

poverty line. Just recently, the government of Pakistan announced new school meal program to target at least 500,000 schoolgirls ages 5 to 12. The amount of funding allocated for the new program is US\$50 million. The Pakistan delegation encouraged U.S. school feeding implementers to work with the government's new programs, expand feeding to the Madrassa schools and combine efforts with a strong focus on local capacity building of the dairy production sector with aims to increase the percentage of milk that is being hygienically packaged. Everyone wins in this situation: farmers receive a more fair price per liter of milk that is clean; processors are able to fully utilize processing capacity and consumers are guaranteed a safe, nutritious and affordable milk product.

Cindy Buhl from the office of Congressman Jim McGovern provided an overview of the current status of food community programs, the Executive Branch review of U.S. food aid programs and recommendations made by the Bush Administration on adjustments and their impacts of U.S. government food commodity programs. Many questions were presented to Ms. Buhl by participants of which most revolved around what can the international development community (PVOs and private sector) do to ensure congressional and Executive Branch support for the Global Food for Education Initiative. Ms. Buhl stated that first and for most, school feeding implementers must continue their excellence in the field, improve monitoring and evaluation of program impacts and provide quantitative results in reports back to donors and congressional offices. She also strongly encouraged local governments to state their interest and support directly to the Bush Administration, Congress and USDA/USAID for continuing and receiving U.S. government school feeding programs in their country. Ms. Buhl commented on the power of observing a school feeding program in action and seeing the exuberance and passion for learning and contributing to helping hundreds of thousands of school children reach their full potential and maximizing their contribution to society is an overwhelming experience. She highly recommended to the group to seek ways to get more congressional representatives to see these programs in action. The presentation was concluded with a strong statement of the importance of partnerships and commitment by governments, private sector and non-government organizations to work together to constantly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of feeding our future leaders.

Beth Sheehy and Kristin Penn from Land O'Lakes International Division presented the multiple benefits generated from a school feeding program—especially programs supported by the private sector in close partnerships with local government and community of whom all have their unique capacities that make school feeding programs a LONG-TERM success.

The conference ended on a high note with participants armed with a comprehensive education on how a school-feeding program is implemented in the field and what needs to be done to expand these programs and create momentum for the global school feeding effort.

#### THANK YOU, JUAN LUCERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time today to

recognize and express my deep appreciation to a gentleman who has worked for me since I came to Congress.

Professional staff, for the most part, work in the back stage of history, but their work is fundamental to our duties as representatives of the people. They are dedicated and professional public servants, and I commend them for their service to their country and their contributions to the House of Representatives.

Juan Lucero, who serves as my case-work manager in my Santa Fe office, is retiring this year at the age of 63 after a remarkable career. He spent over 3 decades of his life serving the people of New Mexico in some capacity. I stand here today not only to recognize him but to also thank him on behalf of thousands of people that he has helped over the years.

Juan has had jobs ranging from being a fruit picker in California to being a DJ at a Spanish radio station in Albuquerque and in serving in the Nation's military as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army. This diversity has given him a unique perspective on people and their personal situations.

His career as a civil servant in New Mexico began in 1969, when he worked at the State Welfare Department. For 10 years, Juan worked tirelessly to help people with their claims for food stamps and Medicaid. From 1979 to 1983, he worked for Lieutenant Governor Roberto Mondragon. He remembers many successes as a caseworker in this progression, for example, helping clear up a \$10,000 hospital bill for a destitute woman.

Juan stayed in this position from 1983 to 1987, while working for the next Lieutenant Governor, Mike Rybbeks. Juan then found himself working for the New Mexico State Senate Chief Clerk's Office, where he worked on cases on behalf of State senators.

Juan continued his governmental service when he came to work for my Democratic predecessor in 1991, Congressman Bill Richardson. It was in this position where Juan began helping his fellow New Mexicans resolve their problems with the Federal Government. He had his first experiences with Social Security, the Veterans Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and other agencies that make our government work. At any given time, he handled over 250 cases. He stayed in this position until Bill Richardson left the Congress in 1997.

Before he came to my office in 1999, Juan worked for the Social Security Administration Teleservice Center in Albuquerque. He assisted hundreds of callers each day, often utilizing his outstanding Spanish skills, taking calls from Puerto Rico and all over the country. He also worked as a prison chaplain at the Estancia jail in New Mexico.

Juan has a natural gift for helping people during hard times. Our constituents that come to our offices for help are usually at the end of their rope and

frustrated by miles of red tape and bureaucracy that they have had to endure. Wherever Juan absorbed his passion for service, it has been a fulfilling aspect of his life. As he once explained: "This is one place where you can really help people, and the most desperate person can come here and at the very least they can find an ear to let out their frustrations. To be able to make someone's life more meaningful is a special privilege. People come to their Congressman with life-changing events. Their problems are serious. To me, all cases are important because they mean so much to the individual. The reward in this type of work is so much greater than money."

For about 15 years, Juan has been commuting to Santa Fe from his home in Torreon, 4 hours round trip. Neither rain nor snow nor hail nor heat nor the gloom of night has kept him from faithfully doing his job.

I cannot begin to describe the case-work successes that we have shared together. Juan has also earned several letters to the editor in various newspapers in New Mexico thanking him for his diligent work. Those examples speak volumes about Juan's work ethic.

Juan is a veteran, a husband of 40 years, a father to 13 children, and a grandfather to 26. I know that more than anything he ever did in his professional career he is most proud of his loving family. He has a true passion for his Spanish heritage.

