

I think Paul Harvey's statement illustrates the corruption that has permeated our society that leads to things like Columbine. No amount of gun legislation will solve the problems in our society. The answers are complex, and they are multi-faceted. There is no quick fix. It is time that we looked at the roots of our problems and not just at the surface symptoms.

VALUE OF THE UNIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Madam Speaker, my father, Frank Kucinich, senior, was a truck driver and he drove a truck for 35 years, and he was proud of the work that he did, and he was also proud to be a member of Local 407 of the Teamsters Union.

I grew up with a heritage of believing in the importance of people belonging to an organized labor group, and as I was growing up, I saw how my father would attend union meetings. And I would have the occasion to go with him to some of those meetings. And I heard people talk about their desire for a better wage, not just for themselves, but for their families. I heard people talk about the desire for improved health care benefits, not just for themselves, but for their families.

I heard people talk about retirement security, not just for themselves, but for their families, and so what I saw in growing up in Cleveland, Ohio was men and women coming together to try to improve not only their lot but the lot of their families.

All across this country, working men and women are going to work every day with the intention of building a better quality of life, and the only way they can do that is to stay united, and that is what unions are all about. In unity there is strength. And across this country, men and women have been able to have a better wage level and because of that have helped to assure higher wages in the nonorganized sector.

Across this country, men and women have been able to have better health benefits, better retirement benefits because they have united, and that is something that is profoundly American. We have communicated to the world this idea that in unity there is strength, and through working men and women organizing we have demonstrated that even the humblest person should have an opportunity to have a position at the table of great power and that the humblest person in joining with others can have some control over his or her destiny and over his or her quality of life.

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I am glad to be part of a Democratic Party which supports working men and women.

WELCOME TO REVEREND STEVEN L. WOLVERTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. ERLICH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. EHRlich. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to the Reverend Steven L. Wolverton, who served as my Legislative Fellow in my congressional office in 1997. Steve is in the gallery to the right, and I welcome him to the House of Representatives here today. He is an electrical engineer with the Federal Government, as well as a youth pastor at Lee Street Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

Steve and his wife, Vicki, lead a dynamic, growing youth ministry in south Baltimore called LifeChangers, which is dedicated to establishing role models and positive life opportunities for inner-city youth. More recently he is working with a Baltimore businessman to renovate an old department store and establish a private evangelical Christian school in the southern Baltimore peninsula. I commend him on the investment he is making on behalf of the young people of Baltimore City.

Steve is a strong believer in serving God and his country, and it is my privilege to welcome him to the floor of the United States House of Representatives. Thank you, Steve, for your inspiring life, and welcome.

CELEBRATING ORGANIZED LABOR FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to America's working men and women. I come from a working family. I come from a union family. I know what it is like to worry whether one's paycheck is going to stretch to the next one. I know what it is like to be laid off.

I strongly support organized labor because my father was able to put a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs, a good car in our garage, food on our table, and two daughters through college and law school because of the union wages he earned in Las Vegas.

Madam Speaker, 37 years ago my family arrived in Las Vegas with all of our possessions in a U-Haul hooked up

to the back of the car. My dad joined the culinary union and landed a job as a waiter at the old Sands Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. That union job was the greatest break my family ever received. It opened the doors to opportunity for all of us.

I am the first person in my family to go to college. I worked my way through college and law school. I waitressed at the Sands Hotel, ran keno at the Desert Inn, and cocktail waitressed at the Hacienda, the Aladdin and Holiday Casino, all on the Las Vegas strip. Each of these union jobs contributed to my ability to put myself through college and law school.

Let me tell my colleagues, I am just one of hundreds of thousands of fellow Nevadans who have benefited from the positive influence of organized labor in my town. Almost without exception, the major employers of the thriving resort industry in Las Vegas have recognized that their industry and the entire city has grown strong because of good wages and good working conditions that good labor contracts have created. The prosperity of Las Vegas, built by the strong minds and backs of working men and women, can serve as a model for other parts of the country.

First and foremost, trade unions build strong families. America needs families earning a decent living, wages good enough to afford that home, that car, and an education for their children. That is how we grow the American economy.

Madam Speaker, I want our workers to have jobs free from the threats of raids on our family leave and our medical leave, free from raids on Social Security and Medicare, and free from raids on the right of every worker to collective bargaining. This country is better off for a 5-day work week, overtime pay, paid holidays and vacations, health insurance, child labor laws, and a minimum wage, all won by organized labor. Organized labor is vital to the well-being of our country, our families, and our communities. It makes a positive difference for all of us, and that is why, that is why I join in this week's celebration of organized labor.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of working Americans and every American, because we have reached a milestone on the calendar. Today, June 22, 1999, ranks as Cost of Government Day.

Now, it is true that yesterday, with the summer solstice gave us our longest period of daylight, the longest day of the year, but, Madam Speaker, I believe all Americans, especially those