

the Maidanek death camp along with dozens of Schifter family members.

Ambassador Schifter arrived in our great country alone, a young man barely in his teens in a totally unfamiliar land. Yet, in the finest American tradition, Dick built his life anew. He graduated summa cum laude from the College of the City of New York and Yale Law School, served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II, and embarked on a highly successful legal career. Dick and his charming wife, Lilo, started a family that now includes 5 children, 5 children-in-law, 9 grandchildren, and 1 grandchild-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, while the young Ambassador Schifter had a great number of professional and personal obligations, he never neglected his responsibilities to his Maryland community. Dick served for twenty years on the Maryland State Board of Education, and he chaired both the Governor's Commission on Funding the Education of Handicapped Children and the Governor's Commission on Values Education. He stood up for his progressive convictions as the Chairman of the Montgomery County (MD) Democratic Committee. As President of the Washington, DC, chapter of the American Jewish Committee, he fought to ensure that the fate of his family in Austria would never be repeated.

When Ambassador Schifter retired from his legal career during the early 1980's, he devoted himself to public service on a full-time basis. Dick's passion, energy, and undeniable brilliance proved invaluable in a wide array of positions. He represented his country as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (1983–1986, 1993), Deputy U.S. Representative in the United Nations Security Council (1984–1985), Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs (1985–1992), Special Assistant to the President and Counselor to the National Security Council (1993–1997), Special Advisor to the Secretary of State (1997–2001), and in numerous other important roles. Dick served Presidents from both political parties, reflecting his commitment to a bipartisan foreign policy as well as his clear and unambiguous passion for advancing human rights and American values around the world.

Ambassador Schifter's service as Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) bears particular significance. SECI's principal goal—to enhance regional cooperation among the countries of Southeastern Europe by encouraging joint and cooperative solutions to shared economic and environmental problems—could not have had a more principled champion than Dick Schifter. His agile mind and diplomatic skills added immeasurably to the progress of former Communist nations transitioning to democratic, free market structures. The success of this evolution added strength and stability to America's transatlantic partnerships.

Leaders from around the world have recognized Ambassador Schifter's record of achievement. He is a recipient of the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award, Austria's Golden Honor Insignia with Star, the Order of Commander of Romania's Star, and Bulgaria's Order of Stara Planina, First Class.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Schifter is a genuine example of the American Dream, and he has devoted his life to extending its values to every corner of the world. He is an idealist

and an optimist. Four years ago, at a conference in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia, he concluded a speech by quoting the unforgettable words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "The only limit of our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today." Indeed, few public servants have done as much to build a global future of peace, prosperity, and morality. I am honored to be Ambassador Schifter's friend, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing his tremendous service.

**HONORING MORRILL ELEMENTARY
AND RAYBURN ELEMENTARY
FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to recognize our public schools and their wonderful accomplishments. Today, I rise to honor two schools from the 28th Congressional District of Texas, Morrill Elementary and Rayburn Elementary, for being selected as 2002–2003 National Blue Ribbon Schools. These two schools are among an elite number of elementary and secondary schools recognized this year by the United States Department of Education for their success in educating our next generation of leaders.

Morrill and Rayburn Elementary Schools, both in San Antonio, join only 325 Texas schools that have received Blue Ribbon status since 1982. I am proud to have them in my Congressional District, as they reflect the South San Antonio working family community. They are proof that tight knit communities such as ours can foster quality institutions. In addition, they realize it is important to involve parents in the education process. Through their parent/teacher programs, they bring closer the relationship between the home and the school so parents may cooperate intelligently in the education of our children.

I would like to recognize Principal Linda Aleman of Morrill Elementary and Principal Shannon Allen of Rayburn Elementary for their leadership and commitment to making their respective schools exemplary. They both recognize that our children are America's most valuable resource and, as such, their education is of the utmost importance.

Most importantly, I would like to recognize the students of these two schools who have persevered to obtain success. Many of them have had to overcome various obstacles in the course of their educational career. I am proud of their efforts and I know they will continue to succeed in their future endeavors, including the lifelong pursuit of education.

Congratulations to the Morrill Elementary and Rayburn Elementary communities for achieving the coveted Blue Ribbon Award.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY,
AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, because of a family medical emergency, I was unable to be present for this week's votes on H.R. 2989. Had I been present, I would have voted for its passage.

