

of this country, I was not only shocked but chagrined that, in the middle of a fight against terrorism, while our men and women are in Afghanistan and our soldiers are standing vigil around the world, that Members would actually speculate not only openly but antagonistically impugn the President's reputation.

I heard this weeks ago, when a Member of this body speculated that not only did he know but he kept the information quiet so people could profit from their knowledge; that investors and people who bought defense stock and others, and this Member actually singled out a few and suggested they were in fact in on the game. Now, clearly, I thought that was so far out in left field that I would not even give it credence. But then respected Members of this body got up and continued the assault this week, including a gentleman from New York, who even speculated that the President, if he knew, was personally responsible for the deaths in New York.

Now, talk about shock, talk about outrage, talk about reckless commentary. We all want to know what happened September 11, and we all want to talk about the failures potentially of intelligence, and we all want to look at the system and try to perfect it so it does not happen again. The warnings in the last 24 hours are shocking and are of great concern to every American and should be to every Member of this body. But for a Member to sit here and randomly speculate that he or she believes that this President, or any President, would know of this information and sit on it, is just sheer lunacy, and it is regrettable. I think those that made those comments should seek to have them taken down, because I think they are not only reprehensible but they diminish our united efforts on terrorism.

There is one thing certain in America, as we all think about the tragedy that began in New York and spread to Washington and to the fields of Pennsylvania, that many lives were lost due to people who did not respect our country. They do not respect what we stand for. They do not respect democracy. But to have our own Members of this Congress speculate alongside them and question the dedication of a President?

I remember when there was an invasion of Bosnia, and there was speculation because of a scandal enveloping the President that he may have proceeded to bomb Bosnia because he was trying to deflect the attention from the scandal in Washington. I myself, as a Republican, took umbrage to that. I was outraged by that comment as well, because I felt to speculate that a good, kind man, like President Clinton or President Bush, would knowingly risk innocent lives, one to deflect criticism from themselves and one because they were not paying attention to the job, is just the height of irresponsibility.

We have a lot to do in this body, and we have a lot of questions to ask.

Seems like those questions are fired fast and furious at the other end of this hall by those who want to interview Governor Ridge; they want answers to all these questions; they want to see the detailed briefings; they want to lay out all of this for the world to see. And the ones I am concerned about seeing this the most are the terrorists that may still be residing in this country.

So rather than be divisive, let us pull ourselves together. There will be plenty of time to lead inquiry; but we are actively engaged right now in the pursuit of freedom, we are actively engaged in protecting our citizens from terrorism, we are actively engaged in trying to get all agencies of the Federal Government to cooperate, the FBI, the CIA, Border Patrol, and Immigration. So I think our collective efforts, rather than to see who can point fingers and accuse the Commander in Chief and the President of this great country, we should be focusing our efforts to strengthen our common resolve against our enemy.

Our enemy is not at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. Our enemy should not be the Republican or Democratic Party, or who controls this Chamber. This fight is not over who runs this place. It is a fight for democracy, and it is a fight for freedom. And I hope my colleagues will be cautious when they seek to accuse this fine President of shirking his responsibility and his duty.

I am proud of him. I think he has done a masterful job. And I continue to give him 100 percent of my support.

CRISES IN AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am quoting from a recent report called, "A Future With Hope," prepared by Bread for the World. It says, under the policy to address world hunger, and I quote, "The terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, profoundly affected the United States. Psychologically the Nation was wounded, the vulnerability exposed, and its sense of security shattered. The attack pushed an already faltering economy into recession, yet much of the developing world would suffer even greater devastation as a result of the attacks. A World Bank study reported that the ripple effect from September 11 would hurt economic growth in developing countries, especially in Africa."

Mr. Speaker, in the last years, there has been much discussion about assistance to Africa by Western countries, including the United States and Europe. With the crisis of AIDS and other infectious diseases continuing to grow ever more menacing, the wealthy countries of the world are finally, though still inadequately, taking notice, and we support them, taking notice of a pandemic and the devastation directed

every day upon our African brothers and sisters.

