

and its terrorism. Our Western European Allies, like England, France, and Germany, continue to buy oil and provide technical assistance to that Government that provides the economic support and often the direction for these terrorist movements. Countries that Americans have bled for, like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, also send a large portion of the funds that go to Hamas. Several months ago when Yasser Arafat was here in this Capitol, he complained it was easier for Hamas to get funding from some of these groups than it was for Yasser Arafat trying to lead the Palestinians toward a lasting peace with the Israelis.

United States leadership has existed historically around the globe. That is why much of the world turns to us when there is a crisis. In Yugoslavia it was clear the world could not deal with that crisis unless America played a central role. The United States led the effort to end the apartheid in South Africa.

It is now time for the Europeans to join the Americans and for Americans to take the lead in isolating the Government of Iran, that continues to be the single most destructive force of the peace process in the Middle East. The extremism that they breed, that they teach, that they finance, continues to threaten not only the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, but governments that have been supportive of the peace process, like the Government of Egypt, led by Mr. Mubarak.

American efforts will not succeed if we are isolated from our Western friends. Business as usual with the government of Iran continues to provide the billions of dollars of revenue that they can divert for terrorism. The blood that lays on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv is simply not the fault of those who actually built the bomb. It is not simply the fault of those who brought the bomb in. It is the fault of those who provide the financing to buy the chemicals, to fly the materials, to energize these deadly destructions and this attempt to bring the peace process to an end.

The world has paid a heavy price for these conflicts. Both the government of Israel and the government of Egypt have paid prices that most countries are shaken to their roots by, losing their leaders, seeing their citizens on a daily basis being the victims of terrorism.

The Palestinian leadership of Yasser Arafat may not be perfect, may not have total control of the West Bank, but it is the only hope for peace at this point. They need to do a better job, but the rest of us need to provide them the support they need.

Western Europe sits back with its continental coolness thinking that somehow it is above the fray. Let me tell the governments in England and France and Germany and others, if you do business with the terrorists in Iran, if you do business with the government of Iran, then the blood of those on the

street of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem is on your hands. If the peace process fails, it is on your hands. You cannot simply go on and do business as usual with the single worst government in the Middle East.

For Syria, if it wants to enter the peace process, it has to renounce its support of Hamas and terrorism as well. Before we take you into the family of nations that operates on the legal and respected basis, we need to know that the Syrian leadership is ready to reject its support for terrorism.

War has a terrible price. The cost of peace has been dear as well. We dare not turn away from it. The alternative is so much worse and so much more devastating. But the Israelis and the Palestinians cannot do it alone. They alone cannot succeed in this effort if the richest of all of Western Europe go to Iran and then a portion of that is transferred to terrorists to take their toll on the peace process.

The governments of Israel and Egypt, the leadership of the PLO have made their effort. It is now our turn to support that effort more seriously.

PROPOSED CUTS WILL HURT EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], during this special order to really call some attention to an issue that I think is near and dear to the hearts of every American family, everyone in this country, and that is the whole issue of education and educating our children and providing for our children that opportunity, that first start, if you will, on the road to what their lives will be about in terms of opportunity, of economic ability, their ability to compete, to succeed in this great Nation of ours, something that, in fact, has been part of the American dream.

What we want to try to call attention to in this time period is the fact that there are, as proposed by the congressional majority, devastating cuts to education. In fact, there are cuts that have been passed into law by our Republican colleagues.

Congressional Republicans are on the brink of making the largest education cuts in our Nation's history, and thereby are on the brink of harming, truly harming, our Nation's children. At a time when Americans are rightly anxious about their job security, at a time when we all know that a good education is the key to a good job, we have congressional Republicans who are launching an assault on American education.

Last week, Secretary of Education William Riley delivered his annual

state of American education address. In those remarks he said, "American schools are where the future of America is being created each and every single day." That, in fact, is so true about what goes on and is supposed to go on in our American schools.

In fact, public education is the great equalizer in this country. It allows children, all children, regardless of their economic status, to be able to go as far as their God-given talents will allow them.

That is what we are here to talk about, the fact that public education is under attack in this Congress. Ensuring a bright future is a basic part of the job that we have here, Mr. PALLONE's job, my job, each and every Member of the Congress who is given that public trust, to come here. What we need to try to do is to ensure, in fact, a bright future for our children.

Part of our sacred trust as elected officials is to honor those who have come before us, for example, by ensuring that our seniors have a dignified retirement and making the investments in our future so that the generation that comes after us can live a full and a prosperous and a secure life.

