

100 domestic trips, 16 overseas trips. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] and myself asked for a General Accounting Office audit of two overseas trips, South Africa and India, and the GAO found out Secretary O'Leary could not account for \$255,000 of taxpayers' money, a quarter of a million dollars. We have called for her resignation.

This Congress has wanted accountability from the administration, accountability to the people, because it is the people's money.

It is known that the President has opposed a balanced budget during his administration. You cannot balance the budget when the presidential appointees, like Secretary Brown and Secretary O'Leary, waste taxpayers' dollars and remain unaccountable for their actions.

I ask for the President to ask them to account for the money that has been wasted and resign from their office.

KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OPEN ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, for 3 weeks part of the Federal Government was shut down. I do not want to dwell in the past and worry about who was to blame for this shutdown. I want to look to the future and try to prevent another shutdown.

On February 6 I introduced a bipartisan bill to prevent another shutdown if there should be another lapse in appropriations. H.R. 2963, the Keep the Government Open Act of 1996, amends the Anti-Deficiency Act to permit Federal employees to continue to work and to be paid during a lapse in appropriations, if the President determines that a sufficient appropriation is likely to be made before the end of the fiscal year.

The recent shutdown of the Federal Government wasted one billion taxpayer dollars. We ended up paying 285,000 Federal employees who were ordered not to work for 3 weeks. This shutdown also imposed a serious financial hardship on many of the 476,000 Federal workers who were not paid during this period even though they were ordered to work.

The shutdown of the Federal Government hurt many private firms, both those that normally sell to Federal employees and those that have Federal contracts. They were unable to recoup the business they lost during the shutdown.

The other cosponsors of this bipartisan bill are Mr. DAVIS, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. WYNN.

I urge all my colleagues to support this insurance against another failure to enact funding bills.

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING LEVELS FOR EDUCATION

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

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of maintaining adequate funding levels for education, because as we end, as we near the end of another continuing resolution, I think we all agree that the improvement of public education is one of the greatest challenges facing our entire Nation on every level of government and in every locality.

Investment in the learning capacity of this and future generations is crucial to both our long-term economic strength and our continued cultural growth. It is at the heart of what many families mean when they talk about personal economic security and the stability of their families themselves.

I think we all recognize that education has traditionally been, and should remain, a local function and a State responsibility, but Federal support for education as an overarching national concern can make a crucial difference, especially where local resources are strained or where a coordinated effort can help achieve national objectives; in short, where we can begin to unify our Nation in common purpose.

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Poll after poll today shows education as the highest economic priority for voters, more than crime or the budget deficit, Medicare, moral issues, Federal taxes, and welfare reform. Education stands at the top of the list for 82 percent of the Americans who oppose cutting education.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, on February 1 of this year I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 144, a sense of Congress resolution that demonstrates support for education funding at this critical time. The bill calls for an appropriation for education programs by March 15 that is no less than the amount spent on those programs in 1995. I am pleased to tell you as of today 192 bipartisan colleagues of ours have joined me in cosponsoring this resolution, and I am confident that more will join.

I am hopeful this showing of unity, of purpose, will send a message to the people of this Nation and the leadership of this Congress that America is serious about protecting our children's education. School districts that do not receive notification by March 15 that they will have adequate funds for the upcoming school year will have to start planning which teachers to lay off, which programs to cut, which classes to eliminate. These kinds of choices will be grim reality in many school districts around the country.

But March 15 is only the deadline for the schools most immediate needs. A commitment to education funding in the future is necessary to satisfy

longer term needs, funding for things that include the basic tools of learning as well as technology adaptation, to professional development, and an elevated curriculum for all kids. All of this comes at a time when we really need to talk about investing in education.

In the fall of 1996 we will have more students enrolled in K through 12, elementary and secondary education, than at any other time in our Nation's history. This will surpass the previous record of the baby-boom years. It is going to come at a time that will necessitate the hiring of about 50,000 new teachers, at the very same time that the cuts proposed through the continuing resolution, if extended throughout the year, would cause the loss of between 40,000 and 50,000 teachers and teachers' aides throughout the United States.

This increase is not a 1-year anomaly. It is expected to continue. These demographic changes are no one's fault. This is not a matter of throwing bombs from one side of the aisle to another. They really come at a time when we all need to recognize that the force of demographic change is at the heart of what is driving policy imperatives throughout the Nation. We need to recognize that this investment is an investment in the security of all of us, and I would urge all Members to consider the consequences of our decisions over the next several weeks. They will undoubtedly reverberate through our population for decades to come.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time allocated for the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

ALL NATIONS MUST JOIN IN QUEST FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

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

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events in Israel in the last several days, the bombings by Hamas, are not simply actions taken by a handful of extremists. These extremists function because they have economic support that comes from countries and individuals around the globe.

It is time that the efforts to attain peace be broadened beyond the United States, Israel, and the PLO. It is time for our Western Allies to join the American effort to isolate forces in the world that support terrorism.

Our Western European Allies continue to do business as usual with the Government of Iran, that is probably the most central supporter of Hamas

and its terrorism. Our Western European Allies, like England, France, and Germany, continue to buy oil and provide technical assistance to that Government that provides the economic support and often the direction for these terrorist movements. Countries that Americans have bled for, like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, also send a large portion of the funds that go to Hamas. Several months ago when Yasser Arafat was here in this Capitol, he complained it was easier for Hamas to get funding from some of these groups than it was for Yasser Arafat trying to lead the Palestinians toward a lasting peace with the Israelis.

