

of course, will threaten the economic future of our own country. Getting rid of these four student aid programs will cost about \$20 billion over the next 5 years for middle-income families.

Now, let us look at it this way. It is not just the cost, it is a tax. Because these are middle-income families that otherwise would have been able to help their children go on to college. But because they are being taxed in higher fees, less money for student loans, they will now be paying the cost of these tax cuts that will be going mostly to the privileged few in their Contract With America.

This is the worst time, by the way, to be cutting back on student aid. Tuition is rising rapidly throughout the country. Without any assistance, the cost of attending college will go up even more. Some will be forced to forgo school altogether.

In California, tuition rates have skyrocketed. The goal of California's master plan of giving every young person the chance to go to college, whether it is community college, State university or the University of California campuses, is evaporating rapidly. Those students who represent the first generation of college students in their family just might come home without a degree, a devastating blow for parents, students and siblings alike.

I can give an example: I myself am the first in my family to get an education. My parents were immigrants. I would not have been able to go, but I took advantage of work study and student aid and student loans.

I hope we will understand this is not the way to go, and we will not support the Contract With America's attempt to go after our college students.

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

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

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

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

#### JULIA BAILEY IS MISSISSIPPI WINNER IN VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues the winning entry from Mississippi in the VFW's annual Voice of Democracy contest. It was submitted by Julia Bailey of West Point, MS.

Julia is a senior at West Point High School and the daughter of Eugene and Elizabeth

Bailey. I had the chance to meet and visit with this outstanding young lady when she came to Washington recently. Her patriotic essay is one of the best I have read and commend it to all my colleagues.

#### "MY VISION FOR AMERICA"

The people who fought for the American Revolution had a vision of a country they governed themselves. The South had a vision of keeping their slaves. The North had a vision of defeating the South. Abraham Lincoln had a vision of forming a Union again, and the slaves had a vision of being free. History is a picture show of many groups with many visions. I am following in a long line of history because I, too, have a vision.

Everyday I go to school, and, to me, it is a small scale America. In our school we have black people, white people, people with learning disabilities, and straight A students. We have as many visions as we do groups of people, but all the students and faculty come together five days a week for one purpose, whether it is conscious or buried under all their other concerns. We come to school to educate and to be educated because we all have a vision of success. My vision for America is that, like the school, we will recognize that we, too, have a common goal to work towards—unity.

The civil rights movement was perhaps a time when many people combined dreams to form one vision. Sit-ins, boycotts, and marches were all a part of a people's fight for justice. The civil rights movement was special because it included everyone. The object of the movement was unity. A person did not have to be black to fight for civil rights but simply a person with an eye for justice and a belief that it was time for the truth to be acted upon that all people are created equal, not "separate but equal," equal.

We tend to focus on the qualities that we can see are equal—like our color or our financial status—rather than the qualities that we cannot see. In my vision our new focus will be on equality of mind and spirit, of opinions and beliefs, equality, not agreement, unity of spirit, not race. Spirit has no color; it has no age, it is not divided into categories.

I had the privilege of standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Washington Monument pierced the air, and the green glow of the Capitol filtered from behind it. I felt powerful, humble, and thankful. Not only are those monuments reflected in the water they rise above, they are reflected in me.

I realize that even though the states are not always united, and that corruption threatens our freedom, in the capital of my country I can stand and ponder and pray for as long as I want without being threatened or dragged away or embarrassed. We have a starting point for equality. We are all free. The answer for a truly united nation is not at the top of the Washington Monument or clutched by Lady Freedom on the tip of the Capitol. It is as low and as humble as we make it in our hearts. Those monuments are not representing a country about to fall, but a country with the potential to rise, not in concrete, in power, or money, but in unity and goodness. My vision for our nation to be united through spirit begins in the seedbed of real freedom—our hearts.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### KEEP LONG ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OPEN

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

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of small businessmen and women and the potential hundreds of thousands of small businessmen and women on Long Island. Earlier this week the Clinton Administration announced that they were going to streamline and consolidate departments at the Small Business Administration, something that I on the face of it applaud, and I commend the administrator, Phil Lader of the Small Business Administration, for his leadership in that endeavor.

Unfortunately, included in this measure to downsize the agency is the closing of a very valuable office, the Small Business Administration's Long Island office in Melville. I am most supportive of the efforts to consolidate. As a former head of the Small Business Administration in New York, we led a pilot program to do just that. I strongly urge, however, that the Clinton Administration reconsider closing the Long Island office.

Long Island is in a unique situation. For most of the century, Long Island's economy has been dependent on a healthy defense industry. However, in recent years, draconian cuts to the defense budget have left the Long Island economy reeling, and today we are searching for an alternative. Forced to diversify, Long Island now more than ever looks to the small business sector as its major source of jobs, revenue, and income. Small businesses on Long Island look to the local Small Business Administration office for valuable help and counsel. The closing of the Long Island office would be devastating to an economy so dependent on a viable small business sector.

Madam Speaker, the administration's plan to close the Long Island office would negatively impact, as I have said, over 82,000 small businesses in Nassau and Suffolk County. This is an area larger in population than some 20 States. While the economy in most of the Nation has rebounded of late, the Long Island economy continues to lag. Long Island has endured extensive cuts in defense spending and the loss of the SBA office on Long Island would be another blow to an economy already struggling to right itself.

For the months ahead, Congress will have some very difficult decisions to make about the budget and the future