

much higher risk of needing all kinds of intensive medical care at the time of birth.

These are some of the most expensive babies born in America today. And yet for a few dollars a week with the Women, Infants and Children Program, we can dramatically reverse these pregnancies and the birth weight of the newborn infants and their lives there ever after. Because some 40 percent of these low birth weight babies with the complications that many of them encounter at that time come back to us in the need of special education, of therapies and other programs to help them. But this is preventable with the Women, Infants and Children Program. Yet at the earliest stages of life, when children are struggling to thrive and survive, when women are struggling to provide a normal pregnancy, a full-term pregnancy, resulting in a healthy baby, we see \$25 million taken out of this bipartisan program that has received universal praise and success in every study conducted. Whether in the universities, whether by government, whether by foundations, all of them praise the success in changing the outcome of these pregnancies.

When you consider in this country that 60 percent of all of the pregnancies in this country are unwanted, unintended, and that half of those are resolved by abortion, and now we put into the equation the likelihood of giving birth to a low birth weight baby with all of these complications, we create much more trauma around birth and the expectation of the birth of a child than there should be for these families. But the Republican budget cuts this program.

In the new nutrition program, \$7 billion cut from what it would take to maintain the children currently on the program in the next 5 years. In my district, the Mount Diablo School District, that is about half a million dollars. Fewer lunches for fewer children or smaller lunches. The Richmond School District, the same kind of choices. The State of California, \$1 billion in nutrition that goes to low-income working families and to poor families to feed their children.

The Food Stamp Program, same families, yet getting another cut, trying to provide nutrition for their children. The day care feeding program, family day care, where working parents leave their children for the hours they are at work, the nutrition program is being cut, raising the price of day care \$15 a week, maybe \$60 a month for people who are not working for all that high wages, trying to provide child care for their children.

The fact we see drug-free schools, programs started by Nancy Reagan, she was in town this last week testifying about the drug activity, and yet that program is being cut.

Summer youth employment: The greatest determinant of keeping children out of problems when they are adolescents and young people is to pro-

vide them employment, job experience, work experience. Half of the money for this program in most communities is put up by the private sector. That program is being zeroed out.

So you can see why the Republicans are so nervous about being anti-child, because on the facts, on the language of their bills, on the numbers of their cuts, and the impact on these programs, children are going to be hurt. This is not an abstract notion, ladies and gentlemen; these are the facts of the bills that will be coming to the floor this next week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. WYNN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE GREATEST BATTLE OF WORLD WAR II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, as I said a few moments ago in my 1-minute speech, I would be spending the better part of this next hour on America's most costly battle, the one that Winston Churchill said was the greatest battle in American history, the campaign in the Ardennes Forest of Europe. Churchill was correct. If we go by "killed in action and wounded in action," his words were true. His exact words were, "This is undoubtedly the greatest battle of the war, and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever famous American victory."

Before I do that, it is my desire, Mr. Speaker, to read slowly an article from the Washington Post on Wednesday that I believe is the great moral battle of our time. The unending death total of almost 4,500 Americans in their mother's wombs every single day. Still, a million and a half abortions every year. It is a death toll that is way past 30 million just since the Roe versus Wade decision, one of the most evil decisions by a court in all of recorded history, a decision based on a total lie.

Norma McCovey, who was named Jane Roe as her nom de guerre, her war title, war against the preborn, never did have an abortion. She tried to kill all three of her daughters that are still estranged from her. They are all in their middle twenties to early thirties now, and they are all saying when their mother is willing to apologize for having tried to kill them then they will reconcile with her.

She is on the road, not a very high IQ lady, on the road for Planned Parenthood and NARAL and other ferociously pro-abortion groups. And she is a sad figure, because she never was raped. And the whole case in Texas by a very

poorly prepared attorney general of Texas was based on a lie. She never was raped, I repeat, never did abort one of her three pregnancies. The three daughters live to this day. And on that lie, we did something as loathsome as keeping about four million Americans enslaved, Americans of African heritage, right up through the bloodiest conflict that America has ever known, 618,000 dead from all the American States on both sides, in a Nation that, including the non-free Americans, was only about 37 or 38 million people. And we killed off in their child bearing years through disease and combat, combat far less than those that died of diseases, 618,000 Americans. And here we are doubling that total every year with abortion alone.

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This article is by a friend of mine who is an excellent actor. You can see him doing many commercials in any given year. He is a good character actor, but beyond that he teaches law at Pepperdine and he is an excellent philosopher, an observant individual, Benjamin J. Stein. And here is what he writes in Wednesday's Washington Post, one of America's three big liberal papers of record. The title of Ben's article is "Deep Sixed by the GOP."

"'A bureaucrat is a Democrat who has a job that a Republican wants.' So said Eleanor Roosevelt in 1946 when she was helping to campaign against the Republican tide in Congress. It didn't help, but it made a valid point. There's no particular pride in coining phrases and slogans and in posturing after moral superiority if all you really want is a job," that someone else has, "and the pose of moral superiority is your pitch."

"This comes to mind because of a recent spate of back pedaling among Republicans about the right-to-life issue. From what I hear," says Ben Stein, "it's coming from across the board, in Congress and elsewhere," across our land, "and there is not a single GOP Presidential hopeful at this point who is in favor of a right-to-life amendment to the Constitution or of repealing Roe versus Wade in any way."

I might put in an important footnote at that point, Mr. Speaker. This Member, who aspires to the greatest office in this land or any other, I not only have a right-to-life amendment, and have had in every one of nine Congresses that I have been here, but I have always been for repealing Roe versus Wade, a repeal of the Supreme Court decision of infamous and heinous ill repute that was based on a lie.

And the lawyer, Sarah Weddington of Texas, knew it was a lie and told her client Norma McCovey, Jane Roe, to continue lying. She wasn't raped and has never been subjected to an abortion.

Back to Ben Stein. Now to some of us, abortion is the preeminent moral issue of the century. It's not a medical

procedure of moral neutrality. It's not a sad duty that conflicted mothers sometimes have to do. It's the immoral taking of a life, not very different from homicide.

"Since it's done by doctors and by mothers, it's particularly hypocritical since it's the taking of totally helpless life, it's the breaking of the most sacred trust imaginable—the implicit pledge by parents to take care of their children, or at least not to murder them.

"Stopping this riot of immorality is not just another issue like how many pages of regulations there should be on handling chicken by-products. It's not an issue about which learned people differ—but none considers either position immoral—like the balanced budget amendment. It's the bedrock test for many of us of whether we can consider ourselves a moral people. It's as vital for our time as abolitionism was for the America of a century and a half ago. From it flow all other considerations of how much importance we place on human life.