United States leadership has existed historically around the globe. That is why much of the world turns to us when there is a crisis. In Yugoslavia it was clear the world could not deal with that crisis unless America played a central role. The United States led the effort to end the apartheid in South Africa.

It is now time for the Europeans to join the Americans and for Americans to take the lead in isolating the Government of Iran, that continues to be the single most destructive force of the peace process in the Middle East. The extremism that they breed, that they teach, that they finance, continues to threaten not only the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, but governments that have been supportive of the peace process, like the Government of Egypt, led by Mr. Mubarak.

American efforts will not succeed if we are isolated from our Western friends. Business as usual with the government of Iran continues to provide the billions of dollars of revenue that they can divert for terrorism. The blood that lays on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv is simply not the fault of those who actually built the bomb. It is not simply the fault of those who brought the bomb in. It is the fault of those who provide the financing to buy the chemicals, to fly the materials, to energize these deadly destructions and this attempt to bring the peace process to an end.

The world has paid a heavy price for these conflicts. Both the government of Israel and the government of Egypt have paid prices that most countries are shaken to their roots by, losing their leaders, seeing their citizens on a daily basis being the victims of terrorism.

The Palestinian leadership of Yasser Arafat may not be perfect, may not have total control of the West Bank, but it is the only hope for peace at this point. They need to do a better job, but the rest of us need to provide them the support they need.

Western Europe sits back with its continental coolness thinking that somehow it is above the fray. Let me tell the governments in England and France and Germany and others, if you do business with the terrorists in Iran, if you do business with the government of Iran, then the blood of those on the

street of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem is on your hands. If the peace process fails, it is on your hands. You cannot simply go on and do business as usual with the single worst government in the Middle East.

For Syria, if it wants to enter the peace process, it has to renounce its support of Hamas and terrorism as well. Before we take you into the family of nations that operates on the legal and respected basis, we need to know that the Syrian leadership is ready to reject its support for terrorism.

War has a terrible price. The cost of peace has been dear as well. We dare not turn away from it. The alternative is so much worse and so much more devastating. But the Israelis and the Palestinians cannot do it alone. They alone cannot succeed in this effort if the richest of all of Western Europe go to Iran and then a portion of that is transferred to terrorists to take their toll on the peace process.

The governments of Israel and Egypt, the leadership of the PLO have made their effort. It is now our turn to support that effort more seriously.

PROPOSED CUTS WILL HURT EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], during this special order to really call some attention to an issue that I think is near and dear to the hearts of every American family, everyone in this country, and that is the whole issue of education and educating our children and providing for our children that opportunity, that first start, if you will, on the road to what their lives will be about in terms of opportunity, of economic ability, their ability to compete, to succeed in this great Nation of ours, something that, in fact, has been part of the American dream.

What we want to try to call attention to in this time period is the fact that there are, as proposed by the congressional majority, devastating cuts to education. In fact, there are cuts that have been passed into law by our Republican colleagues.

Congressional Republicans are on the brink of making the largest education cuts in our Nation's history, and thereby are on the brink of harming, truly harming, our Nation's children. At a time when Americans are rightly anxious about their job security, at a time when we all know that a good education is the key to a good job, we have congressional Republicans who are launching an assault on American education.

Last week, Secretary of Education William Riley delivered his annual

state of American education address. In those remarks he said, "American schools are where the future of America is being created each and every single day." That, in fact, is so true about what goes on and is supposed to go on in our American schools.

In fact, public education is the great equalizer in this country. It allows children, all children, regardless of their economic status, to be able to go as far as their God-given talents will allow them.

That is what we are here to talk about, the fact that public education is under attack in this Congress. Ensuring a bright future is a basic part of the job that we have here, Mr. PALLONE's job, my job, each and every Member of the Congress who is given that public trust, to come here. What we need to try to do is to ensure, in fact, a bright future for our children.

Part of our sacred trust as elected officials is to honor those who have come before us, for example, by ensuring that our seniors have a dignified retirement and making the investments in our future so that the generation that comes after us can live a full and a prosperous and a secure life.

Despite this obligation, we have congressional Republicans today who are making times tougher for kids who are trying to get a good education and for their parents, hard-working parents, I might add, who want to see their kids get ahead in life. They are making the largest cuts in the history of Federal aid to education.

The temporary spending measure that they have passed that funds education, what is known as the continuing resolution, cuts basic skills training, which is known as title I, by 17 percent. Funding to keep our schools safe and free of drugs is being cut by 25 percent. Before we can expect our kids to do all of the great things that we wish them to do and they are anxious and excited to do, we need to provide them with some essentials, training in the basic skills, a safe place in which they can learn. But it is in these areas where my Republican colleagues have made the most crippling cuts.

This temporary spending measure expires on March 15 so that Congress will soon have to face a choice. Will my Republican colleagues extend these cuts through the end of the fiscal year, or will they restore the funds that they have taken from America's classrooms?

Let me tell my colleagues about what happens in my State of Connecticut. These cuts spell disaster. Yesterday, I met with parents and educators at a school in my congressional District, and we had represented there both urban schools and suburban schools.

I will tell my colleagues what the parents and the educators are concerned about. They are concerned that these cuts will hurt school kids who are trying to build their basic skills, stay off the streets, and stay away from drugs. Under the Republican proposals for basic skill training, funding