

and to promote and practice religion in any way one chooses.

Resorting to writing more laws with the intent of instilling good character and good manners in the people is anathema to liberty. The love of liberty can come only from within and is dependent on a stable family and a society that seeks the brotherhood of man through voluntary and charitable means.

And there are others who believe that government force is legitimate in promoting what they call "fair redistribution." The proponents of this course have failed to read history and instead adhere to economic myths. They ignore the evidence that these efforts to help their fellow man will inevitably fail. Instead, it will do the opposite and lead to the impoverishment of many.

But more importantly, if left unchecked, this approach will destroy liberty by undermining the concept of private property ownership and free markets, the bedrock of economic prosperity.

None of these alternatives will work. Character and good manners are not a government problem. They reflect individual attitudes that can only be changed by individuals themselves. Freedom allows virtue and excellence to blossom. When government takes on the role of promoting virtue, illegitimate government force is used and tyrants quickly appear on the scene to do the job. Virtue and excellence become illusive, and we find instead that the government officials become corrupt and freedom is lost, the very ingredient required for promoting virtue, harmony, and the brotherhood of man.

Let us hope and pray that our political focus will soon shift toward preserving liberty and individual responsibility and away from authoritarianism. The future of the American Republic depends on it. Let us not forget that the American dream depends on keeping alive the spirit of liberty.

SECRETARY BILL RICHARDSON AND BILL HEDDEN: A POWERFUL TEAM TO SAVE THE SOUTHWEST'S WATER AND NATIONAL PARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in thanks to two powerful "Bills." Not the legislation we introduce here, but as in Bill Richardson and Bill Hedden, for their work to move the largest uranium mine tailings pile that has ever threatened the drinking water in the United States.

Secretary of Energy, Bill Richardson, and Bill Hedden, the Utah Conservation Director of the Grand Canyon Trust, are two lifesaving "Bills" who have shown incredible leadership in

pushing to move a uranium tailings pile that currently sits only 750 feet away from the Colorado River near Moab, Utah.

A few days ago, Secretary Richardson unveiled an innovative agreement that would result in moving the tailings pile that is slowly leaching radioactive waste into the Colorado River. And just last night, our other hero, Bill Hedden, was honored by the Project on Government Oversight, or POGO, for his tireless efforts to move this poisonous pile. Both men see how important it is to move the tailings pile, which is as big as 118 football fields, rather than capping it in its place. This capping would only ensure that the poisonous waste would continue to leach into the Colorado River for up to 3 centuries.

Because of these visionary "Bills," 25 million people who live down the Colorado River and who depend on it for their drinking water not be doomed to poor "bills" of health from the pollution.

Our "Bills" are working to ensure that one-seventh of the United States, including Las Vegas, Arizona, and the Southern California urban areas of Los Angeles and the city I represent, San Diego, will have water free from this pollution.

Our hero "Bills" are trying to save us from the bill that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the NRC, was trying to stick us with. The NRC said that capping the poisonous pile was good enough. The NRC did not care that they were sentencing our children, our grandchildren, and great grandchildren to 270 years of having this radioactive waste leach into our water supply.

These white-hatted "Bills" know that our Nation must protect our water, our animals, and our beautiful National Parks that we have set aside because they are our treasures.

As one of our "Bills," Secretary Richardson, said a few weeks ago, "The time to act is now. Radioactive waste sits at the gateway of two National Parks, Arches and Canyonlands. This area is a geological wonderland, nested in a valley with scenic red cliffs and rugged, beautiful desert terrain. The Department of Energy has the expertise and experience to relocate the material in a secure, permanent location that is safely away from the Colorado River and our National Parks."

Mr. Speaker, I tip my hat to these two courageous "Bills," Secretary Richardson and Grand Canyon Trust's Bill Hedden, for saving us the bill of misery, ill health, and heartache that would go with permanently enshrining this huge pile of waste in the backyard of our National Parks where it would surely and forever pollute the Southwest's drinking water.

