

weren't many fat-cat special interests supported in there. Frankly, I expected the appropriations bills for fiscal year 1997 to be not quite as radically conservative as those they forced through Congress for fiscal year 1996 which caused the Federal Government to shutdown. However, they have in this session already passed several bills that cut spending in domestic areas that are important to hard-working Americans, that are vitally significant to the social, economic and personal well-being of this country: education, health services and research, housing, and transportation, just to name a few.

So, here we go again. This fiscal year 1997 appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, State, and related agencies is for \$29.5 billion. While this is a substantial amount of money, one must remember that it takes a lot of money to fund a Federal Government as responsive and responsible as ours ought to be. Yet, this bill is for \$2.1 billion less than the President has, after careful consideration, determined that he needs in order to be able to carry out plans and programs necessary to fight crime, create jobs and train the necessary workforce, to prevent and address family and societal violence, drugs and illegal immigration. Those are critical imperatives, but they are not the only priorities that need funding and are not all the priorities of my constituents in the Seventh District of Illinois. Among my constituents are the richest and the poorest of America, and they report to me that they need people programs that benefit women, minorities, and persons with very limited incomes, as well as the several very important agencies that severely effect them all, but that are targeted for funding cuts.

For example, the Legal Services Corporation [LSC] is an agency that provides free and reduced-fee legal services to low-income individuals. By proposing dramatic cuts in funding for the LSC, the Republicans risk the following results: (1) a 2 million reduction in the number of clients served; (2) a 50 percent decrease in the number of neighborhood offices (from, 1100 in fiscal year 1995 to 550); (3) a cut by more than half, in the number of LSC lawyers available to provide legal services; and (4) a startling cut-off of legal assistance to clients in thousands of communities across the Nation. This Republican fiscal 1997 appropriations of \$141 million for LSC is a devastating cut from the fiscal year 1995 funding level of \$415 million, and is unquestionably meant to destroy the Legal Services Corporation. Wake up Americans. Open your eyes and see what the Dole-Gingrich Republicans who control this body have just done. They have defeated an amendment to restore reasonable funding to the LSC that would have prevented the virtual abandonment of the longstanding Federal commitment to the legal protection of working poor Americans, including victims of spousal and child abuse, dead-beat parents who run out on the child support obligations, and victims of consumer fraud.

Another program gutted by the Republicans and left to bleed a slow death, is the Minority Business Development Administration [MBDA] within the Department of Commerce. The mission of the MBDA is to work to develop and support the successes and increase competitive opportunities for minority-owned businesses—to ensure that minority Americans can participate in the economy not just as workers, but also as entrepreneurs and global

leaders. The MBDA supports citizens who may be first generation business owners in their efforts to succeed. Created in 1969 by President Nixon, the MBDA provides technical assistance to minority entrepreneurs that greatly increase their ability to compete in domestic and international markets. While minorities make up 25 percent of the U.S. population, they represent only 9 percent of the Nation's business owners. MBDA has a proven record of leveraging scarce public resources by partnering with the private sector to increase capital and market opportunities in underutilized business communities, and yet the Republicans who control this body are so determined to render ineffectual a good program that was created by their own President Nixon, that they have also rejected an effort to restore reasonable funding for the MBDA.

There are many valuable programs that should be funded under this bill; however, the appropriations levels proposed by the Republicans will only weaken, injure and damage the successful efforts underway to bring about a reduction in waste, fraud, and abuse of the public trust. I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill so that we can get back to the negotiating table in the best interest of all Americans. If this bill should be passed by the Congress, I will urge the President to veto it and send it back to the drawing board.

THANK YOU DONALD E. BECKER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us believe that public service is among the greatest calling that exists. On July 23, many fortunate people who live in Genesee Township will come together to celebrate the remarkable more than 25 years of service that Donald E. Becker has provided as the township's treasurer.

Donald Becker's devotion to his community is easy to understand. His grandfather, August George Becker was the township supervisor from 1922 to 1926, and his father, Walter Becker, was in the Genesee County Sheriff's Department. Donald Becker was the co-founder of the all volunteer Kearsley Genesee Rescue Squad, as well as its treasurer. He has also been tremendously involved in the Genesee County Treasurer/Clerk Association, the Genesee Parks Commission, the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and the region 5 planning commission.

With all of this professional involvement, it is remarkable to note that Donald Becker is most noted for his personal style of dealing with people. For example, he hand-delivers checks for the school districts because he believes it's important for the checks to get there. He has been involved on so many committees because he believes that you have to get to know people in order to be effective as a community leader.

He has been careful with taxpayers dollars, leading efforts to allow for the investment of local funds in savings accounts, allowing interest earnings to both supplement local revenues, and to help reduce the need for any additional tax assessments.

With all of the wonderful public activities that this man has undertaken, it is also very good

to know what he considers his most important hobby to be spending time with his wife, Geraldine, his children and their spouses, his grandchildren, and his great grandson. A man can be no luckier that having a rewarding career, and recognizing the ultimate importance of his family.

Mr. Speaker, local officials are the hallmark of our democratic society. They help people understand the importance of good government. Genesee Township has been very fortunate to have Donald Becker, and, indeed, his family, for these many years. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing him the very best as he celebrates his years of service to Genesee Township.

WHY CATHOLIC SCHOOL MODEL IS TABOO

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 1996

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I think that anyone who is truly interested in education should read the following article from the July 17, 1996, issue of the Wall Street Journal. I would like to call it to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

WHY THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL MODEL IS TABOO
(By Sol Stern)

New York City's Cardinal John J. O'Connor has repeatedly made the city an extraordinary offer: Send me the lowest-performing 5% of children presently in the public schools, and I will put them in Catholic schools—where they will succeed. The city's response: silence.

In a more rational world, city officials would have jumped at the cardinal's invitation. It would have been a huge financial plus for the city. The annual per-pupil cost of Catholic elementary schools is \$2,500 per year, about a third of what taxpayers now spend for the city's public schools.

NO IDLE BOAST

More important, thousands more disadvantaged children would finish school and become productive citizens. For Cardinal O'Connor's claim that Catholic schools would do a better job than public schools is no idle boast. In 1990 the RAND Corporation compared the performance of children from New York City's public and Catholic high schools. Only 25% of the public-school students graduated at all, and only 16% took the Scholastic Aptitude Test, vs. 95% and 75% of Catholic-school students, respectively. Catholic-school students scored an average of 815 on the SAT. By shameful contrast, the small "elite" of public-school students who graduated and took the SAT averaged only 642 for those in neighborhood schools and 715 for those in magnet schools.

In 1993 the New York State Department of Education compared city schools with the highest levels of minority enrollment. Conclusion: "Catholic schools with 81% to 100% minority composition outscored New York City public schools with the same percentage of minority enrollment in Grade 3 reading (+17%), Grade 3 mathematics (+10%), Grade 5 writing (+6%), Grade 6 reading (+10%) and Grade 6 mathematics (+11%)."

Yet most of the elite, in New York and elsewhere, is resolutely uninterested in the Catholic schools' success. In part this reflects the enormous power of teachers' unions, fierce opponents of anything that