

WR - Congress

WELFARE REFORM

**SELECTED QUOTES FROM MEMBERS
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

REPRESENTATIVE ROB ANDREWS (D-NJ):

The message to fathers is that "you can choose not to live with her, but you cannot abandon your economic responsibility."

-The Washington Times, 2/3/94

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD ARMEY (R-TX):

(on the letter sent to POTUS by 89 liberal House members)
the letter makes clear that Clinton's party is "anchored in the old tax and spend, put everything into social programs. This is the old Democratic agenda, never mind the cost, to bleed our hearts with other people's money."

-The Associated Press, 12/2/93

REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE):

"In order to come up with a package, you are going to have to have to have to have new revenues."

"I would like to coordinate with the governors. They are taking the lead."

"Delaware also has one of the best paternity identification systems in the country...The real goal is to get them off welfare all together, (not) for people to earn their welfare."

-Gannett News Service, 12/23/93

REPRESENTATIVE BOB CLEMENT (D-TN):

MEMBER - MAINSTREAM FORUM

"The quicker we can move them (recipients) off welfare, the better...Why wait two years?"

"In many communities around the country, we see the third and fourth generations on welfare and we've got to break that cycle of dependency. And I think all of us are in agreement that welfare is not working today and it's destroying the moral fiber of our society."

-States News Service, 12/3/93

"Welfare should not be a way of life. This group (the Mainstream Forum) is totally committed and dedicated to changing that."

"We expect President Clinton, in his speech to the joint session of Congress in January, 1994, to comment about welfare reform."

-States News Service, 10/20/93

"Our goal (the Mainstream Forum's) is workfare vs. welfare. Many people feel trapped on welfare, but they don't know where to get started."

-State News Service, 12/28/93

REPRESENTATIVE NATHAN DEAL (D-GA):

"This will be a real test of leadership of the president. This is an issue that he cannot cater to the liberal wing of the party on and fulfill his campaign promises."

-The Plain Dealer, 12/26/93

Welfare must be returned to its proper role-"a way up and a way out" for people temporarily in need.

"None of us begrudges spending tax dollars to feed and clothe hungry and deprived children, to sustain the sick and infirm, and to assist on a temporary basis, the injured or unemployed...(but) we have to emphasize that we are not going to continue to reward or create a class of people who can work, but don't work."

-Gannett News Service, 10/20/93

REPRESENTATIVE TOM DELAY (R-TX):

"We hope that he (President Clinton) shares our commitment to facing the problems of welfare dependency head-on."

-Daily Labor Report, 1/12/93

REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD E. FORD (D-TN):

"The problem is not that welfare recipients choose not to work, but that welfare recipients do not have the job skills to get jobs that will support their children."

-Cong. Ortlly, p. 3131, 11/13/93

"You're not going to make work more attractive than a welfare check if someone has to walk away from her children and go flip burgers for \$5 an hour without any benefits. We're talking about a jobs creation program to replace welfare, not just add to it." He estimated that about half the jobs created, for recipients, would be in the private sector.

-The Washington Post, 1/27/94

"CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) did in fact, work. I'd like to revisit CETA."

-USA Today, 2/9/94

REPRESENTATIVE GARY FRANKS (R-CT):

"Taking the currency out of the hands of welfare recipients and replacing it with a more accountable automated debit system would greatly reduce the prospect of taxpayer dollars going to drug dealers."

-Cong. Record, 10/13/93

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD GEPHARDT - MAJORITY LEADER (D-MO):

Welfare reform should consist of first, a tax break for the working poor, a provision that was expanded last year as part of the president's deficit-reduction bill. Second, and most important, is health care reform, specifically a provision that would allow welfare recipients to take low-paying jobs and still be certain they have health coverage.

Third is expanded job training...Fourth "consists of time limits and workfare and finding jobs" for recipients.

"I hope we can do that" this year. But it would be wrong to say that "if we don't get that one done, we don't have welfare reform."

-Associated Press, 1/29/94,
quoting a breakfast news
conference

REPRESENTATIVE NEWT GINGRICH (R-GA):

"I am prepared to get the votes on our side to help."

-The Plain Dealer, p.18A.
12/26/93

"If (President Clinton is) also willing to have genuine welfare reform - and I think when we talk about crime, that the welfare reform bill is as important as the lock-up criminals bill - then I'm very willing to work with him.."

"I think that with (Representatives) Rick Santorum (R-PA) and Tom Delay (R-TX) and others - Clay Shaw (R-FL) - we produced a very good welfare reform proposal and we could pass something, I think, in the first 90 days of the year."

