

Senate approved for additional military spending in Iraq and a little more than half of the corporate tax cut last year.

Three hundred million Africans live on less than \$1 a day on a continent trapped in \$300 billion in foreign debt. If we're serious about fighting the war on terrorism and serious about living out the moral values we're so quick to talk about, then we must not only cancel the debt of Africa's poorest nations, but we must also substantially increase our foreign aid to Africa.

You can write or call President Bush and tell him so. You can write or call your Senator. You can ask others to join you—it's up to us, all of us.

#### PLAN THAT FALLS FAR SHORT OF GLOBAL NEEDS

Now that the euphoria of the G-8 debt deal to help poor Africa, Caribbean and Latin American states has died down the reality of the situation is hitting home.

And it is painfully obvious that what was initially sold as a dream scheme isn't what it was cracked up to be.

Promoted as a plan designed to ease the financial pain of high debt inflicted on some of the world's poorest countries by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in particular the \$40 billion debt write off scheme approved by many of the world's richest nations—the U.S., Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Italy, Russia and Canada—falls very short of what is really needed.

It's true that the deal is an important first step but it's far from the generous package, which countries and commentators would have us believe.

Some figures underscore the need for the industrialized world to give more money to the designated beneficiaries and also to expand the list of highly indebted nations, which are crying out for help.

It's important that we bear in mind that when the figures, which are being tossed around in a vain attempt to highlight the generosity of the developed states, are looked at carefully, the actual amount and how it is parceled out is a drop in the bucket of requirements.

In today's money, according to Gary Duncan, Economics Editor of the Times of London, the value of the recent write-off is "only about \$17 million for the 18 countries to enjoy immediately."

Actually, as Duncan pointed out in well-reasoned analysis, the amount that Tanzania, Guyana, Honduras and the other 15 beneficiaries would save in debt payment, which can then be ploughed back into education, health, roads and infrastructural development, is chicken feed. The relatively small amount of \$1.5 billion in annual savings "is a fraction of the \$50 billion a year needed to double annual aid flows," which Britain's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and his Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, insist is needed to help Africa and other countries turn the corner by reducing poverty.

It is estimated that Britain's commitment under the deal calls for its taxpayers to provide \$100 million a year for up to a decade, a sum that the United Kingdom can meet without breaking a sweat. The annual charge to the U.S. treasury is close to \$175 million a year. That's not enough to pay for the public information system of the U.S. Justice Department. For Germany the bill would amount to about \$50 million a year for the first three years. The sums get even smaller when we look at France's annual commitment of about \$30 million.

It's obvious, then that we are not talking about large sums of money. Instead, the funds that don't even begin to scratch the

surface of need in Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. It's also clear that advocates of debt relief for the world's poor were right when they called for a broader debt relief and aid package.

For instance, Romilly Greenhill of Action Aid, raised question marks about the scheme when he called the plan very good short term news for the 18 countries that will benefit but complained that overall "it will do little to immediately help millions in at least 40 countries that also need 100 per cent debt relief. What is disappointing is the lack of any substantial concrete commitment on aid."

You can say that again.

What has hit home is that at a time when the United Nations Millennium Goals are coming up for review, the United States, the wealthiest of the wealthy, is unwisely opposing the International Finance Facility which the British Chancellor is seeking to establish to offer a greater helping hand to the poor by using bonds to raise billions of dollars. Washington's opposition is undermining efforts to boost aid and in the end is likely to cause greater suffering.

To make matters worst, Germany has made it clear that it doesn't intend to out up any new money to pay for the debt write-off. Instead it will use existing aid funds to finance its share of the deal, something that makes the whole thing laughable. In essence, then, we shouldn't be expecting any significant changes unless and until there is a substantial change in attitude towards the poor.

#### DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the colloquy between the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) and Chairman REGULA that highlights the importance of restoring funding for the Community Service Block Grant Program.

Mr. Chairman, while I certainly understand the difficult work of the Appropriations Committee as it strives to keep the 2006 budget process under strict allocations, it is my hope that we can somehow find additional funding for the C-S-B-G Program. While the President sought to consolidate the program in his 2006 budget to the Congress, I was pleased to support language in the House-passed budget package, which states that:

Community Service Block Grants provides invaluable assistance to low-income families and communities. These funds are used to build healthy and stable communities. Due consideration should be given to this program before Congress implements any changes.

Mr. Chairman, thousands of community action agencies provide services that help low-income individuals: Train for gainful employ-

ment, obtain quality living environments and generally move toward self-sufficiency. One of those agencies is "Total Action Against Poverty," in my congressional district, which has provided much-needed services to the Roanoke Valley and southwest Virginia for nearly 30-years.

