

gift of \$100 from their own personal bank accounts to every American citizen, the Democrats would claim this was a "mean-spirited cut" and an attempt to steal from children and the elderly. Unfortunately, the media would support them since you rarely see reporters make a Democrat back up what he says.

I am not wealthy or influential, and the only people I see, "dipping into my pockets" are the Democrats. The only chance I see for the future of America is from the Republicans. If the only arguments against the Contract With America consist of fear mongering and lies, what are the real motivations of the Democrats? And just what do they propose to ensure a prosperous future for us all? I would really like to know.

DON'T CUT FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENTS

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, recently I received a letter from a young woman in my district. She brought up some very good reasons why Republicans should not cut Federal funding for student financial assistance.

She said: "College is the best investment in America's future." I agree. That only way to insure that America prospers tomorrow is to make education and training available to our Nation's children and young adults today. These ill-considered Republican budget cuts are a short-sighted move that will limit America's future.

While graduates may earn more over their lifetime than nongraduates, they do so because they master specialized skills and knowledge demanded in our complex and dynamic economy. While graduates may earn more money than non-graduates, they don't have money to pay tuition and other expenses this year, before they enter or complete college. The small amount of Federal financial aid provided through interest subsidies and grants are essential to allow many students to attend colleges and universities.

In the words of the same young woman: "The opportunity to go to college is a privilege that should be everyone's right. Every student with the ability and the determination to work for a college education should have that opportunity. But suggested cuts in student aid programs would make financing a college education more difficult for average Americans."

She is right. Not only would the cuts mean that post-secondary education would be more difficult to obtain for so-called average or middle-class Americans. These cuts would also make it virtually impossible for less privileged Americans to gain access to a post-secondary education.

While we must balance the budget, it is penny-wise and pound foolish to skimp on one of the most important investments we can make—the education of young people or the continuing education of adults.

This young woman from my district and her peers are tomorrow's work force. We must give them the tools they will need—and we all will need—to compete and succeed in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the letter be inserted in the RECORD.

Hon. EDWARD MARKEY,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: College is the best investment in America's future, I urge you to support continued funding for college loan and student aid programs.

A college education means increased opportunity—opportunity to advance in a career, to earn more, and to contribute more to the economy and to society.

The opportunity to go to college is a privilege that should be everyone's rights. Every student with the ability and the determination to work for a college education should have that opportunity. But suggested cuts in student aid programs would make financing a college education more difficult for average Americans.

Please don't cut our future short. Don't cut student aid.

Sincerely,

ERICA MARTIN-DOYLE.

TRIBUTE TO FIVE MINNESOTA IMMIGRANTS

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, in light of the antiimmigrant sentiment currently prevalent in much of U.S. society, I wanted to submit the following article which appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper in my district in St. Paul, MN. This article tells a different story from those often heard about immigrants. Immigrants to the United States, like the five people being honored in Minnesota, work hard to make important contributions to our society.

As we consider changes to immigration law in Congress, I hope that we will keep in mind that these five people are a true representation of what immigration means to the United States.

FIVE MINNESOTA IMMIGRANTS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENT—RIGHTS GROUP AWARD IS FOR CONTRIBUTION

(By Ann Baker)

The last time Rocky Ralebipi went home to Pietersburg, South Africa, it was 1992, two years after Nelson Mandela walked out of prison.

Seeing tank-like army vehicles called "hippos" patrolling her family's segregated black neighborhood, she couldn't shake off the memory of a 1977 police raid on the university where she was a student. Classmates suspected of conspiring against the apartheid government were beaten to death and flung out of 10th-story windows.

It's a memory the College of St. Catherine librarian will never forget.

Tonight, Ralebipi and four other immigrants who live in the state will be honored at the Minneapolis Hilton by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights for their outstanding contributions to Minnesota's economy and community life.

Nazie Eftekhari, Jose Lamas, George Meredith and Viet Ngo, who with Ralebipi are immigrants from four different continents, teach, invent, create and manage businesses and operate communication networks. All but Meredith came to Minnesota as students.

"These individuals are not unique," said Nancy Arnison, deputy director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. "They represent what immigrants bring to this country."

Arnison points to local surveys showing that Minnesotans tend to believe immigrants

brought more harm than good, even before California's Proposition 187 barred undocumented immigrants' families from free school and vaccinations.

In the meantime, anti-immigrant sentiment is on the rise nationally, with welfare reform bills in the U.S. House and Senate proposing to deny numerous federal services to legal immigrants who are waiting to become naturalized.

Eftekhari, who is from Iran, founded and directs one of the first managed-care health corporations in the United States, called the Araz Group. Recipient of the 1995 Bloomington Small Business Person of the Year award, she has 115 employees.

"It's the strength of this country that people can come here and accomplish their dreams," she says.