"Obviously, not everyone agrees with us about this issue. There are some politicians, like Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein," both of California, "who have always opposed right to life and tried to make the case for abortion. That's not fine, but at least it's understandable. There is some consistency there, and although it's consistency for a wicked principle, it's understandable.

"What's more troublesome right now is this screaming fact: The Republicans ran under the right-to-life banner. They gave money to right-to-life to turn out the pro-life vote. They got a stunningly high percentage of the right-to-life vote."

I might add another footnote here. Given the preponderance of people of my heritage in the other party, and a similar heritage to an Irish heritage, that of Italian-American ancestry, Polish-American ancestry, Lithuanian-American ancestry, French-American ancestry, there is a strong representation still of what we loosely call in politics, blue collar or Reagan Democrats in the other party. And they came over to the Republican vote on November 8, 1994, in more massive numbers than they ever had before, even in larger numbers than they did to elect Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984.

So it is fair to say we got a stunningly high percentage of the right-to-life vote, particularly thanks to the former Governor of Pennsylvania, Robert Casey, a large number of Democrat right-to-life voters.

"It's not an exaggeration to say the right-to-life vote put the Republicans in power in Congress," in this 104th Congress.

"Seemingly, now that the GOP is in the jobs that the Democrats had, the right-to-life voters can be safely cast aside. ('Where else do they have to go?' as a Republican strategist here said to

me. 'We aren't going to lose them to Hillary Clinton').

"There will be some minimal bows to not using taxpayer money to pay for abortions, but the Federal Government will not use its power to hinder privately paid abortions. (Even though the Federal Government pokes its snout into the nongovernment sector minute by minute, person-by-person all across America.)

"The notion here, as I," Ben Stein, "keep reading, is that abortion is a divisive issue, the kind of issue that gets people angry, that splits the party and that loses elections if it's pressed.

"Or, to put it another way, maybe abortion is the kind of issue that prevents a Republican from getting a job that a Democrat has." There is that Eleanor Roosevelt quote again. "But wait a minute: If it's true that the GOP ran on a pose of moral superiority, got elected on that pose and is now going to deep six the issue it posed on so as to go on to further electoral triumphs, don't we have a word for that? Isn't the word hypocrisy. Isn't it the most painful kind of hypocrisy—hypocrisy about a moral issue that keeps people up at night, that makes people go to jail for what they believe?

And I know my friend Ben is speaking here of people who demonstrate peacefully or at least nonviolently; not the two assassins or the midnight cowardly bomber. He is speaking about nuns and priests and ministers and rabbis and humble mothers and young kids who put it on the line before we tried to restrict the peaceful right to assemble or the freedom of speech of this one—this one human and civil rights movement in the 216-year history of our country.

Only the pro-life movement is subjected to this bullying that used to go on in this Chamber and that I do believe came to a screeching halt November 8.

Back to Ben Stein's closing two paragraphs: "Somehow, I don't think that all of the cutting of the budget, reduction of taxes and building up of the military will wipe away the stain. The GOP has seemingly just used the most morally sensitive issue of the century as a ploy to get votes. When it looks as if the issue might lose an election, even if the pledges were unequivocal, the issue and the faithful get dumped. It's frighteningly cynical.

"But now we know. Get the votes and run. A bureaucrat is a Democrat who has a job that a Republican wants. That, apparently, is the bottom line."

Signature by Benjamin J. Stein, a writer and actor in Los Angeles, a teacher of law at Pepperdine University.

Well, I would hope that my party will show more courage and more principle than what Mr. Stein suspects here, Mr. Speaker. And after we have our first pro-life debate and our pro-life vote, after the largest number of Roman Catholics to ever serve in this body waive the scriptural admonition, what

does it profit a person to gain the whole world and lose their immortal soul, that some Roman Catholics who regularly vote for abortion here, that they will come home to their Christian faith and they will realize that they can be in the majority now. An easy call. That they can just give us a supermajority on stopping this unbelievable death toll of abortion in our fair, beautiful land, and that they will have a chance to reconcile themselves with their faith. That they no longer have to posture that they know more than Mother Teresa, more than the Pope in Rome, more than every bishop in this country—no matter how flaky they are on liberalism or how flaky they are on homosexuality—every bishop in this country and most protestant bishops, all Jewish rabbis of orthodox faith closest to the land of the book that we all call the holy land, that maybe there will be a reconciliation and a coming home before that first vote before people lock themselves into what is, to quote Ben, a screaming denial of decency and a denial of their faith. Let's see what happens in the 104th Congress.

Now, I have been joined by a friend of mine who can almost ask me anything. But I was now about to spend the rest of this hour on the Battle of the Bulge. This man has probably seen more combat, given the retirement rate, than anybody in this Chamber; has shot down five of the enemy's best MIG fighters and was shot down himself in the process and plucked out of the sea by rescue forces before the enemy had a chance to torture him. And this is the kind of guy I think they would have preferred to torture to death, rather than let him come home and run for Congress, DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

And my dear colleague, I see a note from you that you want to take from my ration on the Battle of the Bulge 5 minutes for what subject?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Children's Nutrition Program.

Mr. DORNAN. Children alive today who are alive because of those heroes at the Battle of the Bulge and the drive across the Rhine which started 50 years ago on the 7th of March, a few days ago.

I was also going to mention that this is day 20 of the 36 days of our Marine Corps taking their worst casualties ever, almost 6,800 others dying on the island of Iwo Jima. They had reached the north shore yesterday and they still had 16 vicious days to go.

I will tell you what I will do. Children's nutrition is so important, and you are an expert, let me set the scene for my words on the Battle of the Bulge by telling everybody what happened 50 years ago today, DUKE, and then I will give you those 5 minutes carved right out of the middle of what I hope is commanding the attention of people.

DUKE, what I said in the 1-minute, and I meant to say at the beginning of this, I am begging anybody listening to

the sound of my voice and to this distinguished Chamber and we have got—I can't identify them by name, but we have about, look at that, 250, make 300 young Americans, generation-X folks chasing the baby-boomers into what I hope will be a successful life for every one of them.

I am begging them, anybody listening, to call a friend, a friend that may be watching the O.J. Simpson trial—an athletic hero gone sour, but never was asked to lay his life on the line for his country, as you were and as I offered to do in peacetime as a combat-ready, trained fighter pilot.

Call a friend, tell them to take a break from the O.J. Simpson trial. Turn on C-SPAN and watch what you have to say on child nutrition and watch what I have to say about the heroes of Iwo Jima, the crossing of the Rhine, and the ones that I just didn't get an opportunity to talk about with our reorganization and rebirth of the American revolution here the last couple of months, what I learned in Europe in December last, this last Christmas week, about the Battle of the Bulge.

