

and ignorance, then we must increase and restore full funding to the McGovern-Dole program and our other food aid and development programs.

And if we, as a nation, are committed to helping educate the children of the world, especially girls, then we must increase and restore full funding to the McGovern-Dole program.

Mr. Speaker, I call on President Bush and the congressional leadership to restore full funding in fiscal year 2005 to the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program. It is truly a matter of life or death.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, December 11, 2003.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to urge you to provide \$300 million in your Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Proposal for the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. We believe it is urgent to restore funding for this program at levels similar to those of the original pilot program.

We strongly believe this funding is critical for sustaining and expanding the McGovern-Dole Program in order to combat terrorism and to help build and consolidate democracy in the Middle East, southern Asia, the Near East, and in other regions critical to U.S. national security. As you are aware, the McGovern-Dole Program provides donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition programs in low-income countries. We note that recommendations made by the General Accounting Office (GAO) in February 2002 on how to strengthen and improve the administration and implementation of school feeding programs were fully integrated into the law establishing the McGovern-Dole Program, enhancements that we believe contribute to its success.

Both the initial pilot program and the current McGovern-Dole Program have a proven track record at reducing the incidence of hunger among school-age children and improving literacy and primary education, especially among girls, in areas devastated by war, hunger, poverty, HIV/AIDS, and the mistreatment or marginalization of women and girls. School meals, teacher training, and related support have helped boost school enrollment and academic performance. McGovern-Dole nutrition and school feeding programs also improve the health and learning capacity of children both before they enter school and during the years of primary and elementary school.

In February 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture evaluated the McGovern-Dole pilot program and found significant positive results. Specifically—

“The results to date show measurable improvements in school enrollment, including increased access by girls. In projects involving more than 4,000 participating schools, the WFP reports an overall enrollment increase exceeding 10 percent, with an 11.7 percent increase in enrollment by girls. The PVO’s report an overall enrollment increase of 5.75 percent in GFE-participating schools. In some projects, increases in enrollment were as high as 32 percent compared with enrollment rates over the previous three years.” (USDA, *The global Food for Education Pilot Program: A Review of Project Implementation and Impact*, page 2, February 2003)

We firmly believe that these programs reduce the risk of terrorism by helping to eliminate the hopelessness and despair that breed terrorism. American products and commodities are directly associated with hunger alleviation and educational opportunity, encouraging support and good will for the United States in these communities and countries.

We strongly urge that you restore the capacity of this critically important program by providing \$300 million for Fiscal Year 2005.

Sincerely,

James P. McGovern, Frank Wolf, Jo Ann Emerson, Marcy Kaptur, Doug Bereuter, Tom Lantos, Earl Pomeroy, Amo Houghton, Barbara Lee, Sam Graves, Edolphus Towns, Don Manzullo, Vic Snyder, Jim Leach, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Smith (NJ), Marty Meehan, Doc Hastings (WA), Dennis Moore, George Nethercutt, John Olver, Jerry Moran (KS), Bennie G. Thompson (MS), Todd Tiahrt, Adam Schiff, David Price, Maurice Hinchey, James Oberstar, Betty McCollum, William Delahunt, Bob Filner, Jan Schakowsky, Sheila Jackson Lee, Leonard Boswell, Gary Ackerman, George Miller, Dale Kildee, Julia Carson (IN), Albert Wynn, Carolyn Maloney, Bobby Rush, Diana Christensen, Raul M. Grijalva, Bob Etheridge, Pete Stark, Jim McDermott, Jim Matheson, Jerry Costello, Mike Capuano, Joseph Crowley, Susan Davis (CA), Rosa DeLauro, Martin Frost, Rick Larsen (WA), Sander Levin,

Ed Markey, John Tierney, Lynn Woolsey, Donald Payne, Hilda Solis, Mike McNulty, Elijah Cummings, Mike Doyle, Joseph Hoeffel, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Bernie Sanders, Sam Farr, Neil Abercrombie, Jim Marshall, Charles Gonzalez, Ruben Hinojosa, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Earl Blumenauer, Robert Wexler, Rob Andrews, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Jose Serrano,

