

those dollars to better educate their children.

My experience here in Washington, I have seen absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing that would lead me to believe that the people here in Washington are better able to determine how to best educate our kids, are better somehow than the people that are there in those local communities, in the Fox Valley where I spoke to this young lady this evening. I see nothing that would indicate to me that the parents and the teachers and the school boards and the other folks there in the Fox Valley in Wisconsin are not better prepared to make decisions on education that relate to their kids than the people here in Washington, D.C.

That is what this debate is about. It is not about more money or less money for education. Education is a very high priority. There are all kinds of government waste that we can eliminate so as to redirect more dollars to education. I support that.

To the extent that we are talking about allocating more of our Federal resources to education, I support that. But I also support making sure that it is our parents that are deciding where their kids go to school, what the kids are taught and how it is taught in those schools. We need to reempower our parents to be actively involved in the education process of our kids.

We found an interesting thing happens, when the parents are actively involved in the education process of the kids, we looked at a study of thousands of teenagers, what we found is that when the parents are more actively involved in the kids education, not only does the education get better, but we find that there is a decrease in crime rates, there is a decrease in drug use, decrease in teen pregnancy. So the bottom line in this whole education debate is not should there be more Federal dollars allocated to it or less. The debate is about who should decide how those dollars can best help educate our kids.

I keep coming down to, I have just seen absolutely nothing that would indicate to me that somehow, because we are here in Washington, we know what is best for educating our kids out in Wisconsin. I just do not buy into that. I think the right answer to this is go ahead and support reprioritizing the dollars toward education, but let us make sure that our parents and our teachers and our communities and our school boards are then deciding how to best use those additional resources to best improve the quality of education for our children.

CIA IGNORED CHARGES OF CONTRA DRUG DEALING

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, well, the CIA has finally admitted it and the New York Times

finally covered it. The Times ran the devastating story on Saturday, with the headline: CIA Said to Ignore Charges of Contra Drug Dealing in 80s.

In a remarkable reversal by the New York Times, the paper reported that the CIA knew about Contra drug dealing and they covered it up. The CIA let it go on for years during the height of their campaign against the Sandinista government.

Among other revelations in the article were that "the CIA's inspector general determined that the agency 'did not inform Congress of all allegations or information it received indicating that contra-related organizations or individuals were involved in drug trafficking.'"

The Times article continued pointing out "[d]uring the time the ban on [Contra] funds was in effect, the CIA informed Congress only about drug charges against two other contra-related people. [T]he agency failed to tell other executive branch agencies, including the Justice Department, about drug allegations against 11 contra-related individuals or entities."

The article continues stating "[the Report] makes clear that the agency did little or nothing to investigate most of the drug allegations that it heard about the contra and their supporters. In all, the inspector general's report found that the CIA has received allegations of drug involvement by 58 contras or others linked to the contra program. These included 14 pilots and two others tied to the contra program's CIA-backed air transportation operations."

The Times reported that "the report said that in at least six instances, the CIA knew about allegations regarding individuals or organizations but that knowledge did not deter it from continuing to employ them."

Several informed sources have told me that an appendix to this Report was removed at the instruction of the Department of Justice at the last minute. This appendix is reported to have information about a CIA officer, not agent or asset, but officer, based in the Los Angeles Station, who was in charge of Contra related activities. According to these sources, this individual was associated with running drugs to South Central Los Angeles, around 1988. Let me repeat that amazing omission. The recently released CIA Report Volume II contained an appendix, which was pulled by the Department of Justice, that reported a CIA officer in the LA Station was hooked into drug running in South Central Los Angeles.

I have not seen this appendix. But the sources are very reliable and well-informed. The Department of Justice must release that appendix immediately. If the Department of Justice chooses to withhold this clearly vital information, the outrage will be severe and widespread.

We have finally seen the CIA admit to have knowingly employed drug dealers associated with the Contra movement. I look forward to a comprehensive investigation into this matter by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, now that the underlying charges have finally been admitted by the CIA.

MORE ON EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor tonight to talk about education and to first raise my disappointment with Congress being unable to provide funding for America's children in terms of education.

However, I am hearing that perhaps an agreement has been made and that there will be funding available for some of the President's initiatives that he proposed back in January in the State of the Union address.

What I have here tonight is a pamphlet that describes what matters most, Teaching for America's Future, that I provided to every Member of Congress at the top of the year. As the only Member who serves on the National Commission on Teaching in America's Future, I wanted Congress to recognize persons across this Nation, from governors to state superintendents to school superintendents, principals, educators, teachers and parents, coming together to talk about the importance of qualified teachers.

This is why we embraced this, the President's initiative on 100,000 new teachers to provide for our students. We must reform the methodology of teaching in which we have begun to do, and we must expand professional development for teachers. We can ill afford to have weakened professional development, thinking that this will make teachers more qualified.

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Teachers need a more frequent involvement in professional development, and there needs to be a whole methodology of teaching whereby computer literacy will be part of this new methodology of teaching.

After-school programs is another phase by which we need to embrace this initiative. If we are going to divert those 3 hours of mischievous time for students who come home to empty homes, latchkey children, we will then need to have after-school programs where this will be a positive setting for our students and our children whereby they can divert from the violence that has seemed to just permeate that block of time where children are not supervised.

Smaller classrooms. We as former teachers and administrators recognize the importance of smaller classrooms, eighteen in a class, that is the best, more manageable classroom whereby students will get individualized training. We must ensure that qualified teaching and qualified learning be part of the structure of a reduced class size.

School construction. There is no way that dilapidated schools where roofs are falling, wiring is seen outside of the plastic, plaster is falling from the ceiling, there is no way that is an environment that is conducive to learning.

This Congress must make sure that the infrastructure of education become a priority just like the infrastructure in transportation became a priority in the T-21 bill. We must provide that infrastructure of education so that we