

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

(Mr. HENSARLING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

FIGHTING CHILD HUNGER IN BOGOTA, COLOMBIA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the recess I traveled to Colombia for a third time as part of a fact-finding delegation sponsored by the Washington Office on Latin America.

The highlight of my trip was a visit to a school feeding program in a place called Ciudad Bolivar, which is a very poor area of Bogota. Mr. Speaker, this school feeding program is a partnership between USAID, the U.N. World Food Programme and the Bogota Department of Social Welfare.

Joining me at the school were USAID Mission Director Mike Deal; Mr. Peter Goossens, WFP Program Coordinator for Colombia; Maria Lucia Osorio, WFP staff person who works directly with the school; Andrew Krefft, the USAID senior program specialist on Colombia's internally displaced; and representatives from Bogota's Department of Social Welfare.

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I want to express my personal appreciation for all their efforts in making school feeding programs in Colombia so successful.

Mr. Speaker, the school I visited is called Colegio Luis Carlos Galan. Approximately 1,200 children receive meals and food rations at Colegio Galan. Eighty percent of these children are from displaced families. The children receive a fortified breakfast mixture and mid-morning fortified snacks. The meals are prepared by community cooks in school kitchens, where mothers are educated in food preparation, nutrition, child care, and health care. The school meal is supplemented with rice, vegetables, beans, eggs, and juice, purchased and prepared by the children's families from family contributions of about 10 cents per day.

This one school feeding program costs only \$2,000 for the entire 2004 school year. Think of it, Mr. Speaker, just \$2,000 provides 1,200 impoverished children with nutritious meals and snacks for an entire school year. These are some of these children. It also strengthens families' commitments to

their children's education, attracts and keeps these children in school, and demonstrates, as few other programs can, that the United States genuinely cares about the future of Colombia's children.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of displaced Colombians live in extreme poverty and have inadequate nutrition. Only 36 percent of displaced children will ever finish primary school, and a mere 8 percent will complete high school. Currently, USAID funds a 3-year \$5.1 million program to alleviate hunger, improve the health and well-being of Colombia's displaced families, and increase school attendance through school feeding programs.

The USAID program, which began in September 2003, assists over 113,000 displaced schoolchildren in 414 schools in 12 Colombian departments. The program is implemented by WFP; and prior to this, the school feeding program was financed through USDA's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education pilot program. Mr. Speaker, regrettably, the Bush administration made Draconian cuts in this program that resulted in eliminating the Colombian funding. Fortunately for Colombia's children, USAID came to the rescue and picked up the costs, incorporating it into programs supporting Colombia's internally displaced.

At the school I visited, 80 percent of the children are from displaced families. They come from all over Colombia, ranging in age from 6 years to 16, and reflect Colombia's racial and ethnic diversity. One mother, displaced from Caqueta, told me that her family's life was filled with violence: "It is terrible to have to flee with nothing but the clothes on your back, running for hours and days, arriving at Bogota, not knowing anyone." She gave her sincerest thanks for the United States' support of the school.

A teacher stated, "Today, these children are fed, but tomorrow, who knows?" This teacher felt that many of these children were in school for the first time in their lives, learning things that will help them throughout their lives, like how to read and write.

Mr. Speaker, if you could only see these children. They are bright, they are beautiful, they are the future of Colombia; and I admire and honor the dedicated teachers and school administrators and parents and students at this school; and I respect the commitment of USAID and the World Food Program staff, who are giving these families hope for a better future.

Last Friday, the newly elected mayor of Bogota, Mr. Lucho Garzon, launched a new initiative called Bogota Without Hunger. Through this campaign, Ciudad Bolivar is one of six priority zones designated to receive additional resources for nutrition, education, health services, and housing.

I encourage my colleagues to visit U.S.-supported school feeding programs when they travel abroad. I most strongly urge the leadership of this

Congress to significantly increase funding for both the USDA McGovern-Dole program and USAID food aid programs. No matter how tight current budget restrictions might be, these programs are truly among the very best investments we can make in the future stability of Colombia and the world.

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

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. FERGUSON, JR.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and a distinguished privilege for me today to address the colleagues of the House to honor a man who has accomplished more for northeast Georgia over the past 40 years than most people will do in an entire lifetime. Health care is more accessible and a higher quality exists and surpasses that of many metropolitan areas. Our economy has expanded exponentially for decades. Thousands of jobs have been created, and hundreds of thousands of lives have been improved because of the efforts of this one man. I would like my colleagues to join me in honoring my friend and a community service leader, Mr. John A. Ferguson, Jr., as he retires as president and CEO of Northeast Georgia Medical Center and Health System in Gainesville, Georgia.

In 1964, at the age of 23, John came to the Northeast Georgia Medical Center as the first hospital engineer in the State of Georgia. And although he currently held a master's degree in engineering from Georgia Tech, he was determined to continue his education and work to obtain an additional master's degree in health care administration from Georgia State University. At that time, Northeast Georgia Medical Center was known as Hall County Hospital and was a single-entity acute care hospital with only 147 beds and 430 employees.

Within 1 year of being on the staff, John was named assistant administrator, and at the age of 28 he became the youngest hospital administrator and CEO in the State in 1968. Within 10 years of his promotion to CEO, the hospital's acute care bed size had almost doubled, a dedicated 10-bed ICU and 10-bed CCU had been added, as well as a 20-bed mental health unit. From there, northeast Georgia's health care system and quality of life continued under John's leadership. It continued to grow and to improve on an annual basis.

