

James Lufuzi had sporadic bouts of illness, but when the family ran short of food late last year, his condition deteriorated. He died at home last month, leaving his father, a widower himself, to care for his two daughters, 9 and 7.

When asked if his son may have had HIV, he nods. "I believe that may have been the case. The hunger fed his illness until he could not hold on any longer."

Amid such privation, food is precious to those who have it and tempting to those who do not. When Goodson Mussa was accused of stealing corn from a field near the capital, Lilongwe, three men used a razor blade to cut off one of his ears.

"They beat me and spit on me, and one of them threatened to douse me with [Kerosene] and set me alight," said Mussa, 33. Asked several times if he was indeed trying to steal corn, Mussa refused to answer directly.

"Hunger is terrible," he said, holding his hand up to his bandaged head. "What man wouldn't steal if he's watching his own children starve to death before his very eyes?"

CORPORATIONS SEEK TAX DODGE IN BERMUDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISSA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on April 15, not that long ago, more than 88 million Americans dutifully filed their individual income taxes. But now we find out that a growing number of United States corporations have developed a new tax dodge, a new sort of Bermuda Triangle to disappear their tax obligations to the Federal Government and the United States of America.

That is not too surprising, given the attitude of the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. O'Neill. He said that absolutely he backs the abolition of taxes on corporations. "The clear economic truth is that businesses and corporations don't pay taxes, they just collect them for the government," he told the *Financial Times*. He is part right. Many corporations do not pay taxes anymore. The burden is growing on individual Americans. Thirty years ago when our corporations were the envy of the world and we were the manufacturing capital of the world, 25 percent of the taxes of the United States were paid by corporations. Today, it is less than 10. Of course, most of our manufacturing has fled overseas and now those companies that have remained here are hoping to move their tax obligations offshore to places where they do not pay taxes. They say, as Stanley Works did in defending this practice when they held a recent vote of stockholders, it is all about the stockholders.

From today's *New York Times*, it is not about the stockholders. It is about the CEOs. It is all about the CEOs. According to the *New York Times*, the CEO of Stanley Works will get 58 percent of the \$30 million they expect to not pay in Federal income taxes by moving the corporation to Barbados and Bermuda. So we screw the American taxpayers. We screw the stock-

holders, too, because they are going to have to pay capital gains taxes. But the gentleman who runs the company will get a huge bonus. He might still have to pay some U.S. income taxes, but he probably has some smart accountants who will figure out how he can get around that, too.

What is the reaction of the United States Congress to this scandal? We had hoped here in the United States House of Representatives, the people's House, that there would be some outrage about this shift of taxes from large, profitable corporations and their CEOs on to individual Americans and small businesses. But instead, on the Republican side, the reaction is protect these tax dodges at any cost.

We were going to take up a bill on the marriage penalty, which is a real problem for American families. But on the Democratic side we were going to offer an amendment, an amendment to close this tax loophole, to break up the new Bermuda Triangle, to not allow companies that are based in, manufacture in, employ people in the United States of America to pretend that they are in Barbados and pretend that they are in Bermuda in order to avoid their tax obligations.

It should not be very controversial, should it? This is a time, as we heard so eloquently from the gentleman before me, of great threat to our Nation where people should not be asking questions about who knew what, when, where and how. But this is something we know, and we should be asking, why should we allow these corporations to avoid their tax obligations? Why should they not join in the great patriotic need to raise funds to fight the threat of terrorism? Why should they enjoy all the privileges of American citizenship and pay not a whit for it? But the reaction of the House leadership was to cancel the consideration of the marriage penalty on another day as a regular bill and bring it up instead as a suspension tomorrow with no amendments allowed. God forbid that the United States House of Representatives should break up this little scam. I mean, after all, this CEO of Stanley Works will probably send a good part of his little take there, his \$17.8 million to one of their fund-raisers in gratitude, maybe 10 percent, maybe 20. Who knows what the share will be.

This is absolutely outrageous. The American people are paying their taxes. The country is under attack. We are in a huge deficit. We are spending the Social Security trust fund. The lockbox for Social Security is long gone. We are piling up a huge and growing deficit. We have enough controversy over the proposals by the Republicans to make permanent the tax cuts for the largest estates and the wealthiest Americans, but to allow this outrage, companies based in the United States of America, in all reality, to rent a post office box in Bermuda and a filing cabinet in Barbados and pretend they are not U.S. corporations anymore and not pay any taxes.

I am ashamed of the Republican leadership.

CONTROVERSIAL ASPECTS OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, when the supplemental appropriation bill comes up this week, largely for defense purposes, the Republican majority will try to play games and use sleight of hand to slip an increase in the debt ceiling past the American people. These issues should not be linked. They should be voted separately.

Yes, America has returned to the days of a growing budget deficit. The President's economic policy will reduce our surplus by nearly \$1.7 trillion. That is 42 percent. The government, therefore, is about to bump its head against the debt ceiling.

This situation makes it all the more irresponsible, Mr. Speaker, for this Congress in the same bill to throw more than \$100 million in taxpayer money to the wind to protect a private oil pipeline in the nation of Colombia. Yes, that is right. American taxpayers are being asked to pony up over \$100 million to protect a private oil pipeline in a foreign country. This oil pipeline is owned by two multinational corporations and also by the Government of Colombia.

I will be offering an amendment to strike the first \$6 million down payment in funding in this bill to protect what is called the Cano Limon oil pipeline. Most Americans do not even know about this pipeline; but they should, because the Bush administration wants to use their tax dollars to protect it. This pipeline that pipes Colombian oil is owned by U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum, along with Repsol, a Spanish-Argentine combine, and Ecopetrol, which is an arm of the Government of Colombia.

Can you believe it? This is where our lack of a national energy policy has led us, into the jungles of a Colombian war and into the middle of a civil war that has raged for two generations. The Bush administration wants Congress to spend American tax dollars to defend a pipeline that is owned by the Government of Colombia, a Spanish-Argentine multinational corporation and Occidental Petroleum, an American-based multinational giant, to pump Colombian oil.

When you think about it, this first \$6 million is but a down payment on \$104 million which is supposed to come later. This particular pipeline has been repeatedly attacked in Colombia's 38-year-long civil war.

Occidental Petroleum is not a poor company. In fact, it earned profits of more than \$2 billion over the last 2 years. So why in the world should the American people have to foot this bill?