"I believe the country understands the linkage between crime and welfare. I believe the country understands that we need to do more than just lock up the current criminal. We need to try to stop the future criminal from occurring..."

"...if you simply cut off illegal aliens from current (welfare) expenditures, that's \$11 billion a year. Just making sure that you're giving money only to legal Americans and legal immigrants, saves you \$11 billion a year."

"...if Robert Reich, the secretary of labor, is willing to work with us, we could develop a business-based, practical apprenticeship program that was real, that would help getting people off welfare and that would be effective. I think we could pass that..."

- "This Week with David Brinkley,"
(ABC), 1/2/94 (Transcript # 636)

REPRESENTATIVE BART GORDON (R-TN):

"Many welfare recipients need a hand up, not a hand out."

"For those who want a free ride, it may take a shove, but they, too, are going to have to work."

- States News Service, 10/20/93

REPRESENTATIVE FRED GRANDY (R-IA):

CETA (the Comprehensive Employment Training Act) is a model for "all the things not to replicate" in a welfare reform jobs program.

- USA Today, 2/9/94

REPRESENTATIVE NANCY JOHNSON (R-CT):

"Our bill encourages responsible behavior and provides the resources for welfare mothers and fathers to make the jump from a cycle of poverty and government dependence to one of independence."

- Gannett News Service, 12/10/93

"(Under the GOP plan)...you will not have the right-nor will you be supported in the irresponsible action of not naming the father."

- Cong. Ortlly., p.3131, 11/13/93

REPRESENTATIVE RICK LAZIO (R-NY):

"There is a legitimate and substantiated concern through fraudulent manipulation of the system, many welfare recipients are receiving benefits to which they are not entitled."

- A "Dear Colleague" letter,
quoted in Nat'l Journal's Cong.
Daily, 1/11/94

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS (D-GA):

"I'm not going to support any plan automatically."

-The Plain Dealer, p. 18A,
12/26/93

REPRESENTATIVE NITA LOWEY (D-NY):

Representative Lowey's Plan is modeled after the
NY state's Child Assistance Program (CAP).

"I would think that it's an urgent need and that as we're working on health care we can work on welfare reform."

"The basic idea is restructuring the way the system works."

-Gannett News Service, 12/4/93

REPRESENTATIVE DAVE McCURDY (D-OK):

MEMBER - MAINSTREAM FORUM

"The differences between the policies [to reform welfare] are small enough that we can overcome them easily."

-The Washington Times, 2/3/94

"We are trying to set the debate. We are talking to Republicans as well as members of the Congressional Black Caucus."

-Gannett News Service, 10/20/93

REPRESENTATIVE KWEISI MFUME (D-MD):

"We would provide incentives to individuals to work their way off welfare and encourage a greater level of responsibility among welfare recipients by allowing Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) recipients to save money without losing their benefits.

The proposal also increases the number of months an AFDC mother can stay on Medicaid after finding employment from 12 to 36 months. AFDC recipients would be required to ensure their children are attending school, and parents of school-age children without a high school or equivalency diploma would be required to attend school."

-Article written by **REPS. MFUME AND SHAYS (R-CT), Roll Call,**
1/22/93

REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT MICHEL - MINORITY LEADER (D-IL):

SPONSOR - H.R. 3490

- o Sanction welfare beneficiaries who do not establish paternity for their children.
- o Deny (AFDC) benefits to non-citizens
- o Combine 10 food programs into one block grant

-Cong. Orly., 11/13/93

REPRESENTATIVE PATSY MINK (D-HI):

A two year limit on welfare benefits is arbitrary and "very, very harsh, and the ultimate victims will be the children, who will have no other place to go."

-The Associated Press, 12/2/93

"We can't only consider dead-end jobs at minimum wage. We have to consider the necessity of really doing a high level of training so that these individuals have the capacity to earn above-poverty wages. And I think that it's a very expensive route and there are no shortcuts."

- NPR's Morning Edition, 2/21/94

REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN MOLINARI (R-NYC,NY):

"We're [the Republicans] on board on the crime issue and welfare reform."

-Newsday, 1/26/94

REPRESENTATIVE DAN ROSTENKOWSKI (D-IL):

"If you try to analyze what this president wants, he wants a welfare bill, but he also wants a bipartisan effort to be viewed by the American people as welfare cutting."

"So we get the Republicans in, and there's the NAFTA of tomorrow. I'm suggesting that if we're going to have a bipartisan effort, we're going to look a little bit more at the welfare programs that are suggested by Republicans."