He enjoys explaining to those of different backgrounds the traditions and the history of his people. He has helped me in my quest to provide justice to Hispanic land grant heirs of the Southwest.

He is a talented musician and takes great pride in performing with his family throughout New Mexico. He loves music and has written many corridos, Mexican ballads, during his life. Some of these songs are archived at the University of New Mexico Department of Music.

I applaud Juan for his great public service.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO U.S. WORLD CUP SOCCER TEAM

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if any of my colleagues have done this, but I simply wanted to rise and extend congratulations to the U.S. World Cup soccer team. Over the last weeks, we have had the chance to watch a phenomenal group of individuals under the leadership of Coach Arena move all the way to the quarter finals. We saw the spectacular win earlier this week over our dear friends from Mexico.

Today, unfortunately, we saw them lose 1-0 to Germany. There is little doubt that the game that was played

today probably saw the best performance through the entire World Cup by the U.S. team.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say from Friedel to Donovan to McBride, and all of the wonderful players on the U.S. soccer team, congratulations on a job well done. You represented the United States extraordinarily well.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY AND AMTRAK

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have come to address the issue of Amtrak, but I just cannot resist making some comments regarding one of the most bizarre and tortured speeches I have ever heard given by a Member who preceded me in the well.

Yes, it is true Americans pay more than twice as much as most people who live in industrialized nations around the world for our pharmaceuticals, many of those pharmaceuticals manufactured in the United States by United States-owned drug manufacturing firms and somehow exported from the United States and sold for half or 30 percent of the price overseas where they still make money. He said all we need is a bigger dose of the free market in the Republican approach to this bill.

We certainly do not want a government program like Medicare, that would actually rein in the price of drugs by negotiating it down using the market power of the 40 million people in Medicare, just like Blue Cross/Blue Shield does with their patients, just like the Veterans Administration does with their clients. Why? Because the pharmaceutical industry, who hosted the Republican fundraiser, the most successful in history, earlier this week, is bitterly opposed to that. They do not want the free market to work here in the United States.

But what he was really commenting on was the fact that overseas they control the outrageous price of these drugs and the companies still make a profit. So it was one of the more bizarre and tortured speeches I have ever heard trying to get around the fact their bill will do nothing about the outrageous price of pharmaceuticals, and that in fact they are introducing and passing legislation written by the insurance and pharmaceutical industry.

Now, on to Amtrak, another looming disaster. On Monday, the administra-

tion has a critical decision to make: Will they guarantee a loan for Amtrak to continue its operation, or will they kill Amtrak and kill our national rail system once and forever?

Will we become the only major industrialized Nation on Earth without a national rail system? What happens the next time there is a 9-11 when there is no rail alternative? Where are those people going to go? What are our alternatives?

This administration is rehashing again there another free market mantra. My God, Amtrak should not get subsidies. Well, yes, the trucking industry gets subsidies; automobiles get huge Federal subsidies; and, yes, the aviation industry got more subsidies in one day than Amtrak has gotten in 15 years. But Amtrak, no, they should not get a penny, because they compete with the regional airlines, and they are not liked by the freight companies.

So the administration is falling back on this: let us make it like the British rail system. That is as credible as the idea of modeling our electricity on the British system, which we have done. Deregulation, the disaster in California, was modeled on what they have done in Great Britain. And, in fact, what they are proposing for Amtrak is modeled on what they have done in Great Britain.

When I was over there earlier this year for aviation security issues, the paper was filled day after day after day with disasters, capacity problems, safety problems, crashes, dissatisfaction of the public. Divide off the rails from the actual providers of service. Yes, the Brits did that. It is a disaster.

No, this is plain and simple an excuse to kill the system. And if the administration does not sign this loan on Monday, they have just signed the death warrant of the national rail system in this country, which would be a horrible tragedy.

In my region, we have grown, with minuscule investment, rail passengers by 600 percent in 8 years. If we can turn it into a truly high-speed system, of course then it might compete with the aviation industry, we could get people to Seattle just about as quickly as they could get there and deal with the traffic problems coming to and from the airport in Oregon and the airline schedules.

□ 1530

But they do not want to have that kind of a system. They do not want

that alternative. They do not want it to be successful. They want to kill it.

I challenged the administration on Monday, give them that loan guarantee and let Congress work its will in terms of reforming Amtrak, making it work better. We can do that, but do not just kill it with the lame excuse you want to make it like the failed British system.

Why should we emulate the failures of governments overseas when they are well known and well publicized? And if you want to kill it, just be honest about it and say you want to kill Amtrak, in particular because a few airlines are concerned about their routes in the east coast and other quarters where rail is actually carrying almost as many passengers, and in Europe where, in fact, on less than 400-mile flights they do carry more passengers. It is a more efficient way to get there. If that is what the agenda is, at least be honest about it.

#### CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THE FIRST SESSION, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE SUBSEQUENT TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

##### FIRST SESSION, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

#### APPOINTMENTS BY THE SPEAKER SUBSEQUENT TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of Thursday, December 20, 2001, authorizing appointments and waiving clause 11(a)(1) of rule X, the Speaker on Tuesday, January 22, 2002, appointed the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. EVERETT of Alabama.

#### MESSAGES AND COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED SUBSEQUENT TO SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

##### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The text of the communication from the Honorable Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House, dated December 21, 2001, is as follows: