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Thursday, March 2, 1995

REPUBLICANS AREN'T TELLING THE

funding by 4.5% -- they are not telling the truth.

From the Office of the Democratic Leader Voice 225-0100 Fax 225-7414

TODAY'S MESSAGE

House Democratic Leadership

Communications

Rep. Richard Durbin, Rep. Kweisi Miume Vice Chairs

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TRUTH ABOUT CUTS TO KIDS

The Gingrich Republicans defend the block granting of child nutrition program funding by arguing that it is in fact less bureaucratic and actually increases child nutrition program protection.

Republicans will say anything to hide the fact that they have cut programs for children to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

The Republicans are attempting to disguise block-granting school lunch programs with nice sounding rhetoric about less bureaucracy and more efficiency.

FACT: By ending the school lunch program and throwing it into a block grant, they are creating 50 new bureaucracies to administer 50 new programs. This will only increase administrative costs for the states and ultimately mean less money and less food for children.

Don't let the Republicans get away with arguing that they increase these programs. 40√.

FACT: The truth is federal funding for child nutrition and WIC programs would be cut by the Gingrich Republicans by \$2.3 billion over five years. Under the Republican plan, the only real increases are in administrative costs.

The effects of the cuts Republicans make now could be even deeper:

- Under the Republican proposal, states would be permitted to transfer 20% of block grant funds to other block grants.
- Higher food prices and larger school enrollment are realities that schools must deal with. To live within the funding levels provided under the block grant, many school nutrition programs will have to eliminate things like school breakfasts, raise the price of the meals, or give kids smaller portions.
- In a recession, guess who gets hurt first? States would have to respond to more children needing school lunches by either cutting back on food or simply not providing lunches.

Bottom line: Fewer children, not more, are going to receive school lunches under the Republican plan.

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