

by exerting our influence on the other industrialized nations to meet theirs. Yet the United States, the richest country in the world, despite the fanfare surrounding recent increases in our contributions, ranks last in those who have pledged for the global trust fund.

To continue to fund this epidemic in drips and drabbles would be unconscionable because our delays and the delays of other nations have already caused it to spiral completely out of control on a global scale.

Today, at home, our ADAP program needs an additional \$80 million and the minority AIDS initiative needs \$450 million. Globally, 10 billion dollars is what is needed every year; and we must commit and act to contribute at least our full share, not over a period of time, but now.

It should be exceedingly clear that we cannot continue to fall short of providing the required level of funding. If we continue at the present level, we can anticipate another 45 million new infected persons within the next 20 years. It would also mean that there would be 20 million new children left without a mother or father, alone to grow up as orphans, denied of love and nurturing and probably education since the teachers too are among the dying. This portends a serious and ever-increasing threat to the national security of the most effected countries and, unless we think otherwise, also to ours.

Mr. Speaker, clearly the time for arguing over what must come first must be behind us. We must have treatment and prevention. We must find ways in this dire emergency to put life-saving medication within the reach of all who need it. Neither should research be pitted against prevention and treatment, because the need for vaccine, which may be just a few years ahead and which is where hope truly lies, must be given all the resources it needs to go forward. As we approach its availability, we must begin to work even now to avoid the gaps in access that we are still working to address in the case of medication.

Lastly, we can not tie the hands of health professionals, community organizations, and workers as they work on the front lines of this epidemic. Family planning funding or population funding provides much of the first line of defense. Continuing to impose the values of a minority of Americans on countries where there are people just fighting to live by denying them the basic staff and supplies is not befitting a country that is built on Christian values and principles.

I join my colleagues today to call on the leadership of this body and our President to provide the funding, to lift the gag, release the funding for all international family planning programs and provide the leadership which has always been our hallmark by making the full contribution to the global trust fund and influencing all of our allies to do the same.

□ 1700

WHERE'S THE MONEY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take my time that I am allotted tonight to talk a little bit about the loss of \$17.3 billion.

On June 6 of this year I wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, and the reason that I wrote this letter is because I had been back in North Carolina during the break and I was listening to a talk show and they were quoting from the New York Post, and I want to read the first two paragraphs of this article.

It says, May 28, 2002, Washington complains about deceptive corporate accounting, but the government last year misplaced an incredible \$17.3 billion because of shoddy bookkeeping or worse. Again, the article says, Let me put that into numbers so that you can fully appreciate the amount. It is \$17.3 billion, the price of a few dozen urban renewal projects, a nice size fleet of warships or about half the tax cut that everyone made such a fuss about last year.

In addition, the London Times also wrote an article on the fact that we in this Nation, that our accounting system for this government, that we have lost or misplaced \$17.3 billion.

I share with my colleagues on both sides of the political aisle my frustration and disgust with what happened with Enron and also with WorldCom, but I do want to make the point, Mr. Speaker, that as sad as that is, and it is terribly sad, that the investors had a choice to make an investment. The taxpayers do not have a choice. They are mandated by law to pay their taxes.

So, therefore, we collect their taxes and yet in the year 2001, we have, and this is the term used, unreconciled transactions in the amount of \$17.3 billion.

So this is about my third or fourth week of coming to the floor, and I actually on June 6, I wrote Secretary O'Neill a letter, and I am just going to read two paragraphs. I said, The report provides minimal data and information regarding these unreconciled transactions. Not only is the Federal Government missing \$17.3 billion but there is no reason given for this loss. While I appreciate the Department of Treasury's statement, the identification and accurate reporting of these unreconciled transactions is a priority. The fact remains, the public nor the Congress has the information on how this loss occurred, what agencies were responsible for this unreconciled transaction; would these transactions eventually be reconciled; if so, what is the time line for this reconciliation; what agency or agencies will be responsible for the reconciliation; will this

reconciliation be available to the public when completed.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I am down here on the floor, I realize the Secretary is a very busy man, but I did write this letter on June 6 of this year, and I have not received a response. I am going to give the Secretary the benefit of the doubt, that like many of us here in the Congress, we have wonderful assistants that sometimes get the mail and they go through the letters before we see them. So I am going to give him the benefit of the doubt. I did write on June 27 a letter to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), and I have asked that the oversight committee hold a hearing on this issue of where we have misplaced the \$17.3 billion.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I will continue to come to the floor. Next week, I will have a chart that I will hold up before me as I speak, reminding the American people that we in Congress, on both sides of the political aisle, want to find out where that \$17.3 billion of the taxpayers' money has gone, and if it has been misspent or misplaced, somebody needs to answer for it.

HONORING ANDREA FOX

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrea Fox of San Rafael, California, a talented professional planner, community volunteer, athlete and breast cancer activist, and an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

Andrea Fox lost her life in a battle against breast cancer on July 2 at the age of 35, leaving a legacy of extraordinary courage and compassion. A beautiful young woman with incredible grace and dignity, Annie Fox was dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer. Diagnosed with a particularly aggressive cancer in 1998, the former triathlete, who ate organically and exercised regularly, had none of the traditional risk factors for cancer.

Undergoing a lumpectomy, she continued her athletic training and stage IV cancer seemed to disappear. But in April 2000, the cancer came back, and pursuing every treatment she could find, including non-Western, nontraditional methods, Annie appeared to have beaten it back again.

Andrea focused her considerable energies on increasing public awareness and getting national attention for this serious epidemic of breast cancer in Marin County, joining the board of Marin Breast Cancer Watch. "Annie was one of our angels," said board president Roni Mentzer.

Whether lobbying in Sacramento for breast cancer research or educating the community about the dangerously high rates of cancer in Marin County, Annie made a difference. She made history.

Never daunted, she participated in athletic events such as the renowned