-National Journal's Congress Daily, 12/3/93

REPRESENTATIVE RICK SANTORUM (R-PA):

"That is not ending welfare as we know it. It is extending welfare as we know it. It's more of the same. We've known all along that Democrats in Congress are not serious about the kind of welfare reform that everyone in America, outside of the halls of Congress, knows is necessary." [Referring to the letter signed by 89 Democrats and sent to POTUS]

-The Associated Press, 12/2/93

"I think the votes are there to change welfare from a maintenance system to a transition program."

-Gannett News Service, 1/14/94

"The president, in fact, stole the Republican plan and used that as his. And whether they used our's as the model or we just coincidentally introduced similar things, the time limitation on welfare certainly was an initiative that we share in common and one that we hope to be able to work together on."

"We thought that (money on 'job training and child care and job placement') was very important and we're willing to put forward the money. We moved a lot of conservative Republicans on this issue and in some cases, kicking and screaming, but we did so because we wanted to make the point that this was a program that truly was a hand up, but with very strong expectations that if folks don't work, they will lose their benefits."

"So, all those things that you hear are, sound great. Let's just see how well he does in putting forward a plan to determine whether there are going to be requirements, and as far as I'm concerned, the, whether the unemployment rate is high or not, or all these other things that are extraneous, they're side shows. We'll accept disabled, but after that, let's, let's, let's get the work going."

-NPR's: "All Things Considered,"
12/10/93

"My view is the White House is floating these (welfare reform) ideas around now to signal to everybody they haven't forgotten about it and then they're going to promptly forget about it."

-USA Today, p. 6A, 12/22/93

REPRESENTATIVE E. CLAY SHAW (R-FL):

"Because a majority of Democrats are almost certain to oppose serious reform, the president will need overwhelming Republican support if he wants to actually do something about the welfare tragedy."

-The Associated Press, 12/2/93

"(The California approach represents) the type of program and type of attitude we ought to address."

"(The GAIN program is) a shining example of an unqualified success."

Welfare reform "is an issue where at least moderate Republicans are standing in the wings, waiting to be recruited to march forward with an administration proposal."

-Cong. Ortlby, p. 1421, 6/5/93

"(The GOP plan) is tough love, no question about it. Welfare should be considered a government investment in its people to create a productive citizenry, and should not be considered a free ride for the lazy."

-Gannett News Service, 12/10/93

REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOPHER SHAYS (R-CT):

SEE REPRESENTATIVE MFUME (D-MD)

REPRESENTATIVE JIM SLATTERY (D-KS):

"We want to make sure it is a top priority in this next year. We don't want to lose" in all the attention lavished on health care.

-The Christian Science Monitor,
1/5/94

REPRESENTATIVE LOUISE SLAUGHTER (D-NY):

MEMBER - MAINSTREAM FORUM

"Government support should not come only in the form of a check. It's time to do more. The welfare system can work to get people back to work."

"Most importantly, there needs to be good, effective, affordable day care in order for people to work. Those systems (that used) to attack the problems of the welfare state won't help unless we have good day care."

"I don't like to be categorized. I'm willing to join any (group) when I think they are doing work beneficial for the country."

-Gannett News Service, 10/20/93

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN TANNER (D-TN):

MEMBER - MAINSTREAM FORUM

"A system that penalizes someone for getting even a minimum-wage job, is a system that needs to be changed."

"We hope to have a comprehensive program that will include not just more of the same. What we (the Mainstream Forum) want to do is to change the system, but include in the system incentives to work."

-Gannett News Service, 10/20/93

"I believe that welfare reform is extremely important from the human side, that is to give people a chance to get off welfare, what the current program, in my opinion, does not do."

-Gannett News Service, 12/10/93

"Welfare reform is a cornerstone in the movement toward more individual responsibility for one's future."

"We hope to have a comprehensive program that will include not just more of the same. What we want to do is to change the system, but include in the system incentives to work."

-Gannett News Service, 10/20/93

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN WOOLSEY (D-CA):

"What I come to the table with is experience, not theory. Because of my background, I am more than willing to step to the plate with a proposal and not just sit back and poke holes at the other plans."

"We need to look at the whole picture - education, training, jobs that pay a family wage, child care. One of the key things is that we don't penalize women who go to work. The goal should be to get people off welfare, but it should be based on each individual. There is always a feeling that there are people out there who need a safety net."

-Gannett News Service, 11/3/93

REPRESENTATIVE CURT WELDON (R-PA):

The welfare system is a "group of people who feed off the poor people. We are going to force change this year. President Clinton laid down the challenge, and we're going to respond this year."

-The Washington Times, 2/3/94