Lamas left Mexico for California by himself six years ago at age 14, supporting himself with restaurant jobs. He graduated from Worthington Senior High School on Monday, and has published three editions of a six-page Spanish language newspaper, supported by advertisements, for the Worthington area.

In the fall he plans to enroll at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter to study pre-law. He also likes to tinker with inventions, especially auto safety devices. He has legal immigration papers now and hopes to become a citizen in three years.

Meredith, a 28-year veteran of 3M, came here on a job transfer from South Wales eight years ago. He is an executive vice president in charge of the company's life sciences division, which produces medical, pharmaceutical and dental products.

Now a U.S. citizen, Meredith lives in Grant township, which he calls "a satisfying place to live from a community standpoint." He enjoys the outdoors, fishing, skiing and sailing on the St. Croix.

Ngo, an engineer and sculptor who came from Vietnam in 1970, founded and operates a sewage treatment company, Lemna Corp. of Mendota Heights. He creates parks out of ponds with floating duckweed, packed into wire mesh to cleanse the effluent. His method is praised as cheap, natural and esthetic.

"And I'm as American as chow mein," he says.

"We're trying to dispel the myths that immigrants are flooding our shores, taking American jobs, draining the welfare system and failing to assimilate," said Arnison.

In fact, she said, immigrants, who have been entering at the "hardly a flood" rate of 1 million a year, make up 8 percent of the population, compared with 15 percent in the early 1900s. Together, they earn \$240 billion a year and pay back \$90 billion in taxes. Only 9 percent of immigrant households are on welfare.

Next week, Ralebipi, who now directs the College of St. Catherine's health sciences library, will return to South Africa, this time to teach library technology for a year to students at her alma mater, the University of the North.

This time she is excited, not scared. She is confident that in South Africa freedom has become "really real" and she is eager to help build the newly integrated society.

CONTRACT FROM AMERICANS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, last week my constituents sent me a Contract from Americans. The first line of this contract says

it all. "We the undersigned citizens are concerned about the future that awaits us," they say. They are worried about the growing size of government. They are angry about the cruel Federal welfare state. And, above all, they call on us to get to work and balance the Federal budget.

I take their concern to heart. Not just because I agree with them, but because the people that sent me this contract are very important to me. It was written by a group of students from Escondido High School in my district.

Students like these are standing up to the people that say they don't care. They know how important it is that we balance and change the way government does business. It is their future that is at stake, not ours.

If we fail, these students know that they will have to live with the debt. In their contract, they note that, "the interest alone on our national debt is more than our entire national budget was when America was a better place to call home."

These young adults are taking the initiative to make a difference, and to make us change our ways. I am proud of them for making their voice heard.

Mr. Speaker, this contract represents the voice coming from the future of our country. I ask unanimous consent that it be included in the record so that every Member of this body can read it. We must hear their voice. We must make the future better for these children.

CONTRACT FROM AMERICANS

We the undersigned citizens are concerned about the future that awaits us. We feel the role of Government is to ensure the safety of the citizens, and prolong the sovereignty of the nation. Unfortunately, the nation that awaits us is not safe and is not sovereign. The continual waste of tax dollars on entitlement programs such as unending welfare, food stamps, special aid for drug addicts, paying farmers to not plant, and ensuring farmers profits must stop. In a true democracy everyone would vote on such spending. But as we live in a representative republic, you were selected to represent our wishes. With this in mind, we ask that you ensure the stability of our futures by enacting the following legislation:

1. The spending on welfare, food stamps, AFDC, and others must decrease. These programs have increased to 54% of the total federal budget with no end in sight. If this spending continues on the same course, you will authorize spending of all our tax dollars on programs that are designed to help only a fraction of our nation's population. We believe some people deserve help, but only for limited periods of time. These programs were designed to make life better. In reality they have not made people's lives better, and in many instances people have been so harmed by the continual give away of money they have lost the will to "get off welfare." The welfare program is so full of waste, fraud and redundancy, that it can only be repaired with a major overhaul. We feel if the social programs continue, they should be managed by the states where the recipients reside.

2. The furnishing of money to drug addicts must stop. Under your current rules, if someone is a drug addict, you authorize additional welfare (SSI) income over and above their "normal" welfare entitlement. Drugs cost money. If you give someone, who is addicted to drugs more money, that means they will only buy more drugs. This program was created to get people off drugs, an idea with good intentions. Unfortunately it has not worked. There are no indications that

drug addiction is on the decrease. In fact, drug addiction is on the increase, with the addict's drug of choice being once again, heroin.

3. Farm subsidies in all forms must stop or be reduced. You are authorizing farmers to receive income by not planting crops, at the same time people are going hungry, and food prices are going up. It is difficult to understand the concept of paying people to ensure they do not do their job, especially when others that need jobs cannot get a job. Additionally, if farmers grow certain crops, such as sugar, and do not make enough profit, you authorize payments to them to ensure they make what has been predetermined as a reasonable profit.

