

creasing maritime protection for free world shipping displays a disturbing stubbornness that may harm the unity of the West. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the Government and the people of Japan to take on a larger responsibility for protecting the way of life that they enjoy and share with the rest of us.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LAST STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 1988

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention, and the attention of all my colleagues, a commentary that recently appeared in the *Civil Rights Journal* regarding President Reagan's final State of the Union address. Contrary to the content of the address, the facts show that Reagan has exhibited persistent irresponsibility in managing this Nation during his 8-year tenure.

Our Nation has witnessed an era in which Reagan has continued to mortgage our future and our children's future with quantum increases in defense funding and simultaneous decreases in taxes. His policy translated into a greater and greater Federal deficit while he continued to call for a balanced budget. He added insult to injury by attaining the distinction of the President with the largest personal staff in the history of our country.

Moreover, his huge cuts in social spending have led to the greatest chasm between the haves and have nots in this Nation since the Great Depression. We should all be outraged that our President could speak of rising jobs and incomes without recognizing the plight of the poor. Not only has Reagan's administration done little to aid the ever-growing homeless population, it has slashed Federal spending on employment and training programs for the economically disadvantaged by 50 percent since 1980.

In foreign policy, Reagan hid behind a wall of rhetoric and inaction when he preferred to condone legally sanctioned racism and brutality in South Africa with resisting the "Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986." Moreover, his administration bypassed the Government structure handed down by the founding Fathers with its illegal actions in the Iran-Contra affair.

Reagan has also ignored the growing crisis facing our children with his boasts of reducing drug abuse while he refused to take a stand against nations that export this poison to our shores. His inaction on the combating the deadly AIDS disease that is contaminating our maternity wards and in addressing infant mortality rates in our inner city communities that are higher than most developing countries is a testament to his lack of dedication to our youth. Our President has also chosen to cut Federal aid to education versus devising ways to help those children that our educational system ignores.

With these actions, Reagan has set improper moral tone in this Nation where racial violence is on the rise. This country has witnessed the resurgence of injustice with such situations as the assault of youths in Howard Beach and, more recently, the rape of a 15-year Tawana Brawley in Wappinger Falls.

As the Reagan administration moves toward a close, I am, therefore, honored to present the following commentary exposing President Reagan's camouflage of the facts in his last formal address as President of our country:

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL—COMMENTARY No.
320—THE STATE OF THE UNION?

(By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.)

As I listened to President Reagan deliver his final State of the Union Message, I wondered if he was really talking about the United States. It is a tradition for all presidents to use, as a centerpiece of their state of the union messages, many laudatory comments about the accomplishments of their administrations.

For millions of African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans and many white Americans, Mr. Reagan's speech not only missed the mark, but also presented a chilling reality: the poor and the downtrodden are no longer envisioned as part of what Reagan termed "the flowering of American prosperity and freedom."

It is not that the President's speech writers forgot to include in the address a challenge to the nation on the growing racial crisis. It is, rather, that the speech was intended to camouflage the resurgence of overt and violent racism which is spreading across this nation.

It is not that Mr. Reagan forgot that his administration divergent but harmonizing communities were a reflection of a deeper community of values—the value of work, of family, of religion—and of the love of freedom that God places in each of us and whose defense He has entrusted in a special way to this nation."

Mr. Reagan is convinced that this nation is destined by God to rule over the rest of the world. Yet, the God of Justice and Creation demands not pious and elitist affirmations of manifest destiny, but rather, justice, freedom and peace for all of God's people in not one but in all of the nations of the world. Until the United States and its leadership repents for past and present sins of injustice, the attempt by Reagan to use God to justify evil actions will only lead to further domestic and international turmoil.

Of course, 1988 will offer the nation an opportunity to change its present course. The extent to which all eligible voters go to the polls and vote in record numbers for candidates who dare to take a stand for justice and freedom for all people of the world is the extent to which this nation can become a true moral force in the world.

CHILD CARE ISSUE EMERGES AS FOCUS OF LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

HON. TONY COELHO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 25, 1988

Mr. COELHO. Mr. Speaker, this Nation has experienced a dramatic shift in demographics over the last 30 years. Today, the numbers of single parents, teen parents, working mothers, families in which both parents work, households headed by women, and poor children are higher than they have ever been, and the numbers continue to grow. The importance of child care in a family's ability to participate and to stay in the work force is crucial, and the demand for child care services is skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention an article that recently appeared on the front page of the *Washington Post*, entitled: "Child Care Issue Emerges as Focus of Legislative Efforts." One of the important points made by the article is that the goals of increasing the supply of child care services and of providing some kind of support for these services are goals shared by a wide variety of people. Members of Congress of both parties, in both Houses, members of the administration, representatives of labor groups and of business groups, Presidential candidates and academicians agree that day care is an issue that needs to be addressed.

I would like to insert the article in the *RECORD* at this point, and commend it to the attention of my colleagues:

[From the *Washington Post*, Feb. 8, 1988]

CHILD CARE ISSUE EMERGES AS FOCUS OF LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS

(By Cindy Skrzycki and Frank Swoboda)

The growing number and influence of working mothers has given rise to a potent, family-centered political constituency that has catapulted child care support high up on the nation's legislative agenda.

"The issue is taking on a momentum that's making it virtually irresistible," said Jerry Klepner, legislative director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. "It's very possible to get a bill through the Congress and to the president this year."

Not since 1971, when President Richard Nixon vetoed a major child care initiative, has the issue received so much attention. Legislation is moving through Congress aimed at increasing the availability of public and private day care facilities. Although there are political differences about how to increase child care support, the goal is one of the few that Republican and Democratic lawmakers appear to agree on.

A major part of the new-found support for the issue comes from the demographic power of the baby boom generation. The issue of who will mind the children while mother is at work is one that has long vexed single parents and low-income working mothers. But the entry of middle-class working mothers who are as protective of their careers as of their families has given a new momentum to the issue.

Since the 1950s, the number of working women and preschool children has more than quadrupled. Today more than half of all women with children younger than 6 are now in the work force and by the mid-1990s, two-thirds of all preschool age children are expected to have mothers who work outside the home.

"This has suddenly become the phenomenon that strikes at all economic levels," said Barbara Willer of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, who also believes that employers' concerns about future labor shortages are driving the new-found interest in day care.

Polls document that family issues are fast emerging as a critical domestic issue, with a poll by *The Wall Street Journal* and NBC news showing that 80 percent of so-called "new collar," or baby boom, workers think government should do more to improve child care and help working parents.

The issue is moving so fast that Labor Secretary Ann D. McLaughlin has set up a special task force to shape an administration position by early March. "Obviously we're on a fast track," a member of the task force said last week.

McLaughlin has broached the subject with both President Reagan and White