But there is another lesson to be drawn. Until the political earthquake of November 8, 1994, I served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and chaired the Subcommittee on African Affairs. I learned to my chagrin, a little more than a year ago, that only 1½ percent of American economic aid to sub-Sahara Africa goes for higher education.

In our aid programs we have to meet emergencies—and Africa has more than its share of emergencies—but we also have to be looking long-term, and one of the ways that we help Africa long-term is to see to it that they have leadership in the future. One of the most effective ways to see that they have good leadership in the future is to make an investment in higher education.

I hope we reflect on the Tom Friedman column.●

RICH NATIONS CRITICIZE UNITED STATES ON FOREIGN AID

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, recently, I read a New York Times article titled ''Rich Nations Criticize U.S. On Foreign Aid,'' by Steven Greenhouse. It referred to a report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], and I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD at this point.

The article follows:

RICH NATIONS CRITICIZE UNITED STATES ON FOREIGN AID

(By Steven Greenhouse)

WASHINGTON, April 7—An organization of wealthy industrial nations issued a stinging report today criticizing the United States for moving to cut foreign aid when it already gives a smaller share of its economic output to such assistance than any other industrial nation.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a Paris-based group of 25 nations, said the United States, once far and away the world's leading donor, was setting a poor example by cutting its aid budget and warned that the move might prompt other countries to follow suit.

Using unusually blunt language, the report said that ''this seeming withdrawal from traditional leadership is so grave that it poses a risk of undermining political support for development cooperation'' by other donor countries.

The report said the United States had slipped to No. 2, well behind Japan, in the amount of foreign aid provided excluding military assistance. The United States provided $9.72 billion in 1993, compared with $11.3 billion for Japan.

It said the United States contributed 15-hundredths of one percent of its gross domestic product for economic aid, putting it last among the 25 industrial nations. The average among these nations was 30-hundredths of one percent, while Sweden, Denmark and Norway all give 1 percent of their overall output to foreign aid.

J. Brian Atwood, Administrator of the Agency for International Development, the Government's principal aid arm, welcomed the report, making clear that he intends to use it as ammunition in the Clinton Administration's fight to persuade Congress not to cut foreign aid. At a news briefing today, Mr. Atwood criticized Congressional committees for proposing to cut $3 billion from the $21 billion international affairs budget, which includes State Department spending as well as foreign aid.

The report was written by the O.E.C.D. Secretariat and was overseen by James H. Michel, the chairman of its development assistance committee. Mr. Michel was an assistant administrator of A.I.D. in the Bush Administration.

Mr. SIMON. After reading the article, I asked for a copy of the OECD report, and it is a somewhat technical but important insight into our deficiencies.

Let me give a few quotes from the report:

A perplexing feature of the US development assistance effort is that while public opinion responds readily to situations of acute needs in developing countries (contributions to private voluntary agencies are among the highest per capita among DAC Members), there is no strong public support for the Federal aid budget. This may be explained in part by the fact that the public greatly overestimates the share of foreign assistance in the US Federal budget. According to a recent poll, the majority of respondents believe it to be around 20 percent of total US Government spending. In fact, USAID spending represents only 0.5 percent of the Federal budget and the US has the lowest ODA/GNP ratio among DAC Members.

Two other important points are made:

There is considerable apprehension in the donor community that some proposals may be given voice in the new Congress which raise the possibility of major cut-backs in US aid and even a turning away by the US from the common effort for development which it inspired over 30 years ago.

The second important point:

The US has accumulated substantial arrears both to the U.N. system and to be the multilateral concessional financing facilities, due to Congressional reluctance to approve the necessary appropriations. Plans discussed with Congress in 1994 to eliminate these arrears over the next few years are welcome. At the same time these plans appear to imply a reduction in US contributions to future financing of these agencies and facilities. This would represent a shift in burden-sharing to other DAC Members, and might have serious consequences for upcoming replenishments of the International Development Association (IDA) and the soft windows of the regional development banks.

But perhaps more telling than anything else is the percentage of gross national product [GNP] that is used for foreign aid among the 21 wealthy nations.

I ask my colleagues to look at this table, and I do not believe we can look at it with pride.

Mr. President, we are shortly going to be making decisions on our budget, and one of the questions is: Are we going to be less sensitive to the needs of the poor, both within our country and beyond the borders of our country?

I hope we will provide a sensible and humanitarian answer, that suggests we should be helpful to those in need.

The table follows:

Net ODA from DAC countries in 1993

[As percent of GNP]

Denmark	1.03
Norway	1.01
Sweden	0.98
Netherlands	0.82
France	0.63
Canada	0.45
Finland	0.45
Belgium	0.39
Germany	0.37
Australia	0.35
Luxembourg	0.35
Switzerland	0.33
Italy	0.31
United Kingdom	0.31
Austria	0.30
Portugal	0.29
Japan	0.26
New Zealand	0.25
Spain	0.25
Ireland	0.20
United States	0.15
Total DAC	0.30●

AFRICA

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the World Bank issues an annual report on regional perspectives.

Because I formerly chaired the Subcommittee on Africa for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and have a continuing interest in that continent, I read their report on Africa with special interest.

There are some things that are worth noting.

One is that, excluding South Africa, the gross domestic product [GDP]—national income—grew by just 1.4 percent. That is a low growth rate for an area with a high population growth rate. Fundamentally, it means there is a continuing decline in the standard of living that should concern all of us.

The high debt burden they mention is also something to be concerned about.

They did note ''the political transition sweeping the continent, noting that a few years ago there were only six democracies in Africa and the number had reached 29 by the end of June 1994.'' But they also note in the story that while in general democracies fare better, some of them are having a difficult time, and there are exceptions to democracies faring better, including the repressive Government of Sudan.

Mr. President, I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

AFRICA

The year 1993, on the whole, was a difficult one for the countries of the Africa region, as gross domestic product (GDP), excluding South Africa, grew by just 1.4 percent. Although this represents an improvement over 1992, it is nevertheless disappointing, considering the region's high rate of population growth and the level needed for development. As in previous years, the countries implementing major reforms, and therefore benefiting from the Special Program of Assistance (SPA), saw their aggregate output increase by 2.1 percent, or more than the average for the region.[1] The sixteen core (or steady) reformers did still better, as their GDP rose by 2.8 percent; the countries comprising the CFA Zone, however, saw their economies contract for a third consecutive year.[2] A positive development in 1993 was that, on average, the low-income countries performed better than the middle-income

Footnotes at end of article.