But let me set the scene and then I will yield to you, Mr. CUNNINGHAM. March 10, 1945, 50 years ago today—I am going to set the scene:

I have here the words of the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan. And this is why I am doing this. Ronald Reagan, in his goodbye speech as President of the United States, 8 wonderful years, 9 days before George Bush was sworn in as our 41st President, President Reagan on all three major networks and CNN said goodbye to his fellow countrymen.

It is a beautiful speech, truly beautiful. I have put it into the RECORD several times. But at the end of his speech, in the last few paragraphs, he asked us to reflect upon the importance of the history of our great and fair land.

He said, and these are his exact words: "We've got to teach history based not on what's in fashion, but on what's important—why the Pilgrims came here, who Jimmy Doolittle was, and what those 30 seconds over Tokyo meant. You know, 4 years ago, on the 40th anniversary of D-day," this is the 51st anniversary coming up, "I read a letter from a young woman writing to her late father, who'd fought on Omaha Beach. Her name was Lisa Zanatta Henn, and she said, 'We will always remember, we will never forget what the boys of Normandy did.'"

President Reagan goes on to talk about helping her keep her word and he closes his goodbye to the country this way. "Let me offer lesson number one about America: All great change in America begins at the dinner table. So, tomorrow night in the kitchen I hope the talking begins. And children, if your parents haven't been teaching you what it means to be an American, let 'em know and nail 'em on it. That would be a very American thing to do."

He goes on to talk about what he meant about "a shining city upon a hill," talks about the early Pilgrims, early freedom men, referring back to the stirring moments in his early speech where he recounted a favorite story of his of Vietnamese boat people seeking freedom, people we had betrayed and left behind in Vietnam to the cruel tortures and executions of their Communist masters from Hanoi, the conquerers who still rule there.

And this young Vietnamese boy, now an American citizen somewhere in the country, maybe listening to my voice right this afternoon, he yelled up at one of our rescue ships, "Hello," to this young sailor, "hello, freedom man."

So President Reagan is referring back to his beautiful freedom man story and he talks about what his vision of an American city on a hill is. And then he says about himself, "We've done our part. And as I walk off into the city streets, a final word to the men and women of the Reagan revolution, the men and women across America who for 8 years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference. We made the cities stronger, we made the city freer, and we left her in good hands. All in all, not bad, not bad at all."

"And so goodbye, God bless you and God bless the United States of America."

That was 9:02 p.m. from the Oval Office, January 11, 1989. Remember those words: Children, if your parents haven't been teaching you what it means to be an American, let 'em know. Nail 'em on it. That would be a very American thing to do at your kitchen table.

Now, set the scene. March 10, 50 years ago. The allies complete the Rhineland campaign, on the west side of Europe's greatest river, the Rhine. The American 1st Army, 3rd Army, 9th Army, and the Canadian 1st Army are lined up across a 140-mile stretch of the Rhine.

Within a few days from now, General Patton is across the Rhine. A few more days after that, at the end of March, General Alexander Patch is across the Rhine. But at this moment, 50 years ago, it was day 3 of the Remagen bridgehead crossing at the Ludendorf Bridge. A 2-month offensive leading up to this crossing of the Rhine had cost us 63,000 Allied casualties.

Bob Michel was here yesterday, our former minority leader, I said, Bob, 50 years ago today, March 9, where were you? He stopped and said, "In the hospital recovering from my wounds of a few weeks ago." And he said, "Back getting ready to go back into combat."

But the Germans, a Christian nation composed of basically Roman Catholics and Lutherans, how did they ever get these Lutheran and Catholic kids to run those concentration camps or to murder our prisoners at Malmedy, the sacred ground that I walked across last Christmas week?

The Germans have lost 250,000, including 150,000 very eager-to-surrender young POW's and older men of the Home Guard. American combat engineers have now completed two bridges across the Rhine next to the shaky Remagen Bridge, which was to fall in a few days killing 14 of our heroic engineers trying to hold on to the railroad bridge while we build the two-pontoon bridge alongside.

The 9th "Varsity" Division, the 78th "Lighting" Division, the 99th "Checkerboard" Division have all joined the 9th "Phantom" Armor Division to expand the 1st Army's east bank foothold across the Rhine in Germany proper.

The Germans are trying to corral the bridgehead with 12 divisions—we are still badly outnumbered—including two of the infamous Panzer divisions. Hitler has named Kesseling, a professional field marshal, to replace Gerd von Rundstedt who he fired 3 days ago once we got across the river.

I already mentioned what was happening in Iwo Jima. General McArthur with the United States Army in the southern Philippines has the 41st "Sunset" Division establishing a beachhead on Mindanao's Zamboanga Peninsula; 150,000 Filipinos were slaughtered. Manila is just rubble and the Japanese commander, Hama, will be executed after the war because this slaughter took place under him.

That is setting the scene for me to go back to the veterans of the Rhineland campaign and those that crossed the Rhine that earned their place in American history in terrible snowstorms 50 years ago last December and this January at the Battle of the Bulge, which I will do after my friend DUKE CUNNINGHAM, brings us up to to date and informs us what is truly taking place about children's nutrition.

It is all yours, Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I really appreciate my friend from California, BOB DORNAN, yielding the time. I tried to make it over for the 5 minutes and he has been gracious enough to extend me the privilege to interrupt his special order.

And I first would like to say it is always good to be back with Tiger Flight. As always BOB DORNAN has more knowledge on military history than the Smithsonian Museum has. And if you notice, he does not do it from paperwork; he does it from memory. And, BOB, I would like to especially thank you.

You know, I do not know how to counter untruths that are spoken on this House floor, and I think one of the most frustrating thing for Members is to hear the daily rhetoric that goes on on this House floor that are untruths, that are not the truth. And I think who we hurt the most and how many Members on the other side hurt the most are our pages and our youngsters and the people that watch.

I listened and talked to some of the Democratic pages and also to the Republican pages and some of them came back to me and said, Congressman CUNNINGHAM, we know that they are saying children's nutrition, cutting children's nutrition programs is not right. We are Democrats but we were brought up not to tell untruths. And I do not know why our side of the aisle is doing it, but what can you do to show them the actual facts and that is why I have come today.

I am the chairman of the subcommittee that went over and looked at children's nutrition programs. I met with the Speaker, with the Republican Governors, and they said there are 366 welfare programs in existence. All 366 of those welfare programs have personnel, they have facilities, they have paperwork requirements. They have reporting data that school teachers and principals and superintendents have to deal with every day, a stack this high.

And they all intertwine and they cover different folks. But yet we have many people applying for various ones of the 366 and we cannot track who they are. The system has gone amuck. And just take a look at our welfare system today.

It is a disaster and it needs to be fixed. And this is a choice of allowing our children in the future to maintain in their lifetime and have a debt ceiling on their lives of \$180,000 that they would pay in taxes just for the interest on the debt.

