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I think we are on our way to begin that process, but we do definitely have a significant way to go.

Mr. SCHAFFER. I would like to point out, my colleague mentioned the welfare model as a perfect example of what we can anticipate by focusing on a decentralized strong State approach to education reform. Again, using welfare as a model, just even a year or so after the Welfare Reform Bill was passed, we saw headlines like these that I saved from Colorado: "Welfare Rolls Dropped 25 Percent." That was in one year. Welfare rolls have now dropped 43 percent in 18 months.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. If the gentleman would continue to yield, would it not be great if we did education reform and we started reading headlines that said, test scores improve by 25 percent, math and science scores up by 25 percent?

Mr. SCHAFFER. That was my point exactly. 6,730 fewer families on welfare. This was in Colorado. And this was just 12 months after the Welfare Reform Bill pass. "Workers Coming Off Welfare to Get Job Help" is another of headline.

I just use these as examples. Because what we saw is, when the Congress moved authority out of Washington with respect to welfare, put governors and state legislators in charge to apply local values, local solutions to local problems, we saw welfare numbers drop dramatically throughout the country, about a 35 percent reduction in the welfare case load nationwide, 43 percent in Colorado.

I again use that as an example to show that freedom works, that liberating States works. And we can see our low test scores come up if we give States the authority to help them come up. We can see crime in schools and discipline problems in schools be reduced if we give local authorities the ability to create and design programs that they know will work locally.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I want to play off the welfare thing, because as we are doing welfare correctly and improving the system, I really want the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) to reinforce the point that he made earlier that says, as we are reducing the amount of money that we are spending in welfare, maybe we are freeing up some of that money so that it can be used on education.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would. And not a single one of the Members that I spoke about on that DSAUSA.org and the 58 Members that are listed in that in the progressive caucus, not a single one of them voted for the balanced budget. Not a single one of them voted for welfare reform. They all voted against tax relief. And that is their agenda.

Mr. Speaker, this is an easy way to remember what we are going to do over the next 2 years, and I want my col-

leagues to remember this. It is called best schools in military. B is for balanced budget. E is for education reform. S is for saving Social Security. T is for tax relief. Schools, different from education, is the infrastructure in schools construction to get the money there to do that. And military is to beef up, which we have not talked about, which is in sad shape and emergency shape. It is our defense. Those are the agenda items that we are going to focus on in this next Congress.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I once again want to reemphasize the general theme that we have spoken about tonight, whether it was the opening remarks I had made about property rights or discussion about Social Security, balancing the budget, tax reform, fixing our schools, or even providing a national defense, which is something we did not discuss much tonight.

But that is the focus of a Republican party who has taken the majority here since 1995 and moving forward boldly in an effort to get our Government back to its constitutional authority, to move authority out of Washington, D.C., return authority back to the States and to the people ultimately, to talk about strategies to decentralize education bureaucracy and move real decision-making back to our parents and school board members and administrators.

In the end, that is the truest expression of compassion and a caring, humanitarian, conservative agenda that we stand for here on the House floor, to treat families as though they matter, to treat children like real Americans, and treat teachers like real professionals.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of family business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CLAYTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPPS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. THUNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CALVERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 24.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 24.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 25.

Mr. KASICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. ROUKEMA, for 5 minutes each day, today and on March 24.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WATKINS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH, for 5 minutes, on March 24.

Mrs. KELLY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESSIONS, for 5 minutes, on March 24.

Mr. LEACH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOEHLERT, for 5 minutes on March 24.

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 24, 1999, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1206. A letter from the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction and Reconstruction in Unroaded Areas (0596-AB68) received February 22, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1207. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Oxirane, methyl-, polymer with oxirane, mono [2-(2-butoxyethoxy) ethyl]ether; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300793; FRL-6059-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 3, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1208. A letter from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to reduce losses to properties that have sustained flood damage on multiple occasions;