

MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN; THE TRAGEDY OF CHILDREN AT RISK

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, every day hundreds of abductions of innocent boys and girls are attempted. A study by the U.S. Justice Department reported that each year there are as many as 114,600 attempted abductions of children by non-family members. There are 4,600 reported abductions by non-family members. Even more horrifying is that 354,000 abductions are by family members. In addition, the Department of Justice also reported that 450,700 children ran away and 127,100 children are thrown away each year.

While these numbers are staggering and frightening they are also easy to hide behind, Mr. Speaker, because we do not often put a name or a face to this tragedy. Recently our colleague from Florida, Mr. DEUTSCH, has enabled all of us to see the human face of this issue. In many of our offices the notice about Jimmy Ryce, missing since he was abducted while walking home from school on September 11, have been hanging—a silent but powerful reminder of how vulnerable our children are.

Each Member of this House should be concerned about Jimmy Ryce because each day, in each of our districts, there are others like Jimmy who are walking home from school, playing in parks and recreation centers, at sporting and social events, at great risk of being kidnapped—taken from their homes and families.

An abduction of a child is just the beginning of unspeakable horrors that he or she might have to endure. It is often the preamble to a life of slavery and fear which may include physical and emotional abuse, forced prostitution, pornography, labor, and drug use.

Earlier this week, I hosted a briefing on the trafficking of children for prostitution and pornography in the United States. At this briefing we heard from activists who have dedicated themselves to intervention programs which attempt to locate children who are missing and are now caught in a cycle from which they cannot escape on their own. These people talked of the horrors that are inflicted on these children—they are raped and beaten and threatened with death, they become dependent on their pimps for every aspect of their existence. Treated as chattel, many of them are branded or tattooed to ensure that others know who “owns” them. Many of these children are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, AIDS, and other illnesses. They are denied adequate medical treatment and many of them die of these illnesses.

The number of children who are forced into this modern-day form of slavery is increasing, it is also a tragic fact that the age of these children is decreasing. We are able to document children as young as 4 years old who are victims of this abuse. Tragically, many of the children who are being abused in this way have been reported missing or kidnapped.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, there are few individuals and even fewer organizations which actively work at documenting these missing and kidnapped children, locating them and assisting them in breaking the cycle of abuse and

providing for them safe places where they can grow and develop. Organizations such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, H.I.P.S., the Paul and Lisa Program and Children of the Night offer some spark of hope for children who have been abducted. While they provide assistance to a few hundred children each year, the large numbers of children affected by this abuse is overwhelming.

More needs to be done. We must have greater concern for our children. They must not have to live in fear that they will be abducted and removed from all that they know and love, forced into a lives of virtual slavery. We owe a word of gratitude to those who have dedicated their lives to assisting the missing and exploited children of our Nation. But we must also pledge to our children and especially to Jimmy Ryce and the thousands of others who are missing and kidnapped that we will do all we can to find them, protect them and return them to their childhoods and the promise that the future should hold for them.

SEVEN-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996.

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the substitute to the budget reconciliation bill. My reasoning can be summed up in three simple words: Cut Spending First.

The people of my district sent me to Washington to change the way this place operates and to get this country's finances in order. President Clinton and most of the new Members of this body were sent here to do the same thing.

Today's votes are far from the final chapter in this book. But as we go through the conference committee process with the other body and negotiations with the White House, I believe we should be guided by the substitute reconciliation bill before us today.

The substitute bill balances the budget by 2002, makes spending cuts first, accumulates \$50 billion less in debt, and turns away from the notion of borrowing more money to pay for new tax breaks. It spreads the pain of balancing the budget more evenly and sets up a budget process that more strongly guarantees that we will in fact balance the budget and avoid the tragic mistakes of the past.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end the partisan wrangling that goes on in this Chamber and build a genuine consensus for balancing the budget in the right way.

Thanks to the contributions of many, the question is no longer, “should we balance the budget?,” but rather “how should we balance it?” The President is now suggesting that the 7-year time frame for balancing the budget makes sense. Let's join together as Democrats and Republicans and build on this fundamental change in attitude.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the eventual budget resolution for the American people can be based upon many of the elements of the substitute bill before us today. I urge my colleagues to support it

TRIBUTE TO ANDY TRUJILLO

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who turned his life around. Andy Trujillo, who lives in Ogden, UT, led the life of a gang member. As he explains it, he came from a background of horror and violence.

Fortunately, Andy became a member of the Weber Basin Job Corps Center, where he found the guidance, support, and discipline he needed. At the Weber Basin Job Corps Andy was in an environment where he could excel, which is exactly what he has done.

Most recently, Andy was selected as the first place winning entry from over 1,000 essays submitted in a national essay writing contest on the topic “How Job Corps Changed My Life.” I am submitting his essay to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

This essay explains Andy's difficult background and what has happened since being in a structured, supportive environment. Andy's story illustrates the potential of each young person when placed in a situation with caring adults who believe in the great worth of each individual.

Andy now has his GED and plans to be the first in his family to attend college. Andy not only excelled academically but also socially. Andy was president of the Recreation Center and Andy is currently serving as student body vice president of Weber Basin Job Corps.

I commend Andy on the changes he has made in his life as demonstrated in his well written essay. I also applaud the other hard-working students who are committed to making something of themselves and the dedicated adults who help these students achieve their goals

1995 JACS NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST; HOW JOB CORPS CHANGED MY LIFE

(By Andy Trujillo)

I came from a background of horror and violence. I'm not the typical “All American” teenager. I was a slow learner and a troubled youth that had no one but a grandmother to turn to.

In the big city, I met a lot of people and was always interested in the glamorous life. I was attracted to the high-rolling, fast-paced easy money that came with my acquaintances. I was poorer than most of my friends and had very few possessions, so you could see how easy it was to be persuaded by the temptations of the streets.

I guess my life wasn't as bad as some others; I at least had a roof over my head and food in my stomach. My house wasn't big enough for the number of people that lived in it, so it was better for me to just stay away. All my life I heard, “Get out of my way! Get out and do something!” It was very hard on me. I didn't know what to do with myself half of the time. Getting into trouble seemed to be the only way I could get anybody's attention. Throughout my childhood, I was considered the black sheep and to me, that