

offices and factories are all owned by the private sector. We need to help the private sector make their facilities more secure.

With this expensing provision of 30 percent expensing, they can recover the cost of electronic access equipment, biometrics, television surveillance, as well as computers and software to protect their data and information systems; also, electronic alarm systems and other components.

The bottom line is, this legislation, the Economic Security and Recovery Act, the legislation before the committee or the House this week, will reward investment, will create jobs. It will boost the technology sector, and will also help private companies make their offices and their factories much more secure.

I urge bipartisan support for this legislation. We need to get the economy moving again.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FEDERALIZING THE WORK FORCE FOR AVIATION SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) spoke in the well earlier about virtues of a privatized aviation security system and the handout of our colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), I did not object to it being put in the RECORD. I should have, because it was not written by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) or his staff; it was written by a former FAA senior employee who is now earning hundreds of thousands of dollars representing the private security firms, including the private security firm currently under indictment and prosecution by the Federal Government, Arkenbright. So that is his information, and the veracity of it is definitely in question.

In fact, according to an article in last week's Washington Post, at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam, there are 1,300 police agents to supervise 1,500 private screeners, who are much better paid, trained, and have higher qualifications than in the United States.

If that is the route they want to go, we would end up having something more expensive than a totally federalized system with one Federal law enforcement person to supervise every two private employees. It would be bigger. It would be absurdly bigger than what we could do with the normal scope of supervision in a Federal agency.

The issue of private firms in the U.S., we have tried it. It has failed miserably. I am glad he had a good experience leaving Florida and they found his cuticle scissors, that is great; but they are missing other things, like fake hand grenades, fully-assembled weap-

ons, knives, bombs, or simulated bombs, which the FAA regularly gets through these systems.

The largest private security firm in the country, previously successfully prosecuted by the Federal Government, fined \$1.5 million, Arkenbright, and put on probation, who still is providing security, is now being prosecuted again.

Under the current system, the Federal Government cannot remove these incompetents and criminals from doing the job. This company is still employing known criminals, despite its probation. It is still hiring known criminals, despite its probation.

Thirty-two percent of its files include new violations and false statements on their employees. Yet, today they are providing security at Dulles, Reagan, Logan, LaGuardia, Los Angeles, Trenton, Detroit, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Columbus, Dallas, Fort Worth, Seattle and Cedar Rapids.

So my colleague, the gentleman from Florida, in his just visceral dislike of Federal employees, and more Federal employees and Federal bureaucracy, wants to continue a failing private bureaucracy that is not properly protecting the security of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, when we come through Customs, those are Federal law enforcement agents. When we come through INS, they are Federal law enforcement agents. If we go to Hawaii, the agriculture agents are Federal law enforcement agents. Even the beagles that they use in the airport have been deemed to be Federal law enforcement agents.

But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, a minority of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, just cannot stand the idea that the people who are the first line of defense at the airport to screen the baggage and the customers might be Federal law enforcement agents.

This is a blinding ideological position to take. After all that has happened, after all the documented failures, after the continued prosecutions in court, we have given the private firms every opportunity and they have failed the American traveling public miserably.

We need legislation, and we should take the legislation up today. But instead, today we will take up, and no offense to any of these people, they are outstanding people, the Francis Bardanouye United States Post Office Building Act; the Earl T. Shinhoffer Post Office Designation Act; the Congressman Julian C. Dixon, of whom I was a great fan, Post Office Building Designation Act; a bill to make permanent the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers, et cetera, et cetera.

It has been more than a month since the attack by the terrorists, and the use of our own civilian aviation as weapons. Yet, not one penny has been mandated by the House to change that system. Not one single line of statute has been changed.

The first line of defense is still failing us; the House of Representatives must not fail us. The bill should come up today, and if they cannot bring it up today, how about tomorrow? They have got an alternative, we have got an alternative. Let us have a legislative process and see whose alternative wins.

I do not think they want to do that, because I suspect that they know that many of their Members would vote for the more comprehensive approach, instead of continuing to buy the worst security we can get on the cheap.

□ 1300

AMERICA SHOULD PROVIDE MEALS AND EDUCATION FOR THE WORLD'S NEEDY CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the past 5 weeks, discussions on how best to combat terrorism over the longer term have begun in the Congress and the Bush administration and in the international community.

The terrible events of September 11 are bringing governments and people together to reflect not only on how to meet the immediate challenge of rooting out the terrorist leaders and destroying the al-Qaeda network, but also on how to eliminate poverty, hunger, ignorance and intolerance, which often breed despair, disaffection, and deep resentment. It is not enough to demonstrate what we are against. We need to be equally forceful in showing the world what we are for.