Maxine Waters, Lane Evans, Barney Frank, Ron Kind, Sanford Bishop, Jr., Sherrod Brown (OH), Henry Waxman, Steve Rothman, Nancy Pelosi, Dennis Kucinich, Tom Allen, Jim Moran (VA), Rick Boucher, Brad Sherman, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Lois Capps, Karen McCarthy, Patrick Kennedy (RI), Jane Harman, Alcee Hastings (FL), William Jefferson, Chris Van Hollen, Chaka Fattah, Stephen Lynch, Charles Rangel.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM NEEDED IN MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. With our Nation’s dedication to homeland security after the horrors of September 11, most citizens believe today that it is time to strengthen, secure our borders and reform our immigration policies.

It appears that some type of reforms are on the horizon. And reforms are needed. Many of us on this floor believe that above all else, we should enforce our immigration laws that are currently on the books. It is the men and women who stand on our borders today, enforcing these laws every day, but they may be confused. Unsure of their relevance, border agents are now questioning why they must fight each day to secure our borders in light of the proposed “guest worker” program.

This program was to help Mexico’s President Fox as part of a large amnesty plan that has been in the works since September 11 after the terrorist attacks. But, Mr. Speaker, a question could be asked, why are we rewarding a country that has been opposed to our war on terror?

According to the Subcommittee on Social Security of the House Committee on Ways and Means, benefits paid to retirees will exceed revenues in just 15 years. The pay-as-you-go system could have serious financial problems in the year 2030. These projections do not take into account the economic impact of the “guest worker” proposal, which would allow untold millions of illegal aliens from Mexico to collect benefits for themselves and their families from their home country without having to work the required number of years that law-abiding citizens must work to be eligible for these same payouts.

The deal may cost overburdened U.S. taxpayers over the next 20 years also. Supporters of this “guest worker” program call this program, “totalization.” I am not sure what they mean. But, this proposed agreement could be thought of as a transfer of wealth from those who play by the rules the American way to those who willingly and knowingly mock our own immigration and tax laws.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time for Mr. Fox, the President of Mexico, to look to his own country for reform instead of his continuing to lobby to change U.S. policy. Vital reforms in Mexico will break down the barriers to economic growth and provide more and better opportunities for the people of Mexico. Similar reform in other regional countries will reduce the incentives to make the difficult trek into our country. The President’s plan, although convenient, merely, I believe, postpones our reckoning with a situation in which over 8 million people are here illegally.

I certainly hope that the administration will take a hard look at this “guest worker” program that is being proposed and perhaps look for real immigration reform first, and that, Mr. Speaker, could start with reform in the state of Mexico.

#### NEW CBO DEFICIT NUMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office once again confirmed that President Bush is the most fiscally irresponsible President in our Nation’s history. Yesterday CBO forecast a budget deficit for the 2004 fiscal year of \$477 billion, the largest deficit in history. Furthermore, CBO said the overall Federal deficit will total nearly \$2.4

trillion over the next decade. That is nearly \$1 trillion worse than what CBO forecast last fall.

After the estimates were released, Treasury Secretary John Snow commented from London that the administration remains committed to deficit reduction, stating, "Make no mistake; President Bush is serious about the deficit."

Mr. Speaker, who is Secretary Snow trying to fool? President Bush being serious about the deficit? This is the same President Bush who inherited a \$5.6 trillion surplus from President Clinton. Over the past 3 years, thanks mainly to three large tax breaks primarily benefiting America's millionaires, President Bush has presided over an \$8.5 trillion fiscal collapse.

And our Nation's fiscal situation could get even worse this year if Congress continues to listen to President Bush and the House Republican leadership. That is because CBO's estimates only take into account existing policies.

And just last week, during the State of the Union address, President Bush asked Congress to make all his fiscally irresponsible tax policies permanent. Last year CBO estimated that such action would cost the Federal Government an additional \$1 trillion.

