

come to the well of this House, and they are going to talk about how important it is that we have free trade, that we ought to have open markets, that we ought to allow our markets to work. In fact, some of them may even quote the former President Ronald Reagan when he said that markets are more powerful than armies.

Some of those same people are going to come to the floor of the House the next day, and they are going to say, well, we need open markets, but not when it comes to pharmaceuticals, not where it can really save Americans billions of dollars. And it really is billions of dollars, because according to the estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, seniors over the next 10 years in the United States of America, that is, people 65 and over, are going to spend \$1.8 trillion on prescription drugs. They cannot afford that, and neither can the taxpayers.

It is time to open the markets and allow Americans to have access to these world drugs at world market prices and let us talk about the savings.

The estimates that we have from independent experts is that Americans could save 35 percent minimum simply by opening up the markets and allowing Americans to have access to those drugs at world market prices. What does that mean? If we take \$1.8 trillion, divide it evenly over the next 10 years, that is \$180 billion a year. If we could save 35 percent, how much is that? That is over \$50 billion a year, \$50 billion a year, and we have arguments here on the floor about tax cuts.

How much good would we do if we gave Americans a \$50-billion-per-year tax cut? That is what we are talking about if we simply open the markets. There is something wrong when we allow our own FDA to stand between American seniors and lower prescription drug prices. We ought to pay our fair share, but we should not be held hostage to the big drug cartels that are exploiting their market opportunities here in the United States at the expense of seniors, at the expense of taxpayers, and incidentally, I had a meeting this morning, at the expense of the big corporations.

One of the largest corporations in the United States, one of the representatives told me today they spend \$1 billion a year on prescription drugs. They are spending \$1 million a month on just one name-brand pharmaceutical each month, \$1 million a month just on one drug. Even they are starting to say, wait a second.

We believe in open markets. We believe in free markets. We believe in competition. It is time to open the markets, create some competition so that we do not have these huge disparities between what Americans are required to pay for the same drugs, made in the same FDA-approved facilities.

Let us have that debate next week about free markets. I believe in free markets. Let us have that debate about

making it easier for all Americans, not just seniors, to pay for the drugs they need. No senior should have to choose between food and prescription drugs. We can go a long way simply by opening markets, allowing world markets to work, allowing that thing that we talk about and will talk about next week, free trade, to work to the advantage of American consumers. We could save American consumers \$50 billion a year.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS DESERVE SUPPORT

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, it has been my honor to support global school feeding programs as part of a strategy to reduce hunger among the world's children and to increase their ability to go to school. Along with the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), I have introduced H.R. 1700, the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act of 2001.

That bill, which has 116 bipartisan cosponsors, was established as a permanent program in the farm bill reauthorization which the President recently signed into law. If adequately funded, this program will purchase and allocate U.S. commodities and other resources to provide millions of hungry children around the world with a healthy, nutritious meal in a school setting.

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Mr. Speaker, over 300 million of the world's children are hungry. About 130 million of these children do not even go to school. School feeding programs clearly demonstrate that more families send their children to school when a meal is provided. U.S.-supported school feeding programs have documented significant increases in student enrollment, especially among girls. The children become more alert and more capable of learning when better nourished. More children advance to the next levels, and they acquire skills that help them to be productive members of society.

U.S. Private Voluntary Organizations have long been involved in this effort, working on the front lines, delivering nutritious food to needy children around the world. Two members of my staff recently attended a conference in Indonesia on school feeding programs. The conference sponsors included the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Land O'Lakes. My staff were able to review the Land O'Lakes school feeding model firsthand and to meet other U.S. PVOs involved in the school feeding effort in Indonesia, like Mercy Corps International, ACDI/VOCA, and International Relief and Development. Together, these organizations are feeding over 900,000 schoolchildren.

Land O'Lakes' school feeding endeavor in Indonesia began in November of 2000, with USDA 416(b) commodity donations. Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation in the world, following China, India and the United States. It is also the world's largest Muslim nation. As a result of the economic slowdown and decreasing resources provided to the national government for school feeding initiatives, the nutritional status of Indonesian elementary schoolchildren has deteriorated. The economic situation in the country has encouraged children to leave school early, with young girls being the first to go.

The Land O'Lakes Indonesia program is presently reaching over 450,000 schoolchildren in more than 2,900 schools on the islands of Java. It focuses on local capacity building, making sure all the products used in this program are processed locally. Land O'Lakes works with the three local processors who produce the fortified milk and wheat biscuits that are distributed to schools. This partnership exemplifies how this program can also be a catalyst for strengthening the local food industry.

Land O'Lakes works with Indonesian NGOs in the communities where targeted schools are located. Involving local participation stimulates community empowerment and helps build sustainability and ownership in the implementation and oversight of these programs.

The Land O'Lakes model has been so successful it will be replicated in Vietnam and Bangladesh as part of the Global Food for Education pilot program.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of these programs are enormous, starting with the positive nutritional impact on children's lives and helping them obtain the education necessary to improve their standard of living. There are also all the auxiliary benefits: facilitating economic development, strengthening social institutions, empowering women, and promoting stable democratic societies throughout the world. Clearly, these programs play a critical role in any strategy to provide education and improve children's health.

Mr. Speaker, ending hunger among the world's children is achievable. For