I commit, Mr. Speaker, and I hope my colleagues will join me in this pledge, to push through legislation that will make the work of these visionary "Bills" a reality. We must pass

our bill necessary to put the jurisdiction for this poisonous pile where it belongs, in the hands of the Department of Energy.

MILITARY FAMILY FOOD STAMP TAX CREDIT ACT

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor and talk about a bill that I introduced last year, H.R. 1055, the Military Family Food Stamp Tax Credit Act. I have approximately 61 of my colleagues on both sides, Republican and Democrat, who have signed this bill.

Mr. Speaker, there are probably as many as 12,000 men and women in uniform who are willing to die for this country today that are having to live on food stamps. I think that is unacceptable and deplorable that any person that is willing to die for this country would have to be on food stamps.

So we looked at how we could help those in the military that are on food stamps, and we came up with the suggestion from several different sources that probably the best thing we could do was to provide a \$500 tax credit for men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I bring this photograph of a Marine in my district. This Marine is getting ready to deploy for Bosnia for 6 months. We can see standing on his feet a beautiful little girl, and in his arms a new baby girl. And I looked at this photograph, it was in the Raleigh paper in my State of North Carolina, and it has so much meaning and depth to it that I thought I would have it blown up so that I could bring it to the floor of the House or take it to a committee to remind my colleagues who make the decision on how we pay our military and make the decisions on what we can do to help those men and women in uniform on food stamps.

We have approximately 60 percent of the men and women that serve this Nation that, again, are willing to die for this Nation, that are married. I think this family from Camp Lejeune getting ready to deploy shows just how fortunate we are to have men and women who have families that are willing to serve this Nation.

When I looked at the fact that we in Congress last year passed \$15 billion in foreign aid for countries overseas, and I realize that we have to have foreign aid and we should have northern aid, but I think we could reduce it, frankly. I think I voted against that bill because we need to take care of the American people first. And we certainly need to take care of those in the military that are serving this Nation.

Then I looked at the fact that the President recommended that we eliminate the debt of \$5 billion to 36 countries that owe the American taxpayer \$5 billion. So, therefore, we have excused that debt. I look at what we have

spent in Bosnia already, somewhere around \$5 billion. I look at what we spent in Yugoslavia last year, \$11 billion.

Mr. Speaker, to help 12,000 men and women in uniform on food stamps would only cost \$59 million over 10 years.

I want to also make the point that this Congress last year passed an Omnibus Budget bill that had in excess of \$13 billion in pork barrel spending. Mr. Speaker, I say again, those of us who have the privilege to serve in the House and Senate, we must work together to help get these men and women off food stamps that are willing to die for this country.

Mr. Speaker, I plan to come to the floor on a regular basis until the leadership, both Republican and Democrat, work together to help get these men and women off food stamps, because they are so important to the defense of this Nation. We owe them everything that we can give them and especially to help get them off food stamps. I thank the Members of this House, Republican and Democrat, who have cosponsored this bill, H.R. 1055, the Military Family Food Stamp Tax Credit Act; and I hope this year we, as a Congress, will do what is necessary to get these men and women off food stamps.

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MARKING 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF CROWN CENTRAL PETROLEUM LOCKOUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATourette). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I share the concern of my colleague from North Carolina on our military pay. Hopefully we made a down payment last year and will continue it this year.

My concern, Mr. Speaker and Members, and what I want to talk about today is, we are marking the 4th anniversary for one of the longest lockouts in U.S. history that is in my district. On February 5, 1996, the management of Crown Central Petroleum ordered the union workers to leave its refinery in Pasadena, Texas, and lock the gates behind them. By the next day, the company had replaced all 252 union members with lower cost and inexperienced temporary workers.

What caused the lockout? The only possible reason is Crown Petroleum wanted to break the union. During the contract negotiations, the union stated they had no intentions of striking. In fact, Crown Petroleum's reaction was to order an immediate lockout. Before negotiators for the employees had a chance to react, they were escorted out of the refinery. Crown tried to justify the lockout by saying that they had committed actions of sabotage, and yet Crown later invited these same employees to return to work provided they agreed to the company's demands.

