

Mr. Speaker, I will submit the State Department's memorandum for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and would like to thank C-N-S-News.com and its executive editor Scott Hogenson for breaking this important story and shedding light on this contemptible behavior by our State Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### END-OF-THE-YEAR SPENDING ORGY IN CONGRESS RIGHT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we seem to have an end-of-the-year spending orgy going on in Congress right now. David Broder mentions in his column in *The Washington Post* today that spending for fiscal year 2001 will be \$100 billion more than allowed under the last major budget deal, according to the "Congressional Quarterly."

Apparently most of the congressional leadership feels that we have to give into the excessive spending demanded by the President, because the alternative is to shut down the government. Unfortunately, there simply are not enough fiscal conservatives to override presidential vetoes. However, we are spending away a surplus that we do not yet have.

We are jeopardizing the economy and our children's future in the process. We now have a foreign trade deficit of almost a billion dollars a day. This means we are buying roughly \$350 billion a year from other countries more than we are selling to them. This is primarily because we have entered into bad trade deals, deals good for some big multinational companies, but very bad for small American businesses and American workers.

Most economists agree that we lose roughly 20,000 jobs per billion, and no country can sustain a \$350 billion-a-year trade deficit for very long. Do we ever wonder why so many young people are working as waiters or waitresses or why so many young people are going to graduate school because the good jobs are not there for even college graduates like they used to be?

Along with this foreign trade deficit is all the spending our government does in and for other countries. The liberals found out many years ago that foreign aid was very unpopular, so they just started spending foreign aid money through numerous other foreign programs.

They will very misleadingly say that our foreign aid money is less than 1 percent of our Federal budget. What they do not say is that we spend in ad-

dition to regular foreign aid, many billions more through the military, the Agriculture and Commerce Departments, the State Department, the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and on and on and on.

This administration has deployed our troops around the world more times than the six previous administrations put together, mostly just turning our military in international social workers. Billions and billions and billions in Haiti, Rwanda, Somalia, Bosnia and Kosovo. Right now we are spending \$2 billion a year on what the Associated Press has described as a forgotten war against Iraq.

□ 1915

Most of our people do not even realize we are still bombing there against a nation now so weak that it is absolutely no threat to us at all unless our continued bombing forces them into some type of desperate terrorist actions.

Many large companies benefit greatly from these trade deals and from our sending billions to other countries in military or non-military missions. They and their allies in the national media and elsewhere have made it politically incorrect to oppose these trade deals or oppose sending mega billions overseas.

Those who do oppose all this foreign spending or these trade deals that benefit big international corporations are very falsely accused of being isolationists. However, if Members hear anyone make this charge, they should realize immediately that this name-calling simply means that the person calling someone an isolationist is trying to avoid an argument on the merits.

This Nation should be friends with every nation. We should have all sorts of foreign exchange programs and diplomatic relations, and send our experts in every field when requested, and lead international fundraising in times of human catastrophe. But this does not mean that we should keep sending billions and billions overseas, or continually bombing people who have not threatened us, or be the world's policeman through our military.

President Kennedy said in 1961 that with just 6 percent of the world's population, we must realize that we are neither omnipotent nor omniscient, and that there is not an American solution to every world problem. Now we are less than 4 percent of the world's population.

George Washington warned against entangling alliances with foreign countries, and Dwight Eisenhower warned against a military-industrial complex that would commit us all over the world simply so that it and its companies could get more money.

Professor John Moser, writing in the Autumn 1999 issue of *Ohio History*, noted that Senator Robert Taft was often falsely called an isolationist when he was really a conservative na-

tionalist. Moser writes of Taft: "... he was remarkably prescient on many of the problems inherent in a highly interventionist foreign policy: unprecedented accumulation of power in the hands of the executive branch of the government, curtailment of civil liberties at home, the charge of 'imperialism' arising from American influence abroad, and most importantly, the danger of what Paul Kennedy referred to as 'imperial overreach,' the extension of overseas commitments beyond the ability of a nation to meet them."

Senator Taft once said, "Nothing can destroy this country except the overextension of our resources." We should heed these words today.

#### STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, there is much good news in higher education this year and we should take a few moments in the House of Representatives to take note of it. This is news for which we can all take some credit—the Congress, the Administration, borrowers, colleges and universities, lenders, loan guaranty agencies—so it is in that spirit that I offer these observations.

Twenty to 25 years ago, few people left college with student loan debt. But today, student loans are a fact of life for millions of students and graduates. They have opened the door of opportunity to individuals who otherwise would have no options to improve their earning potential.

President Clinton recently announced that the student loan cohort default rate is the lowest on record, falling from a high of 22.4 to 6.9 percent.

This represents a savings to taxpayers of approximately \$7 billion over the period from fiscal year 1993 to fiscal year 2000. But more importantly, it speaks volumes about the Department of Education's program flexibility and willingness to work with borrowers.

Secretary of Education Riley noted that this record has been achieved by "a robust economy, strong department management, tougher enforcement tools authorized by Congress, and stepped up efforts by colleges, lenders, guaranty agencies, and others."

What makes this even more noteworthy is that the decline in defaults came at a time when student loan volume was tripling and educational opportunity was expanding to more low-income students, entailing higher risks. It is a great achievement.

The President also recently announced a reduction in interest rates for students in the Direct Loan Program who make their first 12 payments on time. Students have especially welcomed this reduction in college costs. Student organization leaders have noted that all students benefit when the Direct Loan Program can offer the same kinds of repayment incentives as the bank-based Federal Family Education Loan Program.

This encourages healthy competition between the programs, which makes students the ultimate beneficiaries.