Perhaps no one has articulated this longer term challenge better than Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair. Prime Minister Blair has called upon the international community to foster and use the "power of a global community for good."

He stated that such a community would encourage political inclusion and democratic principles throughout the world. It would more than redouble efforts to find just and lasting solutions to the world's lingering conflicts, including the Middle East. It would pledge to the people of Afghanistan that the West will not just walk away, as we have before, at the end of this conflict, leaving unresolved the political, social, and economic crises that have worn down Afghanistan for more than 2 decades.

Further, the international community should seize the moment as a new opportunity to tackle the serious problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, and intolerance that have plagued so much of the developing world. We should forge partnerships to bring greater social and economic opportunities to Africa and other regions of the world.

This is an exciting agenda, one which will create a stronger international

community linked even more deeply by our joint efforts to better the lives of the neediest and most vulnerable population of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak about one concrete action the Bush administration could take in order to create lasting good out of acts of such profound evil.

Inspired by Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, a \$300 million pilot program, the Global Food for Education Initiative, was launched last year to provide one nutritious meal each day in a school setting to nine million of the world's neediest children. Contracts to carry out 49 projects in 38 countries were awarded to the United Nations World Food Programme and experienced U.S. private voluntary organizations, such as Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, CARE, Mercy Corps, Land O'Lakes, and Africare. About half of these projects are now underway, with the other half awaiting final clearance, including projects in Pakistan and Tajikistan.

School feeding programs have proven that they attract more children to attend school and keep them there, especially girls. Education is a critical element in empowering women, regardless of race, religion, or class.

Mr. Speaker, the administration should exercise its discretionary authority and announce immediately that it will continue the pilot program for a second year and expand the program to include additional school-feeding programs for the children of Afghanistan.

The United States, so blessed with agricultural resources, should call upon other donor Nations to contribute to this global effort, not just with food, but also with resources to create and expand schools. In addition, health resources, such as deworming medicine, immunizations, clean water, and vitamins, could be provided by other Nations in coordination with these school meals.

The international community, including the United States, has pledged to reduce by half the incidence of hunger in the world by the year 2015. Over the same period, we have stated our determination to provide universal education to all. The Global Food for Education Initiative is one concrete action the United States can take to achieve these goals.

The gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1700, to establish and fund the Global Food for Education Initiative. The farm bill, recently passed by the House, authorizes the establishment of this program; and I am hopeful that the Senate will include funding for this program in its version of the farm bill.

The administration, using its own discretionary authorities, can act now to continue and expand this program. I urge the White House, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of State to announce today the continu-

ation of the Global Food for Education Initiative. I urge the President to reach out to our coalition partners and ask them to provide additional education and health resources.

We can truly make a difference in the lives of the world's neediest children. All we need is the political will to make it happen.

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 27, 2001.

Hon. ANN M. VENEMAN,
Secretary of Agriculture, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY VENEMAN: We are writing to ask you to continue funding for the Global Food for Education Initiative (GFEI) for fiscal year 2002, using your authority under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954. Most of the projects initiated under this pilot program have operated for less than a full year, and some have not yet even been initiated. Clearly, the pilot program requires at least one more year of continued funding before evaluating how it has affected the incidence of child hunger, school enrollment and attendance, and the other indicators established by the USDA.

We are proud to be working closely with former Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, who initially conceived this idea, to promote the pilot program and, hopefully, to establish it as a permanent program. It is critical that the GFEI pilot program not be abandoned at this very early stage. We fear that, were this program to abruptly end after so brief a venture, recipient countries and other donor nations might interpret this as a demonstration of U.S. disregard for the need to address the roots of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and intolerance. In these very difficult times, it is important that the United States continue to demonstrate its long-standing commitment to help better the condition of the world's neediest children and to share our prosperity with less fortunate peoples.

Once again, we urge you to exercise your discretionary authority under Section 416(b) to continue the GFEI pilot program. We look forward to working with you and other members of the Administration to make the vision articulated by George McGovern and Bob Dole a reality.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. MCGOVERN,
Member of Congress.
JO ANN EMERSON,
Member of Congress.

THE COALITION IN SUPPORT OF THE
GEORGE MCGOVERN-ROBERT DOLE
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION ACT,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2001.

Hon. ANN M. VENEMAN,
Secretary of Agriculture, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY VENEMAN: Our coalition, comprised of members of the agriculture community, transportation sector, business associations, private voluntary organizations and international Food aid agencies, respectfully requests that you continue funding for the Global Food for Education Initiative for fiscal year 2002, using your authority under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954. Most of the projects initiated under this pilot program have operated for less than a full year. Accordingly, there has not been ample time to evaluate changes in school enrollment, child nutrition and other potential indicators of the program's effectiveness.