The President also once again proposed partially privatizing Social Security at an additional expense of at least \$1 trillion in extra funds over the next decade, and that is \$2 trillion right there to add to the already gloomy deficit forecast. And this is not even including the \$700 billion the President wants to spend for a mission to Mars, the \$50 billion that the President will propose for the continuing war in Iraq, and the \$1.5 billion throwaway to the far right in his party to help train couples to develop better interpersonal skills that sustain "healthy marriages."

Based on these facts, how can Secretary Snow say that President Bush is serious about the deficit?

Let us be clear. It is the policies of President Bush and my Republican colleagues that have put us in this situation. Democrats do not control the White House. Democrats do not control the Congress, either the House or the Senate. And yet I would not be shocked if conservative Republicans do not come to the floor today and try to blame Democrats for the fiscal mess our Nation now faces.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, President Bush now sees the huge budget deficit as a threat to his reelection campaign, and that is why he vowed to cut the deficit in half over the next 5 years during his State of the Union address last week. But we might be asking ourselves how the President plans to cut the deficit in half with the more than \$2 trillion in tax cuts and other new spending he wants Congress to approve this year. The President and Republicans will say holding down domestic spending to 1 percent during the next year will put a

huge dent in the deficit, but that is simply not the case, considering that domestic spending only amounts to 17 percent of all the Federal spending expected this year.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker: The fiscal record of the Bush administration and congressional Republicans is clear. As long as Republicans control the Federal budget, our Nation's fiscal future is seriously in question; and in order to prevent a total fiscal collapse, it is time for President Bush and my Republican colleagues to face reality and repeal the President's tax cuts for the very wealthiest Americans.

It is time President Bush and congressional Republicans stand with our Nation's children, who will be forced to bear the brunt of the cost of their fiscal irresponsibility. It is time the President and congressional Republicans stand with our Nation's seniors and baby boomers that need Social Security and Medicare strengthened and not raided.

Yesterday's CBO report should serve as a wake-up call to Washington Republicans. And let us hope they finally listen to the alarms before this mess gets even worse.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 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 at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, shepherd Your people as never before, for the times are turbulent. Violence and terrorism rip apart the very fabric of civilization, ancient and new. Friendships between nations are threatened. And who will replace the basic trust and faithful love once found in family life?

As in the days of the prophet Zechariah, we call out to You to show forth Your power.

Take up Your two staves, one called Favor, the other Union.

With the staff of Favor, fashion us again as Your people. Renew Your covenant love within Your chosen ones.

With the staff of Union, bind all in this House to one another as leaders, worthy and willing to be brother and sister to others.

May You delight in us as Your very own and our coming together as a glimpse of Your kingdom, now and forever.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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.

#### SPECIAL-ED STUDENT VOTED HOMECOMING KING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, most homecoming kings are probably athletes or student government leaders, the "in crowd"; but students at a Tempe, Arizona, high school broke the mold. Marcos de Niza High School's landslide winner for homecoming king was a 21-year-old student with Down Syndrome, Poco Carton.

Poco is well-known around campus for his dance moves at lunch and for his insistence on saying hello to nearly everyone. The election is a vivid reminder that each and every life, regardless of what value the world places on it, is worthy of living. Every day, Poco and those who share his challenges offer priceless contributions to our communities, but too often they are taken for granted, excluded from the opportunities many of us take for granted.

Studies show that 86 percent of unborn children who are diagnosed with Down Syndrome are never given a chance to be elected homecoming king. They are aborted. Down Syndrome is a challenge that taxes anyone facing it. Families caring for children with this disease need our support and encouragement, but if we believe that the way to kill Down Syndrome is to kill babies, we are dead wrong.

How many Poco Cartons have we lost to this strategy? How many lives could have been touched at schools like Marcos de Niza? It is a cost too high to calculate.

#### HONORING THE REVEREND CHARLIE MURRAY

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday I had the opportunity to participate in a tremendous ceremony, the naming of a dining hall at the