

any energy or even many other forms of production in this country.

We have closed half of our oil refineries since 1980. We now have to import most of our oil. We are now cutting only one-seventh of the new growth in our national forests each year. Environmentalists pushed for it and won and passed a law in the mid-1980s saying we would only cut 80 percent of the new growth. But they always demand more, and they continually have to exaggerate the problems or their contributions will dry up.

East Tennessee had 157 small coal companies in the late 1970s. Now there are none due to environmental extremism. Former President Clinton locked up 213 trillion cubic feet of natural gas just before he left office. Now the mayor of the small town of Englewood, Tennessee, tells me he has senior citizens in his town who are having to choose between eating or paying their utility bills. One Illinois water district said its water bills would have to go up \$72 a month to achieve the unrealistic Clinton standards on arsenic levels; yet even at the present safe levels, people would have to drink water full-time for their entire lives to run even a minute, minuscule risk of cancer from the 50-parts-per-billion standard now in effect. All of the coal, oil, lumber, and natural gas companies we have shut down or greatly restricted used to hire many college graduates and other workers.

When we drive up energy costs, we harm almost all companies and individuals. College graduates cannot find jobs at the very time prices for everything are going way up.

Madam Speaker, if we do not soon stop this extremism and bring some balance and moderation back into our environmental policies, many more college graduates will be unable to find jobs and millions of lower- and middle-income people will suffer greatly.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE GEORGE MCGOVERN-ROBERT DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, last Thursday was a remarkable day. That morning, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and I joined a broad, bipartisan coalition of Members from the House and the Senate in introducing landmark legislation to end hunger among the world's children in our lifetimes.

In a time when rancor and bitterness often characterize business in the Congress, we have come together around a vision for the future, a future where every child receives at least one nutritious meal a day and that meal is served in a school setting.

I want to commend my colleagues who join the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and me in introducing H.R. 1700: the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NETHERCUTT), the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT), and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN).

Our bill is called the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001. It is named after two great men who, in their time together in the Senate, spear-headed bipartisan legislation to create our own school lunch, school breakfast and WIC programs here in the United States. Now they have called upon this Congress and this administration to duplicate those actions worldwide.

Our bill will provide long-term, reliable funding to purchase U.S. commodities in order to provide millions of hungry children around the world with a school breakfast or a school lunch or both.

Madam Speaker, over 300 million of the world's children are hungry. About 130 million of these children do not go to school, and about 60 percent of those are girls.

Isolated programs around the world have demonstrated that more families send their children to school, including the girls, when a meal is provided. In fact, in many cases, enrollment doubles within 1 or 2 years. The children become more alert and capable of learning with a meal in their bellies; and test scores improve, attendance increases, more children graduate, and dropout rates decline.

For just 10 cents a day for each meal, we can feed a hungry child and help that child learn. With what we pay for a Big Mac, fries, and a soft drink, we could afford to feed two classrooms of kids in Ghana or Nepal. Hands down, education is the best way to improve people's lives. Education reduces disease rates, increases economic activity, reduces the birth rate, and strengthens communities; and the best way to get a child into school is to have a nutritious meal waiting for them.

These children will grow up to be the teachers, the more productive farmers, the bankers, the small business owners, and the leaders of their countries. They

will also grow up to be the new consumers of American goods and services. In the meantime, our farmers, food processors, transportation industry, ports and maritime shipping benefit from the purchases and shipment of this food aid.

This program will succeed because its scale is large, its vision is long-term, and its approach is multilateral. It will succeed because this will not just be America going it alone. We call on every country that can step up to the plate to do just that. It will succeed because we will not take money away from existing food and development programs. We need those programs to address our other long-term development priorities.

So much is already in place to move ahead with this initiative. We already have successful partnerships with U.S. private and voluntary organizations to carry out the programs on the ground. We already have relationships with international food and education agencies such as the World Food Program and UNICEF to help us coordinate with other countries; and we already have a successful history with our farmers in providing food aid.

Quite frankly, we have the resources to eliminate hunger among the world's children and get them into school. We do not need to raise taxes; we do not need to cut any domestic programs. We just need to get to work. The only thing that could stand in our way is the lack of political will.

