

when 46 percent of the Members of Congress were simply left out of the process between the Republican Governors and the Republican majority?

In that article in the Washington Post, Mr. Speaker, Vermont Governor Dean describes the situation very clearly. He states the agreement is only a deal between the Republicans. Political partisanship must not take precedent over the lives for seniors or, for that matter, children or mothers.

Allow me to remind my colleagues that school breakfast and lunch programs are not included in the rumors that were talked about, removing senior citizens food programs. Thousands of school children are still under this budget ax when school nutrition programs are subject to a 30-percent cut through this personal responsibility, and tonight we still do not know if our senior citizen nutrition programs are exempt.

Congress should end the welfare as it is currently operating, but the Personal Responsibility Act should not include nutrition programs, whether they be for our seniors or for our youngest children in this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DURBIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I declare my strong opposition to H.R. 728.

This Republican proposal effectively dismantles the highly successful COPS program and the innovative prevention programs that have been praised by law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

The misguided block grant funding called for in H.R. 728 repeats the mistakes of history by returning to the ineffective use of block grants that were the subject of major abuse and scandal in our recent past.

Let us not forget the shameful instances of taxpayer money used to buy private cars, airplanes, and even an armored tank under the former block grant program L.E.A.A.

H.R. 728 opens the door once again for abuse, while doing nothing to guarantee enhanced public safety. It does not guarantee one single new police officer on our streets or the implementation of one additional prevention program.

I am particularly concerned that under H.R. 728 communities will lose \$2.5 billion that would have put more community police officers on the street and would have provided for the additional implementation of crucial prevention programs.

It is significant that the National Association of Counties, whose members would receive the grants, opposes H.R. 728 and supports the President's 1994 crime bill with a balanced approach of funding for both law enforcement and prevention programs.

Those who argue that prevention programs are useless fail to understand the complex causes of crime. They fail to understand that in communities across our Nation, criminal activity occurs primarily where opportunity and hope do not exist.

Supporters of H.R. 728 argue that the prevention programs it repeals are useless fluff and a waste of public funds. They are dead wrong.

In the 1980's communities in my district received Federal and State funds specifically for crime prevention efforts aimed at reducing heavy gang activity.

Programs were initiated to provide at-risk youths with positive alternatives to gangs.

For students, after-school programs including sports, study skill clinics, and mentoring were offered.

For those out of school with no job prospects and clearly the most vulnerable to violent gang participation; programs were offered in basic education, job skills, and self esteem.

These programs not only helped lower crime, but nearly eliminated gang activity in the east Los Angeles community.

Ironically, when the gang activity dropped to such a low level the funds for prevention programs were misguidedly shifted to a different community.

Almost instantaneously, gang violence increased dramatically and has been rising steadily ever since.

Prevention programs work. They work because they give alternatives to individuals who have few options and they work because they give hope to individuals who have none.

If we are to win our struggle against violence and crime in our country, we must have more police on our streets and effective programs that give positive alternatives to crime and provide individuals with hope and opportunity for a better life.

The Republican leadership calls H.R. 728 the taking back our streets act. What this bill takes back, however, is not our streets, but our chance to create safe streets all across America.

Police, parents, and public officials nationwide have proven that community policing and prevention programs are our best hope for eliminating crime in our country.

To make this hope a reality, we must oppose H.R. 728.

COMMUNITY POLICING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MEEHAN] is recognized

for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the issue that we are dealing with in the Congress this week and early into next week, the issue of the crime bill.

Just last September President Clinton signed the most comprehensive, effective, tough crime bill in the history of this country. It was a crime bill that was tough on repeat offenders. It was a crime bill that made a significant contribution to building more prisons across this country, \$10 billion. It was also a bill that put 100,000 new police officers on the streets of America.

But I want to talk about two parts of that bill because two important sections of that bill are in serious jeopardy over the next several days in the Congress of the United States; that is, sections of the bill that require and fund 100,000 new police officers across America, partially funded by the Federal Government, community policing.

Let me just say that as a former first assistant district attorney in Middlesex County, one of the largest counties in the country, and having had the experience of overseeing a caseload of over 13,000 criminal cases a year, and having had the experience of working with 54 cities and towns and 54 different police departments across that Middlesex County, I can tell you that community policing is a cutting edge of what works in law enforcement. It is not an accident that we have for the time an Attorney General with vast experience in the front lines of the fight against crime.

This attorney general knows what it is about to manage a case load, knows what it is about to work with police departments, and knows what fighting crime in tough areas is all about. And that is why I believe we have seen this smart, tough, effective crime bill passed into law.

□ 1950

Community policing has worked all over America, and I want to talk for a minute about my hometown, the city of Lowell, MA, where 13 additional police officers and a commitment made by the Federal Government, and a commitment, by the way, made by the Republican Governor of Massachusetts, Governor Weld, a former prosecutor who also understands that community policing works.

Because of that commitment, the city of Lowell has been able to form community partnerships using the Community Policing Program. Community partnerships are the hallmark of police and community oriented proposals. During the last year the Lowell Police Department under the leadership of Police Chief Educate Davis has opened up new community policing precincts in different sections of the city of Lowell, Lower Belvidere, Back Central Street, Lower Highlands. They have established a Team Lowell to go