The importance and potential impact of the initiative is far-reaching. Over 300 mil-

lion children are chronically undernourished in the world today and more than 130 million children do not attend school. By providing meals at schools, global school feeding programs help to alleviate hunger among school children and increase attendance rates by providing an incentive for families to send children to school. We are proud to be working closely with USDA to implement and support these programs.

We fear that an abrupt end to this initiative will send a negative message to many countries, institutions and people involved in this effort. It is important that both developing and developed countries have confidence in our continued commitment to help better the conditions of the world's neediest children. The United States has a proud tradition of being the world's largest donor of food assistance. In these especially difficult times, it is important to continue that American tradition.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the Department of Agriculture in support of global school feeding programs.

Sincerely,

American Soybean Association; American School Food Service Association; Archer Daniels Midland/ADM Milling Co.; Bartlett Grain Co.; California Farm Bureau; Cargill; Congressional Hunger Center; Cereal Food Processing Company; CHS Coops; Dry Bean Council; Friends of the World Food Program.

Land O'Lakes, Inc.; National Farmers Union; National Cooperative Business Association; North American Millers Association; Opportunities Industrialization Centers; International; Pacific Agribusiness; Port of Lake Charles; Siberia Project; US Dairy Export Council; USA Rice Federation.

[From the International Herald Tribune,
Sept. 11, 2001]

SCHOOL FOOD CAN STEM THE PANGS OF POVERTY

(By George McGovern)

There are more than 300 million chronically hungry children in the world today who are condemned to lives of disease, illiteracy and, in many cases, physical deformity. Trapped in city slums, desolate villages, settlements and refugee camps, these children often live short lives of poverty and despair.

At the United Nations Special Session on Children this week, participants will review the progress made over the past decade for the world's poor children and will try to agree on what needs to be done. At the first such session, held in 1990, heads of state adopted a set of goals that included to improve living conditions, to create more educational opportunities and to provide essential food to malnourished children.

Unfortunately, 11 years later, only mixed results have been achieved. In a 141-page report the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, said that the progress has been offset by setbacks that are "serious enough to threaten earlier gains."

Before we find ourselves 10 years on with similar disappointing results, I would like to urge this year's special session participants to commit to a simple and effective idea that, if fully implemented, would dramatically improve the lives of these impoverished children. That idea is a global school feeding program.

Of the world's 300 million chronically hungry children, 170 million are often forced to learn on empty stomachs because they receive no food at school; 130 million don't attend class at all. More than 60 percent of these children are girls.

Many factors contribute to their hunger. Those who attend class often lack money to buy breakfast or lunch or must travel long distances to get to school, meaning they arrive hungry. Trying to learn on an empty stomach is nearly impossible.

Children who don't go to school at all are usually involved in helping their families make a living. An education for these children is not an option.

It is widely agreed that basic education is the best investment to improve the physical, social and economic conditions of the poor. A Unesco survey showed that in countries with an adult literacy rate of about 40 percent, gross national product per capita averaged \$210 annually; in those countries with at least 80 percent literacy, GNP per capita was \$1,000 and above.

Education is particularly critical for women and girls. Research shows that girls who go to school marry later, practice greater restraint in spacing births and have an average of 50 percent fewer children. They are also more informed about health risks, like the AIDS virus, and can better protect themselves and their children.

The catalyst for educating poor children is food. Research and decades of experience by aid agencies like the UN World Food Program show that school feeding can alleviate hunger, dramatically increase attendance and improve school performance. It also compensates poor parents for the loss of their children's labor while they attend class.

Using food to attract poor children to school and to keep them there may seem like a surprisingly simple way to make an impact. And it is. For an average of just 19 cents per day, or 34 dollars annually, a child can be fed for 180 schooldays a year.

Aid agencies have the expertise and global reach to make it happen. And donor governments are interested. Already, the U.S. Congress is contemplating a bill, endorsed by both former Republican Senator Bob Dole and me, which would commit the United States to an annual contribution toward a global program. I urge Congress and President George W. Bush to support this bill, and for other heads of state and leaders in the private sector and aid community to take up a similar commitment.

This week's special session is the place to begin. A simple, focused and realistic plan of action could help resolve the two most devastating burdens that poor children must carry today: malnutrition and illiteracy. School feeding is the key.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 8, 2001]

MR. BLAIR'S VISION

The United States took the lead in the military strike yesterday, as it will take the lead in the broader offensive against terrorist networks. But the broad coalition supporting and participating in the offensive showed that this is not a fight of America against the world but of the world against lawlessness. Some nations may join in because they fear the terrorists, some, because they want to stay on America's good side. But most—the allies who will be valuable over time—join in because they understand the importance of the values that came under attack September 11.

