going to be cut off the rolls in Maryland.

SCHOOL-BASED NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to participate in this evening's special orders, but I was sitting in my office answering mail and became a little vexed about the discussion and decided I needed to come over and maybe engage someone on that side in some discussion, on the same subject of child nutrition programs.

I am a member of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities that worked very carefully to try to craft this bill, particularly as it relates to the school-based nutrition programs.

It angers me to hear over and over again the use of the term ''cut'' for these programs. It is not fair. It is not accurate. And if we want to elevate this argument to a place maybe we could find some agreement, we have to start agreeing on what is indisputable.

What is indisputable is that we are not proposing a cut of one penny in the school lunch program, not a penny. In fact, we are proposing an increase that far exceeds, frankly, what your side of the aisle did when you had all of the tools available to you to set the budget.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. GREENWOOD. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. GREENWOOD, like you, I was waiting for my turn, and I also serve on the committee with you. And let us talk about that ''not cut'' a minute because we served on that committee, and we tried to take away, and there was an amendment in committee to eliminate the block granting of the school nutrition.

And it was generally a party line vote, as I recall, to take away the school lunch in this process and say, okay, let us do welfare reform without touching school lunches. And it was defeated on a party line. So the Republican majority in our committee said school lunch is a part of the welfare reform bill.

You say you have an increase, but let me talk about and ask you about if this is correct.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Let me reclaim my time for a moment to state my case, and then I will be happy to engage you in further discussion.

Last year when the Democrats controlled the House and the Senate and the White House, what you did in your budget was increase the school lunch program by 3.1 percent. We are proposing 4.5 percent for 5 years, which is about 50 percent better for the kids that we are doing in our proposal than you ever did.

The President in this year's budget proposal, the President of the United States, the one who went to visit the school children in Maryland for lunch, he proposed a 3.6 percent increase this year. And we proposed 4.5 percent.

Now I want to know who has the gall to call the difference between the President's 3.6 percent and our 4.5 percent a cut.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. If you would yield again to me.

Mr. GREENWOOD. I would yield if you would respond to my question.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. The difference between the President is 3.1.

I will give you an example. In the State of Texas, we are actually growing 8 percent instead of 4.5.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Reclaiming my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. I will let you reclaim your time since Mr. HOKE wouldn't let some Members reclaim their time.

Mr. GREENWOOD. I will be happy to have anyone respond to me if they will indeed respond to me.

The issue is this. I have heard Members from your side of the aisle all night tonight talk about a cut in the child nutrition program, particularly the school lunch program. I just want to know how you square that with these facts.

When you ran the show here, you did 3.1 percent more in the current fiscal year for school lunch programs. The President of the United States proposes 3.6 percent, and we offer 4.5 percent for 5 years. I want to know what you have to complain about compared to what you did when you were in control and what the President proposes.

Ms. PELOSI. The difference, my colleague, and thank you for yielding, is that we are talking about a block grant versus an entitlement. When you are talking about a block grant you are talking about a limitation on the number of children and the kind of nutrition they would get.

Mr. GREENWOOD. Let us talk in those terms.

Ms. PELOSI. That is an important point because when you are talking about an entitlement, then the money will be there for the children.

You are talking about a block grant that has several shortcomings. First of all, it is a limitation on the amount of money that will be spent regardless of the growth and need for children who are hungry.

Second of all, your block grant requires that the Governors only spend 80 percent of that money on the school lunch program.

Third of all, your block grant removes the nutritional requirements so what the children are getting does not relate to what the children may need nutritionally. So you can spread it out among more kids so that they meet certain criteria for the block grant, but it may not be more kids who need the school lunch. Therefore, the nutrition that the really needy kids are getting is good.

Fourth of all, you are talking about the school-based lunch program, and you are cutting out the summer program and the afternoon program and the child care program.

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

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, may I request a point of order? Am I able to request two more minutes?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is unable to entertain that request during the 5-minute special orders.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. GREENWOOD. Since I yielded half of my time last time, would the gentleman yield me 30 seconds?

Mr. BECERRA. I would be more than willing to yield if I have some time at the end of my remarks, and I probably will have. If I do, I would be more than happy to yield.

I think the gentleman from Illinois a while back stated it best, Mr. DURBIN, when he said folks probably watching this do not understand what is going on. Is there a cut? Is there not a cut? Are the Republicans providing less? The answer is yes.

I visited some elementary schools and high schools recently, and I was talking to those that do provide school lunch programs, and the principals will tell you the price of food is going up. The number of kids in schools is growing.

When you tell that principal that today the dollar that that principal has to provide a school lunch to a child is the same dollar or just a slight bit more than the principal will have to feed that same child or the child's younger brother or sister coming up, that principal will tell you, ''If the school population has grown and inflation is cut into the value of my dollar, there is no way that I as a principal will be able to feed the number of students that need free or subsidized school lunches.''

Let us not make any mistake about that. The Republican proposal cuts the amount of moneys that would be available for child nutrition programs in this Nation. It cuts them because it does not square the fact that we have inflation in this country and we have growing student populations. If they kept pace, then we would be okay.

And the problem that a number of us have as Democrats is that the current law says that whether or not we in Congress play political games with the moneys for our school kids, it makes no difference because the law protects