

More and more, the world is able to see that President Musharraf has dedicated himself to continuing military rule in Pakistan and allowing terrorism to occur in Kashmir.

President Bush stressed in his address to Congress after September 11 that there would be no shades of gray. A country either supports us in our war against terrorism, or it does not. The Bush administration praises President Musharraf for joining the U.S. effort against the Taliban, but this support does not extend to countering terrorism in Kashmir.

There are more indications daily that the terrorist elements are regaining ground in Pakistan, and the Musharraf government is doing very little to condition constrain it. I believe the U.S. should rethink its support for Musharraf in light of these events.

□ 2215

TWO HARMFUL FOOD STAMP PROVISIONS IN HOUSE WELFARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SULLIVAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier and just want to expound again on the procedure that was engaged in, or the procedure that should have been engaged in, as we brought forth a major piece of legislation that involves several committees. To my surprise, in the welfare reauthorization bill, there were provisions in there that would have given the States, at least five States, the election of having a block grant and also in that bill were provisions that would allow for the super waiver. Giving the super waiver means that you are almost giving States an unlimited amount of flexibility and authority almost that they do not have to follow any rules and regulations. This super waiver really gives sweeping authority to the Governors of the States and the possibility of programs being diverted or the real incentive really as we look at this proposal, in requiring more work, requiring more day care, more transportation.

When you begin to understand that States are in fiscal constraint, you begin to know how that temptation becomes a real possibility if indeed you are giving pots of moneys in the block grant and say, You can do with it as you please, that gives some of us very much concern, particularly when we are concerned about the poor, concerned about those who need food; and it is food stamps which is indeed our Nation's greatest safety net, primarily to families, families who are working.

We have seen in the last 7 months the increase of a large number of people who are unemployed who are now eligible for food stamps and indeed receiving food stamps. More than 1.7 million individuals have now increased the

benefit for food stamps because they need it. If we block-grant food stamps, you do not have the ability to respond to this unanticipated need because you have essentially received a certain amount of money. Therefore, you do not have the ability to fluctuate and respond to uncertain needs.

The reason that, I guess, I am really upset or offended by this is the process. When you consider that the farm bill, which my colleagues have been trying to beat up on me for the farm bill, but the farm bill was a 2-year-and-several-months' process; and not one time did we hear this provision being mentioned. I serve on the Subcommittee on Nutrition of the Committee on Agriculture. We did not have any debate. We did not hear any proposal. We did not hear any public announcement at all about this. We went to the Committee on Rules and asked them that they should have had due process. In fact, because they did not have due process, the Committee on Rules should have made this amendment we offered to strike that provision so that we could go back to the appropriate committees and have a full deliberation which this bill so rightly needs.

Why is this important? Not only the procedure, it is important to understand the implication of this proposal. This proposal would be devastating for unemployment. It would be devastating indeed for its meeting the increased participation that we are trying to have for working families. It would be devastating for meeting our obligations that we have just passed in the farm bill, where we said we are restoring legal immigrants. If you are restoring them and they are not in your base budget and you are block-granting it, you cannot respond to that. You either respond to your legal immigrants or you have to cut funds.

This is really, Mr. Speaker, tantamount to taking food out of our babies' mouths and food out of our elderly. I think our Nation can do better than that. I think we are unworthy of that kind of action where we on Monday morning are signing into law, giving new benefits and new opportunities for people to be fed and responded to as they need. Yet here we are on Wednesday evening and tomorrow, indeed, taking this away.

Mr. Speaker, both of these provisions should be sufficient for us to have great pause and indeed to vote against that when it comes up again tomorrow.

EDUCATION TAX CREDITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this evening's discussion is on the topic of education. It is a topic which has occupied a lot of time here on the House floor during these Special Orders of the

last few weeks. For those who believe, as I do, that America's children warrant a profound amount of attention and resources from the country, I would invite those colleagues who might be monitoring tonight's proceedings to come join us here on the floor this evening.

I specifically want to discuss school choice, trying to create a market-driven education system in America, one where government-owned institutions, or public schools, have the opportunity to compete on an even playing field with other providers of academic services and America's schoolchildren become the beneficiaries through the market forces that ought to exist where education is concerned. We do not have that to a large degree in America today.

We have what is effectively a government-owned, unionized monopoly when it comes to the most important industry in America, that being education. There are pockets around the country where you have a competitive framework for delivery of education services. Those pockets exist in some States. They exist in some community schools and in some cities. They exist for the wealthy, certainly, because only the wealthy in America on any given day can afford to forgo the taxes they pay to the government schools and then pay tuition on top of that to send their child to a school where services are delivered by private professional institutions.

But what we really need to do today is try to eliminate this discrimination that exists in American education today between the extraordinarily wealthy and the extraordinarily poor. Because speaker after speaker after speaker who comes to these microphones or maybe testifies before any of our education committees, committees that deal with education, seem to have a unanimous agreement that we need to have a concerted effort in America involving the Federal Government and the States to elevate the achievement of underserved children, the poor, minority children, those who happen to live in school districts that are just not achieving that much on behalf of children, and they need our focus.

Too often in Washington, the conclusion from those kinds of concerns results in an agreement that we should just spend more money, that we should just take more cash from the American taxpayers and send it to the Department of Education, maybe wave a little magic wand and hope that the speech about poor children preceding the expenditure of cash will somehow help underserved kids in America. We have been doing that for years. Sometimes we get lucky. Sometimes we just manage to have the right combination of devoted teachers, committed school board members, a community that rallies around the poorest children in their neighborhoods and a Federal program or two that provides some of the resources. We see those examples of