have ranged from delivering 2 tons of milk weekly for the last 4 years to D.C.-area soup kitchens, to serving as Red Cross deputies in Florida during the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

It really warms my heart to see these young people doing all they can to help people in need. The Family Missions volunteers also help teenage runaways and shelters for battered women. This organization has taken on these difficult tasks and more without receiving a single penny of Federal assistance. Instead, they have relied on the personal initiative taken by Cindy Thompson, Sam Lloyd, Brian Thomas Edwards and Lisa Salazar, and a long list of other members of the family.

The success of the Family Missions is based on the simple belief that there is no greater love for our fellow man than to be willing to lay down our life for them.

Mr. Speaker, government alone cannot solve our Nation's problems. That does not mean we simply throw up our hands in frustration. It means every single one of us, no matter what our politics, must roll up our sleeves and do the work each of us is capable of doing to rebuild our neighborhoods and communities. Every day groups like the Family Missions demonstrate the understanding that with freedom comes responsibility.

Sadly enough, there is far more homelessness and hunger in this great Nation than any of us are willing to accept. Poor and distressed people need hope, they need love, they need people willing to come to them, if necessary, who will show they care. They found all these things and more in the Family Missions.

If we are a great country today, then if we are going to be a great country in the future, it will be because of groups like Family Missions.

FOCUS ON HELPING CHILDREN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important challenges we have as we move toward the 21st century is to make sure that the children of America really count. In order to do that, there are so many needs that children have. One of them, of course, is the rebuilding of our schools and better school infrastructure.

Almost one-third of our public schools were built prior to the beginning of World War II in 1939, and an in-depth study shows that one-third of the 80,000 public elementary and secondary schools in the United States, about 26,000 have at least one building in need of extensive repair. The Democrats' rebuilding school bill is the right direction for our children.

Children must be in the forefront of our mind, the same way that the Congressional Children's Caucus next week will hold an important hearing on access to mental health resources for our children. Eleven million children have a diagnosable mental, emotional behavioral disorder, and 1 in 20 will have severe disorder by age 18.

This is an important cause, our children are an important cause. I hope that our colleagues will focus their attention in the next couple of months in helping our children.

LEGISLATION TO PREVENT PROSECUTORIAL ABUSE

(Mr. MCDADE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDADE. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation cosponsored by our colleague JACK MURTHA that will safeguard the citizens of this Nation from unfair, abusive and unethical conduct by rogue employees of the Department of Justice.

The bill establishes clear standards of conduct for Department of Justice employees and makes them accountable for transgressions.

The legislation makes it punishable, for example, for a DOJ employee to engage in actions such as seeking the indictment of a person without probable cause, failing to release information that would exonerate someone under indictment, or misleading the court.

An independent review board is created to monitor compliance with those standards, and that board would have the authority to impose penalties on those found guilty, all of this done in public.

For the information of my colleagues, I am submitting for the record a lengthy list of cases where U.S. courts have found prosecutorial abuse. This list was prepared by the Library of Congress at my request.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill, which would ensure the constitutional rights of American citizens.

SUPPORT MORE TEACHERS AND MORE REPAIRS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mr. ROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, public school education has made this country the most productive and advanced country on the planet. It is the key that opens the door of opportunities to achieve the American dream. It is not only where we learn our common American heritage and our common values, but it is where we can set a high level of achievement and expectation for all American students.

Supporters of public schools understand that our public schools must get better, but let us start at the beginning, grades 1, 2 and 3. That is why I support President Clinton's 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size. Smaller class sizes mean more individualized attention for all of our kids, and a safer and better environment in which they can learn.

But there are those in the extreme who want to tear down our public schools and take money from them, to eliminate the opportunity for all Americans to be able to achieve the American dream.

I urge my colleagues to support President Clinton's plan to reduce class size for 100,000 more schoolteachers, and to provide repairs to the needy school districts whose school buildings are in disrepair.

HOPE NOW FOR YOUTH

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have begun to downsize the institution of government through privatizing, localizing and eliminating Federal programs, and returning more power, money and decision-making to families and local communities. But that is not enough. As a society, we must release the power of religious and civic organizations to solve local problems.

One such organization is Hope Now for Youth in Fresno, California. Hope Now for Youth hires religious, ethnic college students to serve as counselors for young men in Fresno who are involved in risky behavior. The counselors seek to provide the parenting that these kids have missed growing up. Other services include job training, job placement, and help with meeting basic needs.

Hope Now for Youth does all of this without any government money. It is funded by individuals and businesses in Fresno who have taken personal responsibility to rebuild their own communities. It relies heavily on volunteers who give of their time and their love.

Mr. Speaker, Hope Now for Youth is an effective local charity that is a positive role model for all Americans. Local charities like Hope Now for Youth deserve our support. Anyone wishing to find out more may contact my office.

GET ADVICE ON EDUCATION FROM EDUCATORS

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues have ridiculed the President's proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers and to reduce class size to 18. I would suggest that they may want to get out of Washington and talk to some real people about this issue. I did just that last weekend.

