

### MARCUS DIXON DOES NOT BELONG IN PRISON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today when regrettably when almost half of high school students report having had sexual intercourse, I want Members to consider the following: How would a court likely react when an 18-year-old star high school athlete, a student from a very disadvantaged background, manages a 3.9 average, 1200 on his SATs, full scholarship from Vanderbilt, is accused by a female acquaintance of rape after having sex with a girl less than 3 years younger. Now color the boy black and the girl white, and Members may not be surprised that Marcus Dixon received 10 years for this teen sex violation.

To the credit of the State of Georgia, the State amended its law almost 10 years ago to deal with sex between teens and made statutory rape a misdemeanor. The prosecutor, however, wanted a conviction very badly here because he piled on six different charges, most of them involving forcible rape, and an additional charge of aggravated child molestation which is reserved for very heinous crimes.

The jury had to contend with two very different versions. He said that she suggested please, let us not go to my house, my father is a racist and he has beaten me for less. She said she was a virgin and he raped her on a table. The jury apparently believed this was one more example of consensual teen sex by virtue of the fact that they convicted only for the misdemeanor rape charge. However, they left the aggregated child molestation charge because of testimony that she was a virgin, therefore bled, therefore had been injured; and he, therefore, was guilty of child molestation causing injury. For that injury, literally millions of teenage boys would be in jail as I speak.

That is where Marcus Dixon is, but many on the jury are dumbfounded because they believed that Marcus would walk out of court with a misdemeanor statutory rape conviction with the white couple who adopted him from his crack-addicted mother. The case is on appeal.

Male black, female white, harsh sentence, sound familiar? Consider if the girl had been black and the boy white, can Members imagine a 10-year sentence? Suppose both had been of the same race, can Members imagine a 10-year sentence?

The villain here is not only an overzealous prosecutor who treats teen sex as a sexual predator case and disregards Marcus' achievement in overcoming the kind of severe deprivation most of us have never had.

The villain also is mandatory minimums. For minor drug offenses, we

have put a generation of young black men in jail and left the black community with 70 percent of its children with no fathers and destroyed the black family. Let us be clear: We must do much more to teach our children to abstain from sex, but it is also time to teach prosecutors fairness and equal application of the law and to teach ourselves the injustice of mandatory minimums.

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### IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY FENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's security fence. Next month the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at the Hague is scheduled to hold hearings on the international legality of Israel's security fence and it is my hope that the court will rule Israel's security fence a necessary measure to protect their people from the people who believe that their way to salvation is by killing Jewish women and children.

The construction of the temporary and defensive barrier is a legitimate means of protection and the lawfulness or appropriateness of this measure is not the issue. At issue is simply the question of whether complex and contentious issues can and should be placed before the International Court of Justice. The United Nations should not be imposing their politics on the sovereign nation of Israel.

The ICJ has been acting in an anti-Semitic, anti-capitalistic and anti-self-defensive manner. The court does not mention the fact that Israel is building the security fence to protect Israelis from over 20,000 attacks and that they have the right of self-defense and the attacks are the result of the Palestinian leadership's failure to take measures to prevent terrorism. Furthermore, the Palestinian government glorifies homicide bombers as martyrs and Yasser Arafat, the agent of terror, is still calling the shots and is a clear obstacle to President Bush's road map to peace.

Congress must send a powerful and clear signal to the U.N. and to the Palestinian Authority that the United States will not allow either to compromise the freedom and safety of the Jewish people.

### U.S. FUNDING CUTS MEAN GREAT- ER HUNGER, ILLITERACY AND POVERTY FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized

during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President released his fiscal year 2005 budget proposal. Over the next few days there will be many speeches and analyses of his funding proposals. I would like to describe how previous budget cuts have affected just one program that both reduces hunger among children around the world and gets these kids into school. The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education Program began in 2001 with a \$300 million pilot program. Using American surplus commodities, organizations such as Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children and Mercy Corps and the U.N. World Food Program carried out school feeding programs in over 40 countries. Seven million children received at least one nutritious meal every day in a school setting through this program.

Last year, USDA evaluated these programs and found them to be very effective in reducing hunger and dropout rates among many of the world's most vulnerable children. Enrollment, attendance and academic performance increased, especially among girls. In short, providing food for education gave poor children, including girls, a new future. Unfortunately, since 2002, when Congress made this initiative permanent, McGovern-Dole has suffered significant funding cuts. In fiscal year 2003, President Bush only asked for and received \$100 million. And now in fiscal year 2004, the program will receive only \$50 million.

What does it mean for a program like McGovern-Dole to go from \$300 million to \$100 million? It means literally that food was taken away from nearly 5 million hungry children and many of their families were forced to take them out of school. In Nicaragua, 339,000 preschool and primary school children benefiting from McGovern-Dole were cut off from this food source. In El Salvador, another 45,000 children stopped receiving food at school. In Honduras, anemia among children benefiting from McGovern-Dole was reduced by 50 percent. Sadly, 167,000 of those children have now been cut off from the program. In Peru, 70,000 children living in areas of high chronic malnutrition no longer receive meals or snacks in school. In Colombia, where we routinely send hundreds of millions of dollars each year in military and security aid, we ended McGovern-Dole funding, forcing USAID to pick up the costs and stopping a planned expansion of the program to 165,000 more children.

In 2003, I visited one of the McGovern-Dole programs in Colombia. I was told by mothers, fathers, grandmothers and community leaders how the school and the meals were the one stable reality in these children's uncertain lives, and often the only food these children receive. And I was told time and again how these kids often leave home and join one of the guerilla or paramilitary groups simply because