□ 1500

By introducing H.R. 1700, we have shown the world that in this Congress of the United States that the political will could be mustered.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and me in support of this bill. We can help end hunger in our lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

THE MCGOVERN-EMERSON BILL BUILDS UPON AND ENHANCES THE GLOBAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM

On December 28, 2000, President Clinton formally announced the launching of a \$300 million pilot program authorizing 630,000 metric tons in commodity purchases to provide hungry children in developing countries at least one nutritious meal each day in a school setting. Inspired by a proposal put forward by Ambassador George McGovern and Senator Bob Dole, the Global Food for Education Initiative pilot program, administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will reach approximately 9 million children through 49 projects in 38 countries.

Representatives Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO) are introducing legislation—the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001—that builds upon and enhances the program initiated by the pilot program.

Makes the Global Food for Education Initiative a permanently-established program with funding consistent with the proposal put forward by Ambassador McGovern and Senator Dole: \$300 million beginning in fiscal year 2002 and increasing to \$750 million fiscal year 2004.

Adds a Global WIC program, as originally envisioned by Ambassador McGovern and Senator Dole, beginning with \$50 million in fiscal year 2002 and increasing to \$250 million by fiscal year 2004.

Ensures that any commodity that would enhance the effectiveness of school feeding programs may be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as eligible for purchase (e.g. lentils, beans, etc.).

Provides for transportation of commodities to storage and distribution sites.

Provides for purchase of commodities in non-surplus years.

Allows the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide technical assistance and advice to recipient countries and to other USDA departments on how to establish and carry out effective school feeding programs.

Allows for financial assistance to be made available to agencies and organizations for itemized administrative costs and to undertake activities that enhance the effectiveness of these programs (e.g., training of cooks, establishing and equipping school kitchens, holding community workshops to inform families that a school feeding program has begun and the benefits of such a program, etc.).

Allows for the monetization of commodities to ensure the effectiveness, longevity and self-sustainability of these programs (e.g. purchase of local foods to round out nutritional balance of meals, helping communities establish a pre-school or school feeding program, expanding facilities as successful programs attract and maintain more children as students, etc.).

Provides for interagency coordination and reimbursement to relevant federal agencies, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, for activities related to implementing the program (e.g. technical assistance, monitoring in the field, evaluation, auditing, etc.). This is especially important in countries where USAID has mission staff but USDA does not.

Calls upon the President to ensure multi-lateral involvement in this global effort, as well as engaging private sector and foundation support, and to report annually to Congress on progress in these efforts.

SUPPORT FOR THE GEORGE MCGOVERN-ROBERT DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 2001

Academy for Educational Development
ACDIVOCA
Adventist Development & Relief Agency International
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Soybean Association
American School Food Service Association
Archer Daniels Midland/ADM Milling Co.
Bartlett Milling Company
Bread for the World
Breedlove Dehydrated Foods
Bunge Lauhoff/Milling Division
Cargill Foods/Flour Milling
Catholic Relief Services
Cereal Food Processors, Inc.
Coalition for Food Aid
ConAgra Grain Processing Company
Counterpart International
Didion Milling, Inc.
Friends of the World Food Program
International Partnership for Human Development
International Orthodox Christian Charities
Land O' Lakes, Inc.
Mercy USA
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Corn Growers Association
National Farmers Union
National Pork Producers Council
North American Millers' Association

Opportunities Industrialization Centers International.
Project Concern International
Save the Children
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Rice Producers Association
World Food Program
World Share

ASFSA SUPPORTS GLOBAL MEALS FOR EDUCATION INITIATIVE

ALEXANDRIA, VA (May 3, 2001)—The American School Food Service Association (ASFSA) is excited and proud to lend its support to the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001 that is being introduced today. It is our hope that Congress will quickly approve this legislation so that this program can continue helping needy children throughout the world.

"The global meals initiative is bringing the success and know-how of this country's school breakfast and lunch programs to poor school children around the world," said ASFSA President Marilyn Hurt, SFNS. "Further, providing school meals in poor countries gives children extra incentive to attend school and get the education they need."

An estimated 300 million children worldwide, most of them female, either do not attend school or do not receive a meal at school. Of that total, approximately 170 million children do attend school but are not fed at school. The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP), which has been addressing these problems for years, uses food to entice children to school, which in turn helps improve literacy, break the cycle of poverty, and reduce pregnancies among school-age girls. Last year, WFP fed more than 12 million school children in 54 countries.