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AIDS does not discriminate. Killing off entire generation of Africans, both adults and children, it empties rural communities, towns and villages and professional urban classes indiscriminately, without regard for class or clan. However, the level of newfound interest in Africa remains insufficient and indeed grossly lacking. AIDS is not the only crisis that is causing great harm on the continent of Africa right now. As AIDS devastates African nations with frightening speed, so too do the specter of hunger and the shadows of famine fall across southern Africa.

I ask my colleagues, in our newfound interest in Africa, to consider the widespread incidence of hunger in Africa. The reports are arriving with greater frequency and they are chilling. As many as 20 million people in the region of southern Africa are suffering from hunger and insecurity of food. My friends, this is equal to the population of the entire State of Texas. Let us just consider for one moment that we knew the entire State of Texas was dying for insufficient food. We indeed would do something.

Please consider The Washington Post article, and I quote. I want to just read a part of that:

"Please forgive my ramblings," said the old man, stooped and still as he sat on a wooden stool in front of his mud hut. The hunger makes my mind wander."

"In his lucid moments, Lucas Lufuzi recites the numbers, calibrating his catastrophic situation. Three days since he's eaten. Thirty-one cobs of unripe, green corn. One son: 29 years alive and 21 days dead. Two seasons of crops spoiled by erratic weather, rain one year, drought the next."

"What is taking place across southern Africa is the perfect famine, a disastrous collaboration between nature and man that has caused the region's worst food shortage in nearly 60 years."

The worst food shortage in 60 years. Let us remember that we had the Biafran tragedy, the Ethiopian famines of the eighties, the long hunger march of the Sudanese which continues to this day. Sixty years, Mr. Speaker. We can do better.

We will consider a bill on emergency funding, and I ask my colleagues to consider no better cause than to respond to the hunger of the world. Until this is done, we cannot claim to be really concerned about our brothers and sisters in Africa.

In the last year, there has been much discussion about the assistance to Africa by Western nations including the United States and Europe. With the crisis of AIDS and other infectious diseases continuing to grow ever more menacing, the wealthy countries of the world are finally, though still inadequately, taking notice of the pandemic and the devastation that it wreaks every day upon our African

brothers and sisters. AIDS does not discriminate. Killing off entire generations of Africans, it empties rural villages and professional urban classes indiscriminately, without regard for class or clan. However the level of newfound interest in Africa, it remains insufficient and is grossly lacking.

However, AIDS is not the only crisis causing great harm on the continent of Africa right now. As AIDS devastates African nation's with frightening speed, so too is the specter of hunger and the shadow of famine fall across Southern Africa. I ask my colleagues in our newfound interest in Africa to consider the widespread hunger? The reports are arriving with greater frequency and they are chilling. As many as 20 million people in the region of Southern Africa are suffering from hunger and insecurity of nutrition. My friends, this is equal to the population of Texas. Let us imagine that the entire state of Texas were suffering through an extreme shortage of food. What would our response be then?

Last week the Washington Post ran an article on this horrible situation. I would like to read the first part of it.

"Please forgive my ramblings," said the old man, stopped and still as he sat on a wooden stool in front of his mud hut. "The hunger makes my mind wander."

"In his lucid moments, Lucas Lufuzi recites the numbers, calibrating his catastrophe. Three days since he's eaten. Thirty-one cobs of unripe green corn. One son: 29 years alive and 21 days dead. Two seasons of crops spoiled by erratic weather—rain one year, drought the next."

"What is taking place across southern Africa is the perfect famine, a disastrous collaboration between nature and man that has caused the region's worst food shortage in nearly 60 years."

The worst food shortage in 60 years! Let us remember the Biafran tragedy, the Ethiopian famines of the 80s, the long hunger March of the Sudánese, which continues to this day. For someone to contend that this is the worst food shortage in the region in nearly 60 years is no small statement, it is a call to action.

I see very little action. Relief organizations estimate that they will need 145,000 tons of food, or about \$70 million worth, to prevent widespread starvation. According to the Washington Post, donors have thus far pledged only \$3 million.

This week the House of Representatives will consider a supplemental appropriations bill that will cost over \$25 billion. Much of the spending in this bill will be legitimate.

But to the best of my knowledge this bill will not contain funds to address the looming crisis in Southern Africa. It will not provide the resources necessary to prevent suffering and misery in Malawi, in Zambia, in Zimbabwe.

