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No. 62

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SUNUNU].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 13, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 21, 1997, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] for 5 minutes.

### VOTE "NO" ON MOVING NUCLEAR WASTE TO NEVADA

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I come here after reading an early morning report in the Congressional Quarterly that a House bill moving nuclear waste to Nevada is rapidly moving to the House floor for consideration of passage. Before House Members consider this bill, I would like to address two issues, the first being that the Senate companion bill to this, Senate bill 104, was narrowly passed in the Senate and will be vetoed by the President under his promise.

Second is the issue that I ask both sides of the aisle to consider, and that is the issue of safety; safety in that they should not vote on a bill that is going to move nuclear waste through their communities, endangering the lives, the health, and the safety of their constituents; throwing away a vote on that issue, throwing away the lives and the health and safety of their constituents, just to prove a point.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge both sides of this House to vote no on moving nuclear waste to Nevada, House bill 1270, and I would issue this proclamation: that the Members should consider that their constituents should come first, that their safety and their lives are at issue here.

### WELFARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning, and certainly to ask the President to disallow portions of the State of Texas welfare reform plan that includes the Texas Integrated Eligibility System, TIES, or which would allow the State to privatize the eligibility determination for social services.

All of us remember very vividly the vigorous debate on welfare reform that this Congress engaged in. At the crux of that issue was the ability to help Americans move from welfare to work. It was a recognition, as I recognized in my own 18th Congressional District, that many of those on welfare wanted to move from welfare to work, and looked forward to the additional job training and opportunity to be able to work and contribute to their own livelihood.

In the State of Texas alone, it has 690,000 recipients of its Aid to Families

and Dependent Children, and 1.4 million recipients of food stamps as well. The process that we presently use in the Texas Department of Human Services. Many professionals, social service professionals and social workers, have worked in that effort for many, many years. In the process of welfare reform, not only does Congress but the State itself and the legislature and the Governor recognize that we could do it better. We do not disagree with that, that we could make it more efficient, more effective, and certainly more responsive.

The TIES Program does not do that. It puts in a profit mode with a private company the whole concept of eligibility determination. That means when a mother or a dependent who needs welfare comes to an office, they deal with a cold and uncaring professional, someone whose basic motive is profit, and may be given incentives for how many individuals you deny in getting the need that they have to have.

In the 18th Congressional District alone, there are 109,596 women, infants, and children who receive WIC services, a basic nutrition program that has proven itself to be supportive of the early growth of our children. This means that in Harris County, TX, there are 12,917 pregnant women, 5,259 breastfeeding mothers, 9,448 postpartum mothers who have recently given birth who may be in need of these social services, and 29,000 infants and 52,000 children. It is inappropriate to leave their destiny in the hands of a computer.

Even just recently the Legislature in the State of Texas said that they were concerned that the executive branch might have gone too far in implementing what we authorized in the welfare reform bill. This legislation makes it clear that the legislature retains authority to make these decisions, and makes it clear in statute that the intention is to pursue privatizing only

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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