Former U.S. Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole have played a leading role in advocating for an international school lunch program to spread the benefits enjoyed by American children worldwide. Last December, the White House authorized \$300 million to help fund school feeding projects in poor nations. Of that amount, \$140 million will go to WFP to expand existing efforts and develop new school meal programs in 23 countries.

"By itself, feeding poor and hungry children would seem like a moral imperative to many," Hurt said. "But when you learn of the strong linkage between nutrition, learning and the positive impact of school attendance on early pregnancy and child mortality rates, it becomes even more clear that this initiative is worthwhile in countless ways."

ASFSA is a national, non-profit professional organization representing more than 58,000 members who provide high-quality, low-cost meals to students across the country. Founded in 1946, ASFSA is the only association devoted exclusively to protecting and enhancing children's health and well-being through school meals and sound nutrition education.

USA RICE SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION BILL

FUNDING FOR NEEDY OVERSEAS CHILDREN ALSO A CRITICAL FOOD AID PROGRAM FOR U.S. RICE

Why Is the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001 important to the rice industry when there are other food aid programs?

The International Food for Education bill is designed to target commodities and resources directly to the beneficiaries, needy children. At the same time, this unique program provides a new outlet for U.S. rice movement, a commodity particularly suited

for school feeding. Rice is ready to eat with minimal preparation, and is easy to transport and store. It provides a complete protein when combined with pulses such as peas.

Getting U.S. rice to needy children should not be dependent on the unpredictability of surplus designation. The International Food for Education bill secures permanent funding under Section 416(b) authority, as well as the inclusion of non-surplus commodities. This allows the rice industry to work closely with USDA and private voluntary organizations to find consistent, ongoing uses for rice in feeding and monetization projects, which helps to stabilize market conditions in the United States.

Overall, food aid funding has declined significantly over the last 10 years. The International Food for Education bill will assist the U.S. rice industry in maintaining rice food aid tonnage supply to meet overseas demand, and will generate important economic activity in local communities here in the United States.

Why are food aid programs like International Food for Education so important to the U.S. rice industry?

The movement of food aid tonnage is important to the rice industry because we produce more rice than can be consumed on the domestic market. 40-60 percent of the U.S. rice crop is exported, and up to 20 percent of this is in the form of food aid. Food Aid means export opportunity for the U.S. rice market as it faces increased production costs, extremely low prices, competition from low-price foreign competitors, and export demand restricted by trade barriers and unilateral sanctions.

Last year the movement of rice food aid (9 million hundredweight) accounted for 1,200 jobs, and created an influx of millions of dollars to local economies in terms of labor hours, utilization of equipment and services, and investment in the rice industry infrastructure.

Food aid serves as a long-term market development tool for the U.S. rice industry as well as a humanitarian effort. USA Rice continually seeks new outlets for U.S. rice. Food aid movement allows U.S. rice to enter developing countries that cannot currently afford to buy high-quality U.S. product. Introducing U.S. rice to consumers and traders in recipient countries allows commercial trade to develop when economic conditions improve.

LAND O'LAKES, INC.,

Arden Hills, MN, May 3, 2001.

Hon. JAMES P. MCGOVERN,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JO ANN EMERSON,
House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES MCGOVERN AND EMERSON: Land O'Lakes commends you for taking the lead in introducing, "The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2000". This legislation will codify as an enduring program the feeding of many hungry school children in developing countries. At the same time this activity assists U.S. farmers through the removal of excess stocks. Utilizing U.S. commodities in this program allows our farmers to operate in a market environment that is more balanced rather than the current situation that is characterized by burdensome levels of carry-over stocks.

International child feeding programs provide increased nutrition resulting in increased attendance at school. As a result, more children participate in the educational system and prepare themselves to be skilled participants in today's global economy. Furthermore, feeding children at school also

provides them the nourishment to improve their cognitive ability so that they also will retain the knowledge imparted during the time that they spend in the classroom. The long-term results will be: (a) to enable educated people to rise out of poverty; (b) to increase the education and earning capacity for girls providing the means to reduce the incidence of exploitation of women; and, (c) to improve the quality of life for millions of people in developing countries around the world.

The specific elements of this legislation that Land O'Lakes is particularly supportive of include: 1. Making the recently announced Global Food for Education Initiative pilot program a permanently funded program. 2. Encouraging private sector involvement in the delivery of programs under this authority. 3. Directing the Commodity Credit Corporation to devote \$600 million in Fiscal Year 2002 and \$750 million in succeeding fiscal years to establish preschool and school feeding programs and \$100 million in fiscal Year 2002 and \$250 million in succeeding fiscal years for maternal and infant health and feeding programs.

Land O'Lakes is currently participating in school feeding programs through the 416(b) allocations in Indonesia. Working in partnership with the Tetra Pak Company, we provide 450,000 children in 3,000 primary schools with a long-shelf life milk drink and fortified biscuit three times a week.

Already we have achieved remarkable results. The Ministry of Education is reporting marked increases in school attendance rates, especially by girls. There is also evidence of significant improvement in the health and stamina of children receiving the nutritious products they consume at school. For too many of the recipient children, those servings are their predominant source of vitamins and protein.

Land O'Lakes was also gratified that it was selected to implement similar programs in Bangladesh and Vietnam as part of the Global School for Education Initiative pilot program announced in December 2000. Land O'Lakes will work with Tetra Pak to provide over 1.5 million school children with the same combination of a milk beverage and snack three days per week. These programs require considerable collaboration with the local processing industry, the Ministry of Education, and strong local NGO's to monitor the distribution of product and consumption by students.

Our private sector team's approach to deliver low cost, industry-enhancing, sustainable school feeding programs combines Tetra Pak's 40 year international school feeding expertise with Land O'Lakes 20-year history of international economic development programs. We believe that this unique approach will create immediate nutritional benefits for innumerable children. Moreover, this program increases capacity in developing countries by assisting the local dairy and food industry to become more sustainable through commercial partnerships.

It is important to note that this program performs a long-term market development function for US commodities. Students are being introduced to dairy products during their formative years, which is the most effective time to develop tastes and preferences and create millions of future consumers. Furthermore, important linkages are established among private sector firms that may form the foundation for future commerce and investment that will benefit US cooperatives and agribusinesses as the move toward increased globalization presses forward.

The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001 will provide valuable nutri-

tional and educational assistance to countless children around the world while supporting American agriculture. Land O'Lakes supports the enactment of legislation to create a permanent global school feeding program and is ready to assist in this endeavor.

I offer our support in moving the bill towards enactment, and I look forward to working with you in this regard. Members of the Land O'Lakes International Division staff, including myself, are available to meet with you to discuss the necessary steps for moving this bill forward. In addition, Land O'Lakes will gladly testify in support of the legislation in hearings held by any of the committees with jurisdiction over this matter.

Thank you for your leadership in making the international school feeding program a permanent means of improving the lives of needy children around the world. Please let me know when and how we can help to secure passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. VERDOORN,
*Vice President, International
and Dairy Proteins.*

REMARKS OF KENNETH HACKETT, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

It is a pleasure to be here today with these distinguished guests and with the Senators and Members of Congress. You have taken the bold, first steps to turn concept into legislation in a hope that millions of young lives can be improved. Today, I am speaking on behalf of 13 private voluntary organizations (PVOs) that are members of the Coalition for Food Aid. As US charitable organizations and cooperatives, we draw our support from tens of millions of Americans.

We are very pleased that the issues of child nutrition and education are the focus of this tremendous level of bipartisan support in Congress.

Starting over half a century ago, in a true public-private partnership, the US has provided over 60 million metric tons of food aid through PVOs to meet disaster and human development needs. PVOs have implemented pre-school, primary-school and mother-child health programs in poor communities throughout the world. PVO participation has been critical to changing lives, assuring program accountability, and demonstrating the effectiveness of American food aid. We will build on that experience in managing and implementing this wonderful program.

But, achieving educational and nutritional goals among the world's poorest communities takes more than just handing out food. Both bills recognize this by providing funds directly, and through commodity sales, to support not only the distribution of food but also the necessary educational and health activities. These activities include providing books, teacher training, micronutrient supplements, and take home food rations—particularly to encourage girls attendance in school.

We see two critical issues that need watchful attention as these bills progress through the legislative process: 1. PVOs must continue to have direct partnerships, as we do in the other food programs, with our Government in the implementation of this legislation. This should include substantial involvement in the decision-making processes relative to implementation. 2. The Food for Education and Child Nutrition program should be an addition to other, well-established and successful food aid programs, including PL 480 Title II and Food for Progress.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Food for Education and Child Nutrition bills.

