

achieved an impressive 2,843 miles per gallon, breaking a number of the team's personal records.

At a time when prices are skyrocketing at the pump, America must look for ways to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and put our country on a permanent path toward energy independence. Increasing the fuel efficiency of automobiles is a critical step, and I commend the members of the Mater Dei Car Team for their ingenuity and dedication to this important goal. These students represent the future engineers and scientists who can help lead the way in addressing the energy challenges we face.

THE HUNGER CRISIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, approximately 11 percent of our Nation's households are "food insecure," meaning hungry or at risk of hunger. This includes over twelve million children. According to a recent study from the Center for Community Solutions, portions of my district, including Lakewood, Fairview Park and Parma, have experienced a 74 percent increase in participation in the Food Stamp Program between 2002 and 2007.

In March 2008, the World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations issued an emergency appeal to member nations asking for \$500 million to help close the funding gap created by increasing food and fuel prices. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) echoed a similar plea in March saying that an additional \$200 million was needed to meet emergency food aid needs.

Unrest has broken out around the globe due to rising food costs. In Cameroon, where food costs have increased by 50 percent over the last year, 4 days of rioting ended with a death toll of at least 40 people. Violent demonstrations have broken out in Senegal, a country that imports the majority of its food, over the rising prices of rice and milk. In Yemen, multiple days of rioting, spurred by a doubling of wheat prices over a 2 month period, culminated in one hundred arrests.

A new study released by the international NGO, GRAIN, states that "[f]armers across the world produced a record 2.3 billion tons of grain in 2007, up 4% on the previous year . . . the bottom line is that there is enough food produced in the world to feed the population."

The following article by Anuradha Mittal raises valid questions that we must address in our fight against global hunger:

[From the Oakland Institute Reporter]

DANGEROUS LIAISONS: A BATTLE PLAN FROM THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FIGHT GLOBAL HUNGER

(By Anuradha Mittal)

UN agencies are meeting in Berne to tackle the world food price crisis. Heads of International Financial Institutions (IFIs), including Robert Zoellick, President of the World Bank (former U.S. trade representative) and Pascal Lamy, WTO's Director General, are among the attendees. Will the "battle plan" emerging from the Swiss capital, a

charming city with splendid sandstone buildings and far removed from the grinding poverty and hunger which has reduced people to eating mud cakes in Haiti and scavenging garbage heaps, be more of the same—promote free trade to deal with the food crisis.

The growing social unrest against food prices has forced governments to take policy measures such as export bans, to fulfill domestic needs. This has created uproar among policy circles as fear of trade being undermined sets in. "The food crisis of 2008 may become it challenge to globalization," exclaims *The Economist* in its April 17, 2008 issue. Not surprisingly then, the "Doha Development Round" which has been in a stalemate since the collapse of the 2003 WTO Ministerial in Cancun, largely due to the hypocrisy of agricultural policies of the rich nations, is being resuscitated as a solution to rising food prices.

Speaking at the Center for Global Development, Zoellick passionately argued that the time was "now or never" for breaking the Doha Round impasse and reaching a global trade deal. Pascal Lamy has argued, "At a time when the world economy is in rough waters, concluding the Doha Round can provide strong anchor." Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director of the IMF, has claimed, "No one should forget that all countries rely on open trade to feed their populations. Completing the Doha round would play a critically helpful role in this regard, as it would reduce trade barriers and distortions and encourage agricultural trade."

Preaching at the altar of free market to deal with the current crisis requires a degree of official amnesia. It was through the removal of tariff barriers, through the international trade agreements, that allowed rich nations such as the U.S. to dump heavily subsidized farm surplus in developing countries while destroying their agricultural base and undermining local food production. Reduction of rice tariffs from 100 to 20 percent in Ghana under structural adjustment policies enforced by the World Bank, rice imports increased from 250,000 tons in 1998 to 415,150 tons in 2003, with 66 percent of rice producers recording negative returns leading to loss of employment. In Cameroon, poultry imports increased by about six-fold with the lowering of tariff protection to 25 percent while import increases wiped out 70 percent of Senegal's poultry industry.

Developing countries had an overall agricultural trade surplus of almost US \$7 billion per year in the 1960s. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), gross imports of food by developing countries grew with trade liberalization, turning into a food trade deficit of more than US \$11 billion by 2001 with cereal import bill for Low Income Food Deficit Countries reaching over \$38 billion in 2007/2008.

Erosion of agricultural base of the developing countries has increased hunger among their farmers while destroying their ability to meet their food needs. The 1996 World Food Summit's commitment to reduce the number of hungry—815 million then—by half by 2015 had already become a far-fetched idea by its 10th anniversary. U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, reported last June that nearly 854 million people in the world—one in every six human beings—are gravely undernourished.

So on who's behalf are the heads of the IFIs promoting the conclusion of the Doha Round and further liberalization of agriculture. While *Investors Chronicle* in its April 2008 feature story, "Crop Boom Winners" explores how investors can gain exposure to the dramatic turnaround in food and farmland prices, a new report from GRAIN, *Making a Killing*, from the Food Crisis, shows Cargill, the world's biggest grain trad-

er, achieved an 86 percent increase in profits from commodity trading in the first quarter of 2008; Bunge had a 77 percent increase in profits during the last quarter of 2007; ADM, the second largest grain trader in the world, registered a 67 percent increase in profits in 2007. Behind the chieftains of the capitalist system are powerful transnational corporations, traders, and speculators who trade food worldwide, determine commodity prices, create and then manipulate shortages and surpluses to their advantage, and are the real beneficiaries of international trade agreements.

The vultures of greed are circling the carcasses of growing hunger and poverty as another 100 million join the ranks of the world's poorest—nearly 3 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day. Agriculture is fundamental to the well-being of all people, both in terms of access to safe and nutritious food and as the foundation of healthy communities, cultures, and environment. The answer to the current crisis will not come from the WTO or the World Bank, but lies in the principles of food sovereignty that can ensure food self-sufficiency for each nation. It is time for the developing countries to uphold the rights of their people to safe and nutritious food and break with decades of ill-advised policies that have failed to benefit their people.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is April 29, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sunset today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,881 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire