

record from the previous season was 2–14; a record that was repeated in Walsh's first season. It was only through his calm determination and intelligence for which he became famous that the 49ers returned to greatness.

Two years later, in 1981, the 49ers won their first Super Bowl, and "The Genius" earned his nickname as an innovative strategist, expert motivator and brilliant coach. His revolutionary tactics were soon known throughout the football world as the "West Coast Offense." Walsh's next seven years with the 49ers saw two more Super Bowl victories, and two legendary Hall of Fame quarterbacks—Joe Montana and Steve Young—who thrived under their brilliant coach's tutelage.

Resigning from his position with the 49ers following his Super Bowl win in early 1989, Walsh moved on to become a broadcaster at NBC. Later he assumed various roles with Stanford's football team and the 49ers. Even after being diagnosed with leukemia in 2004, he worked through 2005 as interim athletic director at Stanford. He wrote two bestselling books, was a motivational speaker, and taught classes at Stanford's business school. No matter what he did, Bill Walsh was always known for his exceptional intelligence and professionalism.

Madam Speaker, Bill Walsh earned respect where ever he went through his intelligent approach to the game and his demeanor, both on and off the field. I am honored to pay tribute to this great professional football icon and a proud son of the Bay Area. With his passing earlier this week, he leaves behind a lasting legacy of successful protégés and reverent fans. I invite my colleagues today, to join me in honoring the life and the legacy of Bill Walsh—coach, leader, teacher and an outstanding American.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the passage of H.R. 3161, The 2008 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations bill. Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO has done excellent work to create fiscally and morally responsible legislation that reinvests in rural America, protects public health, improves nutritional standards for all Americans, all while transforming our future energy and conservation goals.

This legislation represents a new direction in the way we invest in our families and our farmers. It is a direction towards improving the health and well-being of all communities and

to implement policies which put middle and working-class families center-stage. In rural America, H.R. 3161 provides significant increases to grants and loans for critical community facilities, affordable loans for low and moderate-income families in rural areas, with no increase in fees, and substantially increases affordable loans and grants for farm worker housing. There is also a large increase in funding for affordable home loans in rural areas that will ultimately double the number of homeowners from the 2002 level, by 2010.

In the areas of public health and nutrition, H.R. 3161 offers more than a billion dollars that will provide Americans with jobs in the food safety and inspection industry, improves food and drug safety regulations, and protects programs that feed women, infants, children, and the elderly. This bill increases funds for such programs as the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable, and Simplified Summer Food programs that provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, as well as specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption. Most importantly, in the Food Stamp Program, this bill not only increases funding to accommodate growing participation, but it excludes special pay for military personnel in eligibility determination, and rejects the administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps that will exclude needy families who are receiving certain other services.

The Agriculture Committee has also taken into consideration our need for renewable energy and conservation by allocating over \$2 billion in funding for renewable energy loans and grants to businesses to grow our economy, create new jobs, lower energy prices, and reduce global warming. Furthermore, H.R. 3161 provides resources for research, aid to farmers and ranchers, and loans to businesses. The bill also restores many programs the President would have cut or eliminated, including the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Resource Conservation and Development, and the watershed programs.

Mr. Chairman, I am extremely proud of my colleagues for their efforts in maintaining the lifeline of all Americans—our farms, nutrition, and energy policies.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, which strengthens our rural communities, while making sure that the American people

have adequate, safe and nutritious food to eat. Let me commend the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee, Ms. DELAURO, for her exceptional leadership in crafting such extraordinary legislation to combat hunger, obesity and malnutrition in our nation and around the world. That is why I strongly support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 allows us to reinvest in the often forgotten but most vitally important rural areas of America. H.R. 3161 is designed to sustain the vitality of rural America, as well as protecting public health and food safety, improving nutrition and healthy eating, and promoting renewable energy and conservation in America.

Mr. Chairman, more than 3 million households in the rural America continue to have inadequate or no water or sewer service at all. H.R. 3161 is the solution to this disparity in that it provides \$500 million for rural water and waste disposal grants, a 14 percent increase over 2007, and \$1 billion for water and waste direct loans for the fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, recent food scares—about peanut butter and lettuce—have made Americans nervous about where their food originates. H.R. 3161 tackles these concerns and addresses the importance of food safety. This bill fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at USDA, shifts funds to fill vacancies in federal meat inspector positions, invests in research, and funds a transformation of FDA food safety regulations. It also prohibits imported poultry products from China, and sets a timeline for USDA to implement critical country of origin labeling for our meat supply after 6 years of Republican delays.

In addition, H.R. 3161 provides a special supplemental nutritional program for women, infants, and children other known as (WIC). This provision is so essential because it affords many women, especially women of color in lower income brackets, the opportunity to care for themselves and their newborns after birth. Without programs such as WIC, many mothers would not be able to maintain a healthy lifestyle during pregnancies and after childbirth. Because of WIC, mothers can afford their nutritional foods they need to sustain their pregnancies and avoid miscarriages, stillbirths and defects caused by malnourishment during pregnancy. H.R. 3161 invests \$233.4 million (4 percent) more than the President to feed more than 8 million pregnant women, mothers and children next year.

Mr. Chairman, hunger is not a problem facing not only the international community faces, but it is also a problem in our own country. Many women, children, and the elderly should not wake and go to bed hungry in our great Nation, but tragically this happens all too often in the cities and villages and small towns of our great country.

The commodity supplemental food program provides \$500,000 monthly in the year 2007. H.R. 3161 increases funding in this area to allow people in five additional states to participate in the program and expand those getting food in states already in the program. In addition, under the Food Stamp Benefit provision, H.R. 3161 protects the most vulnerable and helpless; families of soldiers in combat. Like the recently passed Farm bill, the measure ensures that the families of soldiers in combat are not penalized under the Food Stamp program. It also rejects the Administration's proposal to restrict eligibility for food stamps by excluding needy families who are receiving certain other services.

Mr. Chairman, let us remember that 1 in 3 American adults is overweight or obese and more than 9 million children are struggling with obesity. H.R. 3161 aims to improve the eating habits of Americans, particularly our children through programs that teach children about healthy eating. H.R. 3161 increases funding for nutrition programs, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, which broadens Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and Simplified Summer Food programs to all states to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, and specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption.

Obesity is associated with 35 major diseases including chronic and life-threatening conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. It is important to keep our Nation healthy by providing access to high consumption of vegetables and fruits to the future of our great country, our children. By supporting H.R. 3161 we assure a healthy consumption of nutritional foods for children whose only crime is that their families are poor.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 is essential because it addresses one of the most staggering causes of death in children: malnutrition. Malnutrition remains a significant problem worldwide, particularly among children. According to the United Nations World Food Programme, severe acute malnutrition affects an estimated 20 million children under the age of five worldwide and is responsible in whole or in part for more than half of all deaths of children. Malnutrition kills approximately one million children each year, or an average of one every thirty seconds.

These statistics are absolutely frightening and simply intolerable. They are also avoidable. The World Food Programme estimates that, when implemented on a large scale and combined with hospital treatment for children who suffer complications, a community-based approach to combating malnutrition could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 recognizes the importance of helping our neighbors in combating the hunger. H.R. 3161 provides funding for the Foreign Agricultural Service in the amount of \$159,136,000 and transfers of \$4,985,000, for a total salaries and expenses level of \$164,121,000, an increase of \$2,817,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of \$9,073,000 below the budget request.

In addition, H.R. 3161 permits the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to use up to 25 percent of the funds appropriated for local or regional purchase of food to assist people threatened by a food security crisis.

Mr. Chairman, if it were not for grants such as the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program many foreigners would have no other choice than to leave their native country in pursuit of a better life. In my very own office, I have a future international human rights lawyer by the name of Onyinyechi Abigail Nwaohuocha, who recently traveled to Cambodia and witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by food shortage and underdeveloped agricultural programs.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 reminds us that it is important for the United States to foster a relationship with other parts of the world, so

that citizens of developing countries can also have basic rights such as sufficient amounts of food. The McGovern-Dole International Food program is funded in this bill in the amount of \$100,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and the same as the budget request.

The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program fights child hunger and poverty by supporting school feeding operations, which provide nutritious meals to children in schools. This simple formula has been proven to be a success. Because of such programs, students are better able to concentrate and learn more quickly on a full stomach. Enrollment and attendance rates have skyrocketed as a result of school feeding programs, particularly among girls who are too often denied an education.

Mr. Chairman, there are 110 million school-aged children suffering from hunger every day, and they are counting on America's leadership and generosity to provide them with an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. This bill provides that leadership and generosity and it is for this reason that I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage by an overwhelming margin.

ADDRESSES OF SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NANCY PELOSI AND SPEAKER OF KNESSET AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL DALIA ITZIK AT U.S.-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP EVENT IN JERUSALEM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, earlier this year in Jerusalem in the Israeli Knesset, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, was honored at one of the most moving and significant ceremonies that I have witnessed as a Member of the United States Congress.

The distinguished Speaker of the House, our colleague NANCY PELOSI of California, and the congressional delegation with her as well as other Members of Congress were guests at a state dinner held in the Chagall State Hall of the Knesset in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. I was honored to join five of our colleagues in the bipartisan delegation that accompanied our Speaker on this very special occasion.

The hall, as you know, Madam Speaker, is dominated by the magnificent tapestry designed by Jewish artist Marc Chagall. It is hard not to be touched emotionally to see in Chagall's tapestry the symbols of Jewish identity and Israeli statehood—Moses holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments, David wearing his crown and dancing as he plays the harp, the seven-branched candelabrum which was the symbol of the Temple of Solomon and today is the symbol of the modern State of Israel.

On this very special occasion Speaker PELOSI was welcomed to Israel by the Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik, who at the time was also the Acting President of Israel. Following her warm and friendly welcoming remarks, Speaker PELOSI gave a moving state-

ment on the strong and enduring ties that have linked the United States of America and the State of Israel since the day Israel was founded in 1948.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the welcoming address of Speaker Itzik and the outstanding address in response of Speaker PELOSI be placed in the RECORD, and I strongly urge my colleagues in the Congress to give these statements the thoughtful attention they deserve as important documents on the warm friendship between our two nations.

ADDRESS OF SPEAKER OF KNESSET AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL DALIA ITZIK

Madam Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ms. Nancy Pelosi; Members of the Delegation from the House of Representatives, Welcome to our House.

Madam Speaker, More than two hundred years have passed, and the impossible has now become possible. The United States House of Representatives elected a woman Speaker. It is true that there have been precedents in American democracy where women have held very high positions, but this is the first time that the House of Representatives has elected a woman to serve as Speaker. And it was you who achieved this high honor. (It took you over 230 years; it took us 58 years.)

Ms. Pelosi and members of the distinguished delegation, in less than 24 hours, tomorrow evening, the Jewish People will be enveloped in the sanctity of the Passover Festival. Millions of Jews—in Washington and in Jerusalem, in Tashkent and in Buenos Aires, in Sydney and in Budapest—will sit down together at their family Seder table. The Passover Festival is for us Jews our first and most ancient festival in our history, we have been remembering and celebrating this festival for some three thousand two hundred years. It was then that we became a nation. We went out from slavery to freedom. This was a formative event in our lives.

Another name for the Festival of Passover is the Festival of Freedom. Freedom and liberty form the chain that links us, the invisible chain that crosses continents and oceans from Jerusalem to Washington and back.

Madam Speaker, after two hundred and thirty years of independence, liberty is for you a dream that has already been realized. For us, after thousands of years, the dream is still being realized. We are an ancient People, whose roots are in the Bible and whose values are those of the Biblical prophets, while you are, so to speak, a relatively young nation and country. But we share the dream of liberty that ties us together with bonds of love.

We Israelis love the United States of America, not only because of your economic, military and political support and help. We love you because of that shared dream of liberty and the desire for peace. The Bible tells us "Seek peace and pursue it" (Psalms 34, 15), and you are our loyal partners in that unceasing search that has not yet ended.

Madam Speaker, the Members of the Knesset have just begun their Spring Recess. Nevertheless, many of them are here with us. Because of the Recess, we shall not be able to present to you, during your current visit, a day of normal parliamentary routine.

The Knesset is the location where decisions concerning the nation are taken. The Knesset reflects the unique nature of Israeli society in all its diversity. This is a society where Jews, Arabs, Druze and Circassians, veteran Israelis and new immigrants all live together. There are serious disputes between us.

There are disputes, and—although it may be difficult to believe—also points of agreement! And all this happens with complete