[From the Washington Post, May 1, 2001]

(By George McGovern and Robert Dole)

ONE LUNCH AT A TIME

In the summer of 1968, CBS television broadcast a powerful hour-long documentary titled "Hunger: USA." The cameras peered into the dismal pockets of hunger and misery populated by poor American families. Hollow cheeks and rickety legs plagued children and adults alike.

The most moving scene was filmed in a school where all students—even those who were too poor to pay for a meal—were required to go to the cafeteria at lunchtime. One 9- or 10-year-old boy was asked how he felt standing at the rear of the room watching his better-off classmates eat. Lowering his head, the boy confessed softly, "I'm ashamed."

Thirty years later, a child going hungry in an American school is practically unheard of. That's because of the overwhelming success of bipartisan legislation we sponsored in the 1970s, while we were both U.S. senators, which ensures a nutritious meal at school for all children, including America's poorest. While hunger has not yet been eradicated in the United States, the lives of a whole generation of American schoolchildren have been improved thanks to that program.

Now we have the opportunity to reach an even higher goal: to implement a similar plan for the 300 million poor children in the world who either receive no meal at school or do not even attend class.

Once again we have jointly made a proposal, this time to establish a global school feeding program. It is currently being discussed among Washington policymakers and will soon be introduced in Congress. Building on a pilot program initiated this year, the bill commits an annual amount of American agricultural surpluses to provide nutritious meals to already enrolled students and to attract poorer children to school.

Studies show that when food is provided at schools in the developing world, attendance often doubles within a year, and within two years, academic performance can improve by as much as 40 percent. Students remain in school longer, and more of them graduate. Long-term studies indicate that increased literacy rates among girls and women mean they have fewer children. Of the estimated 130 million children who currently do not attend school, 60 percent are girls.

We are not talking about ordinary charity. Feeding children at school yields tangible results in their lives as well as long-term benefits for society as a whole. And in contrast to questionable mega-projects for development school feeding focuses on the individual child. Reducing children's hunger and improving their educational opportunities creates the human infrastructure needed by nations if they are to prosper and become self-reliant.

This global challenge can once again be met in the spirit of bipartisanship. By committing annual funds for a global school lunch program, we will not only dramatically improve the lives and futures of millions of poor children. We will also be helping out American farmers by increasing purchases of surplus food commodities.

To use these surpluses, especially in periods when prices are down, strengthens our farmers' markets and takes some of the burden off storage capacities or selling surpluses off at rock-bottom prices. Overseas shipments of U.S. agricultural products also generate business for American processors, packers, shippers, railroads, stevedores and ocean carriers.

Start-up costs to cover the first two years of a global program would be about \$3 billion. As the leader of the effort, the U.S. government should commit half of that amount,

the bulk of it in purchased surplus commodities.

As the program grows and more students enroll in participating schools, costs will increase, but it is hoped and expected that other countries will join in to help. Discussions with other governments have already begun. Rich nations that do not have farm surpluses could contribute cash, shipping, personnel, utensils and other educational inputs. Government costs could be further reduced or supplemented with contributions from private foundations, corporations, labor unions and individuals.

In order for the program to be sustainable, the benefiting governments should be expected to take over financing within five to 10 years. In the meantime, the initiative would be under the instructional and monitoring eyes of the World Food Program, which has nearly 40 years of school feeding experience. Working with other charities and aid groups, WFP can ensure that the other necessary aspects such as teacher training, sanitation and health inputs are coordinated.

In an era of cynicism and weariness about third World problems, using food surpluses to feed and help educate poor children may seem like a surprisingly simple way to make an impact. But a hot meal to a poor student today is key to helping him or her become a literate, self-reliant adult tomorrow. This could become the first generation in human history that is finally free from the scourge of hunger.

THE GEORGE MCGOVERN-ROBERT DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I want to join with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), my good friend, to talk about the global food for our education bill, and also to thank the gentleman for doing such a tremendous job in leading the charge forward on this particular legislation that I think is so very, very important for all of the children in the world who have no means to get a nutritional meal, and also because of the importance that it will mean for our farmers in America who are now suffering from the fourth year of low commodity prices, whose revenues will probably decrease in the neighborhood of about \$4 billion this year.