Now, the question is, are we doing that on the backs of the children? Are we taking food out of children's mouths? The answer is, of course not.

In the program what I did is took a look, and under H.R. 4, the plan was to take all of the block grants and put them in the welfare block grant. After consultations with my own school districts in San Diego, consultation with different groups that came in and talked to me in the food services, I determined, as well as Chairman GOODLING, that if we did that we would actually hurt children's nutrition programs. So being the chairman of the committee, I personally removed the child breakfast and the child lunch programs from the overall welfare block grant. I separated them.

There is another program that works very, very well to help, and you can tie an economic model on both of these programs. And that is the Women, Infants, and Children's Program, called WIC. They work very well. And in this body, both Republicans and Democrats, on a bipartisan basis, have supported both the school-based and the family-based program of WIC. And if we would have put them into that block grant, it would have damaged both of them.

I hear time after time after time again from the other side of the aisle that we are cutting those programs. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to that very issue. Because instead of cutting the program, I pro-

tested them. I separated them in a block grant instead of cutting them.

There were many people that came back to this Congress, especially our freshmen, and said, We came back to cut, we want to cut down and we want to work on the deficit, and we want to cut the program. And they wanted not to go to zero growth, but to actually cut into it by 5 percent.

I went to Chairman GOODLING, and I said, Mr. Chairman, if that feeling prevails, I will resign my chairmanship of early childhood education. Because if we do that, again, we will damage children's nutrition programs. It meant that much to protect programs that work.

Are we cutting? Take a look at the WIC Program itself. This is what we, Mr. Speaker, in 1995, this year, we spent \$3.47 billion on the Women, Infants, and Children's Program. In the year 2000, we spend \$4.246 billion. And if you look at next year, from \$3.4 we go to \$3.7 billion. That is the Women, Infants, and Children's Program.

If you take a look at the school-based program, this year we spent \$4.5 billion on our children and our School Lunch Programs. Next year, we spend \$4.7 billion. And every year we increase it by more than \$200 million a year. Instead of cutting it, I arranged to add dollars in that every single year and protect those programs.

□ 1400

What about the protection of them? Each State is different. What Tommy Thomson's requirements are in Wisconsin may be different from what Governor Wilson's requirements are in California or Christy Whitman's requirements are in New Jersey. So we gave the Governors the remaining 20 percent.

I mandated that 80 percent of the money in this block grant goes to WIC. That 80 percent is represented in this figure. It is more than we currently spend every year in WIC.

In the lunch program, I mandated that 80 percent of the funds go to those children that need it most, those below 185 percent poverty level, the kids that cannot get a school meal because their parents or their economic situation would keep that child from eating. That child, if they don't eat, they are not going to learn, and those are the children we found are going to end up on the economy on welfare or in low-paying jobs. So there is an economic model to it.

Now, in that 80 percent, there is 20 percent left over. It doesn't take a mathematical genius to figure that out. The Governor in each of those States has the authority to take that remaining 20 percent and if, in their State, they need it because of maybe a recession, whatever it is, and put more money into the School Breakfast and School Lunch Program, they can. If they need it to go in the WIC, in that separate block grant, they can take the 20 percent out that have block grant and include it there.

I yield back.

Mr. DORNAN. This is just the way you described it, trying to set the record straight. Tonight there is a dinner, a Lincoln dinner in the county of Washington in Arkansas, and they asked me to tape an introduction to the dinner for them because they knew I couldn't get down there by tonight because of votes today.

And I went to Arkansas 2 weeks ago, great American State, 24 Medal of Honor winners and hardly the image that comedians have given it since the current President was elected. But they had asked me to address one of four issues. One was the balanced budget, one was illegal immigration. And they said, please help us to tell fellow Republicans or conservative Democrats that the Republican Party is—and here is the quote—DUKE, not taking milk from the mouths of infants, not waging war upon poor young American children, and that is what you are setting the record straight on here.

So let me give you another couple of minutes and then I would love to join you in a special order next week to continue to set this record straight. The flamingest liberals in the dominant media culture are running wild with this theme. That it is being picked up in far-left Hollywood and all their comedian front men, that we are literally trying to hurt women and children, women, infants and children of the WIC Programs and others.

So take another couple minutes, please.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. We are finally getting through to the press. Here is the Washington Post, the Washington Times, the Union. I talked to seven of the superintendents in most liberal schools in California, that is Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, and they favored the block grant.

What they would like us to do even is to take the money and not even go through the State but get it down to the local LEA, or the local school district, so they are in favor of this. It takes out that middle bureaucracy.

What we did cut in all of those thousands of reports, we cut those out from the Federal Government, the personnel, the systems that have to operate it, to take away the dollars that we are actually trying to give. So we not only add dollars, we make it more cost effective so that there is more money. They don't have to spend it on those administration fees, on the extra people they have to hire to take care of their reports. They don't have to go through the reports and send them back here to Washington, DC.

We happen to believe that Government works best closest to the people. What about the nutrition standards? Well, DUKE, you are going to individual States. In the language—I had the language that protected the nutrition standards. Mr. GUNDERSON and Mrs. ROUKEMA said, Well, DUKE, we still

don't feel that it is strong enough. It said that the latest science would prevail on nutrition standards.

In a bipartisan, Republican and Democrat, we passed two amendments to protect the nutritional standards for the States. And the point is, are we cutting children's nutrition programs? Absolutely not. We are adding dollars every single year. And what the Democrats are doing, politically motivated, in our old budget cycle, if the Democrats, when they were in the majority, projected that we would have a million dollars in the future for a program, but when it came time around for the budget, they would say, Well, we are going to cut \$500,000 from that. We will reduce the rate of that growth by \$500,000. They would come back and tell you that they cut the budget in half, by 50 percent.

Did they? No. They increased it by \$500 million, and that is what we are doing. GAO projected that they would extend—

Mr. DORNAN. That is baseline budgeting.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. At the end of 5 years, the rate would go up to 5.2 percent. This is at the end of 5 years. We are not even at that yet.

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. I will finish.

Mr. DORNAN. Then I want to ask you one question and then back to the Bulge 50 years ago. Go ahead.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. That we are not even out here in 5 years at the year 2001. We are here now. This 4.5 percent is more than they even projected for the growth this year and I have added more money than even the GAO baseline, and the political rhetoric, it is an attempt to make us look like we are taking the food out of children's mouths, and we are not, Mr. Speaker. We are increasing it. We are making it cheaper.

We are giving the States the flexibility and at the same time we are going to make it where people that can—my children don't need money to go to school. I should have to pay for my child. I am not at a low poverty level, and neither should other people that cannot afford it. And that way we can bring down over a gradual period of time and balance the budget.

Thank you, and I thank my friend.

Mr. DORNAN. Let me take you back to your youth to show people that you can handle figures accurately.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. That was a long time ago.

