

this diverse program in various communities around the country. We find it in the inner cities, in suburban areas, and even in rural communities. And for those communities who are fortunate enough to have the Head Start program, we hear nothing but praises from the parents, from the people who work in the program, from community leaders and elected officials.

Head Start was instituted under the War on Poverty some 38 years ago because the educators and researchers discovered that to the degree that we are able to provide young children with a Head Start experience, they will be better prepared for kindergarten and for education. When they started this program, preschool was only available to the upper middle class, for the most part. Certainly poor people could not afford to give their children a preschool experience, nor could working parents really afford to do that.

So little children who did not have access to preschool programs did not have the opportunity to take trips to the zoo. As a matter of fact, they did not have opportunities to take trips to farms. They did not have opportunities to take a ride on a train. They found that most of the children, particularly in poor communities, had never been 20 miles away from home. So Head Start came into being under the War on Poverty, and what a wonderful program it has been.

This program was developed a little bit differently than regular education. It was decided that Head Start would address the whole child and the family and the community. In Head Start, children get a physical examination. In Head Start, children get nutrition. They get breakfast, and they are served lunch. In Head Start, not only do children have physical examinations, receive proper nutrition, but one of the most important components of Head Start is the parental involvement component of Head Start.

I know about this program, because 38 years ago I had the great opportunity to work with the Head Start program. I started with Head Start at its inception, and I started as an assistant teacher in the classroom, working with the children. But I soon learned that I really wanted to work with the parents, and I eventually became the Supervisor of Parent Involvement and Volunteer Services.

I had the opportunity to welcome parents to the Head Start site. I had the opportunity to get parents involved with the inspection of the program, in helping determine the budget of the program, in helping to give input to the teachers.

Parents soon learned that they really did have a lot to give. Many parents who thought, because they were not educated, that they could not be of assistance to their children, but they soon learned that they could determine their children's educational destiny.

What a wonderful experience it was, seeing parents getting more involved

with their children, and children becoming alive. We found children with learning disabilities, learning disabilities that never would have been detected had they not come to Head Start. We found that there were children who did not see well, whose parents would never have had the money for eye examinations and who received corrections. We discovered that there were children with emotional and mental difficulties, and, for the first time, they had access to psychological and psychiatric help if it was needed.

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Now we are at a point in time where this administration wants to change Head Start. Some of our Members are saying if it is not broke, do not fix it. That is absolutely true. Why do we have this administration now wanting to take our precious Head Start program and block grant it to the States?

They are simply saying we want to get the Federal Government out of the business of running Head Start programs. What they are saying is we want to dump it into the laps of the States. Please do not send it to California. We have a \$38 billion deficit. If this administration block grants Head Start to California with no mandates, I will tell Members what will happen to Head Start. They are going to siphon off the money to help pay the bills.

As we look around the country, we are finding that many of our States are in great difficulty. This administration is not only talking about block granting Head Start, but also section 8 housing programs, everything they can get their hands on, divesting itself of the running of programs that are so vital to this country. I do not want this administration to make the mistake of dismantling this program.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say in closing is we have to fight to keep Head Start. We have to make sure that this program is available to the children, not cut back, not block granted, but expanded so more children will have the opportunity for this wonderful experience.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COVER-UP

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to discuss what happened in the House Committee on the Judiciary. The Committee on the Judiciary on a straight party-line vote rejected the resolution of inquiry presented by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) asking that the Congress investigate the Department of Justice activities in Texas regarding the Texas legislators who broke a quorum several months ago.

Why is this so important? Because to restore the integrity of the Justice De-

partment, Congress must investigate the Department's involvement in helping Texas Republicans in a strictly partisan political matter. Congress must unveil the facts and clear the air quickly because if the redistricting scheme of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) somehow succeeds, these same Texas Republicans will be asking the same Justice Department to certify that its new plan does not disenfranchise African Americans and Hispanics in my State of Texas.

Earlier this year, as I mentioned, Texas Republican leaders abused Federal law enforcement for political purposes in a manner Americans had not seen since Richard Nixon and Watergate 30 years ago. In May when Texas State legislators blocked the gentleman from Texas's (Mr. DELAY) unprecedented redistricting scheme with a legal parliamentary maneuver, breaking a quorum which Republicans have done in the U.S. Senate and which Abe Lincoln did in the Illinois legislature in the last century, they violated no State or Federal laws.

In their response, Texas Republican leaders treated Federal law enforcement as their own personal political police force. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) acted as if the Department of Justice was an arm of the Republican Party. The majority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, which is charged with overseeing the Justice Department, publicly urged the FBI and the U.S. marshals to arrest these legislators in Oklahoma and drag them back to Texas. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) privately contacted the Department of Justice, a fact that he denied at first.

Mr. Speaker, an FBI agent in Corpus Christi, Texas, tried to track down the Texas Democratic legislators and indicated they were conducting surveillance. The Justice Department is stonewalling, and so Congress must investigate and do so immediately.

Mr. Speaker, what happened in the Committee on the Judiciary today on a party-line vote was wrong and should not stand.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS GLADIMIR PHILLIPE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a true American hero, Sergeant First Class Gladimir Phillippe, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country when he lost his life in Iraq two weeks ago.

At a funeral service over the Fourth of July weekend at St. Joseph the Carpenter Church in Roselle, New Jersey, hundreds of friends, family, and members of his community came to pay their last respects to this outstanding young man who strived to achieve the American dream.

The son of Haitian immigrants and one of nine children, Sergeant Phillippe wanted to

move forward in life and to make a meaningful contribution to his country. His family is hard-working and close-knit; his father is a machine worker for a manufacturing company in New Jersey. Sergeant Phillippe joined the Army in 1988, a few years after graduating from Elizabeth High School. He served admirably in both Bosnia and the Persian Gulf. He also distinguished himself by serving as an interpreter during President Clinton's trip to Haiti in 1998.