This reduction is possible because of the change Congress made in the 1998 Higher

Education Amendments. These changes gave the Secretary the authority to offer the same kind of repayment incentives to Direct Loan borrowers as exist in the bank-based program.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note that there is a third piece of good news in which Congress has played an important role. In fiscal year 2000 alone, \$4 billion has been recovered on defaulted loans through vigorous collection efforts by the Department of Education and the loan guaranty agencies. Congress authorized the use of offsetting Federal income tax refunds, wage garnishment, and other methods to aid in the collection of these loans.

What is important, however, is that defaulters also have the opportunity to get out of default through loan consolidation and the opportunity to repay their loans based on their income. We must never burden students with loans they cannot repay, and much of our current as well as future savings will be due to the appropriate use of the carrot as well as the stick.

Declining default rates, increased collections, savings produced by the direct student loan program—when we combine the fruits of all these labors, the end result is that we are saving American taxpayers \$18 billion.

Too often we overlook the good news in education and fail to note the successes of our legislation and its implementation.

Let us take a moment here to offer congratulations to all for the excellent news coming out of higher education this year.

#### DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Democratic education agenda for the 107th Congress.

We live in a changed world: a new economy, new technology, and new family realities. More than ever, we all need our children to achieve their full potential. But our children are not getting the support they need.

Our friends in the majority promised radical improvements for public education when they gained control of the House 6 years ago. They said they would get the government out of our schools, and they followed through on that pledge by trying to abolish the Department of Education.

They continually turned their backs on their responsibility to focus on the priorities of the American people. Saying the Federal government has no place in our public schools did nothing to lift up a child or to help a parent, and the American people rightly rejected their plan.

I quote the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), when I say, "It is time for a new vision."

While looking forward to the 107th Congress, Democrats will make six new commitments to modernize our public schools and lift up every child:

First, we will recruit and train high quality teachers and principals. Be-

cause America's public schools are attended by 90 percent of American children, we need to ensure that every class is led by a highly-qualified teacher; we also aim to establish new incentives to recruit highly-qualified teachers.

Secondly, we will reduce class size. We will recruit 100,000 highly-qualified teachers and reduce class sizes for grades one through three to a national average of 18 children;

Thirdly, we will build accountability measures to ensure that school districts and States set high standards and help every student achieve by building on proven reforms;

Fourthly, we will build new schools and repair existing ones. The Federal help to renovate 6,000 local public schools and repair an additional 8,300 schools to improve learning conditions is vital to our children's future.

We will aim to expand educational technology. We will continue to provide schools with Internet capacity, and bring new technology into the classrooms.

Finally, we will promote lifelong learning in all of our public schools. Our agenda wants to put America on the path to have preschool universally available to every child, and to bring the dream of a college education closer to reality for everyone by making tuition more affordable through tax relief, and by increasing funds for college grants and loans.

These simple six steps will ensure that our children are guaranteed the education they deserve.

Since coming to the House of Representatives, I have worked to bring Congress to the classroom. Two years ago, I visited Crispus Attucks Junior High School, which was my alma mater. Crispus Attucks is a good example of what can be achieved when people in government are committed to public education and public schools.

The school created a good learning environment and provides training on computers and the Internet.

I worked to have Crispus Attucks High School connected with a school in Darby, United Kingdom, and they are doing a tremendous job because they have similar characteristics, and are getting acquainted in a very vital way with each other.

However, more help is needed. With information technology now a key element of the global economy, we must make sure that our children are prepared to use this technology when they enter the world of work.

The Democratic agenda aims to secure computers for all schools. The future of our children is vital, and Federal help must not be seen as negative big government intervention.

The educator and author Derek Bok once wrote, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." Bad House majority policies have cost America dearly. Children are being neglected, and they cannot raise themselves.

We would provide \$1.7 billion for reducing class size. The opposition did

not guarantee one Federal dollar for class size reduction.

We would provide a new \$1 billion teacher quality initiative, whereas the opposition has rejected this proposal and has proposed funding lower than this for two combined programs.

We would provide \$1.3 billion to leverage about \$6.7 billion in grants and loans to fund school renovation. The opposition rejects this approach.

All of our proposals, including funding for after-school programs, safe-and-drug-free schools, accountability and the Head Start and Gear-Up programs have either been rejected or cut dramatically by the House leadership. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand up for education and for our schools, and work towards a better America for all of our children. If we do not stand up for education and our schools, we will fall for anything.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO PROFESSOR DANIEL J. MCFADDEN ON WINNING NOBEL PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to recognize and to congratulate a distinguished member of the University of California at Berkeley, Professor Daniel J. McFadden.

Last week, Professor McFadden, along with Professor James Heckman of the University of Chicago, received the Nobel Prize for Economics.

Together, through their research and observations, they have contributed significantly to the understanding of individual and societal behavior. Their vital work cuts across disciplinary barriers and greatly enhances our understanding of economics and public policy.

Prior to joining the world of the academic and social sciences community at the University of California at Berkeley in 1963, Professor McFadden, like many of us, attended public school.

As a young man during his college years, he was always attracted to the studies of human behavior. His passion for the field of behavioral sciences and the drive to learn and analyze human behavior helped launch an ambitious career and a lifelong commitment to the study of behavioral and social sciences.

Subsequently, Dr. McFadden developed and linked these behavioral theories to mathematics, statistics, and economics.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to congratulate and recognize Professor McFadden for this lifetime of achievements. His dedication and his outstanding work in economics have contributed significantly to our society.

The implications of his research extend far beyond the ivory tower. Because of his efforts, governmental