Mr. DORNAN. That is all right. You were a swimming coach before you were a Navy fighter pilot.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Swimming and football coach at Hinsdale High School.

Mr. DORNAN. There are a lot of aces in our society. There are ace pool players, there are ace marble players in the school yard, wide receiver aces that get five touchdowns in a game, but there is only one act that puts his life on the line, and that is a fighter ace, and that

is what you are. Well, I guess tank aces too out there in the sand.

Let me show people—I will give you a chance to shine a little bit here because I love talking with my hands with you. What is the turn rate of a Faggot, a MiG-15?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. It turns at about 19 degrees a second.

Mr. DORNAN. How about a Fresco, MiG-17?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Turns at about 20 degrees a second. A Phantom turns at about 11 degrees a second.

Mr. DORNAN. That is why our big Phantom that you were flying, what was your back-seater's name? Driscoll?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Willie Driscoll and we were both Irish.

Mr. DORNAN. Happy St. Patrick's Day. Where is he today?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Willie sells real estate for Coldwell Banker and that is not a 1-800 number.

Mr. DORNAN. May his sales increase if we can balance the budget around here. So with that big Phantom turning what? What is his turn ratio?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. About 11, 11½ degrees a second at 420 knots.

Mr. DORNAN. What is a MiG-17 doing?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Twenty degrees a second.

Mr. DORNAN. So you can get inside that much smaller fighter?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. No. If I get behind him and he turns at 19 to 20 degrees a second and I turn at 11, he is going to come around and shoot me.

Mr. DORNAN. So he is turning more degrees than you are and a MiG-21 is what?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. A MiG-21, depending on the speed, but at his best turn rate turns in excess of 20 degrees a second.

Mr. DORNAN. So that is more of a fair fight. You have got a couple of those.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. He also has more power to go vertical.

Mr. DORNAN. The reason I brought this out is to show that my friend, DUKE CUNNINGHAM of San Diego, can handle and master figures, and you taught this as the squadron CO of the aggressor squadron down there at fighter town USA, Miramar. This is not rocket science or shooting down MiG's for you to master these nutrition programs. What is the new name of the education and labor committee?

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Early Childhood, Youth and Families.

Mr. DORNAN. Early Childhood, Youth and Families.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM, I am glad you are on that committee. I am glad you are doing this work. Let's keep telling the truth here and I want to master these figures and not just be the self-appointed House historian around here. Thanks, DUKE.

And speaking of history, Mr. Speaker, sometimes when you speak in grand terms about the sweep of battle in a war as cataclysmic or as massive in

numbers of participants as World War II, you lose the viewpoint of a foxhole, the mud, one on one, combat situations.

Here is a book that I came across. I belong to the Military Book Club, along with the History Book Club and lots of other political book clubs, and I got a little book in the mail a couple of weeks before I left for Europe on an Army aircraft with the Secretary of the Army, Togo West, and sitting next to me, Harry Canard, as a 29-year-old full Eagle, full bird colonel, who was G3 operations for General McAuliffe, trapped inside Bastogne, completely surrounded by the best of German Panzer units, demanding that they surrender, and of course McAuliffe turned to his G3 in the headquarters as they read the German surrender demand and McAuliffe says, Well, this is nuts, nuts to them. What should I do, Harry?

General Canard, by the way, took the 1st Cavalry to Vietnam in 1965. Quite a man, and young 28-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Lynn still made bull in April a couple weeks before his birthday.

Lt. Col. Harry Canard said, Nuts is good enough, just tell them nuts, and that is what their young officers carried to the German side to this spit-and-polish Panzer commander, and the German reads the notes. I remember Harry saying it to me in German. Pardon my German if you speak the language, but he said something like, "Neutz, Was ist das?" "Negativ-affirmativ," and the young captain said, "It means hell no; hell no, we won't surrender."

That was probably still fresh in my mind why I used those words in the well January 25 while analyzing what aid and comfort to a hostile force that we are engaged in combat, what truly constitutes when you are in foreign countries. So "Hell no, hell no, we won't surrender" was embodied in the word "nuts."

Well, here is a small book, very quick and easy read by a young private, as he puts it, a private comes of age, the title of the book is, "Inside the Battle of the Bulge," published in 1994 by Roscoe C. Blunt, Jr. And in the foreword, in dedicating it to his sons, he explains that the first version of my book was called, "A War Remembered." He made it more specific with "Inside the Battle of the Bulge" and published it last year to take advantage of the 50th anniversary.

He says, It was written for my sons, Roscoe C. Blunt III, to Randy A. Blunt and to Richard D. Blunt. My purpose was to offer them—oh, I see, Richard is probably his brother. He said, My purpose was to offer them an insight into a time in my life that was quite remote from the man they know.

Many fathers, as mine almost did, take to the grave the stories of their youth when they were called upon to offer their very life or their limbs or suffer unbelievably serious wounds as BOB DOLE, the leader of the Republicans in the Senate, majority leader in

the Senate, suffered just 16 days before Hitler committed suicide at the end of the war. Senator DOLE is approaching the 50th anniversary of his horrible wounds that kept him literally imprisoned in a hospital in Kansas for 3½ years. The full length of the war itself is what BOB had to add to his Army service. A young 21-year-old lieutenant when a German artillery shell brought him to the very edge of death's door.

This is the story also of the 84th Infantry Division. The ax chopping at a piece of wood, one of the divisions that was formed in 1942, building our Nation up to roll back Nazism, fascism, Mussolini, Hitler and the warlords of Tojo.

So, please, to young people, if you want just one man's view of these cataclysmic events across Europe, Roscoe Blunt's book, "Inside the Battle of the Bulge," is as good as it gets and it is very short. You can read it in a night or two.

I wanted to put in the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, a brief analysis of why Adolf Hitler, Chancellor and Furor of Germany, leader of Germany, why in September 1944 he organized with great secrecy our intelligence, did not break the secret of his massive offensive across the first few acres of Germany, territory that we held on the West or allied side of the Rhine River 50 years ago last December.

It said, Hitler's offensive, General Field Marshall Toeffel wrote after the war, Hitler's offensive was because he, Hitler, was convinced that the Allied coalition was on the verge of breaking up. He was into the gossip of the tension between Montgomery and Gen. George Patton, but he did not take into account the major skills as a conciliator of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, a man who had only been a lieutenant colonel at the Louisiana war games in 1940. We did find the right man in the right place at the right time to hold together all of these egos, in the best sense of the word, of his combatant officers, British, Canadian, and United States.

But the Bulge was mainly a United States battle, the British only had—"only" is a sad word to use—200 killed in action, that is 50 more than we lost in the whole gulf war and double what our Allies lost in the gulf war. Two hundred is painful, but compared to our thousands, 11,000 killed in action and twice that missing in action, it was an American conflict.