I did have a number of concerns about the bill, and about the process under which it has been considered. In particular, I was very disappointed that the Republican leadership refused to allow the House to consider an amendment to suspend the cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. I thought the House should have the chance to vote on that question, especially now when the unemployment rate is so high and the federal budget deficit is so large.

Overall, however, I think the bill's good provisions outweigh its flaws.

The bill includes substantial funding for a number of transportation projects in Colorado, including ongoing work to upgrade highways in the Denver metropolitan area and other parts of our state.

I strongly support these provisions, which will help Colorado address some of its most pressing transportation needs and will also help our state's economy not only by a shorter-term stimulus of jobs and purchases of supplies but also by infrastructure improvements that will yield big dividends in the years ahead. I commend Chairman ISTOOK, Ranking Member OLVER, and the other members of the appropriations committee for including these items in the bill.

Another reason I support the bill is because it also provides for other forms of transportation such as rail and buses. Highways are important, but highways alone do not constitute a sound or balanced transportation system, in Colorado or anywhere else. That is why I favor continued support for Amtrak's service to our state and other parts of the Nation and why I also support having a portion of federal transportation funding go for such "enhancements" as pedestrian, bike, and trail facilities.

In addition, the bill provides essential funding for other Transportation Department purposes as well as for the Treasury Department, the Executive Office of the President, and other important parts of the federal government.

Among other things, it includes funds for continued implementation of the Help America Vote Act. I strongly supported enactment of that measure, and am glad that the bill includes provisions that will allow the General Services Administration to distribute grants under that Act if the new Federal Election Assistance Commission—which is supposed to perform that function—is not in operation by the start of the next fiscal year.

The bill also includes funds for the Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Trust Fund and for the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. These are the accounts associated with the Morris K. Udall Foundation, and I am sure our colleagues understand why I have a particular

interest in them and why I want to extend my thanks to the Members of the Appropriations Committee for their support for these programs.

JOAN HOLMES, PRESIDENT OF
THE HUNGER PROJECT, BRIEFS
THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Women's Caucus received an outstanding briefing from Joan Holmes, the President of the Hunger Project. The focus of her briefing was to help us understand the essential and often overlooked role that women play in ending hunger around the world.

As we look towards the real needs that people face, it is vital that programs we fund through the instrumentalities of the Departments of Agriculture and State, as well as the Agency for International Development, I encourage all of our colleagues to take the time to read this most helpful presentation. The Hunger Project works to empower women in many countries around the world, and in my view is deserving of our support and understanding.

I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD at this point the statement by Joan Holmes, entitled "Women and Ending Hunger: The Inextricable Link".

WOMEN AND ENDING HUNGER: THE INEXTRICABLE LINK (By Joan Holmes)

INTRODUCTION

Madame Chairperson and Distinguished Members of Congress, it is an honor to testify before the Women's Caucus today. I commend the Caucus for focusing on the inextricable link between women and ending hunger.

My name is Joan Holmes, and it's been my privilege to be the president of The Hunger Project since its inception in 1977.

In my testimony I will address:

First, Chronic Hunger and who is most affected;

Then, the three distinct ways women are essential to ending hunger and achieving sustainable development;

Next, what happens to a society when women are empowered; and

Finally, where the world is now—in recognizing the vital role of women.

AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONIC HUNGER

Chronic hunger continues to be the greatest failure of our age. It takes the lives of 20,000 of us each day. Eight hundred and forty million of us are chronically undernourished. The largest number of hungry people are in South Asia, but the most severe hunger is in sub-Saharan Africa.

When most of us think of hunger, we think of famine—sudden shortages of food due to war, drought or natural disasters. Less than 8% of hunger deaths are due to famine—the rest are due to chronic hunger.

The persistence of hunger is not an issue of the quantity of food. The world produces more than enough food for everyone. Hunger persists when people—particularly women—are systematically denied the opportunity to produce enough food—to be educated—to learn the skills to meet their basic needs. Hunger persists when the poor—mostly women—have no voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

WOMEN MOST AFFECTED BY HUNGER

When we speak of hungry people—we are literally speaking of women and children. The vast majority of the world's poor are women. The gap between women and men caught in the cycle of poverty has continued to widen in the past decade.

An estimated 80 percent of the world's refugees are women and girls. Two-thirds of the world's illiterates are female. Of the millions of children kept out of school—2/3 are girls.

WOMEN ARE AT THE CENTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The fundamental thesis of my testimony is—women are at the center of the development process, and until and unless we make the empowerment of women a central strategy in ending hunger—hunger will persist. Until and unless we empower women, none of the UN Millennium Development Goals will be met.