Despite this obligation, we have congressional Republicans today who are making times tougher for kids who are trying to get a good education and for their parents, hard-working parents, I might add, who want to see their kids get ahead in life. They are making the largest cuts in the history of Federal aid to education.

The temporary spending measure that they have passed that funds education, what is known as the continuing resolution, cuts basic skills training, which is known as title I, by 17 percent. Funding to keep our schools safe and free of drugs is being cut by 25 percent. Before we can expect our kids to do all of the great things that we wish them to do and they are anxious and excited to do, we need to provide them with some essentials, training in the basic skills, a safe place in which they can learn. But it is in these areas where my Republican colleagues have made the most crippling cuts.

This temporary spending measure expires on March 15 so that Congress will soon have to face a choice. Will my Republican colleagues extend these cuts through the end of the fiscal year, or will they restore the funds that they have taken from America's classrooms?

Let me tell my colleagues about what happens in my State of Connecticut. These cuts spell disaster. Yesterday, I met with parents and educators at a school in my congressional District, and we had represented there both urban schools and suburban schools.

I will tell my colleagues what the parents and the educators are concerned about. They are concerned that these cuts will hurt school kids who are trying to build their basic skills, stay off the streets, and stay away from drugs. Under the Republican proposals for basic skill training, funding

would be cut by \$8.6 million in Connecticut, affecting 9,200 needy students. Schools in my district will lose \$1.5 million. Under the Safe and Drug Free School Program, \$729,000 would be cut in Connecticut.

Let me read a quote from one of the parents who was there yesterday. Carolyn Jackson, who met with me, said the proposed cuts would eliminate students' chances of being competitive. This is her quote.

"They won't make it, they won't be trained, they won't be able to go on to a trade school or to college," she said. These after school programs that would be cut keep kids off the streets. It keeps them occupied, it gives them something positive to do. If they cut that out, the only place that they have left to go is to the streets.

□ 1630

The teachers, the administrators, both again from urban and suburban schools, talked about having to cut math and reading programs, remedial programs, programs that provide our young people with being able to be ready to learn when they go to school. If these cuts go through, how, in fact, will we be able to deal with these issues?

Mr. Speaker, what makes these cuts so wrong headed is that our Nation now stands at a crossroads, and I know my colleague, Mr. PALLONE, understands that. We have been listening to and talking to people about if our people in this country do not have the basic skills to compete to win in the global workplace, how can we allow our people, our kids and their futures, to fall further and further behind as they try to compete with low skilled workers around the world for low skilled jobs? That is not what we want to do. We want our young people to have all of the advantages that they need and all of the tools that they need to be able to compete in a world order, in a New World order, to be able to compete right here in the United States so that they can have highly skilled, high paying jobs so that they can make their way for the future.

Getting a good education has always been a big part of what enabled the people of this country to stake their claim in the American dream. My parents, other parents, have worked hard to see that their kids get the opportunities that they need so that they can serve, that they can have good paying jobs. We are taking away this American dream for parents today, but also for youngsters. These cuts will dash that dream for too many of our children.

For generations, as I have said, public education has allowed children, regardless of their economic status, to go as far as their God-given talents will allow, but despite that public education is under attack today in this Congress. This week, as Congress considers a new spending measure for the rest of the year, I urge my colleagues,

Democrats and Republicans and Independents, to remember the children in classrooms all over America and their hard-working parents, parents who have bright hopes for their kids' future. Please remember these people. We need to restore the Federal funds that enable our children to make those dreams a reality.

And what I would like to do is to ask my colleague from New Jersey, FRANK PALLONE, to talk about his concerns about this issue and what effect it has in his own community and for us to have a conversation and a dialog about this issue.

Mr. PALLONE. I want to thank my colleague from Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, for raising this issue again this evening on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I guess you know I approach the education issue from two perspectives in the House.

First of all, I think most people realize that maybe it needs to be stated again that the amount of money that the Federal Government contributes for education is really very minuscule. I think if you look at your local school budget, for example, in the municipalities that any of us represents, you will find maybe 7 or 8 percent of their budget is Federal dollars.

So we are not really talking about a tremendous amount of money that the Federal Government actually does contribute, particularly on the local level, and if that is cut significantly, as is being proposed by the Republicans, then the Federal role, the Federal commitment to education, will even be more minuscule.

The other thing, I think, is a lot of people believe that because of this budget battle that we have had between Democrats and Republicans over the last year and because it is not resolved at this point, perhaps that the status quo continues and that the money continues to flow to local districts for various educational functions, and that is simply not true. As you pointed out, the level of funding under this continuing resolution, if that level of funding were to continue through the rest of this year, would be about a 20-percent cut overall in Federal education funding on every level. That is a significant cut from 1 year to the next, and the impact on local school districts, on colleges and universities will be severe.

