

All in all, Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. We should get it done. I pledge that my administration will work with Wisconsin to make an effective transition to a new vision of welfare reform based on work . . .

That was Bill Clinton on May 18 talking on welfare. Today is July 10, and all we hear is silence. His 30 days are up and all we hear is the silence of another broken welfare promise.

WHY THERE WILL BE NO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, the House and Senate have passed a minimum wage bill, but I want to let my colleagues in on a little secret. The Speaker is not going to let it become law.

Our dictator, Speaker GINGRICH, has decided that along with the majority Members of the extreme right in the Republican Party and Members of this House, that people working for minimum wage in my district and all over this Nation do not need this year an increase of 45 cents an hour.

Mr. Speaker, they are working right now today, while these Members up here are enjoying all their large incomes, et cetera. They say, Speaker GINGRICH and the extreme right Republicans say that my people should not get 45 cents an hour more. Now is that right? No, it is not right.

Why do we not have a minimum wage bill? Why? Because Speaker GINGRICH has decided that he is going to kowtow to the special interests that give large funds to their campaign funds.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. MCINNIS. Point of order, Mr. Speaker. I ask that the words of the gentleman be stricken. The gentleman called the Speaker of the House a dictator. I would ask for an interpretation of the House. The Speaker of the House is not a dictator, and I ask that the words of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] be stricken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The Chair rules that point of order has come too late. There has been intervening debate.

DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON WISCONSIN WELFARE PLAN

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today is the day. Thirty days have passed since Bill Clinton placed a self-imposed deadline to take action on Wisconsin's welfare waiver request.

Mr. Speaker, the Wisconsin welfare plan has bipartisan support in Wisconsin, and here in our Nation's Capitol.

The Wisconsin welfare plan truly ends welfare as we know it. It moves

people from welfare, to work, instilling personal responsibility, and lifting families and children out of the poverty trap.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton pointed to the Wisconsin welfare plan as a model. He pledged his administration's firm and strong support for helping the people of Wisconsin move from welfare to work. He said and I quote, "We should get this done."

Last year, Bill Clinton promised to sign waivers within 30 days. Well, the 30 days are up, and all we hear from the White House is the sound of another broken promise.

Mr. Speaker, this is just another example of Bill Clinton saying one thing and doing another.

MAJORITY NEEDS TO GET ITS MATH RIGHT

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to investing in our children's education, the new majority must need a refresher course in basic math because their numbers just do not add up. While school enrollment is expected to grow by 7 percent by 2002, the new majority is proposing a cut in education by 7 percent below 1995 levels.

This means that our schools, as they get more crowded, our teachers will be taking on more and our students will be receiving less; less help in fighting drugs and violence, less help in raising learning standards; and less help in basic reading and math.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way to take care of our children. It is time for the new majority to get its math right. It is time for a budget that gives our children the tools they need to succeed in the next century.

THE NATURAL DISASTER PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP ACT

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the East Coast is currently being battered by Hurricane Bertha. As we all know, such disasters can occur at any time. The Midwest has been hit by floods in the past. The West Coast has been hit by natural disasters. Since Hurricane Hugo in 1989, the Federal Government has paid out over \$67 billion on disaster relief. Insurance companies have also paid out over \$33 billion since 1989.

But now, Mr. Speaker, we have a bill that will help out. It is called the Natural Disaster Protection Partnership Act. It forges together Government and private entities to provide geographic areas insurance protection.

This legislation will reduce cost and physical damage from natural disasters by requiring States to adopt improved enforcement of model building codes,

and would also provide a grant program, financed by the private sector, to provide badly needed resources to implement preparation and loss reduction strategies.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, we should all support this initiative.

SENATE SHOULD FREE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is day 2 and the Republican Senate continues to hold the minimum wage hostage. The Republicans are demanding that Medical Savings Accounts be added to health care reform as ransom for its release. MSA's—the Republican payoff to special interests and big donor insurance companies. The same MSA's that Consumers Union has called a time bomb * * * that will make health insurance less accessible and less affordable for many Americans.

Over 80 percent of the American people support a minimum wage increase. Today's LA Times editorial page says:

An increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. What is clearly resolved in the minds of most Americans . . . is that they want to see work encouraged and appropriately compensated.

But the Republicans would rather hold this legislation hostage to special interests.

I say enough is enough. For the sake of hard-working American families across this country—the Republicans in the Senate must give up their unreasonable demands and free the minimum wage.

PERSONAL ATTACKS DEMEAN THE HOUSE

(Mr. COBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I was going to speak this morning on health insurance, but based on the comments of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER], I think what we ought to do is take another look at ourselves.

We accomplish nothing, we demean the House, we demean each one of us when we use such words as were used by the gentleman from Missouri. I would just tell my colleagues, as a freshman Member of this House, that we do not do anything positive for our country, for our future generations, or for ourselves by vicious personal attacks.

To name someone a dictator is both inappropriate and demeaning to the House. My words would be that we should look at that and say, what are we doing when we do that? We have not put forward anything positive for anybody in terms of our districts, in terms of the American public, by doing so. I would just hope that we would follow