

FEEDING THE HUNGRY THROUGH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. MANZULLO] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, the Hunger Connection of Rockford, IL, is a privately financed organization that resources food from wholesalers, retailers, and food processors and then makes it available to over 90 agencies which, in turn, distribute the food to the needy. Not 1 cent of Government money is used for this purpose.

In addition, the Hunger Connection, led by Mary Cunningham, the executive director, also helps the community through a service called Community Share. In the Community Share Program, people do meaningful volunteer work in the community in exchange for 2 hours of work plus \$14 in cash, \$28, to \$32 in groceries.

The Hunger Connection is an example of the type of organization that is leading community service efforts. We are saddled with a massive debt. Therefore, the time has come to recognize private organizations such as the Hunger Connection for innovative, cost efficient solutions to our problems.

Besides that, it has always been the American spirit of charity and good works that has spearheaded the country's efforts in alleviating the plight of the needy. Thus we have an obligation to carry on this work and still strive to keep this Nation from taking on further financial burdens.

We are approaching a national debt of \$5 trillion with annual budget deficits routinely exceeding \$200 billion a year. That means \$200 billion a year is added to the national debt. What is also alarming are the taxes that future generations will pay if Congress continues expensive spending habits.

The President's official budget contains an analysis called generational forecast. This projects the future tax burden on the American people and takes into consideration our national debt and current policies for Federal spending. It predicts that children born after 1992, by the time they enter the work force, will have a combined local, State, and Federal tax rate of between 84 and 94 percent.

That means your child or grandchild will be able to keep only \$600 to \$1,200 for every \$10,000 he or she earns.

That is not the legacy we want to leave our children.

The findings of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlements and Tax Reform show that, absent policy changes, entitlement spending and interest on the national debt alone will consume all Federal revenues by the year 2012.

Our Nation is not on the verge of bankruptcy. It is in bankruptcy, and it is hemorrhaging profusely. If we fail to act, we have made a choice that greatly threatens the economic future of our children and our Nation.

Given this financial crisis, we must reevaluate our budgetary priorities. If

we are going to be serious about reducing our debt and balancing the budget, then every program not absolutely essential to the function of the Federal Government must be on the table for consideration. That is why original private sector endeavors like the Hunger Connection are so important. The Hunger Connection and Community Share represent the spirit of Americans working together to solve problems. These are people looking to each other instead of Government to solve the problems of this Nation.

TRADE WITH JAPAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it is time to pry open Japan's market, particularly in the sector of automotive goods.

Now, what is wrong with this picture? Let me tell you what is wrong. Over the past 10 years, the United States has consistently run a massive trade deficit, getting worse year after year after year, last year the largest in the history of our country with Japan. And we have run that deficit largely in the area of automotive goods, regardless, regardless of what the economic conditions have been during those years between our two countries.

That means regardless of what the yen-dollar relationship is, as this blue line charts out over the past 10 years, even as our dollar got cheaper, which means our goods should be cheaper on those shelves, the deficit got worse and worse and worse.

In fact, over half of the trade deficit the United States has amassed with Japan, \$66 million last year was in one sector, automotive and automotive goods. But that is not news. That has been going on year after year after year.

Japan used to use the excuse, Well, in America you do not make any vehicles that are right-hand drive vehicles. Surprise, over the last 15 years our automotive manufacturers now have 60 different models, so you cannot use even that excuse anymore.

If you look back to 1985, when the exchange rate was 239 yen to the dollar, the United States in that year amassed a \$23.7 billion trade deficit with Japan in automotive and automotive parts. Yet in 1994, when our dollar had literally been devalued by 300 percent, devalued by 300 percent, which means that our goods should have been 300 percent cheaper and had some impact on sales in that market, we had an even worse deficit with Japan.

In fact, last year we had a record trade deficit in the area of automotive and automotive goods, rising to over \$37 billion, with each billion dollar of trade deficit equal to 20,000 jobs in this country. We are not talking about a small problem. Today, as we know, goods denominated in dollars are very,

very cheap on the world market. It should help our exports except with Japan. In the first quarter of this year, we have amassed even worse deficits with them than we did last year, which was our worse year ever.

What is wrong with this picture is Japan's market remains closed no matter what. As the price of our goods, both for automobiles as well as automotive parts, in Japan have become increasingly cheaper and less expensive and with the value of our dollar having been decreased by over 300 percent over the last 10 years, we should be running a huge trade surplus with Japan. Instead, we have recorded deficits year after year.

In fact, the United States has been frozen at a 1.5-percent share of Japan's market for over a decade, while Japanese goods in the automotive sector now comprise 25 percent of our market. Let me repeat that, the United States goods are frozen to 1.5 percent of Japan's market through market control in that country, while Japan's goods now consume a 25-percent share of our market.

For the sake of our Nation, in which one of six jobs is directly connected to the automotive industry and for the sake of nearly a million American workers who work in this country in the auto sector, I urge the Clinton administration to hang tough with Japan. The United States maintains a trade balance in automotive goods with every other industrialized nation in the world. I repeat, the United States is a competitive country in the automotive sector. We maintain a trade balance with every other industrialized country in the world but for one, but for Japan.

So why should Japan not behave like the rest of the industrialized world? We wish the Clinton administration great success because if we can be successful for America, we will also be successful for the rest of the world in Japan, because, in fact, less than 4 percent of Japan's market is comprised of automotive goods from any country in the world, Europe, Asia, the United States. All are closed out.

ELIMINATE THE IN-SCHOOL INTEREST SUBSIDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the issue of the Republican proposal to eliminate the in-school interest subsidy. There is going to be a lot of rhetoric and dialog, and I think the air needs to be cleared as to exactly what is going on with this issue. I can get up here and say that I was a student who took advantage of the student loan program and the in-school interest subsidy. Though I worked my way through college in order to help get through medical

school, I took out 10,000 dollars' worth of loans while I was a medical student.

I was very pleasantly surprised to discover that when I finished medical school and when I finished my internship and residency, that I still only owed \$10,000, that the interest of 7 percent per year had been picked up by the U.S. taxpayer. Indeed, I was very happy to find that out because once I got out of medical school and my internship and residency, I got myself a pretty good job and \$10,000 was fairly easy to pay off.

That, indeed, is the essence of the problem with the Democrat proposal of continuing the in-school interest subsidy.

Let us just say, if I had daughters, they were twins. And one wanted to go to school to become a hairdresser and it took her 1 year. And she wanted to take out a \$5,000 loan to do that. And then I had another daughter who wanted to go through 4 years of college and 3 years of law school and wanted to borrow \$5,000 a year to do that. Well, guess what? My daughter who went to school to be a hairdresser would be paying through her taxes the in-school interest subsidy on my other daughter who wants to accumulate a \$35,000 loan and then get out and become a wealthy attorney.

We, Republicans, are making a proposal that these students pay that in-school interest subsidy in the form of added principal when they graduate. This may sound like an onerous, terrible burden to place on our college students and our professional career students when they get out of law school or medical school, but the truth is, Mr. Speaker, that the average increase in the size of that student loan will roughly be equivalent to their cable bill. It will be about \$27 a month, the average student will have to pay in extra costs on their student loan, not exactly what I would consider to be an onerous burden to place on a student who has a great likelihood of making a fairly good income, a substantially better income than the average person who goes out there and works when they get out of high school.

Mr. Speaker, this proposal of the Republicans is a fair proposal, but probably more importantly, one of the best reasons why this is a good proposal is we do not have the money to pay for this. We have to borrow the money to pay those interest payments for those college students. Indeed, these college students, when they get out and those who have had their student loan interest paid, it has been paid in the form of added Federal debt. Those students, when they get out of college, will have more debt to pay off in the form of an added debt burden.

Mr. Speaker, our proposal, the Republican proposal, is a logical proposal. It is a fair proposal. And, indeed, it is a proposal that asks the people who are most able to pay to pick up the tab. But we are going to hear a lot of rhetoric about this being something that is

bad and evil, but, Mr. Speaker, it is fair. It is logical. It makes sense. It is something that is badly needed. And I support the elimination of the in-school interest subsidy.

I ask that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle do so so that we can help balance the budget and we can help create a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

SHARING AND CARING HANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. RAMSTAD] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I attended a truly memorable event in Minnesota. It was the dedication of Mary's Place. And at that dedication, I saw love and compassion up close. Mary's Place is a transitional housing facility built through the vision and the persistence of Mary Jo Copeland, Minnesota's Mother Teresa. Mary's Place is a shining example of how we can use nongovernmental private solutions to solve the problems facing our country.

This was a \$7.2 million transitional shelter, 200 beds for homeless people, \$7.2 million all raised through private businesses, individuals, and churches, not one penny of government money.

Mr. Speaker, last month I saw firsthand why Mary Jo Copeland is Minnesota's Mother Teresa. I was touring the new facility before it was open, and I watched Mary Joe interrupt that tour to go across the street to greet a homeless family, a young mother and her three little children. And that family was forced to leave their home after her husband beat her and to watch Mary Joe hug those bewildered, broken children brought tears to my eyes. Everyone who has been to Sharing and Caring Hands, all of the volunteers, every one who goes there daily to assist other people have seen that same kind of love and compassion firsthand.

Yesterday we celebrated several things, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we dedicated the \$7.2 million facility. We also celebrated 10 years of love and compassion and concern like that I just explained.

Let me tell you a little bit about Sharing and Caring Hands, because I believe we need to replicate this wonderful organization throughout our great country. This organization, Sharing and Caring Hands, was founded in 1985 as a safety net organization to assist those who are not getting help from the welfare system. Each and every month, Mr. Speaker, 12,000 people, 12,000 homeless, hurting people are assisted through a food shelf, meals, clothing, showers, dental care, medical help, eye glasses, transportation, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and school tutoring for children. These services are all provided by hundreds of volunteers and private contributions,

again, not one penny of taxpayer money.

Over \$150,000, therefore, each month, all of the funds raised by Sharing and Caring Hands, goes directly to the recipients. Nobody take a salary. Mary Jo works 14 or 15 hours each and every day. No salary, strictly volunteer work. As Mary Jo puts it, a labor of love.

Mr. Speaker, we need to focus national attention on this model organization. Mary Jo Copeland and her volunteers at Sharing and Caring Hands have taught and are teaching America a lot about caring and about sharing, about true compassion.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this project should serve as a model and a beacon of hope, a beacon for those of us who are dedicated to the principle that each of us can make a difference in the lives of other people through volunteerism and commitment. As we all know, there has been much focus here in Congress about ways to strengthen the family. Everyone agrees that the breakdown of families has provided a whole new range of social problems.

What Mary Jo Copeland and everyone at Sharing and Caring Hands have done, Mr. Speaker, is to create a kind of sharing, caring, compassionate, and concerned family. Sharing and Caring Hands is truly that for so many people.

It is a very special family that is taking in new brothers and sisters each and every day. Yesterday we dedicated a new family home, Mary's Place, a place where people know they can find comfort, they can find love. They can find a safe haven. They can find support that you would find that we are able to find in the majority of American families. So while the debate rages here in Congress on how best to provide the resources necessary for people to become more self-sufficient, Sharing and Caring Hands is already here showing us how, without bureaucratic strings and without taxpayer dollars, people can make a real difference in the lives of those less fortunate, in the lives of people who are hurting.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we need to replicate Sharing and Caring Hands throughout the United States. Mary Jo Copeland's vision can make a difference in your communities and States just like Sharing and Caring Hands is making a real difference in the lives of real people in the twin cities of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I take my hat off to Mary Jo Copeland and all of her volunteers for what they are doing in Minnesota. We are very, very proud of them and grateful for them.

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.