I believe a major reason for the effectiveness of organizations like "Total Action Against Poverty" are that they are locally controlled. Rather than seeking guidance from a know-it-all bureaucracy in Washington, DC, community action agencies can resolve community problems with community solutions. These organizations are grassroots-based, and are led by local boards and volunteers, with diverse memberships and strong roots in their communities. By nature, these groups are invested in their communities—and have the ability to leverage C-S-B-G funds with significant resources from private organizations including corporations and foundations with a stake in promoting the wellness of their neighborhoods, rather than pleasing constituencies in Washington.

Mr. Chairman, it is my belief that C-S-B-Gs are the kind of good-government programs that Congress should continue to support. I hope that conferees can support the C-S-B-G program.

#### SOUTHERN ALAMANCE WINS 3-A CROWN

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as baseball fans across America anxiously wait to see who will win this year's World Series, the Sixth District of North Carolina waits no longer for one of its champions to be crowned. On June 4, 2005, the Southern Alamance Patriots captured the North Carolina Class 3-A state baseball championship by defeating Northwest Cabarrus two games to one at Doak Field on the campus of North Carolina State University. This year, Southern Alamance captured its first state title since 1988 and its third in school history.

With the series tied at one in the third game of the series, the Patriots scored an unprecedented eight runs in the first inning. This was an anomaly after the Patriots were held to only three hits in game two. The (Burlington) Times-News reported that the Patriots learned from their mistakes and took advice from their coach Jason Smith when he told them to not try to, "... lift and hit it out. In this big park it is not going to happen." The players kept the ball on the ground and prevailed in what proved to be an exhilarating game.

Northwest Cabarrus went into game three on a "high" after beating the Patriots in game two. The game winning "high" was soon replaced with a "low" after the Trojan's starting pitcher, Robbie Gurley, walked two people and gave up a single in the first inning. Gurley was pulled and replaced by Joe Hubbard. After Hubbard could not get the job done and was replaced by a third hurler, the Patriots were confident after gaining an eight-run lead in the first inning. Among those who scored in the first were Thomas Sappelt, Michael Parker, Roy Albright, Brent Haynes, Jonathan Shields,

and Brad Thornburg. Northwest Cabarrus coach Joe Hubbard was quoted in the Times-News saying, "We couldn't stop the first inning; it just snowballed on us."

The series' Most Valuable Player Brent Haynes stepped up to the plate in the bottom of the fifth inning with runners on second and third. Haynes hit a ground ball down the first base line and accumulated a RBI as Brad Thornburg whisked across home plate. Much to the dismay of the Northwest Cabarrus fans, the game ended under the 10-run rule.

After the dominating victory imposed by the Patriots, Coach Smith should be credited for much of the team's success. After coming off of a tough loss in game two, Coach Smith encouraged the players to play smart baseball instead of imitating the starlike swings of Barry Bonds or Sammy Sosa. Smart baseball for this team was to hit ground balls, which proved to payoff. Coach Smith had a strong coaching staff behind him that consisted of Eddie Wood, Paul Bishop, Nathan Holcomb, and Andrew Thomas.

Although the players' hard work and commitment to team excellence helped them succeed, they would be the first to tell you that the key to their success was impeccable leadership. We congratulate the players: Jimmy Robbins, Michael Pernell, Dave Sappelt, John Crawford, Jonathon Thrasher, Jonathan Shields, Michael Parker, Brad Thornburg, Jay Liddle, Reid Straughan, Richard Allred, Roy Albright, Brent Haynes, Thomas Sappelt, Gabe Shoffner, Cale Rogers, Zach Robinson, Luke Vandall, score keeper Stephanie Smith, and team manager Holden Walker. Each member of the team played a valuable role in their commendable season, which ended with a 27-5 record and a state title.

This 3-A state baseball championship brings pride back to the baseball program at Southern Alamance, and we congratulate Principal Kent Byrd, Athletic Director David Vaughn, the community of the Southern Alamance Patriots and most importantly the team and coaching staff for a job well done.

#### GOOD ADVICE ON HURRICANE PREPARATION

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as the people of the Caribbean prepare for another chaotic hurricane season, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues some important advice on the preparation and prevention efforts in the region. During last summer's hurricane season the small island nations of Grenada, Jamaica, and Haiti were severely impacted with terrible destruction of essential infrastructure and significant loss of life. This catastrophe caused the Members of the last Congress to include \$100 million in relief assistance in the supplemental appropriations bill for Florida.

Our neighbors in the Caribbean were harder hit than even Florida. Homes, lives, and economic prospects were destroyed in the wake of hurricanes that beat down on the island nations of the Caribbean and the United States southern coastline. Many were shocked and surprised by the destructive force of these nat-

ural phenomena. Many felt the devastating blows of the hurricane splitting and eroding homes, towns, and communities. Others witnessed the indiscriminate winds that ripped roofs from homes, merchandise from store fronts and children from homes.