The nightmare in their Ardennes, Mr. Speaker, what we call the Bulge, began on a snowy afternoon 2 days before the combat when a Sgt. Ralph Neppel, to focus in on one man, and the rest of his machine gun squad, December 14, 1944, set up a defensive perimeter at the end of the main street of Birgel, and that was German soil this side of the Rhine, a hamlet on the edge of the Herkin Forest, which is where Bob Michel, our former leader was wounded and where one of our now deceased great leaders on the other side, Mr. Nichols of Alabama had lost a leg in the Herkin For-

est trying to retrieve a wounded man from a mine field, he also stepped on a mine leaving his leg in Europe. Before that time, Neppel's company had advanced steadily from that day it landed at Normandy on D-day plus 13.

The combat through the hedge rows and into Germany had been fierce, but nothing had prepared Sgt. Ralph Neppel for what he was to endure that evening at Birgel. Near dusk, the machine gun crew was astonished to hear the rumble of tanks entering the town. Neppel later reasoned that he and his men had not seen them earlier because they were camouflaged for winter. The sound of the grinding machinery, the terrifying sound for ground forces, came closer until a number of tanks emerged from the narrow side streets and turned toward the squad's position. German infantry followed the lead tank using it as a shield.

Neppel held his fire until the Germans had advanced to within 100 yards, then released a burst that killed several of the foot soldiers. The first tank lumbered forward within 30 yards of Neppel, then fired one cannon shot and blasted the Americans and sent the machine gun flying. Neppel was thrown 10 yards from the gun, his legs wounded horribly. In shock, he looked down to see that his foot had been blown off. He realized the other men were either dead or about to die, so he crawled on his elbows back to the gun and tried to set it up himself.

When he found the tripod had been knocked loose, he cradled the gun in the crook of his arm and fired until he was too weak to lift it any further. He killed the remaining infantrymen around the lead German tank.

Without infantry cover, the Panzer tank was left vulnerable to attack from bazookas or other American foot soldiers with phosphorous grenades so the tanks stopped. Neppel remembered the furious commander emerging from his tank and like a vision from a nightmare, advancing on the sergeant with a Luger held in his hand. The officer fired, hitting Neppel in the helmet and left him for dead. The helmet apparently diverted the course of the bullet. Neppel's skull was creased but he was alive and conscious.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, no foot, the rest of his leg shredded. When he again heard the rumbling of tanks, he was gripped by the awful thought that they were moving forward and would soon crush him under their tank treads. Instead, they withdrew.

Neppel was rescued by American troops as they took Birgel. He was to spend 6 months regaining his strength in a hospital. He had single-handedly turned back a Nazi armored attack but had lost both of his legs in the effort.

When he heard he was to receive the Medal of Honor, his reaction was to feel humble. This quotes him, "to feel humble." You see so many die, then in the hospital, you see triple amputees, guys who have lost their eyesight. You feel there are so many more deserving

that you shouldn't be taking the glory as an individual. This was one of many recipients of the Medal of Honor and one of those who came home with terrible wounds, as I repeat, Senator BOB DOLE did.

Here is a picture of Neppel posing with a French rifle prior to his individual battle with a German Tiger on Panther tank. It doesn't identify the tank.

Here is another individual case. Pfc. Melvin "Bud" Biddle and the rest of his unit were in Reims, France, waiting to go home when the Germans launched their attack. Veterans of campaigns in Italy and southern France, they had turned in their equipment and were passing the time listening to Axis Sally, an English-speaking Nazi radio propagandist who played the latest hits from America while spouting lies in an attempt to demoralize the Allies. The troops were amused and then influenced by her show.

That night she announced, men of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, you think you are going home, but you are not. This time, her information was deadly correct. The men of the 517th were issued new equipment, so new, in fact, that their rifles were still packed in Cosmoline grease, which the men had to clean off before they boarded their trucks and were driven to a crossroads in an area near the most advanced point of the German thrust into Belgium. This is during the later rescue operation of Patton's Third Army.

The men were to face again the elite troops of the German Army, Panzer divisions, paratroopers, and the dreaded SS soldiers. The mission of the 517th was to clear the Germans out of 3 miles of territory between the towns of Soy and Hotton. Biddle was the lead scout for the 517th. I may have mixed up the 101st with the 82d Airborne, here, Mr. Speaker, and I won't have time to correct it. A job he had inherited with other scouts who were wounded or killed during the Italian campaign.

One of his qualifications was his superb vision. He later picked up the nickname, Hawkeye, this GI from Indiana. I saw every German out in front before they saw me, which was a large part of keeping me alive. He was keenly aware of the responsibility he held as the lead scout and said later it helped him forget his fear.

I think I got so I would rather die than be a coward. I was terrified most of the time. But there were two or three times when I had no fear, no fear. That is why I love to wear it on my ball cap, Team Dornan, no fear, and it is remarkable. It makes you so you can operate in the lead.

One of those times came on the 7th day of the Battle of the Bulge, the 23d of December. Biddle was ahead of his company as he crawled through the thick underbrush toward railroad tracks leading out of Hotton.

I would recommend to these young people in the gallery, get a map. Keep

the map next to the books and the stories as you read this and track what these 18-, 19-, 20- and 21-year-old heroes, 21- and 22-year-old platoon leaders, 20-, 21-year-old sergeants, platoon sergeants leading three squads of young men and some 10 years older than they.

Unseen by the Germans, he crawled to within 10 feet of three sentries. Firing with his M1 rifle, he wounded one man in the shoulder, killed a second with two shots near the heart. The third sentry fled but not before Biddle shot him twice.

I should have got him. He kept running and got to their machine guns and then all hell broke loose. Under heavy fire, Biddle stayed on point as his unit crawled to within range through lobbed grenades and destroyed all but one of the guns. With his last grenade, Biddle blew up the remaining machinegun, then he charged the surviving gunners, killing them all.

That night the Americans heard a large number of tracked vehicles which Biddle hoped would be American. I have never heard so many Germans. They didn't have equipment like we had, not in our numbers.

Biddle volunteered to lead two others in a scouting foray to make contact with these vehicles, what he thought were Americans. In the darkness, the three men came upon a German officer who fired at them. Separated from the others, Biddle crawled toward the German lines by mistake, realizing his error, he continued to reconnoiter by himself, alone, and carried back valuable information for use in the next day's attack.

Mr. Speaker, the next morning he spotted a group of Germans dug in along a ridge. He ducked behind a small bank for cover. He found he could not properly maneuver in order to shoot. In basic training he had learned to shoot from a sitting position, his favorite, but at the time he had thought there would be no way to use that in combat.