My daughter, Alanna, is a third grade public schoolteacher in the suburbs of

Cincinnati, Ohio, and I had a chance to visit with Alanna. I asked her, ''What do you think about the president's proposal?'' She said, ''Well, dad, right now my class size is 25. If it were reduced to 18, I could be a better teacher. I could spend more time with the 5 or 6 kids in my class who really need help.''

Mr. Speaker, I would urge my Republican colleagues, instead of blindly opposing this very important proposal by the President to reduce class size from 25 to 18, get out and talk to some public school teachers and find out what is really going on in the real world.

THE BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, in spite of the fact that the United States has the most advanced health care system in the world, 3 percent of our children are born with birth defects. Approximately 150,000 babies are born each year in this country with a serious birth defect.

Although some birth defects are minor and have no permanent consequences, others cause permanent disability, which necessitates constant medical care, special education and other services that cost victims and their families countless tears and thousands of dollars each year. All too often serious birth defects result in death. In fact, birth defects are the leading cause of infant death in America today.

Next week, the House will consider legislation that could dramatically reduce the incidence of birth defects in America. The Birth Defects Prevention Act, sponsored by Senator KIT BOND and passed by the Senate last year, would direct the Centers for Disease Control to serve as the national clearinghouse for the collection and storage of data on birth defects, help states establish birth defect surveillance programs or improve existing ones, and make grants available to the public and nonprofit organizations to develop and implement birth defect prevention strategies.

SUPPORT EDUCATION FOR A MODERN WORKFORCE: OPPOSE VOUCHERS

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important than giving every child a chance for good education. Our economy is changing and technology is more important than ever. We must prepare our students to compete in a growing, global economy. That is why Democrats want to strengthen our public schools, build and renovate more than 5,000 schools, reduce the class size to 18, hire over 100,000 teachers, and ensure that every child has a chance to get ahead in our society.

What do Republicans propose? Just yesterday the majority leader came to this floor and suggested draining funds from our public schools for private school vouchers. This plan would weaken our public schools; it would help the few and deprive the many. That is the Republican plan. It is not right, it is not fair to the majority of our students, it is the wrong road to travel.

Mr. Speaker, we must support strong public schools for every student in America.

A BUDGET DEAL IS A DEAL

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, back home we say a deal is a deal and a bargain is a bargain. A farmer back in Minnesota described our deficit dilemma best when he said the problem is not that we are not sending enough money into Washington; the problem is that Washington spends it faster than we can send it in. In other words, ''It is spending, stupid.''

When I came to Washington, the Congressional Budget Office was predicting $200 billion deficits for as far as the eye could see, well into the next millennium. Well, since I came to Washington, we have eliminated over 300 programs, reformed welfare and dramatically cut the growth of spending here in Washington. As a result, the Federal budget is balanced today.

Last August we set tough spending caps. Now the President wants to renege.

This is what the President is recommending. The blue line represents what we agreed to spend in our spending caps. Now the President wants to exceed those by $69 billion.

Mr. Speaker, a deal is a deal. Keep faith with the caps. Let us pay down some of the debt, and slow down the Washington spending machine.

INCREASING FAIRNESS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues' support for legislation I will introduce this afternoon to increase fairness in international trade.

As my record shows, I am a strong supporter of fair trade and expanding markets for American products. Regardless of whether we vote to use more American money to replenish the IMF accounts, we already are the largest contributor to the fund. As such, it is our obligation to speak up for what is right.

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My bill is focused on what the Asians should do to help themselves by upholding their trade reform commitments and ensuring fair trade. We need to take responsibility as world leader in trade and democracy.

This bill would use our voice and vote in the international finance institutions to insist that promised market opening reforms are carried out in Asia. I urge my colleagues to support the Asian Trade Reform and Implementation Act, it would send a strong message to Asia: Open your doors to U.S. products.

THE SITUATION IN KOSOVA

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, democracy is struggling to take root in Kosova despite the continued pattern of Serb violence against the ethnic Albanian population. Parliamentary and presidential elections are scheduled to be taken in Kosova on March 22. This will be the first general election this volatile region has had since 1992 and it represents a landmark event for the 90 percent Albanian population in Kosova in their struggle for freedom and independence.

Today we are just hearing reports of artillery shelling and aerial bombing of villages, part of a continuing pattern of violence against the ethnic Albanian population by the Serbs. This must stop. I call upon President Clinton to initiate strong measures, including tougher sanctions against the Belgrade government of President Milosevic. For the sake of the ethnic Albanian people in Kosova and a lasting peace in this troubled region, we cannot allow this violence to continue.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS COMMITTED TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the most recent estimates show that we are actually going to have a budget surplus for fiscal year 1998 if all continues to go well this year.

I rise to make a couple of comments about that. First of all, I think we can all be proud of that accomplishment. It was just 5 years ago that the deficit was $300 billion and climbing, with no end in sight. It was depressing to look as the interest on the debt rose to the point where we felt we would never get out of that hole. Now we are starting to make progress and can be proud of that.

I feel that both parties can have some degree of credit for that accomplishment. But as a Democrat, I am