

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

the island has probably sustained a great deal of structural damage in its water system, collectively, and for some of our families, damages to their homes; I am extremely thankful that there were no fatalities or injuries.

This is the strongest earthquake to hit the island since the 8.0 rated earthquake in August of 1993. I am proud to say that Guam's building codes are one of the most stringent; and as a result, we were spared the tragedy of the loss of human life. I hope that once a complete and thorough assessment of the damage has been completed, I know that we can count on FEMA. I know we can count on the rest of the Federal Government to help the people of Guam and this body to help the people of Guam as well.

HONORING CAPTAIN JAY P. JAHNKE

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

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a brave Houston firefighter who lost his life this weekend while battling a fire in a Houston high-rise condominium. Like firefighters in New York and Northern Virginia, who willingly put their lives on the line on September 11, 2001, Captain Jay P. Jahnke of the Houston Fire Department died this weekend while living his lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter. He entered a blazing building to do his job, regardless of personal risk and as firefighters always do.

Captain Jahnke led the first team to arrive on the scene of an early morning fire this past Saturday in West Houston. The burning 40-story condominium complex houses hundreds of individuals. His courageous and valiant efforts, for which he gave his life, saved many lives of people he never even knew.

Captain Jahnke leaves behind a legacy of valor and unyielding commitment to the common good. My thoughts and prayers are with Captain Jahnke's family; his wife, Dawn; his 11-year-old daughter, Jayne; his 8-year-old son Hunter; his mother, Katherine; brother, Jeff; and sisters, Karen and Mary Ann. I offer my sincere condolences to his more than 3,200 brothers and sisters in the Houston Fire Department, especially those at Fire Station No. 2.

The Jahnke family has deep roots and a proud tradition in the Houston Fire Department. Captain Jahnke's father, Claude, was a district fire chief, and he is related to more than a dozen current firefighters. Every day at Houston's 87 fire stations and at fire stations across the Nation, thousands of men and women shelve fear and self-interest to form our front line of homeland defense. They enter blazing buildings and risk their lives to save strangers.

Captain Jay Jahnke's selflessness, compassion, and concern for others is yet another example of how firefighters, police, and other rescue personnel show us how good people can be. We are in his debt and that of firefighters throughout the land.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, once again we come before You in a troubled time, grateful for Your presence in our lives and for the love with which You continue to bless us.

Today in a special way we ask You to bless this House of the people. Keep its Members safe and strong so that they may lead this Nation forward along the road of peace and justice in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness for all.

Let not fear or anxiety ever rule us but let us find strength and purpose in our trust in You.

From the beginning of our history You have carried us in Your hands. Accompany us now in the difficult journey of these days so that we may accomplish all that which You desire in the power of Your Holy Name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. McCARTHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HIS EMINENCE, THEODORE CARDINAL McCARRICK, ARCHBISHOP OF WASHINGTON

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege this afternoon to welcome His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington. I want to thank him for offering the opening prayer.

Cardinal McCarrick has a long and distinguished record of service to the Church in New York, Puerto Rico, New Jersey, and now here in Washington, which includes my district of Montgomery County, Maryland. He certainly is a gift to the Archdiocese of Washington. The Archdiocese is very diverse with a population that has both common and also specific needs. Upon being named to the College of Cardinals this year, he said that his new responsibilities will not change his pledge to reach out "to serve the poor and the stranger among us with all my heart and strength." And he has been doing just that.

Ordained as a priest for the Archdiocese of New York in 1958, Cardinal McCarrick received a Ph.D. from and held several posts at the Catholic University of America here in Washington. He has served as the President of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, auxiliary bishop of New York, the first Bishop of Metuchen, New Jersey, and Archbishop of Newark.

He was installed as Archbishop of Washington on January 3, 2001; and 7 weeks later, he was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II. He is known for his efforts on behalf of international human rights, religious freedom and migration, and serves on the U.S. Commission for International Religious Freedom. He also speaks many languages.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I thank Cardinal McCarrick for leading us in prayer today. I welcome him to the United States House of Representatives. We appreciate his presence, his guidance and his blessing on this House as we begin our critical work today.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2904, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the managers on the part of the House have until midnight, October 16, 2001, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base