

This simple idea, Mr. Chairman, might prove to be the catalyst to a modern-day Marshall Plan for economic development in developing countries: A coordinated international effort to create self-sustaining school feeding programs and to enhance primary education throughout the developing world. Our farmers, our non-profit development organizations, and our foreign assistance programs could help make this a reality.

On the other hand, it could also fail.

It could fail, Mr. Chairman, if we in Congress fail to provide sufficient funding for this initiative; if we fail to provide a long-term commitment of at least ten years to this initiative; and if we fail to integrate this initiative with our other domestic and foreign policy priorities.

In its July 23rd announcement, the Clinton Administration has made available \$300 million in food commodities to initiate a global school feeding program. This is an admirable beginning for a global program estimated at \$3 billion annually when it is 100 percent in place, with the U.S. share approximately \$755 million per year.

To ensure the success of this initiative, we will need to commit ourselves to long-term, secure funding for this and related programs.

First, new legislation to authorize this program, and the necessary annual appropriations to carry it out, must at a minimum provide for the total U.S. share. These funds would not only provide for the purchase of agriculture commodities, but also for the processing, packaging and transportation of these commodities; for the increased agency personnel to implement and monitor expanded U.S. education projects in developing countries; and for an increased number of contracts with U.S.-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implementing these feeding and education programs in target countries.

A significant portion of this assistance will go to our farming community for the purchase of their products, and that's as it should be. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, I would rather pay our farmers to produce than watch them destroy their crops or pay them not to produce at all.

Second, the United States must lead and encourage other nations to participate and match our contributions both to the food and the education components of this project.

Third, we will need to increase funding for development assistance to strengthen and expand education in developing countries. One of the key reasons for supporting school feeding programs is to attract more children to attend school. If that happens, then the schools will need cooking centers, cooking utensils and cooks. Within a year or two, the increase in student population will require more classrooms. Those classrooms will need teachers and supplies. Additional development assistance, delivered primarily through NGOs, will be needed to successfully implement both the food and the education components of this proposal.

Fourth, we will need to secure greater funding for and recommit ourselves to debt relief and to programs that support and stimulate local agriculture and food production in these countries—two important priorities of our foreign assistance programs. Revenues that developing countries must now use to service their debt could instead be invested in education, health care and development. Successful school feeding programs also rely on the purchase and use of local food products, which are in harmony with local diet and cultural preferences. If the ultimate goal is to make these food and education programs self-sustaining, the promotion of local agricultural production and

national investment in education are essential.

Fifth, our commitment to this effort must be long term. Too often initiatives are announced with great fanfare and then fade away with little notice given. Many development organizations currently active in the field with "food for education" programs are skeptical of this proposal. Many governments of developing countries share that skepticism. They have heard it before. They have seen programs announced, begun and then ended as funding abruptly or gradually ended. Our commitment to both the food and education components of this initiative must cover at least a decade.

Sixth, we do not need to re-invent the wheel to implement this program, or at least the U.S. participation in this multilateral effort. We have a long and successful history of working with our farming community to provide food aid. We have successful partnerships with NGOs already engaged in nutrition, education and community development projects abroad. We also have established relations with international hunger and education agencies, including the Food Aid Convention, the World Food Program, UNICEF and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO).

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I believe we must also take a good long look at our own needs, and at the same time we contribute to reducing hunger abroad, we must make a commitment to ending hunger here at home. In a time of such prosperity, it is unacceptable that we still have so many hungry people in America. None of our seniors should be on a waiting list to receive Meals-on-Wheels. No child in America should go to bed hungry night after night. No family should go hungry because they don't know where the next meal will come from. No pregnant woman, no nursing mother, no infant nor toddler should go hungry in America. We have the ability to fund existing programs so these needs are met.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to add one more comment. As first proposed, this initiative also had a universal WIC component. The United States is already involved in several nutrition and health programs for mothers and infants. I was very pleased to see in the President's announcement that it contained a pre-school component. I hope that we might also expand our assistance in this area and reach out to our international partners to increase their aid as well. We all know how important those early years of development are in a child's life. I fully support the school feeding and education initiative we are discussing this morning. But if a child has been malnourished or starved during the first years of their life, much of their potential has already been damaged and is in need of repair. Surely the best strategy would include health, immunization and nutrition programs targeted at children three years and younger.

I believe we can—and we must—eliminate hunger here at home and reduce hunger among children around the world.

I believe we can—and we must—expand our efforts to bring the children of the world into the classroom.

I hope you and your Committee will lead the way.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

IN HONOR OF THE UPCOMING 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DAVID AND ARMIDA MURGUIA OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride, honor and happiness that I rise to recognize the upcoming 50th wedding anniversary of David and Armida Murguia of San Antonio, Texas.

David and Amy were married November 8, 1950 at Our Lady of Perpetual Hope Catholic Church in San Antonio and honeymooned in Allende, Mexico.

Immediately after their honeymoon, David was inducted into the U.S. Army and transferred to Ft. Lee, Virginia, where Amy was able to join him after a short separation. After his military service, the Murguia's returned to San Antonio where they have lived ever since. The Murguia's are members of St. Ann's Catholic Church.

David graduated from St. Gerard's High School and attended St. Mary's University, where he obtained a law degree. He worked at Kelly Air Force Base before starting his own law practice.

Amy graduated from Ursuline Academy in San Antonio, and after raising their children, went to work as David's legal assistant. Both retired in 1998 after a long, productive, and well respected legal career.

As a result of their marriage, David and Amy are the proud parents of eight children, Michael David, Vincent John, Philip Andrew, David III, Theresa Armida, Catherine Ann, Mark Anthony, and Matthew. They have 13 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren. As do all couples, David and Amy have had their joyous occasion and rough times, but through it all, they have stuck by each other, and in a rare occasion in America today, will soon celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

On behalf of all citizens of San Antonio, I want to wish them a wonderful anniversary and I hope that they are able to celebrate many, many more. May their love and dedication to each other inspire each of us to work even harder on our own relationships so that we too may someday celebrate as the Murguia's are doing now.

BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT BART

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, as the Congresswoman representing eastern Contra Costa County and the Tri-Valley area of Alameda County, I rise today to express my firm belief that the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system should be extended to Antioch and Livermore, California. While I am aware and understand that there are those who want to extend BART only to the South Bay, I must remind them that the families and businesses of the Antioch and Livermore areas also need BART and have been paying their hard-