

noted that the light infantry divisions remained in the continental U.S. to provide the U.S. with a strategic reserve to react to any threats seeking to capitalize on the U.S. deployment.

CBO Assertion: The 10th Mountain Division's firepower and protection proved to be inadequate against even the unsophisticated and poorly equipped troops in Somalia.

Fact: The 10th Mountain Division deployed to Somalia in 1992 with the mission of providing protection to the relief workers as they distributed food to the hungry. During the entire time the 10th Mountain Division was deployed to Somalia it accomplished its mission of protection and food distribution without any soldiers losing their lives. Mission creep (an evolving escalating requirement) redefined the U.S. role in Somalia and the forces were not re-tailored. As a result of this mission creep, Special Operating Forces (SOF) were deployed to key objectives to disrupt enemy command and control nodes. During one of the operations, the SOF operating in a different AOR required immediate support and regrettably none was available. After this operation it became apparent that the mobility and protection that armor forces have were necessary in the region if the U.S. was to pursue its redefined mission.

CBO Assertion: There have been no division size parachute assaults involving an entire division since World War II. Additionally, paratroop-qualified units exist in the special forces branch of the Army, and it is not obvious that the Army needs an entire division designed to be dropped by parachute.

FACT: While CBO correctly stated that there has been no division level airborne insertions since 1944, the capability for an airborne division insertion still exists. Special Operating Forces, in this case the Rangers, are required to have the capability for initial forced entry. The only reinforcement we have to expand lodgment is to assault airland; to insert vertically; of if tactically feasible to air assault. Assault airlanding places vulnerable Air Force Strategic lift assets on the ground and can be accomplished only if the insertion unit can secure an airfield and if the airfield is not damaged. In fact, many plans require airborne engineer units to build an airstrip to establish an aerial port of debarkation. Airborne insertion is by far the fastest way to mass combat power for initial entry. The standard airborne force package requires a brigade task force. In order to maintain a brigade on two hour notice and capable of deploying in 18 hours to any AOR, the division must rotate the duty among two other brigades. The necessitates three airborne brigade task forces.

The balance of the current Army force structure is based upon the commitment of the U.S. around the world and the requirement to execute the National Military Strategy. The Army has four divisions which are strategically fixed; two in Germany for our NATO commitments, one in Korea for deterrence by treaty arrangement, and one in the Pacific to support USCINCPAC requirements. The Army must also be prepared to commit two corps of at least three divisions to Major Regional Conflicts (MRCs) in the East and West. Accepting that, at least one division will be forward deployed in the region and the Army must deploy five additional divisions for a total of ten divisions. The light infantry divisions offer the capability of rapid strategic mobility and a balance to the Army's total force. They are designed to be utilized in low- to mid-intensity conflicts with limited support; to integrate with armor forces in high-intensity conflicts, and to fight where armor cannot.

I believe the above analysis clearly indicates that DEF-17 is faulty in its assertions.

Surely this is not characteristic of the type of thoughtful work we have come to expect from the Congressional Budget Office. In the future, I hope that your military analysts will be more careful in their study of such important issues.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. MCHUGH,
Member of Congress.

U.S. CONGRESS,

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,

Washington, DC, January 29, 1997.

Hon. JOHN M. MCHUGH,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: Thank you for your letter of January 16, 1997 outlining your objections to CBO's option concerning the Army's light divisions in our August 1996 edition of Reducing the Deficit. We appreciate your taking the time to inform us of your concerns. In future editions of Reducing the Deficit, we plan to be more explicit about the advantages and merits attributable to light infantry divisions, and also to clarify some statements that may have been misinterpreted.

I would ask you to please keep in mind, however, the fact that each of the entries included in Reducing the Deficit: Spending and Revenue Options is just that, an option to be considered as a means to reduce the deficit. CBO does not endorse any of those options and draws no conclusions regarding their merit.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, Director.

THE IMPACT OF THE IRISH POTATO FAMINE ON AMERICAN HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation along with Representative MENENDEZ to encourage America's schools to teach our young students about a tragic period in history that nearly destroyed the people and country of Ireland and forever changed the face of America.

The mass starvation in Ireland from 1845 to 1850 initiated by the dramatic failure of the Irish potato crop is most commonly referred to as the Irish potato famine. Although Europe's poorest country in the middle 19th century, Ireland's 8 million inhabitants were curiously well nourished. The Irish people relied on the potato for the bulk of their diet since it was inexpensive and high in nutrients. However, in 1845, the Irish potato crop was ruined across the entire countryside by phytophthora infestans, an airborne pestilence. At the time, no one knew what caused the potato blight and so little could be done to save the crops. Across the whole of Ireland, potatoes simply rotted on the ground.

The failure of the potato crop led to the inability of most Irish families to pay the rent on their cottages which, after Britain's annexation of the island in the late 18th century, were often owned by British landholders. The vicious cycle of poverty was held intact by both the continuation of the potato blight and the active exportation of the Irish grain crop by the British Crown. Those who traveled across the island during the famine noted the horrifying

situation in which they encountered the Irish people. Men, women and children literally starved to death on the roadside and families huddled together in the cold waiting to die. In fact, while visiting Ireland in 1845, the African-American abolitionist Frederick Douglas wrote that the people of Ireland "are in the same degradation as the American slaves."

A number of British groups threw aside the prevailing prejudices against the Irish to provide relief from what had become a starvation of epidemic proportions in the colony. The Quakers, or the Society of Friends, even set up a vast array of soup kitchens throughout the countryside. However, it was not enough to stop the hunger and loss of farming wages. By the end of the epidemic in 1850, more than one million Irish had perished from the hunger, cold and disease brought about by the potato blight. It seemed the only way to elude the horrors of the famine was to leave Ireland—and so many did just that.

Although the voyage was treacherous and relatively expensive, more than one million Irish emigrated to the United States during the famine. Initially, they settled in the cities of the northeastern seaboard such as Boston and New York. Later they pushed westward to Chicago, the Great Plains and the uncharted western territories. With them they brought their Celtic culture and determination. Aside from impacting the basic makeup of the American people, Irish-Americans have made significant contributions in American business, law, music, athletics, literature, religion and politics. In fact, U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, considered by many to be the greatest Presidential orators of their respective political parties this century, are both from Irish-American families.

Perhaps, though, the legacy of the Irish famine's immigration wave to America is most evident in our everyday lives. Today, more than 1.5 million of New Jersey's 8 million inhabitants claim some Irish descent, as do millions of other Americans. The resolution put forth today by myself and Representative MENENDEZ recognizes the contributions made by Irish-Americans to our greater American heritage. Irish-Americans have left an indelible mark on our American culture and history, and for that reason our children should learn more about the tragic famine which brought so many of them to our shores in search of freedom from hunger, freedom from want and freedom from colonial rule.

THANKING KENNETH SAMUEL
MCCALL

HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 1997

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues from the great State of Maryland, and of this House, to join me in saluting a constituent of the fourth Congressional District of Maryland and a great American. Mr. Kenneth Samuel McCall has made outstanding contributions to the Edison Electric Institute during his 41 years of dedicated service. I congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement, and offer my best wishes to him and his family as he enters a new chapter in his life.