This legislation, quite frankly, is a win-win for the American farmer, and it is a win-win for children all over the world who desperately need food assistance and who need an education.

Madam Speaker, I am particularly excited and motivated by the vision of former Senator and now Ambassador George McGovern and former Senator Bob Dole who really led the charge early in this fight against hunger, back many years ago when they were both serving in the Senate.

It is also a very important issue for members of my family, because my late husband Bill was so very instrumental in bringing the issue of hunger,

both domestically and internationally, into the Congress and worked so closely with his friend, the late Mickey Leland, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

I know that we all share a common desire to try to help as many people as we can all over the world, and I am particularly hopeful that we will be successful in passing this legislation as a stand-alone, but if not, hopefully it will be part of the next farm bill as it is written.

I cannot think of anything that is more important for us to do as a country. I think Senator McGovern probably said it best when he said we had a moral responsibility as a country with our rich and valuable natural resources and our abundant and very safe food supply to help people who cannot help themselves.

And I say to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), that the gentleman has done a magnificent job in getting our colleagues to be very excited about this, to be enthusiastic, and I am so very pleased also that the United States Senate is participating as well with their bill.

Madam Speaker, let me say that from an agricultural standpoint, there are many, many benefits for the United States economy for international food assistance. We have done this for many, many years as a country. I am very hopeful that this will be a policy that we perpetuate, that we are able to get the rest of the world involved in, but, most importantly, this kind of foreign assistance.

U.S. food aid helps alleviate poverty. It promotes economic growth to the recipient countries, and this is very, very important, because as incomes in developing countries rise, then we know that consumption patterns change, and we also know that food and other imports of U.S. goods and services increase.

In fact, back in 1996, 9 of the top 10 agricultural importers of U.S. products were food aid recipients. While we are shipping food aid abroad, it is important for people to understand that most of the money stays in the United States.

The domestic beneficiaries of U.S. food aid exports include our agricultural producers and suppliers, our processors, our millers, edible oil refiners, packaging, manufacturing, rail and motor transportation lines; I could go on and on and on. Most every State in the country does benefit from food aid exports, in spite of the fact that most people would not knowingly think that they were agricultural States.

I think that we must do everything possible to help the world's hungry children. When my late husband Bill came back from a trip in the Sudan, when he came back from various trips to Ethiopia and other countries, it was a very, very sad experience. He would hold dying children in his arms, children who were 12 years old and 13 years

old, who were about the size of a 3-year-old or 4-year-old, who did not weigh anything, who had no opportunity to go to school.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in closing, then, that I hope that more people will help all of us help children all over the world, as well as the American farmer.

CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the pleasure of joining my constituents in Goliad, Texas to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo is celebrated with music, with dancing, with great food and, yes, and Mr. Speaker, with great speeches.

Texas A&M associate professor, Armando Alonzo, said so eloquently, and I quote, "The important thing about this celebration is that it comes from the citizens of the community, not from scholars, not from politicians, or those of us who are at universities with special training."

Although the holiday has spread throughout the world, its true spirit is in communities like Goliad, Texas, where people honor the value of their Mexican history and culture and the contributions that Mexican Americans have made across the spectrum of American life.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues as a proud first generation Texan, born of Mexican immigrant parents who came to the United States as children in 1910.

Mr. Speaker, Goliad is the true heart of Cinco de Mayo, because it is the birthplace of General Ignacio Zaragoza, the young Mexican general who defeated the French at the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. This triumph was not only a military victory, but a moral victory over tyranny and oppression.

General Zaragoza is rightly called the "George Washington of Mexico." His dedication to the cause of freedom and democracy is an inspiration and challenge to us all.

General Zaragoza was born in Goliad, Texas on March 24, 1829. He was the son of a soldier, but was educated as a priest. He was a small businessman for a short time, but his passionate support of Mexico's struggle for democracy led him to follow his father into military service.

During the years of the War of the Reform in 1857 to 1860, he joined with the legendary Benito Juarez and fought in numerous battles, including the Battle of Calpulalpan, which ended the War of Reform.

His military brilliance in those 4 years was recognized, and he quickly moved up the ranks to general. When Mexican President Juarez was forced to declare a moratorium on Mexico's European debt in order to salvage the