My testimony today does not come from the perspective of empowering women to achieve gender equality as a matter of social justice—even though that has my unequivocal support.

The analysis I am presenting today comes from looking strategically at what needs to happen to end hunger and achieve sustainable development. In this analysis, I am going to use the phrase "women's empowerment". It is important that we know what that phrase means.

Although there is no country where there is gender equality, in the countries that have the persistence of hunger—the subjugation, marginalization and disempowerment of women is particularly severe.

So, when we say empowering women—what this means is to lift some of the shackles that constrict and suppress their lives.

THREE DISTINCT WAYS WOMEN ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO ENDING HUNGER

Let's examine three ways in which women are fundamental to the end of hunger:

First, the inextricable link between women's well-being and the overall health of a society.

Second, the enormous, yet largely unrecognized and unsupported role of women as producers.

Finally, women's leadership—a necessary component of ending hunger.

WOMEN'S WELL-BEING AND THE HEALTH OF A SOCIETY

Girls and women are deprived

With regard to women's well-being and the link to the health of a society, let's look to South Asia. India and Bangladesh account for more than 1/3 of the remaining hunger, and their malnutrition rates are among the highest in the world. One-third of all babies in Bangladesh and 1/4 of the babies in India are born underweight and malnourished. This compares to 12 percent in Africa.

The question is—Why are these rates so high in Bangladesh and India, countries which are food self-sufficient? In fact, India has more than 40 million tons of surplus food in storage.

Why are the rates of malnutrition higher in South Asia than in Africa, which we know is considerably less developed? In 1996, UNICEF commissioned a landmark study to answer that question. In a report called, "The Asian Enigma", they concluded, "The exceptionally high rates of malnutrition in South Asia are rooted deep in the soil of inequality between men and women."

Women eat last and least. They eat only the food that is left over after the males have eaten. Often men and boys consume twice as many calories—even though women and girls do much of the heavy work. Girls in India are four times more likely to suffer from acute malnutrition than boys.

When women and girls are deprived, society suffers

Next, let's examine the effects this deprivation has on society.

We've always been clear that the health of the mother is the single most important factor in determining the health of her child. New scientific data makes it clear that it is not just her health when she is pregnant, or even throughout her entire life, but going back to when she herself was in the womb. And so, let me describe for you the insidious "cycle of malnutrition" that persists in South Asia.

A baby girl in India and Bangladesh is born underweight and malnourished. She is nursed less and fed less nutritious food than her brother. She is often denied health care and education. She is forced to work even as a child. Her work burden increases significantly as she gets older—even when she is pregnant. She is married and pregnant when she is young, often just a teenager. She is underweight and malnourished when she gives birth to her children who are born underweight and malnourished. And the cycle continues.

Even in the Punjab, the region of India where the green revolution was most successful, this cycle and these high rates of malnutrition still persist.

New Research

It has been clear for some time that maternal deprivation and subsequent fetal deprivation cause children to be highly susceptible to infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria.

New research shows that maternal deprivation also makes the body susceptible to diseases we associate with affluence—hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, among others. In the next 20 years, India will have the largest number of diabetic patients, and coronary heart disease will become the leading cause of mortality.

This new research underscores that what begins as the neglect and discrimination of women ends in causing adversity for the health and survival of all.

WOMEN AS PRODUCERS

Now as to the role of women as producers: just as we must learn to think "women" when we think "hungry people"—we must think "women" when we think food producers in the developing world. And, I regret to say, we do not. Women have been largely bypassed by development assistance and programs focused on agriculture.

Rural women are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce 60 to 80 percent of the food in most developing countries.

In sub-Saharan Africa, women food farmers produce 80 percent of Africa's food, do the vast majority of the work to process, transport, store and market Africa's food, and they also provide 90 percent of the water, wood and fuel. Food processing alone creates a heavy work load for women. In parts of Africa, women spend four hours a day grinding grain.

They do all this, despite the fact that they own 1 percent of the land, receive less than 7 percent of farm extension services, and receive less than 10 percent of the credit given to small-scale farmers.

Effects of HIV/AIDS in Africa

If this reality weren't challenging enough, we must also recognize that the impact of HIV/AIDS on agricultural production and food security has been devastating. Families affected by HIV/AIDS see their food production cut by 40%.

This epidemic in Africa is spiraling out of control because men have multiple partners and unsafe sex, and women because of their