

the local Wampum Furnace. The Wampum mine has supplied a large amount of limestone for steel and cement production, but is better known for its storage capacity. The mine has 2.5 million square feet of storage space. It currently holds various items from 50 industries, most notably 8,000 films from 20th Century Fox and the world's largest optical mirror.

Athletics has played a large part in Wampum's history. Wampum High School basketball team won three state championships in 1950's and 1960's. In 1955, the team went undefeated, 31-0. The coach, L. Butler Hennon was known for unusual practice techniques, such as players wearing weighted jackets and workmen's gloves. Hennon's theory was that such handicaps in practice made things easier in games. His techniques were featured in a Life magazine article and used by the Russian Olympic basketball team. Hennon's son, Don, was a star at Wampum. Don set a regional scoring record that lasted almost 40 years. Don went on to be an All-American at the University of Pittsburgh.

The Hennons were not the only famous athletic family to call Wampum home. The Allen brothers, Harold, Ron, and Richie, all played major league baseball. Richie was the most proficient of the three. Richie has the distinction of being the first African-American to play in the Philadelphia Phillies organization. In 1972, with the Chicago White Sox, Richie was named the American League Most Valuable Player. Richie led the league with a .308 batting average. Richie also slugged 37 home runs and had 133 runs batted in.

Wampum is certainly a special place with special people. So today, Mr. Speaker, I join with all my colleagues in the House in congratulating Wampum Borough on the momentous occasion of its 200th anniversary.

WELFARE REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, July 3, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WELFARE REFORM: NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE

Welfare reform remains a major priority for Hoosiers. I am disappointed that partisan bickering has prevented enactment of meaningful welfare reform that would encourage work and parental responsibility and meet the basic needs of poor children.

The good news is that many states, including Indiana, have been successfully experimenting with ways to reform the welfare

system. I believe that states should be given flexibility to adopt innovative reforms. Welfare reform on the national level is still necessary, and state successes can serve as models as Congress prepares once again to consider welfare reform.

STATE EFFORTS

Forty states have been granted waivers of federal regulations in order to proceed with their own reforms. In 1994, Governor Bayh requested several waivers so that Indiana could implement a broad package of reforms. With my strong support, the Clinton Administration granted them.

Hoosiers who receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) must now sign a personal responsibility agreement, which requires them to make sure their children receive immunizations and stay in school. No cash benefits are provided for children born more than 10 months after their parents go on welfare, and cash benefits are stripped from anyone who commits welfare fraud. Teenage mothers who receive welfare must live with their parents or in another adult-supervised setting.

Most importantly, the Indiana plan focuses on moving welfare recipients into work through the IMPACT job placement program. Persons who enroll in IMPACT pledge that they will seek a job and accept any reasonable employment offer and acknowledge that the state will cease cash AFDC benefits after two years. In return, the state aims to remove barriers to employment by helping IMPACT enrollees to locate available jobs and providing training, child care, transportation, and health care.

The Indiana plan provides incentives for employers to hire welfare recipients. For example, once welfare recipients start a job, their AFDC benefit may be diverted to their employer, who can use these funds for business development and employee benefits. The state also provides funds for on-the-job training of former welfare recipients. Indiana provides one year of transitional child care and Medicaid benefits to families who have moved off the welfare rolls and into work.

The results one year after implementation of these changes are encouraging. From January through September of 1995, the number of households receiving AFDC dropped by 20%. Welfare recipients are being placed into jobs at a rate of 1,000 per month. Since 1993, the number of AFDC recipients has fallen 30%—the greatest decrease of any state in the nation. Indiana now has another request pending for further waivers of federal regulations.

PRINCIPLES FOR REFORM

Without doubt, welfare reform is urgently needed. Welfare still too often conflicts with bedrock American values: it discourages work, promotes out-of-wedlock childbearing, breaks up families, and fails to hold parents responsible.

Most Hoosiers want to help people in genuine need. They are willing to aid people who cannot work because of disability, or who face dire economic distress through no fault

of their own. What they oppose is assisting people who are capable of working but unwilling to do so.

The key goal in welfare reform must be to promote self-sufficiency and responsibility without punishing innocent children for the mistakes of their parents. That means that from the moment someone applies for welfare, the emphasis must be on moving that person into a job and eliminating any obstacles that stand in the way. Those who need training to move into the workforce should receive it. Sometimes it's a matter of providing basic instruction on how to write a résumé, interview for a job, or locate job prospects. A time limit on welfare benefits for those able to work can be a useful incentive. Work must pay more than welfare.

Far too many non-custodial parents fail to provide financial support to their children. I have cosponsored a bill which would make it easier to track down delinquent parents and withhold child support payments from their paycheck.

The lack of high-quality, affordable child care is a major problem for many parents, especially those seeking to pull themselves out of poverty. It is a difficult problem to address because child care is expensive and the need is so great. But we must make efforts to ensure that no one is on welfare simply because they cannot find child care. Providing basic health and child care to families for a while after they leave the welfare rolls can be a good investment if it helps families successfully make the transition to long-term financial independence.

I oppose efforts to raise taxes on working families on the edge of poverty, as some in Congress have proposed. I also do not think that cuts in welfare should be enacted in order to provide tax breaks to the well-to-do. Welfare reform should stand on its own merits, apart from the budget debate. We must ensure that welfare provides an adequate safety net during an economic downturn, when more people are likely to need it.

I am also concerned that some proposals would dramatically limit poor children's access to health care and nutrition programs. Unhealthy, malnourished children have a lesser chance to grow into healthy, self-supporting adults. As a nation we will pay dearly if we fail to meet the basic health needs of children.

There is really more consensus on welfare reform than the political rhetoric suggests. But because welfare reform is such a potent political issue, with each side looking for the advantage, the agreements have been obscured. It's almost as if politicians from opposite parties are afraid to admit they agree on a lot of these issues.

Saddest of all is that the ultimate victims of a failed welfare system are children. Their needs, which should be the constant focus of the welfare reform debate, have sometimes been lost. I am convinced that if cooler heads prevail we can enact worthwhile reforms. I will work to tone down the rhetoric and turn up the pressure to reform welfare this year.