

We cannot lose sight of the enormous job before us to feed 10 billion people, 90 percent of whom will begin life in a developing country, and many in poverty. Only through dynamic agricultural development will there be any hope to alleviate poverty and improve human health and productivity, and reducing political instability.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Thirty seven years ago, in my acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, I said that the Green Revolution had won a temporary success in man's war against hunger, which if fully implemented, could provide sufficient food for humankind through the end of the 20th century. But I warned that unless the frightening power of human reproduction was curbed, the success of the Green Revolution would only be ephemeral.

It took some 10,000 years to expand food production to the current level of about 5 billion tons per year. By 2050, we will likely need to nearly double current production again. This cannot be done unless farmers across the world have access to high-yielding crop production methods as well as new biotechnological breakthroughs that can increase the crop yields, dependability, and nutritional quality. Indeed, it is higher farm incomes that will permit small-scale farmers in the Third World to make desperately needed investments to protect their natural resources. As Kenyan archeologist Richard Leakey likes to remind us, "you have to be well-fed to be a conservationist." We have to bring common sense into the debate on agricultural science and technology and the sooner the better!

The United States is the greatest agricultural success story of the 20th Century. Through science and technology and farmer ingenuity, American agriculture has achieved levels of productivity second to none. We also have a great tradition, especially in earlier decades, of helping low-income; food-deficit nations to get their own agricultural systems moving. Our private agri-businesses have invested heavily in the development of productivity-enhancing technology, not only to the benefit of this country but also around the world. American public institutions—the land-grant universities and colleges, the USDA, and the U.S. Department of State—have played key roles in the transformation of subsistence agriculture, especially in Asia and Latin America. This has been good for the American people and the world. Lest we forget, world peace will not be built on empty stomachs or human misery.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the Administration for establishing the USDA Borlaug Fellows program in 2004, in my honor, at the time of my 90th birthday. This is an international program that actively engages universities like my own Texas A&M University, my alma mater, the University of Minnesota, and many other of our fine land grant universities and colleges. The Borlaug fellows program also has links to the international agricultural research centers located abroad and to private agro-industry.

The aim is to provide relatively young scientists from developing countries with opportunities to travel to the USA to gain practical experience and upgrade their technical skills at advanced agricultural laboratories. So far, USDA has been able, with the assistance of USAID, to piece together funding for about 150 Borlaug fellows to come to the United States each year. With more permanent funding, along the lines of the Fulbright program, USDA and the partner universities could implement a more substantial range of learning and personal development opportunities for young scientists and agricultural leaders from developing countries. This would be good for the individual recipients, their sponsoring institutions and

countries, and also, I believe, for America. Texas A&M University and Ohio State University have been working through the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC) to prepare a more substantial proposal for consideration by Congress.

My plea today to the members of Congress and to the Administration is to re-commit the United States to more dynamic and generous programs of official development assistance in agriculture for Third World nations, as was done in the 1960s and 1970s. Evershrinking foreign aid budgets in support of smallholder agriculture, and especially to multilateral research and development organizations such as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) where I have worked for 40 years, as well as its sister research institutes under the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), are not in our nation's best interest, nor do they represent our finest traditions.

As you chart the course of this great nation for the future benefit of our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, I ask you to think more boldly and humanely about the Third World and develop a new version of the Marshall plan, this time not to rescue a war-torn Europe, but now to help the nearly one billion, mostly rural poor people still trapped in hunger and misery. It is within America's technical and financial power to help end this human tragedy and injustice, if we set our hearts and minds to the task.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2381, the Upper Mississippi River Basin Protection Act, which improves the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin by establishing a coordinated public-private strategy.

Water quality in the Upper Mississippi River is critical to the ecological health of the system and is intricately linked to the basin's vast drainage. The Mississippi River is a multi-use resource where commercial navigation, water supply, and recreational demands co-exist with natural resources. Millions of tons of commodities are transported on the river annually. More than 30 million residents rely on the river water to supply their communities with water. And the river hosts about 12 million recreational visitors annually. At the same time, the Mississippi River is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Unfortunately, the health of the Upper Mississippi River Basin has deteriorated over the years as a result of nonpoint source runoff from land. While agriculture is the lifeblood of many economies along the river, it has contributed to sediment and nutrient buildup that has been detrimental to the health of the river. These sediments and nutrients are transported downstream creating a zone of low dissolved oxygen in the Gulf of Mexico called the "Dead Zone."

We must find ways to harmonize our economy with our environment in order to preserve the Upper Mississippi River Basin. H.R. 2381 takes steps in that direction by supporting a sediment and nutrient monitoring and data col-

lection system for the Upper Mississippi River Basin. This Act will provide much-needed objective data to help manage the increasing sediment and nutrient crisis this river faces.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID B. WHITMORE

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to note the recent passing of David B. Whitmore, who not only was an invaluable member of my staff but also an irreplaceable friend, and to extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Rosan, and the rest of their family.

Dave was born and raised in Watertown, New York, which is also my hometown. After we graduated from Watertown High School together in 1966, Dave went to Grahm Junior College in Boston, Massachusetts, where he earned his bachelors degree in broadcasting.

Thereafter, Dave worked in film production and sales before returning to the North Country. At that time he and Rosan were wed in 1969 and began to raise three beautiful children, Scott, Kristin, and Kerry. Dave then began working for the New York State Farm Bureau and eventually became the organization director before he took up his duties to serve the people of northern New York as a regional representative of my congressional office.

It is hard to overstate the excellence of Dave's public service. In addition to his deep knowledge of agriculture, which is vitally important to northern New York's economy, Dave understood and loved people as he worked hard to use his experience and talents to help them on a daily basis.

Likewise, words are inadequate to express how much his family and I will miss him nor how much we appreciated his integrity, work ethic, ability, generosity, and the contributions he made during his life. All of us in central and northern New York have lost a tireless advocate and a dear friend. He will be deeply missed by many.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 17, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on July 16, 2007:

H.R. 1980, to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 799, Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments. On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, I would have voted "nay."