As we remember the inspirational life of this fine young man, let us offer our thanks for his service to our country. Let us also extend our deepest sympathy to his family—his father, Renisse; his stepmother, brothers and sisters, and his son, Cassidy.

DEBATING THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say tonight rather than the usual monologue by one Member, and of course it depends on who the Member is as far as the interest level; and usually if it is your own monologue, you find it very interesting, but the rest of Congress and the American people may not agree, and so the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) of the infamous Blue Dog Caucus has suggested that we have a debate about the budget and spending and other matters of great importance before this House.

With that in mind, I want to yield to the gentleman from Texas and his team, and then our team will speak. Our team looks like the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and me, and hopefully other Members will be running down here as they see it is our turn at bat.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, we thank the gentleman for yielding, and we look forward to having a discussion on the issue of our Federal debt, national debt, deficits, what is causing them. We look forward to this discussion tonight, and it will be informal and hopefully it will be productive; and to those watching, hopefully it will be interesting.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) to introduce our team.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, we have assembled a team of Blue Dogs. First of all, we want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for agreeing to debate us. We think that it is good for the American people and good for this institution. Honest disagreements and spirited debates are sometimes put aside just for the sake of political bickering, and we hope tonight we can carry on a dialogue that will be fruitful for the American people.

We would like to begin our opening remarks, and I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for participating in this.

We bring this issue to the Nation's attention because I think there is no greater threat to our country's future than our Nation's worsening financial situation.

On March 17, 1994, about 9 years ago, then Member of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), said, "I will not stand by and watch Congress recklessly squander the future of our children and grandchildren. In light of Congress' exhibited inability to control spending and vote for fiscal responsibility, it is imperative that we have a balanced budget amendment to compel Congress to end its siege on our financial future." That quote comes from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of March 17, 1994.

It might be interesting to note that in the 1,650 days that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) has been Speaker of the House, not only has the deficit gone up, but Members of this body, conservatives like the Conservative Action Team over on the Republican side, the Blue Dogs over on this side, have not been given a single opportunity to vote on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

What we have had is a number of opportunities to reduce revenues to our Nation, any number of opportunities to increase spending. All told, the Bush budget that passed on May 9, 2 years ago, caused the largest decrease in Federal revenues in 50 years and the largest increase in spending in 20. I would hope that the American people would pay particular attention to that because we are always told it is those liberals, those guys from Massachusetts who are increasing spending.

I would remind the American public, since 1994 those liberals do not run the House. Guys like the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) do. I also remind the American public, and I am sorry this is so small and I hope the cameraman would work with me on this, but the fact of the matter is, and I hope the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is forthright in addressing this, since May 9, 2001, the Federal deficit has increased by \$1,260,853,144,608. Most of my colleagues probably over the course of their life have written a thousand-dollar check for rent, a house note. If you wrote that check a thousand times more, you spent a million. If you wrote a thousand million-dollar checks, you spent a billion; and if you wrote a thousand billion-dollar checks, you have gotten up to the trillion.

You have increased the Federal debt more in 25 months than in the first 200 years of our country, and yet do you ever hear them say we are proud of running up that big deficit and squandering that much more interest on the national debt? That is why we are here tonight because I know that is not what you told your constituents when you sought this office.

As a matter of fact, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) on May 9, 2001, the day this budget became law said, "We are going to first put our pri-

orities on top. Social Security, Medicare, education. Then we are going to take care of the normal functions of government, our obligations for roads and bridges and for all departments, national parks, fish and wildlife. Then what we are going to do is pay down the public debt. This, Mr. Speaker, is the first budget that we have been able to pass I believe that actually does pay down the public debt to a zero level which I think is extremely important. Then we get the leftover amount."

The gentleman did not pay down the debt. It was increased by a trillion dollars. In the course of that time, we now owe the Social Security trust fund \$1.4 trillion. There is not a penny in it. This is no lockbox or account number. Ask your Congressman the account number for Social Security. There is nothing but IOUs.

We owe the Medicare trust fund, and this is direct line on people's taxes, \$284 billion. There is no lockbox. There is no account. There is nothing but IOUs.

We owe the military retiree system \$176 billion; and even more interesting, we owe the Federal employees who contributed to their own retirement fund \$600 billion.

Now the President this week is talking about weakening the safeguards in the retirement system in the private sector. Well, heck, maybe he ought to do what Congress did and just steal it all, because there is not a penny in that account.

It gets even more frightening when we think about who we owe that money to. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), let us talk about your place in history. Just during those 2 years under the budget of President Bush, which you and your colleagues have passed, I voted against them, we have increased the national debt over \$1 trillion. You have increased the debt by \$544 billion in the past 12 months. In just over 2 years, you have borrowed \$371 billion from Social Security to cover your deficit spending. You have borrowed \$167 billion from Medicare, people's payroll taxes, military retirement, Federal employees retirement, that should have been paid into accounts that should have been saved for them. Instead, they have been used to pay for your deficits.

In 2 years you have borrowed \$259 billion from foreign investors to pay for your deficits. That includes \$50 billion from Communist China. We owe them. And it includes \$82 billion to Japan. We now owe \$1.25 trillion to foreign nations and their investors, including \$119 billion total to the Communist Chinese thanks to your budget deficits. Our children have to pay back China, Japan, foreign creditors; and then they have to pay back Social Security, Medicare, and their retirement funds. They have to repay these debts, and until they repay them, they are going to continue to squander \$1 billion a day on interest.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) used to be for a