captioning, all of those programs, to the tune of almost $9 million dollars.

At the same time, we recognize that a lot of our kids are not reading by third grade, they are not reading by fourth grade, they are not reading by fifth grade. But we are doing these types of things, and it really is time, I think, for us not only to wipe out the waste, fraud and abuse but to take the dollars and focus them on the programs and the efforts that will make the biggest difference.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, that has been our objective here in Congress as a Republican majority is to chop this waste, fraud and abuse out of Federal agencies to begin to consolidate programs so that we can send money back to the States in larger chunks with fewer moving parts so that there is more accountability and we involve more local leaders in the disbursement of those funds.

In that way we really are not talking about spending more money on education per child but spending less over time in what is budgeted for all this wasted money that takes place here under the Clinton administration. And so, it is a positive message that we are about, it is a proactive agenda that we are trying to unfold here in Washington. It is a different agenda which our Democrat friends and the Clinton-Gore administration have presided over for the last 8 years.

□ 1400

In their own words, it could not be made any clearer by the Vice President himself when he said, in other words, if a publicly traded corporation kept its books the way the Federal Government does, the Securities and Exchange Commission would close it down immediately.

They knew that back in 1993 when they printed this. They knew that 2 years ago when Ernst & Young did the audit of the Department of Education and warned the Department of Education that there was a potential for theft to take place in the Impact Aid funds; but in all cases they were too busy trying to persuade Americans that they were not paying enough taxes and did not spend enough time making the government more efficient, and in this case and in several other cases, the children of America suffer.

We want to end the suffering. We want to end this burden of waste, fraud and abuse that has been perpetrated upon the American people. We want a brighter day for education of American students, where dollars are spent wisely, dollars get to the classroom, and Americans have their confidence restored in how their Federal Government works.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I think we ought to take a little bit of time talking about where we are with kids. We know our kids are not tested enough, but we also have proposals to fix these problems. We have a series of objectives that say here is what we would like to do. We have got a program called Dollars to the Classroom. It says we want to get 95 cents of every Federal education dollar back into a local classroom. We have got Ed-Flex. What is Ed-Flex? What Ed-Flex says is we know that as we have gone around America with our project called Education at a Crossroads, the States have consistently come back and said, we get 6 to 7 percent of our money from Washington; we get 50 percent of our paperwork. Ed-Flex says we are going to allow school districts and States to eliminate part of the bureaucratic nightmare that we have imposed on them.

We have a program which we call Straight A's. So we are going to get more dollars into the classroom, we are going to get rid of the red tape, and then what we are saying is we are going to allow you more discretion so that in a school district in Colorado, if they need to buy technology, they can go out and buy computers. But if a school district in my area of west Michigan says we really want to do teacher training, they can take those dollars and use the dollars for teacher training, so that we recognize that the needs of west Michigan are very different than the needs of Colorado or South Dakota, so we are going to give school districts flexibility.

The other thing that we want to do is we want to fully fund our commitment to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. The Federal Government committed to paying 40 percent of this mandate that was placed on our local school districts. I think this year we are going to be all the way up to a high, and that is under a Republican Congress, the other side was never able to achieve this kind of funding for IDEA, we are paying 13 percent. But that means, the other part of that mandate, the other 27 percent which we committed to pay now has to come out of a local school district's taxes. What we need to do is we need to fully fund our commitment and when we do that, we will free up local dollars to use for school construction, hiring teachers, technology, other improvements, what they believe their kids need.

Mr. SCHAFFER. We tried, you and I tried and others, the more conservative Members of Congress tried to actually put more money into that unfunded Federal mandate because we know it frees up local districts to provide pay raises for teachers, to build new classrooms, to invest in the technology. We offered amendment after amendment here on the House floor when the appropriations bill was here to beef up the funding for the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act; but AL GORE and Bill Clinton, they did not help us, they were not interested. In fact, their budget opposes what we want to accomplish with fully funding the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

I am hopeful and optimistic that we are on the threshold of perhaps a new day over in the White House with a new kind of leadership that really understands education funding is about real people, real children. When the Department loses funds or squanders resources or mismanages programs, there are real Americans who suffer and suffer mightily as a result of that kind of mismanagement, and it is the same kind of mismanagement that the White House even wrote books about in 1993. It is a tragedy that they failed to follow their own advice, clean up the waste, fraud and abuse in the Department, get money to the classroom. They have had 8 years to work on it, they have squandered their opportunity, they cannot do it. We will.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Creating a Government That Works Better and Costs Less, Report of the National Performance Review.

We can speak from experience that the redesign or the reinvention of the Education Department has been a failure. AL GORE dropped the ball at the Department of Education. The American taxpayer is paying for this. More importantly, America's children are paying the price for this failure of reinvention at the Department of Education. It was promised us in 1993 and the conditions are as bad if not worse in the year 2000 than what they were in 1993.

PIPELINE SAFETY LEGISLATION AND THE LONGHORN PARTNERS PIPELINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before the end of the 106th Congress, I am hopeful to be able to pass a comprehensive pipeline safety bill. On September 7, the Senate unanimously passed the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2000. This bill is tough and has many public safety provisions. For example, the daily penalty for a violation of regulations increases from $25,000 a day to $500,000 a day. In addition, pipeline companies must now report spills in excess of five gallons as opposed to 50 barrels or 2,100 gallons under current law.

