

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

Tuesday, February 28, 1995

CHILDREN TAKE THE BRUNT OF GOP BUDGET CUTS

"I don't know how many people thought we'd really have to implement these ideas."
-- House Budget Committee staff director, March 1995 issue of *Harper's Magazine*.

The Economic and Education Opportunities Committee last week and the Appropriations Committee this week are implementing some of those extremist Republican ideas by cutting everything from the school lunch program to summer youth jobs programs.

REPUBLICAN EXTREMISTS PULL A REVERSE ROBIN HOOD

According to an analysis reported by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, programs for low-income people will bear 63% of the cuts approved by House appropriations subcommittees last week, even though such programs account for only 12% of federal non-entitlement funding. Low income children and elderly are the groups most heavily affected according to the analysis.

* Five of every six dollars rescinded in low-income programs, other than the rescissions in the low-income housing and energy assistance programs, would come from programs for either young children or youth.

* In addition, families with children -- along with the elderly -- constitute the two groups that account for most of the beneficiaries of low-income housing and energy aid. For example, more than half of all those receiving energy assistance are low-income families with children.

REPUBLICANS SIDE WITH WEALTHY

The analysis noted that if these cuts are used to finance capital gains tax reductions and other tax breaks primarily benefitting high-income households, income and resources will be redistributed from low-income Americans to the wealthy at a time when the gap between rich and poor is already greater than at any time since the end of World War II.

"The Republicans are much more afraid of angry symphony-goers than they are of people starving to death," said conservative American Spectator columnist David Frum, during a recent discussion with Republican strategists regarding the outcome of Republican budget cuts. (*Harper's Magazine*, March 1995, page 51)

Posted on the Democratic bulletin board in HIS's Member Information Network:
A detailed summary of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis