

Corps, given the other cuts that are taking place throughout our budget, I am here to just caution my colleagues to make sure that we recognize that the Peace Corps is one of the most cost-effective organizations that you could possibly have. The real fact is that you cannot ask for an organization that has done more to help people in Third World countries than this organization begun by President Kennedy and continued by Presidents of both parties.

At this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] and just thank him for his willingness to speak out on this issue.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Speaker, we wanted to show tonight that there is a bipartisan support for the Peace Corps, that this is not an issue that has ever been just a one party effort.

I would just caution my colleagues in the House that as the world grows smaller and as we need to have more effort to sort of hypereducate the world population, there is not a more cost effective way of doing that than allowing young Americans and old alike, because there is no limit on serving in the Peace Corps, to be able to volunteer. They get paid, we got paid a small amount when we were in the Peace Corps, a stipend.

Mr. SHAYS. Reclaiming my time, it was not quite the minimum wage, but it sure met our needs.

I notice our colleague from Kentucky, and we have very little time left. I would love to yield time to my colleague.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding that time. I have a 5-minute opportunity coming up, and we can continue this discussion, because I think it is important to recognize and to emphasize that this is a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, there are six former Peace Corps volunteers who serve in the House of Representatives, and it is evenly divided, three Democrats and three Republicans. I think that speaks to the fact that all sorts of folks have made the commitment, have been willing to spend the time and go far afield from where they grew up to give a little back and to learn a lot, because one thing that I often tell people about my time in the Peace Corps is that I benefited far more than the people I was there helping.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I just would say to my colleague, I think about this experience, remembering being in a Fijian hut and seeing a picture of President Kennedy, and how much the Third World reached out to this President who was reaching out to the Third World, and thinking about a great African leader who visited President Kennedy, and President Kennedy, who was sensitive to the culture of the African community, instead of inviting him into the East Room or the Green Room or the Blue Room, invited him

up into his own personal living quarters. And volunteers know the symbolism and the significance of when we were visiting a neighbor, if they would actually bring us into the most personal part of their own home, it was a great honor. That electrified the Third World, that he had shown such respect to a great African leader by inviting him into his own personal quarters.

Becoming sensitive to the concerns and the ways that people live in other countries was just a definite part of this whole Peace Corps experience. Candidly, this has brought a tremendous ability for me to interact with people of all income levels and all different social economic circumstances, all educational levels, and realize that behind that income level or that education is an extraordinarily real person that I am about to interact with.

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE PEACE CORPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WARD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FARR. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, I was commenting that one of the unique feelings we all had was that each of us had the ability to live in a minority in another land and learn another language and learn another culture, and essentially be able to really understand what it is like to be outside of our own culture and our own values, because I think in order to educate people and bring them into changing behavior patterns that may have been in existence for hundreds of years, behavior patterns that might not have been good health, sanitary conditions, or nutritional habits, that you really have to be a part of them in order to bring that about. That learning that other culture, that other language, and the language I learned in Spanish, they say with every language comes a second soul.

Mr. SHAYS. I notice that the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is here, who has been so active in support of the veterans and what they have done. In Fiji, Mr. SOLOMON, the impact that Americans had during World War II had such an incredible result to the people of Fiji, because this was a British colony and yet the Americans went and just comfortably lived with the Fijians where they lived and went in the same buses they did.

In fact, there is a wonderful story of an American soldier being driven by an Indian in Fiji, because there are a lot of Indians around the world as we know, and when he came to this British hotel, the Indian was not allowed in. And the American soldier said the hell with that, and just brought his Indian taxicab driver in to stay with him. But this kind of interaction, this one on one on the street, living as they

live, has a tremendous benefit to helping us understand their culture, but also having them appreciate Americans. So it is not just the Peace Corps, but it was our American soldiers who were there before us.

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time for a moment, that was one of the things that was most striking to me, as an American in Gambia, West Africa, which was also a former British colony. And when I would meet folks, meet Gambians and begin to talk to them, I would find there was in the country a certain negative feeling about Europeans, as you might expect, in a former colony.

But I found that the minute I said I was a Peace Corps volunteer, a Peace Corps, the "s" was pronounced, although I was pronouncing the "s" before I got in it, the minute I said that though I found that barriers fell, just as the gentleman from Connecticut says. I found that people became more open, more willing to listen.

Then as the gentleman from California said, when I began to speak Woloff, which is the language of the Ollif people, there may be 1.5 million people in Western Africa who speak Woloff, when I began to speak the language, certainly not with the ability to discuss nuclear physics, but with an ability to go through a number of greetings and to ask after family and friends and, to get to the point, we discussed about the total familiarity of saying "Summa harit, sa harit," "My house is your house."

□ 2045

That was the phrase that really tended to bring people together and to bond us, as humans, as people who populate the Earth. I think that there is no better way for America to be represented. That is why I was very discouraged when I heard proposals which have since been dropped but proposals that would have made the Peace Corps part of the State Department. I feel very strongly that the Peace Corps needs to remain an independent entity so that there is no question of its allegiance, of its goals, of its motives.

Mr. SHAYS. When I was in the Peace Corps, one experience you are talking about, we were visiting with a whole number of villagers. We were landing on the moon. And I can remember the aura that my villagers had with the fact that Americans were on the moon and the pride that I had as an American. But to be able to sit with them in their environment and to talk about what we were actually doing was quite an experience for me.

Mr. WARD. Of course, as I would remind the gentleman, I was in high school that year. Sorry. But that is the kind of reaction that you got. When I was up country one time to go to a little tiny store, literally 200 miles in the interior of Africa and there is a picture of Mohammed Ali, another great American who is probably the most famous person in the world, along with President Kennedy. And I said that he was

from my home town. And there were a lot of questions, they wanted to discuss it. That is what we really get with the Peace Corps.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

#### GOVERNMENT 101

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARR). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, a good friend of mine Dave Reed from Savannah, Georgia sent me an article which he entitled Democracy and Government 101. It was an article written by Cecil Hodges, also from Savannah, Georgia who is a friend of mine and pastor of Bible Baptist.

He talks in the article about the size of government and basically what happens when government gets too big. I am going to read parts of this article, Mr. Speaker:

When government is strong, especially when it is centralized, it poses a real threat to its citizens who are liable to many abuses. Every democracy faces the tendency of government demanding more and more taxes because some of its citizens are seeking ever-increasing benefits of the state.

I thought this was a very telling article. It goes on to say that a great portion of the manpower in the country becomes employed in governmental services. This becomes a problem because when the government seeks to establish a strong bureaucracy, it has to support itself. And of course, we know in this congress that the way it supports itself is by requiring the citizens through confiscatory policies to pay more and more taxes.

Then it says: All people living in a democratic society must be aware that the more government provides, the more they take from the producing citizens, and the more they control and exercise over the people. And in fact the article goes on, Dr. Hodges points out to us that eventually it enslaves its people.

This is a problem that we are faced with in our government today. This is one of the things that I am so proud of, the current freshman class, the 73 new Republican freshmen who have come in here to cut down on the size of government because they cannot do that without cutting down on the bureaucracy.

Just to give you an idea, most people always say, I hate to see the land all going away. The size of the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, I know you probably will be shocked to learn; the Federal Government owns, listen to this number, 726,686,000 acres of land in the United States of America. The Federal Government, not mentioning the state and local government, owns 32 percent of the land in America.

Now, what does that mean? Of course it needs the taxes to support the services required on that land, people who

have to take care of it. What does it also mean? It means 32 percent of the land cannot be owned by the private sector. Therefore, to pay for the upkeep of that land and all the other governmental services, we are only working with 68 percent. But actually it is less than 68 percent when you take out the state and the locally owned land.

Two hundred seventy million acres is managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This is the size, Mr. Speaker, of California, Oregon, Washington, and Arizona. And about half of the 270 million acres is severely restricted for environmental reasons, and the public cannot even go on it.

You may remember the story last year of a Boy Scout troop that was hiking in the wilderness area and one 12-year-old got lost on the trail. And the Boy Scout troop started looking for him and could not find him. Finally they called out all the correct authorities, and he was located by helicopter. They found the 12-year-old boy by helicopter. They spotted him and then they called, I believe it was the Park Service, Mr. Speaker. They said: We need permission to land because this is a motorized vehicle, and this is a public land that restricts motorized vehicles. And sure enough the jar-headed bureaucrats said no, you cannot do it.

How would you like to be that 12-year-old. How would you like to be the parents of that 12-year-old? They told the kid to wait where he was, that they would try to locate him on foot. Eventually they figured out they could not find him on foot. They did give permission for the helicopter to land. But what an absurd notion that we have. But that is what happens when the government owns too many things, when the government gets too big for practical and common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I bring that up just to further illustrate the story of what Dave Reed called, Dr. Hodges' article, Government and Democracy 101.

Government gets too big, our own freedoms pay the price.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article to which I referred.

#### GOVERNMENT FOR THE PEOPLE

(By Cecil Hodges)

When government is strong, especially when it is centralized, it poses a real threat to its citizens, who are liable to many abuses.

Every democracy faces the tendency of government demanding more and more taxes because some of its citizens seek ever-increasing benefits from the State.

For three hundred years a nation was governed by Judges. They brought chaos to this nation. The people demanded a king. They were warned to be prepared for dangers inherent in government under sinful men. Three hazards to a strong centralized authority were given.

They were warned that a king would conscript their sons for military service. He would appoint leaders and engage workers to render civil service to him and his organization of bureaucrats.

Thus a great portion of the manpower of the country would be employed in governmental service. This has been one of the

problems of every society when government seeks to establish a strong, self-serving bureaucratic organization.

They were also warned that in order to pay for an ever-increasing bureaucratic organization, they would pay more and more taxes.

All people living in a democratic society must be aware that the more government provides, the more they take from producing citizens and the more control they exercise over the people.

Whenever the State increases its control over the nation's economy, enlarging its staff of officials and workers, and exacts an ever-growing portion of the nation's wealth through taxation, it becomes a monster which no longer serves the people but enslaves them.

The great privileges of a free people must be safeguarded by every citizen's commitment to and participation in government that maintains law and order, administers economic justice, prevents oppression of the weak, and resists the temptation to serve its own ends.

All Americans should ask themselves, "Is the government here for us or are we here for the government?" Our government should be of the people and for the people.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHARON PORTMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community activist whose passing has left a void in the lives of our many friends at the New Jersey shore and in the lives of many other people who did not know her personally but who have been touched in one way or another by her good work.

Sharon Portman of Ocean Township, New Jersey died last week at the age of 54 after a two-year battle with cancer. She was one of the most caring members of our community in Monmouth County. Sharon received much praise and honor for her many years of kind and generous contributions to both the Jewish community and the community at large.

Back in September of 1993, on the occasion of the historic signing of the peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians on the White House lawn, I brought Sharon as my guest. She had dedicated so much of her time and energy to working for a strong and secure Israel. She believed passionately that one day Israel would achieve peace with her Arab neighbors, and she recognized that the best way to accomplish this goal was to build a State of Israel that remained true to the values of Jewish teaching and a democratic political system process, while maintaining the ability to resist military invasion and terrorism.

When the PLO leadership finally decided to give up its relentless hostility against Israel and work for mutual recognition and peace, the view that Sharon Portman had always supported and worked for was finally vindicated.

Sharon Portman was a lot of things to a lot of people. She was a staunch environmentalist and advocate for the