Already I know that in my own area State and local officials have told me that they are unable to plan for the coming year in terms of their education budget. They do not know whether or not they can keep as many teachers as they have. They do not know whether or not they can offer certain courses, you know, whether their curriculum is going to change. So this uncertainty, if you will, that exists out there because we are operating under these continuing resolutions, where we have to keep extending the funding every 2 weeks or every month or so, really is having a terribly nega-

tive impact on the ability for local and State officials to plan for educational purposes over the next year.

The other thing that I guess disappoints me a great deal is that if you think about the effort that President Clinton has made in trying to highlight education, when he was first elected and in the first few years of his administration he established a number of initiatives on the Federal level that really have already started to make a difference in terms of improving education at every level, and those initiatives are right now very much in limbo because of the Republican leadership budget.

I just wanted to mention a couple of them because, for example, the National Service Program, which allows students to work in the community when they are in college and then use the money that they earn to pay for their college tuition or their college education. He actually came to Rutgers University, which is in my district, and announced that program a couple of years ago, and Rutgers and students in my district have taken advantage of that to the hilt. I mean basically it was a supplemental program where right now you can get some grants for scholarships, you can get some student loans from the Federal Government. But this now allows a whole other area where I think you can earn up to about \$4,000 a year, which is a significant amount of money, you know, given the cost of tuition and the cost of higher education today, and the community benefits because the students are back in the community working either in hospitals or on environmental projects or in schools, whatever it happens to be. And this is the program, this National Service or AmeriCorps, which the Republican leadership wants to eliminate outright. Their budget actually just kills the program completely.

The other thing is if goal 2000—

Ms. DELAURO. Let me just interrupt my colleague for a second because I think the AmeriCorps Program is a perfect example of how we have, how they have, our values backward, what AmeriCorps is all about, and just to say that about 691 young people in Connecticut would be denied the opportunity to participate in the National Service Program if the funding is eliminated.

But this says to young people you have an obligation to give back to your community. You need to participate in the life of your community, get involved with helping, whether it is in education, or in health, or in some other area, because if we are going to provide you with some help, you have got to do something for that. This is not, you know, just without any kind of responsibility. This is a way in which we try to instill responsibility in our people.

And so many times today you hear from people about we do have, in whatever segment, if it is for young people,

with adults or so forth, that people just do not have the responsibility that they had in the past, they do not take on areas where they need to demonstrate that they are willing to put their heart and soul into something, but they only want to grab a handout and not give something in return.

This program epitomizes the values of work, responsibility, and community, and if you engage in those ways, then, yes, we will give you a tool, if you will, to help you meet your goals. But it is a two-way street. This is not just one way, and this is what is so incomprehensible, that on one side of their mouth they want to talk about how we want to stop this handout for people, which is right. But they also want to take away the opportunity for young people to contribute as well as to be able to engage and to move forward with their own objectives, and that is wrong.

We need to have people be responsible and take on a direction or an action and get involved before we are willing to do something for them.

Mr. PALLONE. Absolutely, and I think you are pointing it out, and again this is not pie in the sky. I have talked to students, as I know you have, college students who were involved in these various national service programs, and they are working, and they are in the schools, out in the community, they are in hospitals. They are doing all kinds of things.

The other thing that the President established was the direct loan program. Now again maybe it sounds a little bureaucratic, but it is important because again Rutgers University in my district has taken advantage of it where traditionally student loans, when I was in college and until recently, you had to go to the bank, and the Government would guarantee the loan. Well, some of the universities, including Rutgers, went to the administration and to the Congress and said, look, if we administer this program directly, if the money comes directly to us and the students apply directly for the student loans from us, then we eliminate the middle person, if you will, and we can expand opportunities and give out a lot more direct loans.

Ms. DELAURO. Costs you less money.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly, and they started it on an experimental basis at certain colleges and universities, Rutgers being one of the first, and at Rutgers it expanded the number of student loans that they can give out. Now all of a sudden we are hearing as a part of this budget that they want to cap the direct loan program, I think it is at 10 percent, and not allow it to be expanded to other colleges and universities.

In my district, my college, for example, which was a 4-year institution, would not be able to establish a direct loan program under this Republican budget or proposal, and again it makes no sense. I mean it is essentially nothing but a special interest effort to say

let us go back to the old way where the middleman, the banker, or financial institution, makes the money and no one is proposing that this makes any sense. It is certainly going to make it harder to get a loan for individual college students and obviously eliminate a lot of opportunities that students would have to be able to go to college. It makes no sense.