4. Balance the Federal Budget. Every American and every American business can spend only what they earn. The Federal Government should be held to the same standard. We are deeply in debt, yet the overspending continues. The interest alone on our debt is more than our entire national budget when America was a better place to call home.

The discussion in vogue these days, according to U.S. News and World Report, and the New York Times is "how little Generation X wants to contribute to the world, how they only play video games, buy CD's and watch television." We are members of Generation X, and very much want to contribute to the world. That is why we are so concerned about its current condition. Most of us work while going to high school. Hopefully, we will all be working soon. We want to contribute our fair share.

People of all ages need role models. We expect you to be a role model. But continually giving away our tax dollars on frivolous programs that pay people not to contribute sends a clear message that it is acceptable not to contribute. That is not acceptable to us. You were elected to be a leader. We expect you to lead the way for all of us for a better tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Iceyda Baza; Ryan Bezenek; Maria Borbolla; Juan Broderick; Amy Brooks; Chris Cabrera; Fernando Carranza; Elizabeth Cervantes; Toeey Chov; Abe Copeland; Michelle Dalope; Lorena Delatorre; Matthew Dewall; April Dillard; Elva Duron; Mainardo Flores; Karin Giron; Christi Henderson; Saul Hidalgo; Jennylynd Johnson; Crystal Lara; Tessa Larsen; Jose Morales; Elizabeth Nunez; Josh Pippins; Art Reyes; Araceli Rodriguez; Alfonso Rosas; Ana Salas; Adriana Sanchez; Marty Sanchez; Kimmy Sitaket; Karen Stivers; J'nesse Thompson; Valerie Torres; and Damion Voss.

WORKING FOR PEACE IN KASHMIR

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the Congress should take a strong stand in support of an end to the violence in Kashmir.

The American Overseas Interests Act, H.R. 1561, recognizes the need for all parties in the conflict in Kashmir to resolve the conflict peacefully.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over this region.

Kashmir is still plagued by violence.

More than 20,000 people have been killed.

Tensions are on the rise again.

A mosque sacred to the Moslems in Kashmir was recently burned to the ground.

And on Saturday, June 3, the Indian Parliament once again extended New Delhi's rule over Kashmir and postponed elections, which were set to take place next month.

The call for peace is more important than ever.

I will continue to push for an even stronger message—to press India to respect human rights, to urge an end to the violence, and to allow the Kashmiri people to determine their own future.

While I am glad that India repealed the TADA law which has kept many minorities behind bars for political reasons, India needs to do more.

India should take further steps to allow international human rights groups access to Kashmir, and India should prosecute security personnel involved in abuses of human rights.

We cannot ignore the conflict in Kashmir.

The recognition of this issue in the bill is an important step in working toward a peaceful resolution.

Mr. Speaker, while I am not voting for H.R. 1561 because I believe it takes us a giant step back in building democracy around the globe, I wanted to indicate that I support this action on Kashmir.

CONGRATULATIONS MT. ZION SWINGSATIONS

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Mt. Zion Swingsations, a special group of young people from my district who recently were awarded the National Show Choir Title at the Showstoppers 2-day national competition. These dedicated singers were named the best 14-piece combo in the Nation, and competed against 14 schools from across the country.

The Swingsations is directed by Connie Mulligan with Scott Hines as the instrumental director. The members of this sensational singing group are Jon Alford, Brian Babis, Jeff Badorek, Kim Bartholomew, Kristen Borders, Brian Bowman, Pete Bowman, Dannielle Brown, Josh Butts, Zach Carter, Heather Childs, Brian Clark, Eric Corman, James Drayton, Bill Egbert, Beth Ellington, Brian Fogarty, Jared Gleason, Jessica Goodwin, Neil Goodwin, Sara Goveia, Jennifer Greenwell, David Hendricksen, Bob Higar, Paul Higar, Brian Howell, Tim Jones, Christy Laesch, Tatum Landreth, Lindsay Lehw, Kate McCullough, Tracy McGhee, Ashley McKittrick, Aaron Monts, Byron Muniz, Jeanie Owens, Tray Patrick, Jamie Pflum, Angie Pickowitz, Jimmy Rade, Ginger Roberts, Danny Rutherford, Derek Schmaiz, Scott Sill, Amanda Skowronski, Jeremy Skowronski, Tina Sphar, Brian Spry, Brian Stimson, Carrie West, Richie Williams, Ted Williams, Scott Willis, Todd Wilson, Eric Wortman, Evan Wortman, Jim Yantis, and Keisha Young.

It should be also noted that soloist Kelly Courtawa won a national vocalist award and the Swingsations choreographer, Dwight Jordan, was awarded an artistic production award.