The spokesman for this most valued category is indisputably Tony Blair, the British prime minister. His government committed its forces to the armed campaign that began yesterday. He had credibly presented to the world the most cogent outline of the evidence against Osama bin Laden and the al Qaeda network. He had personally carried the diplomatic effort to Pakistan and his condolences to New York City. And perhaps

more valuable than any of that has been his staunch refutation of the anti-American compromisers who by finding fault with the United States—often real fault—would excuse the terrorists; he has coupled his response with eloquent explanation of the stakes involved in this new war. Now that a new military phase has begun, it is worth recalling a preview Mr. Blair provided in a speech to his Labor Party conference last week.

"The action we take will be proportionate, targeted," the prime minister said. "We will do all we humanly can to avoid civilian casualties. But understand what we are dealing with . . . They have no moral inhibition on the slaughter of the innocent. If they could have murdered not 7,000 but 70,000, does anyone doubt they would have done so and rejoiced in it? There is no compromise possible with such people, no meeting of minds, no point of understanding with such terror. Just a choice: Defeat it or be defeated by it. And defeat it we must."

To his own people, Mr. Blair urged confidence in ultimate victory in this "fight for freedom" because "our way of life is a great deal stronger and will last a great deal longer than the actions of fanatics, small in number and now facing a united world against them." To the Americans, Mr. Blair promised simply: "We were with you at the first. We will stay with you to the last."

Finally, Mr. Blair offered his vision of victory in this unorthodox campaign: "It is that out of the shadow of this evil should emerge lasting good: destruction of the machinery of terrorism wherever it is found; hope amongst all nations of a new beginning where we seek to resolve differences in a calm and ordered way; greater understanding between nations and between faiths; and above all justice and prosperity for the poor and dispossessed, so that people everywhere can see the chance of a better future through the hard work and creative power of the free citizen, not the violence and savagery of the fanatic." Not a bad set of goals to keep in mind as a long campaign begins.

GUAM EARTHQUAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to alert my colleagues of an earthquake that jolted Guam shortly after 11 a.m. D.C. time on Friday, which was 1:03 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time on Guam, Saturday, October 13.

The earthquake measured a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale, and the epicenter was located some 45 miles south-southeast of Guam's capital, Hagatna. Many of the island villages were without water and power, and due to the time that the earthquake occurred, which was in the middle of the night, official structural damage assessments could not be made until the morning after.

I am pleased to report that FEMA officials, as well as a four-person team from the Army Corps of Engineers, who are structural and water system experts, are on island to assist with the damage assessment, and I understand that the governor of Guam, Carl Gutierrez, will soon be transmitting a

major disaster declaration to President Bush.

There have been widespread reports of broken water lines in southern portions of the island, causing disruption in water service in my own home village of Yona, where I live. We have not had water since the earthquake, and I have recently received confirmation that a main water line that services the northern and southern parts of the island has sustained major structural damage. Although there is visible damage in a few areas, I am concerned; and I think all of the people of Guam are most primarily concerned that the island's water infrastructure received major damage that we have yet to assess.

Public works crews are also currently assessing the damage to three bridges in the villages of Inarajan, Talofofa, and Pago Bay, all of which are vital links and provide the only means of land access to the southern end of the island.

One bridge has already been assessed and reported to have sustained structural damage and minimal travel is being allowed on these bridges at this point.

Schools will open tomorrow which would be Wednesday Guam-time. They have been closed for the past 2 days until they were declared structurally safe for our school children and until water and power were restored to the buildings for their health and welfare. Reports have already been received that two of our middle schools, Jose L. Rios and Oceanview, have received major structural damage and may be demolished pending further assessments. This is particularly crucial because Jose L. Rios has just been recently rebuilt from a typhoon in 1998. Because many of our public schools are already overcrowded, particularly our middle schools, I am concerned that many of the other schools on the island will not be able to absorb our displaced students.

All of this was aggravated by a sudden 6 inches of rain, a downpour, the following day which caused flooding to many parts of the island, especially Barrigada.

This earthquake could not have come at a worse time for Guam, as our economy has already been struggling from the Asian economic crisis and the after effects of the September 11 attacks. Guam's economy is primarily fueled by tourists, especially from Asia, Japan. We get about 1½ million tourists a year. Our travel and tourism industry will again bear the brunt of this earthquake and the attacks of September 11 as tourists will be less likely to travel to Guam over the next few weeks given the current string of events.

Our business community will continue to hurt and the greater impact of our economy will be damaging. Albeit