Ms. DELAURO. Let me just comment on that one because I think that there is—you made a very, very good point, which is that they are willing to do harm to young people who want to again further their education and go to college, hurt working families who are struggling to get their kids to school. I could not have gone to school without student loans. My folks could not have afforded it. This was, you know, they killed themselves to, you know, to see me through college and to utilize the student loan program to do that. But it is doing harm. But at the same time, and particularly with this one, is to cater to a special interest because the banks are up in arms about the direct lending program.

Mr. PALLONE. They are not—

Ms. DELAURO. Because they are not going to make their percentage. That is what this is about. This is not saying to hard-working middle class families you get the advantage, you get the incentive. Banks are doing OK. They can live without this. We want to give you a break, Mr. and Mrs. America. You want to have your kids get ahead. Do not take it away from hard-working families to cater to special interests and wind up hurting the family and the youngster.

In that program in the State of Connecticut we will see 14 schools forced out of the direct lending program, losing over 14,000 loans.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly.

Ms. DELAURO. And an opportunity for people and young people.

Mr. PALLONE. And again what we are really talking about here is the recognition of the fact that today, unlike maybe 10 or 20 years ago, it takes a lot more money to go to college, and so if you do not have a national service program, if you do not have direct loans, if you do not have innovative ways of trying to pay for college tuition, you are not going to be able to make it.

Now, the President in his State of the Union Address talked about families, parents, being able to pay up to \$10,000 in tuition for their students and that that would be tax deductible. As you know, in the process of this budget debate the Republicans and the Democrats have talked about some sort of tax cuts or tax breaks. But again I would suggest that if you look at the tax breaks suggested by the Republican leadership, they are mostly for large corporations and for the well-to-do, whereas the President now is saying here again education is a major issue. If we allow that kind of tax deductibility, it expands the ability of parents to help pay their kids' education, and if

we are going to do any kind of tax cut or tax break, that should be the kind of tax cut or break that we should institute because it is an investment in the future of the country.

□ 1645

Ms. DELAURO. That makes enormous sense, Mr. Speaker, because it is probably one of the areas that most parents are worried about, after a job or the increase in their wages, because they have not seen a raise for a number of years. But if you could target the tax cut to working families, to take the education costs as a deduction, it makes enormous sense.

What you are seeking in that tax break package at the moment is that the richest corporations are winding up with the elimination of the alternate minimum tax getting a windfall again. You are seeing that special interest effort do very, very well. That is a \$17 billion windfall for the richest corporations, if you will eliminate the alternate minimum tax.

Mr. PALLONE. Exactly.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, to try to make it a little easier for working families to be able to see some realization of their dreams and their aspirations for themselves and for their children, this is the direction that we ought to go in. On that score, it is my hope that we will have an agenda over the next several months where we will introduce legislation in this body here, and that we can get it on the floor for a vote.

Mr. PALLONE. Again, I do not want to prolong this, but we talked about higher education. If you talk about primary and second, as I pointed out before, the Federal contribution to local education is not very much in dollars. It is about 7 percent or 8 percent of the budget. But the Federal Government has traditionally, and again, President Clinton has talked about trying to create incentive programs that will basically try to improve the quality of education, with the few Federal dollars that go to the local districts.

One of the areas that he has been a champion of is Goals 2000. Basically, this is where you set standards, if you will, for the quality of education, for curricula, whatever, within the school, and then you give the schools, on a competitive basis, a certain amount of Federal dollars to try to implement some changes, some innovations, that would improve the standards of the curriculum or the education. That, again, is something that is significantly cut back, almost eliminated in the Republican leadership budget.

The other thing is that traditionally the Federal Government, I guess for at least 10 years or more now, has been involved in providing new equipment or high-technology type things, whether it is computers or ways of trying to improve the sciences; things that, as you know, many schools simply cannot afford to buy that kind of high-technology equipment or whatever, because

they do not have the budget for it. Again, that is another area where there are significant cuts that are being proposed, and the President is talking about trying to come up with some innovations.

Ms. DELAURO. Yesterday when I went to visit the school I was in three kindergarten classes. You just see these little bits of kids, it was just astounding; there they are, in terms of the equipment, and they have these computers in front of them, and they are there with their earphones or their listening program, where they are listening to the story in order to prepare them to move on.

But these kids with the computers, it is just really mind-boggling. There they are with the mouse going back and forth, and several of them were showing people how they were learning the alphabet, and they had the letter D, and then they were using the computer to point to a deer or a duck, and so forth, or using a C and pointing to a cake and so forth.

