

Memo of the Month



WAT
Women's Action Taskforce

United States
Department of
Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

20 years of service and
dedication to USDA
women's equality,
furthering the potential
of all women and men
in USDA

July 10, 1995

Subject: Nominations for Women's Equality Day Awards

To: Under Secretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Agency Heads

From: Linda Followell, President

Background

Women won the right to vote with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution on August 26, 1920. In 1973, a Presidential Proclamation declared August 26 to be Women's Equality Day.

Each year, the Women's Action Taskforce (WAT) celebrates this victory by presenting awards to recognize outstanding commitment to and support for women. Awards are presented at the Women's Equality Day Awards ceremony to USDA employees, supervisors, and agencies.

WAT, a USDA chartered women's organization, has served USDA employees for over 20 years with programs, training, and scholarships.

Award Categories

WAT will present awards to:

- one USDA agency that has advanced the careers of women
- three supervisors who have been diligent in hiring and/or promoting qualified women.
- three individuals who have voluntarily served women.

Act Now—There's Still Time To Stop the "Revolution"

The *Monthly Pull-out Guide to the GOP's Most Dangerous Ideas*

It's harvest time for the Republican Congress. The seeds of the "Republican Revolution," planted with the introduction of the Contract With America, have grown from ideas, to proposals, to bills. Now, as Congress approaches the deadline for appropriations, the real business of deciding what will become law has begun. "Our goal is to get everything to the President's desk by October 1," Speaker Newt Gingrich said recently.

What follows is a list of Republican proposals that the Monthly considers to be grave threats to the economic and social well-being of the country. Each will be taken up in some form by Congress this fall. One

bill would let industry pollute our air. Another would give employers a free pass to endanger the safety of their employees. Republicans would also raise taxes on the working poor, and lower them on the affluent.

It is not too late, of course. With a strong stand by congressional Democrats (that means no missing votes—see box, page 32) and the aid of the small but pivotal group of moderate Republicans (see list, also on page 32), the most noxious of the Republican proposals can be stopped. Let your congressmen know what you think of the following ideas—before they become laws.
—Daniel Franklin

→
Lifting the
privileged

THE BAD IDEA	WHO WINS	WHO LOSES	THE BOTTOM LINE
TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH	<i>the wealthy</i>	<i>the rest of us</i>	If it weren't for a little thing called "the deficit," tax cuts would be fine, as long as they went to those who most need them. But there is a deficit, and over half the benefits of the GOP tax cut will go to families earning more than \$100,000, while only 5 percent will go to those with incomes less than \$30,000. (Conference Report 104-159)
REPEALING THE SOCIAL SECURITY MEANS-TAX	<i>affluent elderly</i>	<i>future generations</i>	The GOP, so eager to tear into the federal benefits of the poor, are ready to rescind President Clinton's tax on affluent Social Security recipients. Clinton had earmarked the tax revenue for Medicare. Since everyone agrees that Medicare is in trouble, why drop some of its revenue? (104-159)
GRAZING RIGHTS	<i>western ranchers</i>	<i>the owners of federal lands: you</i>	Ranchers have been allowed to graze their cattle on federal lands for below-market rates for years. The GOP's "Livestock Grazing Act" would broaden the scam by subsidizing the artificially low rates. (S 852, HR 1713)
SECURITIES REFORM	<i>fraudulent companies and investment firms</i>	<i>small-time investors</i>	The GOP had an opportunity to address one of the major scams in the legal system, collusive securities class action suits, in which defendants are let off easy and the only ones who clean up are the lawyers, not the victims. Instead, the Republican proposal merely makes it harder for any anti-fraud suit to proceed, legitimate or not. (S 240, HR 1058)
TELECOM DEREGULATION	<i>telecom giants, i.e. Rupert Murdoch</i>	<i>smaller companies, TV watchers, telephone users</i>	The GOP telecommunications bill allows new concentrations of media power by lifting restrictions on ownership monopolies in cable and phone service, guaranteeing higher rates for the average user. (HR 1555, S 652)