

the budget agreement included an additional \$700 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I had hope that the committee would move to incorporate the additional \$700 million in Land and Water Conservation funds provided for in the Balanced Budget Agreement so that it could be used for projects like Walkkill, Delaware Water Gap Recreation Area, and other worthy projects in New Jersey.

Unfortunately, the committee chose not to allocate that \$700 million in their report. However, I will continue to push for allocation of that \$700 million as this appropriation's bill continues through the process.

I am painfully aware of how difficult a job Chairman REGULA and others on the Appropriations Committee have in this time of tight budgets. Please know that I am most grateful for the moneys included in this bill for Sterling Forest and Walkkill, and appreciate your continued support of these important New Jersey projects.

TRIBUTE TO TAVELLI
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an excellent program that takes place in one of the schools of the 4th Congressional District in

beautiful Colorado. This is a program called Dream Team, which endeavored about 5 years ago, to give additional assistance to children who needed a little extra help in reading. Since then, it has expanded into a comprehensive mentoring program where the older children get together every morning and help the younger children, not only in reading, but in math, and computer skills. This program was designed at Travelli Elementary School in Fort Collins, CO. The sixth graders run the program with the help of Mr. Bill Patterson, a physical education teacher, who saw a need and decided to fill it. The program's success is due in large part to the extensive participation of the students enhancing their own learning and teaching themselves new skills.

The Dream Team program teaches young children crucial lessons in leadership and teamwork. Guest speakers come in each week to discuss different topics which give the students a glimpse at the working world. I would like to take this opportunity to read a letter by one of the students participating in the program which will best explain the opportunities presented by a program such as this.

MY EXCITING MOMENT BY AMBER GILMORE

My significant moment was when I was ten years old and in the fifth grade. I was attending Travelli Elementary School.

At Tavelli there was an organization involving several fifth and sixth graders coming to Tavelli an hour before school starts, and assisting children who are in the Chapter 1 program in grades first through fourth with their reading and their dreams. What we means by dreams is, if a student has a

dream to meet a specific person, he or she might dictate a letter to one of the fifth and sixth graders, the fifth or sixth grader would modify what the little kid said. We would send the letter and if he or she had the time they would come in and read us a story. One time astronaut Marty Fetman came in and told us about his experiences in the space program.

One time Sarah Smith and I (we were the people in charge of Dream Team) wrote to Bea Romer, Governor Roy Romer's wife. Mrs. Romer is very involved with literacy. Well, after we wrote her she responded and said that she would like us to visit her at her mansion in Denver. The entire Dream Team got dressed up, got onto a bus and headed for the Governor's mansion. We met her, it was so cool! I even have a napkin to prove it. She read us a story, and then she shared some cookies with us. Then her assistant showed us around the mansion. Mrs. Romer requested media there, but they didn't show. After that we went to the capitol house, and met with our state representatives. I don't think that the little kids really understood the experience but I really enjoyed it.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent example of how we can utilize resources outside the normal bounds and really reach children. This program is run by volunteers and the students help to write grants to assist with the funding. Involving the children themselves, teaching them how to lead and use their own capabilities is the best way to insure a good future for American's youth. Thank you Mr. Speaker for allowing me to show this fine example of a program that really works.