Here they are, again, these little bits of kids, getting proficient in a technology which is our future, but it is their future more than it is ours. Why are we trying to be in the business of taking away these tools from them?

One program that I wanted to mention was something called School-to-Work. The heart and soul is being cut out of the School-to-Work Program. This is a program that says to young people who are seniors in high school, who do not want to, cannot afford to, or maybe do not have the skills to go on to a 4-year liberal arts college, and God knows, we probably have enough history and English majors to last us a lifetime, but these young people want to go on from school to work. They want to be gainfully employed, they want to get some skills.

This program has allowed that bridge from school to work, really, the first piece of legislation that in so many years has recognized the aspirations of these young people, and their dreams of moving from school to work, without having a 4-year college education. That is truly the fate of most of our young people in this country. The largest percentage do not go on to a 4-year college.

But this program is going to be cut and decimated, and we just say one more time to these young people, "Sorry, you really do not make any difference. Do it on your own." Why are we not in the business of trying to provide a bridge from school to work; again, responsibility? "We will give you some tools so you can carry out what you need to make your way."

We cannot do it for you. That is not what anybody is saying here, nor should we. We do not have the resources to do that. But how do we enable young people to move ahead? This is a program that works, it is gaining all kinds of endorsements from the academic communities, from the business community, because they are seeing the fruits of the labor here, because they are getting these kids who are

well-trained, who have the skills, who can make it in their jobs. Now we are saying, "Sorry, we are just going to close the door on this effort." It is wrongheaded. It really is wrongheaded.

Mr. PALLONE. You talked about programs that work. Just the last one that I wanted to mention, of course, even earlier is the Head Start Program, preschool Head Start Program, because from 1992 to 1995, which is, of course, the span of the current administration, we have had an increase of 130,000 children that were able to participate in the Head Start Program over the last 3 years, because we were expanding a very successful program, which is enjoying—it really had support under President Bush, President Reagan, as well as President Clinton and President Carter. It has always been very bipartisan. Now all of a sudden this Republican leadership budget would deny Head Start benefits to 180,000 children over the next few years. So again, we are talking about misplaced priorities here.

When I go out of my district, when I am in the State of New Jersey and I talk to people, they all tell me that education is paramount. Everyone understands that. I really for the life of me do not understand why the Republican leadership in this House does not get it. Education is crucial. If we are going to start talking about cutting education 20 percent here over the next fiscal year, it just makes no sense. It is totally out of sync with what the American people want.

Ms. DELAURO. Just in terms of translating that 20 percent, and I think you have made the excellent point that there is a minuscule amount of Federal aid in education—sometimes people do not realize that or understand that—from this minuscule amount of money, we are looking at, roughly, if things continue the way they are with this, at this level, we are looking at about a \$3.1 billion cut from those funds. We are looking overall, in terms of the college loan programs, you know, at almost \$5 billion over the next few years in terms of cutbacks in college loans, to say nothing of what is going on in the Pell Grant Program. In the Pell Grant Program, what they did, the bill eliminates assistance to students who qualify for grants of less than \$600; about 250,000 students in this Nation are going to be eliminated from the program.

Perkins loans. Again, these are not great amounts of money that are being put in play at the moment, but the removing of that kind of money has an unbelievable effect on how many young people can look to a brighter future.

I think you would agree with me that we are at a crossroads. We truly are at a crossroads, because we have never seen the level of cuts in education that we are seeing today. Education has always been the way for people to expand their horizons, move forward, and have a brighter future. That has been true with succeeding generations.

This is the first time in the history of this country that if you talk to

American families, working families, that today they do not see a bright future for their kids. They do not believe that their kids will have the same kinds of advantages that they had. That is a sad commentary on what our values are in this Nation and what our priorities are.

So that there is a full-scale assault, whether it is on Head Start and you are looking at preschool programs, readiness; whether it is in a school lunch program that they would like to away with; whether it is in a summer jobs program that is being cut out so kids can make some money, go back to school, and then, again, demonstrate some responsibility; whether it is in education, skills training, and school-to-work, or whether it is in moving kids forward in terms of higher education.

I do not understand it. I think it is outrageous. My hope will be in the next 2 weeks, as we discuss what is going to happen before March 15, that when it comes to the issue of education, that we are not about the business of doing harm, and doing harm for the special interests of this Nation, but that we are in the business of doing what people sent us here to do. That is to do something for the public good and particularly for the kids and for the future of the youngsters in this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for joining with me this evening. I am sure that we will be engaged in this conversation over the next few weeks.

Mr. PALLONE. Absolutely.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.