Let there be no doubt. This body would be hard pressed to find a better, more humane, and more necessary way to spend \$50 million to address the famine that is ravaging Southern Africa.

My colleagues, let us not mistake idle chatter for a real concern about Africa. Let us not believe that a minor increase in African development assistance is an adequate response to the cries for help now coming from Southern Africa. My friends, until the suffering of Africa is brought to a halt, until AIDS is contained, until the ravages of famine are dispersed like dust—until that day—our concern for Africa,

no matter how real or how genuine, will not be concerned enough.

[From the Washington Post, May 10, 2002]
FAMINE LOOMS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA—MILLIONS SUFFERING IN CRISIS CREATED BY NATURE, EXACERBATED BY MAN

(By Jon Jeter)

MCHINJI, MALAWI.—"Please forgive my ramblings," said the old man, stooped and still as he sat on a wooden stool in front of his mud hut. "The hunger makes my mind wander."

In his lucid moments, Lucas Lufuzi recites the numbers, calibrating his catastrophe. Three days since he's eaten. Thirty-one tiny cobs of unripe, green corn. Two grandchildren to feed. One son: 29 years alive; 21 days dead. Two seasons of crops spoiled by erratic weather—rain one year, drought the next.

"I have never seen such starvation," said Lufuzi, who does not know his age but says he believes he is close to 60. "Our family relied on my son to work the farm and for the income he earned [working part time on commercial farms]."

"When my grandchildren's feet began to swell from hunger, I had no choice but to harvest the crops before they were ready. This," he said, nodding to a basket of shriveled corn, "is all that keeps us from death."

What is taking shape across southern Africa is the perfect famine, disastrous collaboration between nature and man that has caused the region's worst food shortage in nearly 60 years.

Officials in the region say as many as 20 million people are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. The U.N. World Food Program is already feeding more than 2.6 million in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia and other countries in the region, and agency officials say that number will at least double in the coming months as peasants finish off the meager yields from this season's harvest.

Overall, relief workers anticipate they will need roughly 145,000 tons of food, worth about \$69 million, to plug the immediate shortfall in domestic crop production in the region. So far, donors have pledged only about \$3 million.

Officials with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a coalition of 14 nations, say they will need to import 3.2 million tons of corn—the region's staple food—to offset the deficit, about double the amount imported last year.

"We've got a full-scale famine on our hands," said Kerran Hedland, a spokeswoman for the World Food Program in Malawi.

A year of flooding followed by a year of drought are largely to blame for the widespread crop failure. But international donors, Western diplomats and civic organizations say the crisis has been aggravated by graft—or at least mismanagement—in Malawi and by political upheaval in neighboring Zimbabwe, usually one of the continent's most reliable food producers.

Malawian officials last year inexplicably sold the country's 167,000-ton emergency grain reserve and have not accounted for the proceeds. Officials have denied any wrongdoing and promised an investigation, but the International Monetary Fund, Britain, the European Union and other sources have frozen at least \$75 million in aid payments as a result.

President Robert Mugabe's seizure of white-owned commercial farms in Zimbabwe has hurt not only that country's crop yields but those of its neighbors. With one of the region's most robust agricultural sectors, Zimbabwe for years sold or donated surplus crops to other African countries that needed help.

But Mugabe's violent, two-year-old campaign to redistribute farms to poor, landless blacks has disrupted farming and cut off routes used to transport food to neighboring countries. Food production in Zimbabwe has dropped by nearly 40 percent this year, according to SADC officials, and last week Mugabe joined Malawi's president, Bakili Muluzi, in declaring a state of emergency.

"Land acquisitions in Zimbabwe have had a dramatic effect on the amount [of food] that should have been produced in the country," said Judith Lewis, the World Food Program's regional director for eastern and southern Africa. "Much needs to be done. The time is running out."

The food reserve scandal in Malawi and Zimbabwe's political turmoil have compounded the problem by depleting stocks and driving up the price of corn by as much as 300 percent here in Malawi and in Zambia. What food is available is simply unaffordable to many people in the region.

