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NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND ACT, H.R. 2394

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) IS RECOGNIZED FOR 5 MINUTES.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that over 1,700 local, State, and national organizations from throughout this country have endorsed H.R. 2394, legislation that I introduced last June, to create a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. And I especially want to thank for their organizing efforts the National Low-Income Housing Coalition for all of their help in bringing these organizations together around this terribly important issue.

It is almost unprecedented to have such an outpouring of support from such a broad array of groups representing working people through their unions, business leaders, different religious affiliations, bankers, environ-

mentalists, and, of course, affordable-housing advocates. This is perhaps one of the most significant grass roots campaigns to support legislation at one time and has helped us generate our already 126 bipartisan cosponsors. I am here today on the floor of the House to thank all of the groups that have endorsed this legislation and to ask my colleagues to cosponsor this important and much-needed bill. We have come a long way in a short time; but obviously, we need to go further.

A complete list of all of the groups that have endorsed this legislation can be found at the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign's Web site at www.nhtf.org. That is www.nhtf.org, for a complete list of all of the organizations that have endorsed the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund legislation.

Mr. Speaker, experts from across the country have acknowledged that the issue of affordable housing has rapidly become a major national problem. That is true in my State of Vermont, and it is true all across this country. It is an issue in which millions of low-income seniors, the elderly, disabled, and families with children are increasingly unable to afford decent housing.

According to HUD, about 5.4 million Americans today are paying more than half of their limited incomes, more than half of their limited incomes, on housing, or are living in severely substandard housing. Since 1990, the number of families who have "worst case housing needs" has increased by 12 percent. That is 600,000 more Americans who cannot afford a decent and safe place to live.

□ 1600

For these families living paycheck to paycheck, one unforeseen circumstance, a sick child, a needed car repair or a large utility bill can send them into homelessness.

This crisis must be addressed. Every American must be entitled to decent, affordable housing. The question is where do we begin? According to the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, profits generated by the Federal Housing Administration are expected to exceed \$26 billion over the next 7 years. H.R. 2394 would use the surplus to increase affordable housing by creating an affordable housing trust fund. According to housing experts, if the FHA surplus was used to build affordable housing, we could more than triple affordable housing construction next year and provide accommodations to more than 200,000 families.

Mr. Speaker, not only would a national affordable housing trust fund help solve the affordable housing crisis in the United States, it would also generate 1.8 million decent paying new jobs and nearly \$50 billion in wages according to a recent study. As today's economy continues to sputter with lay-

offs up over 600 percent from last year, and as millions of Americans are paying 40 to 50 percent of their limited incomes on housing, the creation of a national affordable housing trust fund is needed more than it has ever been needed.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line here is that we can put Americans to work building the affordable housing that millions of our fellow Americans need, and we can accomplish two important goals at the same time. Number one, combatting the recession by putting people to work; and second of all, providing decent housing to the families that need it. This is a very important piece of legislation, and I am very proud that 1,700 different organizations, religious organizations, grass-roots organizations, are supporting it. I ask my colleagues to support it as well.

COVER-UP OF SALVATI STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I spent 7½ years just prior to coming to Congress as a criminal court judge in Tennessee trying the felony criminal cases, the murders, the armed robberies, the rapes. I tried the attempted murder of James Earl Ray, many leading cases, but I can tell Members that I do not think that in my years of law practice or in my years as a judge that I have ever seen a worse miscarriage of justice than that done to Joseph Salvati in Massachusetts where he was made to stay in prison for over 30 years. Even the FBI knew he had not committed the crime for which he had been convicted. Sometimes we read about people who have been wrongly convicted, but almost always in those cases the prosecutors or the law enforcement people honestly thought the people were guilty, and only found out later that they were not.

But in the Salvati case, the FBI knew apparently for 30 years that this man was not guilty of the crime he had been convicted of, and yet they made him stay in prison for more than 30 years.

I can tell Members that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) of the Committee on Government Reform has tried to call attention to this miscarriage of justice and see that nothing like this ever happens again. He held one hearing and he attempted to hold another hearing today about it, but today the Department of Justice refused to release or submit the documents that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) had requested in a continuing cover-up of the original cover-up.

I think it is shameful. In fact, I think it is fair to say that I have never seen

the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) as angry as he was today, and he said that he is going to told hearings until the Department of Justice has the decency to come forward and do what they can to correct this horrible miscarriage of justice.

I remember reading a cover story in *Forbes* magazine, certainly a very conservative magazine, in 1993 in which they reported that the Department of Justice had more than quadrupled its budget since 1980, and that there were U.S. attorneys falling all over themselves trying to find cases to prosecute. The article discussed how Federal prosecutors were cherry-picking local cases, taking the best or easiest cases away from local prosecutors so they could have something to do.

