

and Purple Heart for his service to his Nation and the cause of world freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Sylvia and Julie Wetter are two individuals who exemplify what is good and right about our Nation. They have served their Nation and community with pride, they have raised a wonderful family and they have shared a love that has lasted more than 50 years. I also want them to know that I love them very much.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Sylvia and Julie Wetter on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, and I know that their Congressman and my colleague, JOHN LEWIS, shares my heartfelt sentiments in wishing them the best.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SAY NO
TO THE REPUBLICANS' BUDGET

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans' budget. According to the polls, the American people believe that the Republicans' budget cuts go too far.

Despite the fact that the American people continue to say no, to making seniors pay more for less health care; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to taking health care services away from children and pregnant women; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to gutting Medicare, Medicaid, and education; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to destroying the environment; despite the fact that the American people continue to say no to tax cuts for the wealthy; and most important, despite the fact that the people have spoken; the Republicans still want to force their life threatening budget down the throat of the American people.

Because the GOP budget cannot stand on its own merit, the Republicans are still trying to tie their budget mess to a continuing resolution. Because the President will not agree to the Republicans' devastating cuts and wants to protect Medicare, Medicaid, education, and the environment, once again, the Republicans have shutdown the Federal Government. This is the Republicans' second shutdown in 2 months. The GOP's blackmail approach to budgeting is not just shameful, it is irresponsible. The GOP must not be allowed to continue to hold the American people, and the country hostage to their life threatening budget.

TITLE I, AN EDUCATION TOOL
MEETING THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 21, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of an education program that is relied upon as an integral component of the Federal Government's commitment to ensure quality education for every American, title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Funds

from title I enable schools to provide additional academic assistance to at-risk students. These children are our most vulnerable students. They are children who are more likely to fail or slip behind academically, and they are moderate- and low-income families that often lack the network of support and enrichment that contributes to successful education and schooling.

A major element of the title I program is the involvement of families in the education of their children. Parents and educators share ideas and opinions through the title I Advisory Councils where innovative solutions are developed to help these at-risk students learn. Furthermore, the parent involvement continues into the classroom setting and the home through parent classroom visits and the heightened awareness the parent takes home with them regarding the child's educational needs. Seventy-five percent of the funds Minnesota spent to educate poor children in 1995 came from the \$81 million title I fund, which Republican reconciliation and appropriation measures propose to cut. If these budget cuts are enacted, Minnesota is set to lose \$14 million in title I assistance in 1996.

Title I is to education what preventative medicine is to health care. It assists students just slipping behind in their level of learning and achievement in school. By providing this extra assistance, especially early in their school years, students are less likely to be held back, and, therefore, benefit more fully from the schooling being provided to them. This type of key investment, made possible by title I resources, is a very important part of ensuring that students do not fall through the cracks and that all children receive the help they require and deserve to succeed. Unfortunately, prior year funding levels and demographic changes in our school settings across the Nation, including an increased number of children in need, have translated into a gap of needs that are going unmet.

Today, the shortfall will be compounded by the misguided attempt to shift our Nation's priorities away from making investments in our Nation's children. The new Republican majority's budget package targets title I for a 17-percent funding cut. Urban areas like the Twin Cities will be more severely impacted by these proposed cuts due to the higher number of low-income families housed by our Nation's cities. Schools that currently rely on these funds to give added attention to at-risk students will be forced to decrease the number of students receiving this aid, or reduce funding in other areas of their curriculum to maintain the same level of service.

Furthermore, when reductions in title I are considered together with the cuts being proposed to other programs that assist disadvantaged children, the impact becomes enormous on this vulnerable population. Funding cuts in programs such as welfare assistance, Supplemental Security Income for disabled children, health care coverage and even nutrition programs are included in the new Republican majority's budget plans that would hit low-income children on all sides at once, placing significant new hurdles in the already difficult path to educational success for these vulnerable students.

Investing in our Nation's children is an essential component for the future prosperity and competitiveness of our Nation, and education is an integral part of that investment. Scientific

research has repeatedly demonstrated that sound educational investments early in the schooling years positively impacts not only a child's academic future, but it strengthens their post-school years as well. Every child has the potential to succeed, and title I gives at-risk students the opportunity to achieve that success. As a society, we should make these type of investments today. So-called savings by cutting education programs means less success for our Nation's children and, therefore, our Nation's future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter two outstanding articles by Thomas J. Collins and Bill Salisbury into the RECORD. They appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on December 10, 1995, and I think they are very accurate accounts of how much schools in the Twin Cities value the activities they are able to pursue through title I and how essential this program is to the students who receive extra help from it. We must provide these extraordinary teachers, Ray Simms, Mary Bakken, Paula Mitchell, Deirdre Vaughan, Audrey Bridgeford, Jean Jones, Myrtis Skarich, and Jeff Maday, adequate tools so that they are able to serve the needs of our children, our Nation's most important resource.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Dec. 10, 1995]

TITLE I'S TIGHTROPE: WILL POOR KIDS LOSE?

(By Thomas J. Collins)

For a fleeting moment Tuesday evening, the glass-enclosed vestibule of the Naomi Family Center in downtown St. Paul offers a silent, fishbowl view of lives in turmoil.

Teacher Ray Simms is about to step inside, as he does four evenings each week. Silly, isn't it, he says to himself. The better I do my job, the less need there may be for it in the future, he thinks.

In the lobby, he walks past the cacophony where young women and their children flood toward a counter to get evening meal tickets amid the heavy cafeteria odor of dishwasher and cooking meat. Up a clanky elevator to the second floor, Simms on this night will test his sixth-grade student's ability to tally time.

Simms and Eugene Booker sit in overstuffed chairs for two hours, counting hours, minutes and seconds like those that have measured the sixth-grader's life since he and his family lost their home in April. Later, the two move on to complicated math problems.

This isn't a classroom. It's a homeless shelter. And to Simms a teacher at Benjamin E. Mays Magnet School, it's not the familiar clanging of lockers or chatter of students he hears outside this door.

The special instruction Simms provides, as well as one-on-one sessions he and other teachers offer to poor kids in schools throughout the city, is part of a program that makes up one of key education targets for those trying to keep the federal budget in line.

The bulk of education money in the United States comes from state and local sources. But when the budget cutting is finished in Congress, education, like many other services, will feel the pinch. And Simms' program, known as Title I, is likely to feel it more than most.

It won't be eliminated, but enough will be trimmed around the edges to allow some kids who cannot read or write to slip away.

Under a proposal in Congress, Minnesota's share of Title I money would decrease by \$14 million next year from \$81 million. The money pays for programs in every one of the state's 400 school districts, aimed at supplemental support to low-income or transient students at risk of failing in school.