Now moving to a sitting stance, he shot 14 men. He hit each one in the head, imagining that the helmets were the same as the targets he had aimed at in training. Although others in his unit later would view the bodies, Biddle could not bring himself to look at the carnage he had wrought. His sharp shooting, however, made it possible for his unit to secure the village.

The next day, a German 88, same artillery that hit Senator DOLE, exploded a shell in a building behind him as he was returning to his unit from a hospital in London. Another soldier asked if he had heard about the guy in the Bulge that shot all those people. My God, between Soy and Hotton, it was littered with Germans. I think they are going to put the guy in for the Medal of Honor. He is another one of our surviving Medal of Honor winners from the Bulge battle. Most paid for it with their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this for the RECORD. I would like to

submit an article on the 80,987 men who were casualties, again, 10,276 killed, 23,218 missing. And I would like to put in an article on what was happening this month 50 years ago, the rout in the Rhineland and also another article from the VFW magazine this month sweeping the southern Philippines where our young men, who may be not so young today, watching will know that I have not forgotten the Pacific.

And I close on the words of a youngster plus 50 that I met on the scene in the Bulge. I said, "What division were you in, corporal?" And he said he was wearing a jacket from his old uniform. He said 106th Division, two of our regiments surrendered; the largest American battle surrender in the history of our Nation.

And he said these sentences to me: "We were all college kids. We were too young. We didn't make out very well. It was all a waste." And I said, "Wait a minute. Did you regroup? Were you captured?" "No." "Were you retrained? Did you go on to fight in Germany and bring about the collapse of Hitler on D-Day, March 8th Harry Truman's birthday." "Yes, Congressman, I did." And I said, "Corporal, It was worth it. Your units weren't a failure. You took the brunt, as unbloodied, unseasoned troops that were put on what they thought was a quiet front-line area and no matter what your casualties nor how your regimental commander surrendered you to save lives since you were out of ammunition, you were part of what Eisenhower called 'The Great Crusade.'"

At some point I am going to do a special order on our young prisoners who were killed not at night, as it is shown in movies, not machinegunned from the back of trucks where they dropped the tail end of the truck, but the way it happened for real, in the middle of the afternoon, in an open field, at this Baugeuz crossroads and that sacred ground where so many of our prisoners were machinegunned by SS order telling young men to kill other men their age.

That Malmédy massacre deserves a half-hour of its own and I will try and do that, Mr. Speaker, and then move on to Okinawa next month. These heroes gave us our freedom. The Nation was only about 135 million at Pearl Harbor. We are now closing in on 270 million, twice as many people, as we called upon to mount this great effort for victory and freedom in World War II.

Reagan used to like to say, "We are Americans, we can do anything." Is there any reason we can't balance the budget here and recapture the American spirit and leave a better country to our grandchildren? Of course we can do it and nobody is asking us to die or have our young bodies torn apart in the process.

I yield back a few seconds, look forward to hearing my colleague from Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from California has expired.

ROUT IN THE RHINELAND

(By Ken Hechler)

In a Belgian orchard 10 miles from the German border at daybreak on Sept. 10, 1944, a barrage from U.S. 155mm guns thundered into the German frontier town of Bildchen. The church steeple collapsed in a shower of mortar dust and bricks. Defenders now realized that although they were being pulverized from afar, GIs were knocking at the gates of their homeland.

Within five days, U.S. forces were assaulting the "West Wall" or Siegfried Line, officially launching the Rhineland Campaign.

GIs joked about the much-vaunted Siegfried Line with its pillboxes and "dragon's teeth" tank obstacles: "All we have to do is to send a couple of dentists to yank out the dragon teeth and we'll tie knots in the Siegfried Line!" The boast came back to haunt its author, as some of the fiercest fighting of the war came as the Americans spent from Oct. 2-21 capturing the first sizable German city: Aachen.

The day after the Long Tom artillery shell toppled the Bildchen steeple, Staff Sgt. Warner W. Holzinger of the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron had the honor of leading the first patrol across the German border.

But it soon became apparent that the Germans fully intended to use the pyramid-shaped concrete obstacles, plus their string of reinforced pillboxes, to exact a severe toll on the attackers.

"JEWEL CITY": AACHEN

Aachen opened the way to the Rhineland and the Cologne plain. To the German garrison—12,000 strong—defending Aachen, Heinrich Himmler sent this message: "German soldiers! Heroes of Aachen! Our Fuehrer calls upon you to defend to the last bullet, the last gasp of breath, Aachen, this jewel city of German kultur, this shrine where German emperors and kings have been enthroned!"

Combat engineers, with bangalore torpedoes and TNT, blasted a path through the West Wall fortifications.

1st Lt. Frank Kolb of the 1st Div. led the first platoon to launch the attack toward Aachen. It was rough going. In a five-day period, the 1st Bn., 16th Inf. Regt. lost 300 men out of its 1,300-man strength. Supported by the 3rd Armored Div. and the 30th Inf. Div. farther north, the "Big Red One" found it slow slogging as the rains churned up the mud and kept the bombers out of the sky.

German SS troops strengthened the enemy lines. Future Medal of Honor recipient T/Sgt. Jake Lindsey remarked: "Either those Krauts were crazy or else they were the bravest soldiers in the world." House-to-house fighting within Aachen produced murderously high casualties on both sides. (The 30th Inf. Div. lost 3,100 men; the 1st Inf. Div. suffered an equal number of casualties.)

The 248th Engineer Combat Bn. created a humorous diversion by loading up several streetcars on a downgrade into Aachen with time-fused shells and other explosives; swarms of news correspondents covered the bizarre exploit, which actually caused little damage.

Finally, after Aachen was surrounded and his own headquarters were under small arms fire, the German commander surrendered when his ammunition ran out.

"The city is as dead as a Roman ruin," wrote an American observer. "But unlike a ruin it has none of the grace of gradual

decay * * * Burst sewers, broken gas mains and dead animals have raised an almost overpowering smell in many parts of the city." Hitler's prophecy had been realized: "Give me five years and you will not recognize Germany again," he had said.

ANCIENT METZ FALLS

Some 113 miles to the south, on the French border, "Blood and Guts" Gen. George S. Patton had led his Third Army on a 450-mile run from Avranches at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula to the gates of the fortress city of Metz, where he met the forbidding fortifications of Fort Driant.

The fort had concrete walls seven feet thick, connected by underground tunnels with a central fortress. The defenders had emplaced huge quantities of barbed wire to add to the problems facing attackers. The German garrison of 10,000 had ample supplies of food and water. Other forts in the Metz area were similarly equipped.

In the early days of November, the 5th, 90th and 95th Infantry and 10th Armored divisions of XX Corps were slowed by the heavy rains which plagued the entire theater. Hitler took a very personal interest in the defense of Metz, reiterating his order that it must be held "to the last man." The new garrison commander, Heinrich Kittel, pledged to carry out that order.

