

not just because the school-age enrollment is going to mushroom dramatically over the next several decades, but because our current school buildings in America for the most part are not prepared to accept the new technology necessary to educate our children. When President Clinton suggests \$25 billion in tax credits for that school construction and renovation, I think he is talking about an issue that most Americans and most families can certainly understand.

This is a time to invest in America, not a time to provide a windfall tax break for the wealthiest people in our country. The President maintains strong fiscal discipline, targets his tax relief to Americans who need it, and makes certain that our highest priority of preserving Social Security and Medicare and reducing national debt is met.

There is also a suggestion that we increase defense spending. As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am going to watch this carefully. I understand, as most people do, that national defense is one of our highest priorities. I want to make certain that we dedicate our resources, first and foremost, to the men and women in uniform to make certain that they are compensated well and have a fair retirement plan.

It is a personal embarrassment to me, and it should be to every Member of Congress, to learn that so many members of the U.S. military today qualify for food stamps. That shouldn't be the case. We ought to make certain that the amount of money paid to our military personnel is adequate not only to maintain their families, but to attract and retain the very best in uniform across America. We owe our freedom to these men and women. We should compensate them accordingly. Of course, technology is part of that, but let's make sure the technology demands are consistent with the post-cold war world, that it is a technology demand that really envisions America's future role in the world in realistic terms.

I conclude by saying that I think that the President's budget has areas where I might disagree and probably will. It has areas that Congress will certainly address in a different way, but it is a budget based on the right principles, a budget to keep America on a track for prosperity and economic improvement. When we look at the growth in our domestic product each and every quarter, the encouragement it gives us, I think it suggests that we ought to think long and hard before we abandon this course we have been on—a successful course, with 95 consecutive months of economic expansion. Those who want to experiment with another approach, perhaps they can make that case to the American people; but, today, two-thirds of the American people say: Stay on this course, keep us moving forward in the right way, helping working families and preserving

the programs that mean so much to America.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from New Hampshire, suggests the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to turn our attention to an exciting and worthwhile project for America's young people: the Children's Scholarship Fund.

Last June, two great Americans, concerned about the state of education in America, particularly about the way in which children of low-income families are often without educational options, founded the Children's Scholarship Fund with their own substantial private investments. I speak of Ted Forstmann of Forstmann-Little and Company and Gulfstream Aerospace and of John Walton of Wal-Mart Stores. Based on their firm belief that a child should not be denied educational opportunity because of his or her family's financial situation, these two citizens are improving the education of young Americans, and thereby improving the lives of all Americans.

When Mr. Forstmann and Mr. Walton announced the creation of the Children's Scholarship Fund in June 1998, they began with programs in five cities. The demand and enthusiasm with which they were greeted was so overwhelming that scarcely three months later they joined with donors around the country to make scholarships available in forty three cities and three entire states. Now, only eight months after the launch of the Children's Scholarship Fund, low-income children throughout the entire United States are eligible for scholarships. As of today, the Children's Scholarship Fund is nationwide, and will provide approximately 40,000 scholarships worth nearly \$170 million. All low-income families throughout this country with children entering kindergarten through eight grade next fall may now be eligible to receive scholarships.

On April 22nd, the names of the Children's Scholarship Fund scholarship recipients will be selected in a random drawing. Families must have submitted their completed applications no later than March 31st to be eligible. I urge my colleagues to make a note of these important dates.

In the meantime, I commend Ted Forstmann and John Walton and everyone associated with the Children's

Scholarship Fund for the invaluable contributions they are making to improve the lives of so many of our young people. They set an example for all of us. The enormous public response to the Children's Scholarship Fund serves as an important reminder to those of us in Congress of the need to creatively expand educational opportunities for all of our citizens.

RETIREMENT OF TREVA TURNER

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise to today to recognize the diligent service of Ms. Treva Turner, who is retiring from the Congressional Research Service after 33-years of providing invaluable assistance to Senators, Representatives, and members of their staffs.

It is probably safe to say that the images that most people associate with the United States Congress are those of the Capitol Building or the 535 men and women who serve in the Senate and House Chambers. After all, millions of Americans see us cast votes as they watch C-SPAN and C-SPAN2, or recognize the Capitol from a trip to Washington, DC, or from seeing it used as a backdrop for television news reports or in movies. What most Americans do not realize is that the Congress extends far beyond the Capitol Building, and those that work in these two chambers are not limited to those of us who hold office.

As each of us knows, we rely on what is literally a small army of men and women to provide us with advice, support, and analysis. Among those organizations which support our work, perhaps the greatest treasure is the Congressional Research Service, commonly known as "CRS". For more than the past three decades, Treva Turner has been a loyal, diligent, and selfless employee of CRS, and her efforts have been of immeasurable help to many of us as we have debated any number of matters before the Senate.

Treva's speciality was education issues, and as each of us places a great priority on providing for the future of America's children, she was kept busy with any number of projects and research requests. Despite her heavy workload, Treva was always pleasant, outgoing, and ready to share her wry sense of humor with her many friends. Furthermore, she was always ready to lend assistance to people, whether they were co-workers in the Congressional Research Service, or staffers who wandered into the Senate Reference Center. Treva's professionalism and expertise assured that she provided prompt and impartial information and analysis to all Members of Congress and their staffs.

As with any professional, Treva's dedication to her job did not end with her assigned duties. Her work as a founding member of the Library of Congress Professional Association, along with her service on the Reference Forum, help to assure that CRS met