In 1986, he lead NGMC through corporate reorganization, which enabled

the organization to expand health care services across county lines and improve access to health care for citizens throughout northeast Georgia who previously had to drive to Gainesville for most of their primary health care services.

Today, Northeast Georgia Health System is a major provider of health care services for 20 counties in northeast Georgia. It has over 3,500 employees and one of the largest and most active volunteer programs in the State. The system now includes a free-standing mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment facility, two long-term care facilities, a satellite cancer center in Stephens County, a hospice service and two hospital campuses with a total of 418 acute inpatient beds. Other major services that have been added under John's leadership include the Ronnie Green Heart Center and Stribling Heart Clinic for advanced heart care, the only comprehensive cancer care service in the region; a strong network over 14 primary care centers located in eight counties; a neonatal intensive care service; and a comprehensive physical rehabilitation institute.

Fortunately for northeast Georgia, John has always understood that to truly impact the health of the community, services cannot be contained within the walls of the hospital. His vision for a healthier community coupled with a heart for people who depend on NGMC for health care services paved the way for a strong relationship with the Hall County Health Department. In the late 1970s, working with the health department, NGMC implemented a midwifery program to extend prenatal care to indigent patients who did not have resources to access private providers of services.

John's vision for a healthier community has resulted in numerous other innovative outreach initiatives. In the early 1990s, NGMC lead a collaborative community effort with local schools, the health department, the Junior League, and other service organizations to generate funds for a mobile health unit to provide basic health care screenings and services to people who had limited resources to access other traditional health care services. NGMC has continued to fund and help staff this service since its inception.

Through the Medical Center Foundation, health initiatives operated by other community service organizations have been supported. More than \$300,000 was raised to help fund construction of a free medical and dental clinic for persons who have no resources for care. Since completion of the clinic, the medical center has continued to help fund clinical supplies through the indigent care trust fund for volunteer physicians, dentists, and nurses who staff the clinic. Funds have also been raised for numerous other health-related community benefits, such as the Meals on Wheels program for provision of meals to homebound

seniors, the SafeKids Playground at Fair Street Elementary School in Gainesville, automatic external defibrillators for emergency response vehicles in Hall County, and the Challenged Child Organization.

Northeast Georgia Health System is the lead agency for SafeKids since 1997 and currently works with 21 community agencies to develop and fund initiatives to decrease the rate of accidental injuries to children. The SafeKids Coalition has received numerous State and national awards and was recently recognized as National Coalition of the Year.

John's vision for high-quality health care services and his heart for the people who depend on Northeast Georgia Health System have unquestionably made an impact on the community and the health and quality of life in Hall and surrounding counties. I commend Mr. John A. Ferguson as a man who has served our community well and commend him to his retirement.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-428) on the resolution (H. Res. 536) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE PRESIDENT'S BALLOONING CREDIBILITY DEFICIT

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in addressing the Republican Governors Association fund-raiser on Monday evening, the President, in a much-touted speech, decided to question the Democratic front runner's credibility. This speech, it was touted, was to launch the President's reelection campaign; but it began with the theme of questioning the front runner of the Democratic Party's credibility.

Let me just start off by saying it is a good thing that the White House is not made of glass. I think it is very interesting that the President decided that the credibility of our front runner was in question, when after only 3 years of governing, this is a President who has America stuck in a jobless economy and an endless occupation.

Now, the President could have spoken about his foreign policy record, but all that offers is a growing and expensive prospect of endless occupation. He could have spoken of his leadership on

the economy, but all he could point to is an economy that is not producing jobs. So the President decided that it was his right in a speech the other night to the Governors to lead off with a discussion of credibility.

I think the credibility gap of the administration at this point is a good thing, given that his budget will widen the deficit gap. The deficit he has created will not be as lonely now that he has a credibility deficit that continues to grow.

The President wants to question the consistency of our potential nominee's record, yet within 18 months he flip-flopped on steel tariffs. This is a President who wants to question credibility, yet in a book recently published by Paul O'Neill, his former Treasury Secretary, he questioned the legitimacy of a second tax cut he was going to propose because, he said, "Haven't we done enough for the top end?" Yet he went out there and accused Democrats of class warfare for asking the very same question he had asked, Had the first tax cut not done enough to take care of the top 1 percent?

After 3 years, his economic record is \$3 trillion added to the Nation's debt and 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, and yet he wants to run this election on credibility.

He went to Ohio to talk about the importance of manufacturing jobs to the economy, given that 2 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in America since 2000. His budget, 3 years in a row, has cut the manufacturing extension program, which helps small manufacturing businesses compete in the world market. And he wants to talk about credibility?

His economic report of last week praised outsourcing of jobs to India. This is a President who wants to talk about credibility? It was his economic report that cited 2.7 million new jobs would be created this year in the United States. In less than a week, before the ink was even dry, he needed to retract that, because the economy will not produce 2.7 million jobs. And this is an administration who wants to make credibility an issue?

On the issue of foreign policy, regardless of what your position is on the war, we went to war on the notion of dealing with weapons of mass destruction, and now we have a report questioning whether weapons of mass destruction were ever in Iraq, which was the legitimacy and the principle of going to war. Yet this is an administration that would like to make credibility of our nominee the issue in this campaign.

The President pledged in his recent budget \$3.5 million in new money for police and firefighters to help communities here in the United States, but his budget cuts \$1 billion for police and firefighters. But he would like to make credibility an issue.

His plan to halve the deficit by 2009 is an "accounting fiction" to Goldman Sachs. But he would like credibility to be the issue.