Tipilire Kasingiro and her three small children ran out of corn from last year's harvest in December, and the shortage of food has kept her busy caring for her 18-month-old daughter, Marizani, who has frequently been sick. That left her unable to work part time as a housekeeper and earn spare money in the months before the harvest.

"Even if I had worked, it wouldn't be enough to buy the maize like I did last year," she said, as she held Marizani, a wraith of a girl, sunken-eyed and unmoving. "The maize is so expensive this year."

So she foraged the village for fruit, and when she was unable to find more, she and her neighbors dug up the roots of a banana tree, pounded them in a bowl and made a foul-tasting porridge, knowing that it would eventually make them ill.

"We were desperate, and we knew it would fill our bellies, if only temporarily," she said. "My babies were swelling up like they were going to burst. I had to do something."

Southern Africa has endured widespread food shortages before, most recently a decade ago when drought struck the region. But the situation now is far worse, many Africans say, partly because famished peasants are eating tree stems, sawdust and wild leaves, causing an increase in disease.

"You would see people eating green maize" during the drought in the early 1990s, "but you didn't see people eating the roots of trees," said Sister Agnes Eneyasicio, of St. Mary's Catholic Church in the village of Ludzi, in Mchinji district near the border with Zambia.

When St. Mary's opened a feeding center for 600 children in January, "our two schools were completely empty," she said. "The children were too hungry to come to school. You'd go and find whole villages empty because everyone was out searching for food. We've never experienced anything like this in Malawi."

The AIDS epidemic, which was only beginning to surface in southern Africa a decade ago, is deepening the misery. An estimated one of every six adult Malawians is infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and hunger has accelerated the onset of debilitating diseases and even death among many household breadwinners here, according to relief and medical workers.

The epidemic has further cut into the country's crop production by leaving the elderly, children and orphans to care for the sick, assume the responsibilities of planting and harvesting crops, or take odd jobs for extra income.

Herein Mchinji, AIDS, and other illnesses have compounded the food problems, Lufuzi's son, James, fell ill and died three weeks ago, though his father does not know exactly what caused his death. "He did not discuss that with me," Lufuzi said.

James Lufuzi had sporadic bouts of illness, but when the family ran short of food late last year, his condition deteriorated. He died at home last month, leaving his father, a widower himself, to care for his two daughters, 9 and 7.

When asked if his son may have had HIV, he nods. "I believe that may have been the case. The hunger fed his illness until he could not hold on any longer."

Amid such privation, food is precious to those who have it and tempting to those who do not. When Goodson Mussa was accused of stealing corn from a field near the capital, Lilongwe, three men used a razor blade to cut off one of his ears.

"They beat me and spit on me, and one of them threatened to douse me with [Kerosene] and set me alight," said Mussa, 33. Asked several times if he was indeed trying to steal corn, Mussa refused to answer directly.

"Hunger is terrible," he said, holding his hand up to his bandaged head. "What man wouldn't steal if he's watching his own children starve to death before his very eyes?"

CORPORATIONS SEEK TAX DODGE IN BERMUDA

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

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, not that long ago, more than 88 million Americans dutifully filed their individual income taxes. But now we find out that a growing number of United States corporations have developed a new tax dodge, a new sort of Bermuda Triangle to disappear their tax obligations to the Federal Government and the United States of America.

That is not too surprising, given the attitude of the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. O'Neill. He said that absolutely he backs the abolition of taxes on corporations. "The clear economic truth is that businesses and corporations don't pay taxes, they just collect them for the government," he told the Financial Times. He is part right. Many corporations do not pay taxes anymore. The burden is growing on individual Americans. Thirty years ago when our corporations were the envy of the world and we were the manufacturing capital of the world, 25 percent of the taxes of the United States were paid by corporations. Today, it is less than 10. Of course, most of our manufacturing has fled overseas and now those companies that have remained here are hoping to move their tax obligations offshore to places where they do not pay taxes. They say, as Stanley Works did in defending this practice when they held a recent vote of stockholders, it is all about the stockholders.