This quadrupling of the budget and size of the Department of Justice was being done, even though 94 percent of all crimes were being handled and prosecuted by local and State law enforcement personnel and prosecutors. Even though their work was not going up, their budget and number of employees was.

This article in *Forbes* said too often in Federal law enforcement the name of the game is publicity, not a reduction in the amount of crime. The article in *Forbes* said that the Department of Justice was proving that Parkinson's law of bureaucracy was true, that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion. As the real or imagined work expands, the bureaucrats ask for more bureaucrats to do it.

Since then, we have expanded the Department of Justice even more. Now here we are giving them more power. Last week Joseph Califano, a former top assistant to President Johnson and a former Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Carter, wrote in *The Washington Post* last week that in all of our concerns about terrorism, we "are missing an even more troubling danger, the extraordinary increase in Federal police personnel and power."

Mr. Speaker, for the FBI to keep a man in prison for 30 years for a crime that they knew he did not commit, that should be criminal in and of itself. I described it at this hearing as saying that the arrogance of the Federal bureaucracy seems to grow with each passing year. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) said I was mild in describing things in that way. It seems that we now have a government of, by and for the bureaucrats instead of one that is of, by and for the people.

I salute the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and commend him for continuing to try to call attention to the miscarriage of justice in the Joseph Salvati case, and to say if we keep expanding the Department of Justice and the FBI, then the abuse of the Amer-

ican people is going to continue to grow, and we are going to have much of our freedom taken away from us, and the American people are going to have problems that they never dreamed of. We need to bring these people under some type of control because they are certainly out of control at this time.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 107TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, during the next hour, I want to talk about some of the wonderful things that this House has achieved in this first session of the 107th Congress; but in my view, probably one of the most important things we have achieved, we finished today here on the floor of the House, and that is the President's education bill.

Going back almost 2 years ago before the last Presidential election, and before even the primaries were finished, I was looking at the people who were putting themselves forward as potential candidates in the Republican Party, which is my party.

There was a governor from neighboring State of Texas, which being a New Mexican, is sometimes a disqualification in itself, who seemed to be saying some things that I liked to hear. Not only just saying them, but obviously deeply believing them and passionate about them.

George W. Bush was talking about no child should be left behind. There was a commitment that he made in his State of Texas, and it was not just some kind of a campaign slogan, it was something that he passionately believed, that there was a subtle bigotry of low expectations, and that, in itself, condemned children to a life of underachievement. He believed it was possible for a public school system to reform itself and to commit itself to excellence, and that every child is entitled to a great education, and that education is the next civil right.

I listened to him for several months and I decided that I liked this guy, and that I was going to back him as my preferred choice as President of the United States. After he was elected, both in his inaugural address on the steps of the west front of this Capitol and in this body in this room, when he made his first State of the Union speech, he asked us as Members of Congress to join him to ensure that no child is left behind, to reform the Federal laws on education, to make a commitment to reading, not just in the schools where all of us who are middle class have moved to, but to the schools that maybe all of us do not want our children to go to.

I believe that every parent wants a great school in their neighborhood that their kids can walk to. But even more as a community and as a society, we need to have a great school system so that a kid who gets himself up for breakfast and gets his little brother and sister up and makes their lunches and gets them out the door and walks with them to school, those are the kids that this education bill we passed is for. For the kids whose parents are not there and do not care, but that kid who still has a dream, that in America he is part of the American dream.

The bill that we passed today is a landmark piece of legislation, something that required work in both bodies and on both sides of the aisle. It is the most important Federal education bill that we have passed in 20 years. We would not have done it without the leadership of the President of the United States.

Why does it matter? Why should we care so much about education? I represent Albuquerque, New Mexico. A third of our kids in Albuquerque do not graduate from high school. For our parents and certainly for our grandparents, that was probably okay because there were still jobs that somebody could get and be able to support a family that you could do without a high school education. But in the 21st century, those jobs do not exist anymore. What was good enough for our parents and grandparents is not good enough for our children. Every child has to graduate from high school being able to read and write and work together and hold a good job. That is what this bill is about.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 significantly increases Federal aid to education. Last year we had about \$18 billion in the budget for Federal aid to education, mostly to schools that serve poor communities and for special ed. The bill that we just passed authorizes \$26.5 billion in the next year for Federal aid to education. That is almost a 40 percent increase. In the last 5 years, we have close to doubled Federal aid to education. But this also includes the elements of reform, which I think will help get those dollars to the classroom where they can matter in the lives of children.

This new legislation requires annual testing in reading and mathematics for every child from grades 3-8. Some States, like New Mexico, have already moved toward annual testing and accountability for results. But if we let kids fall through the cracks, if we move them on from one grade to another grade without demanding and giving them an opportunity to master the subject matter in first grade, they are not going to make it in fourth grade.

Before I was elected to Congress, I was the cabinet secretary in the State of New Mexico for children. We had the