

not doing Goals 2000, not having objectives that will empower our young people to be competitive in a world marketplace, that not doing those things will enhance education in America.

We came to the subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations and I offered the amendment to essentially keep education even. Even then it would fall behind the very sharply growing numbers of students in our school systems. There are more students in school in America today than ever before in history.

And what did we do in the House of Representatives when we passed the education bill? We sounded retreat. Terrel Bell, the Secretary of Education under Ronald Reagan, did a report on the status of education. The result of that was "A Nation At Risk," in which the Reagan administration said that we were at risk of becoming a nation of mediocrity because our education system was not up to speed.

Very frankly, in the Subcommittee on Labor-HHS appropriations, by a straight party-line vote, the Republicans rejected increasing education. When the bill came to the House floor, which is the process, subcommittee, full committee, and House floor, DAVID OBEY, the ranking member of our committee, again offered my amendment. He said, "My friends, on both sides of the aisle, let us not abandon our children," because they are our bridge to the future.

On an almost straight party-line vote, that amendment was again rejected, notwithstanding the fact that I had a chart that showed that education funding was going down in an era when student population was going up.

Mr. Speaker, that legislation then went to the Senate. And just yesterday, having, I presume, read the polls and figured out what the American public really wants, and talking not about their policies and principles of 1995 but their policies of 1996, Senate Republicans now suggested adding \$2.3 billion to education. That is \$200 million more than I suggested was necessary to keep education even, that DAVID OBEY suggested was necessary to keep kids from falling through the cracks.

I am pleased that the Senate has seen the light. I hope that the Republicans in the House have done their homework and that this amendment will be accepted when this bill again comes to the floor of the House of Representatives.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas on December 6, 1995, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct agreed to appoint an outside counsel to conduct an independent, nonpartisan investigation of allegations of ethical misconduct by Speaker NEWT GINGRICH;

Whereas, after an eight-month investigation, that outside counsel has submitted an extensive document containing the results of his inquiry;

Whereas the report of the outside counsel cost the taxpayers \$500,000;

Whereas the public has a right—and Members of Congress have a responsibility—to examine the work of the outside counsel and reach an independent judgment concerning the merits of the charges against the Speaker;

Whereas these charges have been before the Ethics Committee for more than two years;

Whereas a failure of the Committee to release the outside counsel's report before the adjournment of the 104th Congress will seriously undermine the credibility of the Ethics Committee and the integrity of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall immediately release to the public the outside counsel's report on Speaker NEWT GINGRICH, including any conclusions, recommendations, attachments, exhibits or accompanying material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time or place designated by the Chair in the legislative schedule within 2 legislative days. The Chair will announce that designation at a later time.

A determination as to whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege will be made at that later time.

□ 1430

#### WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR TEACHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Senator Dole, at the Republican National Convention, blamed teachers for the failure of our educational system. Senator Dole attacked teachers and particularly teacher unions and associations.

I stand today to note that Senator Dole's logic disturbs me. Teachers in our schools are now required to do much more with much less, and they do not deserve this kind of treatment. Many resent this attack, because they work hard, day and night, to prepare our children for the future.

In last Saturday's edition of the Houston Chronicle there were several letters from teachers responding to Senator Dole's comments, and I want to read some of their remarks. Senator Dole was talking about unions or associations, and you cannot attack an association without attacking the members. The members, again, are the ones

who are providing that opportunity for our children to be citizens, educated citizens for our tomorrow.

JoNell Parker of Humble, TX, wrote, "In referring to public funding of private schools, Bob Dole said in his acceptance speech before the Nation on August 15th, 'There is no reason why those who live on any street in America should not have the same right as the person who lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the right to send their child to the school of your choice.' As a teacher and a member of the teachers' association whom Dole attacked, I have to admit I agree with the right to choose. I just don't believe I should have to pay for his choice. Public support of religious indoctrination is unconstitutional. Taking tax money from public schools and giving it to private, for-profit institutions is financially unsound and elitist at best."

In a letter to the editor that same day, Judy Hoya of Houston, TX, said, "Bob Dole's attack on teachers' unions in his acceptance speech tried to place the blame for the problems facing our schools on the people who are trying to solve them," and I will repeat, he is placing "the blame for the problems on the people trying to solve them" when you attack the classroom teachers. "Bob Dole is out of touch with the educational mainstream. He would be far wiser to join with the 80 percent of the teachers who are in the unions to help solve problems in our schools."

Martha Barrett of Kingwood, TX, remarked, "What a way to launch a Presidential campaign, attack teachers and kids in American schools. Bob Dole said in his acceptance speech that 'Teachers unions nominated Bill Clinton in 1992. They are funding his reelection campaign now and they, his most reliable supporters, know he will maintain the status quo.'"

Ms. Barrett of Kingwood continued, "I don't speak for all teachers, but I personally feel much better about a Presidential candidate supported and funded by teachers than one supported by tobacco interest."

Finally, Sherry Mutula of the Pasadena Education Association stated in Pasadena, TX, "I would like to set Bob Dole straight on the errors in his acceptance speech. Attacking America's schools and teachers, he said, 'Not for nothing are we the biggest educational spenders and among the lowest educational achievers of the leading industrial nations.'" He was wrong according to Ms. Mutula. "America does not lead the industrial nations in education spending for K-12 public education. We are not even close. Of the top 17, America ranks 12th."

"The American people have been named the most productive workers in the world. Know where 90 percent of those workers were educated, Bob Dole? In the public schools of America."

The 21st century will bring new challenges for our young people, and we have an obligation to educate them to