Hurricane season routinely strikes the Caribbean harder than the U.S. The fragile economies of these noble neighbors too often succumb to the might and power of these natural disasters. As staples of their economy, tourism and agriculture suffer significantly in the wake of the floods, winds, and aftermath of a destructive hurricane. The effect of hurricanes on the United States alone is often breathtaking and requires a mammoth community mobilization and effort of the surrounding states. Imagine its impact on the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and St. Vincent.

As we enter this annual season of threat in 2005, this Congress should take the lead in preparing our Caribbean neighbors for the events to come. We should be ensuring that the resources are available to meet the humanitarian needs of the region. We should be securing the supplies and gear necessary for recovery. We should be certain that the regional infrastructure can handle the health and welfare needs that will arise.

CaribNews recently hosted a Caribbean conference in the Bronx on the subject of disaster preparedness. They focused on the planning and preparation of the region for the next major natural disaster. In a recent article, they established some important steps that should be taken to ensure that the region is prepared and ready to deal with the consequences of this year's hurricane season.

I submit for the RECORD the following editorial from the CaribNews on their conferences and recommendations for addressing the challenges of hurricane preparation.

#### WE NEED TO BE READY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES

Preparation, they say, is the mother protection. In this case, we are talking about protecting lives, property, and in many ways the future against the ravages of Mother Nature.

In the Caribbean and the South and the southwest of the United States, the need is to prepare against the often-ferocious high winds and the rain of hurricanes. And now that we are into hurricane season, and with the experts predicting some of the strongest weather patterns in recent years, it's important that the U.S. and the Caribbean nations be ready for what may befall us.

Just the other day, Adolfo Carrion, the Bronx Borough President, and this newspaper focused the city's spotlight on disaster preparedness. That was done at a highly successful Caribbean conference in the Bronx and participants in a panel discussion emphasized that we can't wait until a hurricane or other natural disasters strike and then respond.

After all, the geological and geographic features of the Caribbean archipelago almost guarantee that a hurricane can strike at any time during the second half of the year. While we can prevent trade conflicts, end political rows or avoid military adventures, there is precious little we can do to stop hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods from hitting us, affecting all those who live in a particular country or the region.

Last year's devastation in Grenada brought on by Hurricane Ivan was a case in point. Not only was it unstoppable but its effects will be felt for many years to come. The floods, which took thousands of lives in

the Dominican Republic and Haiti, could not have been thwarted by human effort but the pain and suffering was prolonged by the inability to respond effectively once the tragedy had occurred.

Similarly, the damage caused by Ivan and other hurricanes in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Florida, St. Vincent and the Cayman Islands spoke more of the resilience of these countries to bounce back and the relatively good fortune that prevented them from being struck a mightier blow than to anything else.

We shouldn't forget too that Dominica was hit but spared extensive damage when an earthquake shook the Caribbean island. Unlike hurricane warnings, earthquake prediction didn't have any value in Dominica's case.

That's why the meeting in the Bronx was of such significance and why Caribbean nations, the international community and immigrant groups in New York, Miami, Boston, Hartford, and elsewhere must plan ahead in case the vulnerability of the small islands are exposed once again.

For as 2004 showed us, the twinkling of the proverbial eye and the decades long effort to build a country and put it in very good shape to propel living standards forward can be undone in a matter of hours.

Clearly, because natural disasters are inevitable, the emphasis must be placed on minimizing damage and responding to the needs of those affected.

To begin with Caribbean and U.S. governments must take measures to lessen pain, suffering and damage. Mutual assistance and self-help scheme at the institutional and individual levels are vital and must be integrated into sound natural disaster strategies. Building codes must be enacted and enforced to limit the effects of the troubles we have seen in recent years, not simply in the Caribbean but in the U.S. as well when entire villages come tumbling down.

It's incumbent upon home owners and business places whose structures were built several years ago or even recently to check to see to what extent their buildings can resist hurricane force winds, floods, or even seismic shocks.

Although Caribbean governments are already strapped for cash, they should consider providing tax incentives to property-owners to promote disaster mitigation. The tax system can be an important tool to achieve the goal of increasing the number of buildings that can withstand the winds and the rains spawned by hurricanes.

As for the Diaspora and the international community, not to mention local and state governments in New York State and other parts of the country, they must extend their disaster preparations schemes to include the Caribbean. After all, in places such as New York where hundreds of Caribbean immigrants live the inevitability of natural disasters is of great concern to many. So they must be included in the planning and the response.

Caribbean immigrants have in the past responded well and with alacrity to disasters in their respective homelands and in the region as a whole. But there is also an urgent need for a greater coordinated approach to relief.

The counterparts of the Bronx Borough President in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan should also consider the approach he adopted recently when he brought people and institutions together to consider the problem before it occur again. Assembling folks to discuss the potential perils ahead and putting mechanisms in place can go a long way in bringing relief after disaster has struck.