so forth and so on. We are going to attack their nutrition, attack their education, attack their chance to get ahead, attack a women's ability to move forward. I remind you that in the Budget Act, they put a 15-percent tax on child support enforcement. If the government collects child support, they are going to take 15 percent of that out. Yet we keep saying to these families, "Get up and get on your own."

How are you going to do that unless you were lucky enough to have picked the right parents? This child did not get a chance to pick my parents. I did not get a chance to pick my parents that I am aware of. If you are lucky enough to have picked the right parents, although I never knew you got that choice, then you are going to be OK. The idea that the government should try and create an equal playing field so you can utilize all of your abilities, be you male, female, be you black, white, be you Hispanic, Asian or whatever is really rapidly eroding. It is very rapidly eroding. If you do not think it is rapidly eroding, watch what we do this week. We are bringing the meanest bill to this floor, the most extreme bill to this floor that this Congress has seen since the end of the war. We are saying to this child, "You've got to pay for the debt." Obviously she caused it. Listen, she was not even here. She cannot even vote.

That is why I think as we get ready to celebrate women having voted for 75 years, maybe people better sit back and reflect. We may not have voted in any great numbers in 1994, but I have a feeling that women all over America are getting as angry as the mother of this child in Denver, CO and saying: What are you people doing there? You are not touching the B-2 bomber, you are not touching the space station, you are not touching really rich farmers, you are not touching the traditional pork. You are going after kids. You are going after the people who cannot fight back.

You may find that women unite this year and we do fight back. We have had the vote long enough. We now know how to use it, and I think this Congress better be careful. This war on women and children had better end or women and children will declare war on the Congress.

MASSIVE CUTS LOOM IN LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.