The concern I have, Mr. Speaker, is if someone did sabotage the plant, they need to be prosecuted under the laws, but management should not use it as a reason for not allowing these people to come back to work who had been there many years.

If they agreed to the company demands, it would have been an elimination of over 40 percent of the work force. These highly sensitive jobs, that are now performed by temporary and less skilled workers, were issues at the negotiating table that were very contentious.

The company was trying to rewrite the entire union contract and eliminate a third of the employees and eliminate the worker protections for older employees. The employees were willing to negotiate, but Crown not only wanted to have their demands met, they opted for a lockout. Four years, Mr. Speaker, is one of the longest lockouts in history.

Four years later, friends and neighbors, my constituents, are still not working. Their lives have been radically changed for standing up and insisting on safe and fair working conditions. Employees like Marshall Norman, a 16 year employee, had his medical insurance canceled while his wife was pregnant and his daughter was diagnosed with leukemia.

Another constituent, John Grant, served his country in Vietnam and as a Marine guard in the White House. He has only worked sporadically since the lockout. Hardy Smith, a 25 year employee, lost his credit and went from making \$18 an hour to \$6.50 an hour. Henry Godbolt, a 24-year employee, is struggling to make ends meet for his family, including paying for his daughter's education. He is working odd jobs like mowing lawns and washing windows.

These are good and honest hard working Americans who are being forced to struggle because their employer locked them out. We need to have an end to this madness.

For the last year, Mr. Speaker, I have tried to work and offer whatever assistance my office could to sit down and work it out between the plant owners and the employees, and we have not had any luck. Despite many years of hardships and fighting back to reclaim their lives, the Paper, Allied-Industrial and Chemical Energy Workers Union, PACE, which used to be the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, is the union that represents these locked out workers, along with the AFL-CIO, and they have been boycotting the Crown gasoline stations and convenience stores.

The locked out workers have traveled to Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama to promote this boycott and have urged union members as well as other concerned citizens to support them. The boycott, or the "Don't Buy Crown Gasoline" campaign is endorsed by groups ranging from the Rainbow/ Push

Coalition to the Environmental Defense Fund to the Labor Union Women. This is only a small sample of a long list of groups who have supported this boycott.

With the employees' hard work and persistence, along with the support of many groups and individuals, the boycott has been successful in decreasing the sales of Crown gasoline and its products. The boycott may become our only hope to bring reason back to this issue. I would hope that the management and the owners of Crown would realize that not only my constituents but their former employees want to work and want to do a good job and make that a producing plant. Let us end this nightmare.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, February 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., many of these hard working employees will mark the 4th anniversary of the lockout at the PACE local union at 704 Pasadena Freeway.

Mr. Speaker, I was home last week and met with a few of the members, and, believe me, I bought this T-shirt because they could not afford to give it to us, but it talks about trying to end the lockout at Crown Petroleum. I would hope that through this special order today that we could encourage not only the employees but also the management to sit down and get these people back to work.

ELIMINATE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, we have returned here in the year 2000 to begin our work as the U.S. House of Representatives. One of the first bills that we will take up will come on, I expect, February 14. The purpose of this is to address a problem which has been a festering issue in our Tax Code; namely, the so-called marriage tax penalty.

There has been widespread recognition that it simply is unfair and is inconsistent with public policy to have a Tax Code which places a burden on folks that choose to get married. Now, as we analyze the Tax Code, there is both a marriage bonus and a marriage tax penalty. It is a fairly complex issue as we work through it. And trying to root it out of the Tax Code is not necessarily easy nor is it inexpensive.

The Committee on Ways and Means, I understand, has marked up this bill today and will be sending it to the floor for consideration by Valentine's Day. That certainly is an appropriate or a fitting tribute to marriage as an institution in our Nation, but I submit that this is premature in terms of consideration on the floor of the House in the sense that there is a fairly high price tag to the bill that is coming from the Ways and Means, and we still have not had any opportunity to formulate a budget for operations here in the year 2000.