There were many individual feats of heroism as U.S. forces slowly closed the jaws of the trap around Metz between Nov. 18-22. Pfc. Elmer A. Eggert of L Co., 379th Inf. Regt., 95th Div., advanced alone against a machine gun, killing five of the enemy and capturing four, earning a Distinguished Service Cross. After his tank received a direct hit, Cpl. C.J. Smith of the 778th Tank Bn. dismounted the .30-caliber machine gun and fought on alone until help arrived; he was also awarded a DSC.

Despite Hitler's own order, he allowed an SS regiment—which he planned to use in the Ardennes offensive—to slip out of Metz in the last stages of the U.S. offensive. Gen. Kittel finally surrendered Metz on Nov. 21, although several of the forts, including Driant, held out well into December before giving up.

The 5th Div.'s November losses were 172 KIA, 1,005 WIA and 143 MIA. The 95th Div. estimated 281 KIA, 1,503 WIA and 405 MIA. Records of casualties of other units involved in the Metz operation are incomplete. Hugh M. Cole, official Army historian of the Metz operation, concluded that the capture of Metz was "skillfully planned and marked by thorough execution," and "may long remain an outstanding example of a prepared battle for the reduction of a fortified position."

The U.S. First and Ninth Armies had launched Operation Queen in mid-November, with the Ninth clearing the west bank of the Roer River from Brachelen to Altdorf by early December. (See the November issue for the Battle of Huertgen Forest.) Queen witnessed, incidentally, the largest air-ground cooperative effort to date in the ETO.

Offensive operations were resumed Jan. 17, 1945. Operation Grenade achieved the Allied assault crossings over the Roer River, followed by a northeastward drive by the U.S. Ninth Army's link up with the First Canadian Army along the Rhine. The Ninth Army (its dash to the Rhine was dubbed Operation Flashpoint) comprised four corps with 13 divisions. In reaching the Rhine, the Ninth Army captured 30,000 German soldiers and killed 6,000, at the cost of 7,300 U.S. casualties.

A sequel to Grenade—Operation Lumberjack—was a converging thrust made by the U.S. First and Third Armies to trap the Germans in the Eifel Mountains during the first

week of March. GIs were now poised to "bounce" the Rhine.

REMAGEN: AN "OPEN WOUND"

On the afternoon of March 7, 1945, 34-year-old Sgt. Alex Drabik from Toledo, Ohio, bobbed and weaved his squad across a Rhine River railroad bridge (Ludendorff) at the little town of Remagen, Germany. His company commander, Lt. Karl Timmermann, from A Co., 27th Armored Inf. Bn., 9th Armored Div., who had ordered the crossing, followed close behind. Drabik, Timmermann and a handful of infantrymen, engineers and tankers, performed one of the most incredible feats in the annals of military history.

The Rhine River had not been crossed by an invading army since Napoleon's time over a century earlier. Hitler had ordered all the bridges up and down the Rhine to be blown up as the Americans approached. The last bridge, between Cologne and Koblenz, was still standing to enable German tanks and artillery to retreat safely. Just as Lt. Timmermann gave the order for Drabik's squad to cross, tremendous explosions shook the bridge and seemed to lift it from its foundations. The structure shuddered, but miraculously remained standing.

At this point, Lt. Hugh Mott and two brave armored engineers, Eugene Dorland and John Reynolds, dashed out on the bridge and feverishly cut wires to the remaining explosive charges. The Germans blew a 30-foot crater in the approach to the bridge to prevent tanks from crossing. Sgt. Clemon Knapp of Rupert, W.Va., and a crew, manned a "tank dozer"—a Sherman tank with a bulldozer blade—and filled in the crater. Knapp and his crew received Silver Stars for their actions.

The night of March 7 was one of the darkest of the war. Yet Lt. Windsor Miller gently guided his 35-ton Sherman tanks across the shaky bridge, dodging some gaping holes as he maneuvered between white tapes strung by the engineers. Across the Rhine, Miller's tank platoon beat off several German counter-attacks as they helped the armored infantry hang on to their tenuous toehold.

When the bridge was captured, the first troops proudly attached a sign reading: Cross the Rhine with dry feet—Courttesy 9th Arm'd Div.

The 9th, 78th and 99th Infantry divisions rushed to the scene to reinforce the bridgehead. Military police, tank-destroyer and anti-aircraft units were awarded Presidential Unit Citations for their heroism under fire.

Hitler threw in jet planes, underwater swimmers, giant V-2 rockets and massive reinforcements in trying to destroy the bridge. The bridge itself was so severely damaged that it collapsed without warning on March 17, taking the lives of 28 repairmen and injuring 93. But not before a pontoon and trestle bridge had been built under fire on either side of the permanent bridge.

WEST BANK CLEANSED

By mid-March, mopping up operations west of the Rhine were completed by the U.S. VIII Corps. Within a few days, Operation Undertone was under way by the U.S. Seventh Army to clear the Saar-Palatinate triangle.

On March 22, 1945, the 90th Inf. Div. cleared Mainz while other GIs achieved a surprise late night crossing of the Rhine at Oppenheim, south of Mainz. By then, the U.S. First Army held a bridgehead across the river 20 miles wide and eight miles deep; six divisions were east of the Rhine. The stage was set for the final drive into Germany's heartland.

□ 1430

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 24 AND HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 24 and House Concurrent Resolution 5.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California [Mr. DORNAN] for his eloquent testimony about the importance of the Battle of the Bulge in U.S. history, and the importance of our service men and women who have given us the opportunity to serve here in Congress and to try to make a difference in each person's life.

Mr. Speaker, it occurs to me that the media's coverage of the new Speaker of the House is further proof that elitists in the Washington press corps still do not get it. They fail to understand that the Republicans' sweep in November was not about the personalities of power inside the beltway that accompanied the democratically controlled Congress for so many years. The election was not about power in Washington at all. It was about ideas, about helping people.

Speaker NEWT GINGRICH is an excellent articulator of the conservative tenets of individual freedom and decentralized government, as well outlined by Jay Heslick in the Southeast Missourian.

Just this past week we have been discussing how we can work with our families, our neighborhoods, and our schools. The fact is we are growing school meals. Hungry children cannot learn. We are growing kids, not government. We are growing school meals 4.5 percent a year. Under our plan, in 5 years we will be spending \$1 billion more on school meals than we are today.

For kids under school age, we are growing the WIC program, for lower-income women, infants, and children. A country that is broke certainly cannot feed a hungry child. The Clinton budget piles \$1 trillion in new debt on our kids, which they will have to repay with interest. Unless we turn this around, a child born today will pay \$180,000 in Federal debt during his or her lifetime. That is not for a house, a car, or a college education. That is interest on the Federal debt, and the Clinton budget is growing.