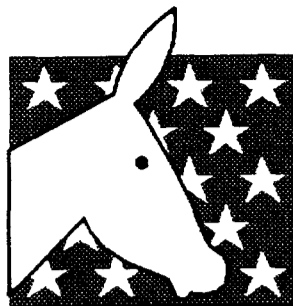


From the Office of the Democratic Leader
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TODAY'S MESSAGE

**House
Democratic
Leadership**

Communications

*Rep. Richard Durbin,
Rep. Kweisi Mfume
Vice Chairs*

Friday, March 3, 1995

DEMOCRATS FIGHT TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND ELDERLY

During consideration of the rescission bill in the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday, Gingrich Republicans voted to make extreme cuts to vital programs for children and senior citizens.

Their mean-spirited, callous actions follow on the heels of a week that included Republican cuts to the school lunch program, funding for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), infant formula and summer youth jobs -- cuts that will be used to finance a tax cut for the wealthiest Americans.

REPUBLICANS VOTE 'NO' AGAIN TO END THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Democrats were defeated in their attempt to provide funding for the school lunch program to offset the deep cuts already made by Republicans in the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee.

REPUBLICANS FAVOR EXTREME CUTS TO CHILDREN, SENIORS

House Democrats also offered amendments to restore, at least some of the cuts made by Republicans in some of the most essential programs for children and seniors, including:

Nutrition program for 100,000 Women, Infants and Children
Prenatal services for disadvantaged mothers
Summer youth employment (jobs for over 600,000 youth)
Veterans Medical and Older Worker assistance

Public Broadcasting Service
Safe and drug free schools
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance*
Housing assistance for elderly & children*

On every count, Republicans voted to cut funding for these programs in order to pay for their tax cut for the wealthy.

**According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, of the poor who rely on energy and housing assistance programs to help pay rent and high winter heating bills the hardest hit are the elderly poor. In addition, more than half of all those receiving energy assistance are low-income families with children.*

DEMOCRATS DEMAND THAT CUTS NOT FINANCE TAX BREAK FOR WEALTHY

Finally, Republicans ruled out giving any assurances that the cuts to essential programs in this rescission bill will not be used to pay for the costly tax cut proposals in the Republican Contract. The truth is, there is no way to balance the budget and finance tax breaks for the rich without hurting children and seniors in the process.