

## TRIBUTE TO OVETA CULP HOBBY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 22, 1995*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the great ladies of Texas, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby.

Oveta Culp Hobby witnessed and shaped major events in modern U.S. history. Her accomplishments as a public servant and businesswoman have always been the reasons that I have looked up to her, but often these accomplishments have been overlooked. This Texan's achievements have spanned the decades, but are known to a relative few. Most people remember Oveta Culp Hobby as the head of a powerful newspaper family and the wife of a Governor and the mother of a Lieutenant Governor.

Mrs. Hobby, however, was important in her own right. In an era where being a "first" was an unfair and unfortunate litmus test by which a woman's ability to succeed would be measured, she rose to the occasion by doing what she thought she should do—make her mark on the world.

Despite her contributions and her considerable financial assets, Oveta Culp Hobby was reluctant to dub herself powerful. She made her mark on the world by doing what she thought was right. She will be remembered by those of us who have looked to her as a mentor and a role model.

GOP WELFARE BILL SENDS  
MILLIONS INTO POVERTY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 22, 1995*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Christmas is the season when charity and compassion go public. The time period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is when the true spirit of giving comes into the open. Outside the grocery store you see the bell ringers. Each way you turn there is an open mind and an open heart. Why do people care?

For one reason, the Bible says we should care for the poor. The Bible says:

If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs . . . Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart. There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land. (Deuteronomy, 15:7-11).

I believe that as a society, we should care for certain groups of people who can't care for themselves—the poor, the elderly, the disabled. It is simply the right thing to do.

What has happened since the Republican Party took control of this House? We have suddenly decided that these people can miraculously care for themselves. Even in Biblical times it was recognized that there will always be poor among us and that we should care for them generously. Why now have the Republicans decided to prioritize corporate and wealthy tax breaks above the poor?

The Republican welfare bill is frightening.

The bill denies guaranteed Medicaid coverage for children and parents receiving AFDC and for children receiving Federal foster care or adoption assistance under title IV-E of the Social Security Act. The welfare conference agreement could eliminate Medicaid eligibility for 1 to 2 million low-income children leaving millions more uninsured if Medicaid eligibility ends. Combined with other massive social service cuts, this is a tragedy waiting to happen.

The Republican budget cuts aid to severely disabled children by 25 percent, slashing \$12 billion from disabled children's SSI benefits. Over 160,000 children currently in the program would lose eligibility 1 year after enactment.

The Republicans claim they want to move people from welfare to work but fail to provide much needed child care.

The Republican bill denies SSI benefits and food stamps to legal immigrants, and permits States to deny legal immigrants cash welfare, Medicaid, and title X social services.

This punitive bill prohibits States from paying additional welfare benefits to families that have an additional child while on welfare. Don't they realize that the child is an innocent victim in this arrangement? The child did not ask to be born into such a family.

This bill pays a bounty to States that reduce their illegitimacy ratio or the number of children born out of wedlock. This provision will serve only to increase the number of abortions or to further restrict a woman's legal right to make her own reproductive health choices.

The bill does not reform welfare. It destroys the only safety net some people have on which to depend. At this time of holiday giving, we should remember those most in need; we should count our own blessings; and we should vote against this hard-hearted bill that will send millions further into poverty.