From today's New York Times, it is not about the stockholders. It is about the CEOs. It is all about the CEOs. According to the New York Times, the CEO of Stanley Works will get 58 percent of the \$30 million they expect to not pay in Federal income taxes by moving the corporation to Barbados and Bermuda. So we screw the American taxpayers. We screw the stock-

holders, too, because they are going to have to pay capital gains taxes. But the gentleman who runs the company will get a huge bonus. He might still have to pay some U.S. income taxes, but he probably has some smart accountants who will figure out how he can get around that, too.

What is the reaction of the United States Congress to this scandal? We had hoped here in the United States House of Representatives, the people's House, that there would be some outrage about this shift of taxes from large, profitable corporations and their CEOs on to individual Americans and small businesses. But instead, on the Republican side, the reaction is protect these tax dodges at any cost.

We were going to take up a bill on the marriage penalty, which is a real problem for American families. But on the Democratic side we were going to offer an amendment, an amendment to close this tax loophole, to break up the new Bermuda Triangle, to not allow companies that are based in, manufacture in, employ people in the United States of America to pretend that they are in Barbados and pretend that they are in Bermuda in order to avoid their tax obligations.

It should not be very controversial, should it? This is a time, as we heard so eloquently from the gentleman before me, of great threat to our Nation where people should not be asking questions about who knew what, when, where and how. But this is something we know, and we should be asking, why should we allow these corporations to avoid their tax obligations? Why should they not join in the great patriotic need to raise funds to fight the threat of terrorism? Why should they enjoy all the privileges of American citizenship and pay not a whit for it? But the reaction of the House leadership was to cancel the consideration of the marriage penalty on another day as a regular bill and bring it up instead as a suspension tomorrow with no amendments allowed. God forbid that the United States House of Representatives should break up this little scam. I mean, after all, this CEO of Stanley Works will probably send a good part of his little take there, his \$17.8 million to one of their fund-raisers in gratitude, maybe 10 percent, maybe 20. Who knows what the share will be.

This is absolutely outrageous. The American people are paying their taxes. The country is under attack. We are in a huge deficit. We are spending the Social Security trust fund. The lockbox for Social Security is long gone. We are piling up a huge and growing deficit. We have enough controversy over the proposals by the Republicans to make permanent the tax cuts for the largest estates and the wealthiest Americans, but to allow this outrage, companies based in the United States of America, in all reality, to rent a post office box in Bermuda and a filing cabinet in Barbados and pretend they are not U.S. corporations anymore and not pay any taxes.

I am ashamed of the Republican leadership.

CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, when the supplemental appropriation bill comes up this week, largely for defense purposes, the Republican majority will try to play games and use sleight of hand to slip an increase in the debt ceiling past the American people. These issues should not be linked. They should be voted separately.

Yes, America has returned to the days of a growing budget deficit. The President's economic policy will reduce our surplus by nearly \$1.7 trillion. That is 42 percent. The government, therefore, is about to bump its head against the debt ceiling.

This situation makes it all the more irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, for this Congress in the same bill to throw more than \$100 million in taxpayer money to the wind to protect a private oil pipeline in the nation of Colombia. Yes, that is right. American taxpayers are being asked to pony up over \$100 million to protect a private oil pipeline in a foreign country. This oil pipeline is owned by two multinational corporations and also by the Government of Colombia.

I will be offering an amendment to strike the first \$6 million down payment in funding in this bill to protect what is called the Cano Limon oil pipeline. Most Americans do not even know about this pipeline; but they should, because the Bush administration wants to use their tax dollars to protect it. This pipeline that pipes Colombian oil is owned by U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum, along with Repsol, a Spanish-Argentine combine, and Ecopetrol, which is an arm of the Government of Colombia.

Can you believe it? This is where our lack of a national energy policy has led us, into the jungles of a Colombian war and into the middle of a civil war that has raged for two generations. The Bush administration wants Congress to spend American tax dollars to defend a pipeline that is owned by the Government of Colombia, a Spanish-Argentine multinational corporation and Occidental Petroleum, an American-based multinational giant, to pump Colombian oil.

When you think about it, this first \$6 million is but a down payment on \$104 million which is supposed to come later. This particular pipeline has been repeatedly attacked in Colombia's 38-year-long civil war.

Occidental Petroleum is not a poor company. In fact, it earned profits of more than \$2 billion over the last 2 years. So why in the world should the American people have to foot this bill?