Other provisions in this bill require pipeline companies to have a detailed pipeline integrity plan as well as mandating stronger training and qualification requirements. The bill also strengthens the public's right to know and provides whistle-blower protections for pipeline employees.

I believe this bill is a good start. Although I would still like to include other public safety protections, I understand the need for a pipeline safety bill this year. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee on Commerce that I serve on but also in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure if necessary to move even more legislation, stronger legislation next year. Pipelines have been shown to be a much

safer way to transport products than trucks or other methods and the current bill increases that safety factor.

I have also been working with several of my Texas colleagues and colleagues in the southwestern United States to secure Federal approval of a project called the Longhorn Pipeline. The Longhorn Pipeline begins at Galena Park, Texas, in east Harris County in the district I represent and goes across Texas for approximately 700 miles to El Paso, Texas.

This pipeline is intended to carry refined petroleum production from Houston to southwest markets of the United States in El Paso and Midland/Odessa and hopefully beyond. After much delay, the Federal Government now seems to be willing to move forward in the process. George Frampton, chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, has recommended the EPA and the Department of Transportation to include the analysis of the Longhorn Pipeline project by finishing the environmental assessment.

The many studies and analyses conducted by the Federal Government indicate that the extensive mitigation plan supports this action. The Longhorn Mitigation Plan protects the environment and all the people along the pipeline route and is of a scope and rigor unprecedented in the pipeline industry. It includes measures designed to reduce the probability of a spill as well as measures designed to provide greater protection to the more sensitive areas, including areas where communities and drinking water could be affected.

The Longhorn Pipeline meets or exceeds current statutory, regulatory and industry standards. The pipeline would be the safest in the history of the United States. I do not make this statement lightly. For instance, the mitigation measures are adjusted along the route of the pipeline based on the sensitivity of the area. The route was divided into approximately 8,000 segments, and the relative sensitivity at each segment was determined based on factors including the proximity to population centers, drinking water supplies, and protected species habitat.

I cannot begin to understand why the Federal Government has taken this long, and to have made such a difficult process in the regulatory lag is amazing. We still have time to salvage the good intentions and still have the success that was started with this process. But we need to act now. I say we, the Federal Government. Since Longhorn filed for the pipeline conversion in 1997, two other previous crude-oil-conversion-to-refined-products pipelines are up and running. I repeat, they are up and running with not the mitigation measures that are part of this Longhorn Pipeline.

If we are interested in pipeline safety, we need to encourage pipeline companies to establish mitigation measures such as these. Working together, we can ensure that pipelines remain a viable transportation means while maintaining and improving public safety.

SERVING THE SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 86 years of service given to the San Diego community by the Neighborhood House Association and at the same time the 35th anniversary of Head Start, both nationwide and at this location.

Neighborhood House is a multipurpose social service agency whose goal is to improve the quality of life of the people served. It is one of the largest nonprofit organizations in San Diego, reaching more than 300,000 San Diego residents with its programs. Since Dr. Howard Carey assumed leadership as president and chief executive officer in 1972, Neighborhood House has grown from a budget of $400,000 and a staff of 35 to the current budget of approximately $50 million with 800 employees. Among the most important of the services of Neighborhood House is Head Start, and the 35th anniversary of Head Start is being recognized at a Gala 2000 event by the Neighborhood House Association on November 17, 2000.

As we all know, Head Start is the most successful federally funded program for children that has been created. It has touched the lives of tens of thousands of low-income preschool children and their families. The Neighborhood House Head Start serves 7,000 preschoolers and their families in 77 centers, the largest San Diego Head Start program. And plans are in place to provide for over 11,000 children to be reached in over 130 centers.

Mr. Speaker, Head Start and the Neighborhood House are in the business of helping people to help themselves. They strive for permanent changes, and long-term self-sufficiency is their goal. On the occasion of the Neighborhood House Association's Gala 2000, I am honored to congratulate both Head Start and the Neighborhood House for their many contributions to the children and families of San Diego.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have just witnessed last night the first of the presidential debates between the candidates of the two major parties. After a great deal of wrangling, I was pleased to see that Governor Bush agreed to the debate commission's recommendations and has agreed to share the platform. I think it is important that we are now turning to issues that confront the American public. Unfortunately, sometimes with the barrage of issue ads that we see and at times conflicting claims, I can understand how the American public can be confused about what the actual truth may be in a particular area. But I will tell you in the areas that relate to the environment, there is really no excuse for confusion. The differences could not be clearer between the two political parties and the two major candidates.

We wanted to take a few minutes this afternoon to address those issues of the environment, where people stand and what difference it makes for the American public. I am honored to be joined in this discussion this afternoon by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the ranking member of the Committee on Resources, a gentleman whose legacy in terms of protecting the environment, dealing with natural resources, fighting against pollution, leadership on a wide variety of issues is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman very much for yielding, and I thank him for taking this time that we might have an opportunity to discuss both the environmental challenges that are presented in this election season and by this Congress and by the differences between Governor Bush and Vice President GORE.

I, as many Americans last night, was shocked when, although I guess we should not have been surprised but shocked when Governor Bush suggested that the way out of our energy crisis was to simply drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and that would in fact solve the problem.

□ 1415

As was correctly pointed out by Vice President GORE, if you simply do that, you do nothing but add a couple of months of oil supply to the total consumption of the United States, but you have done nothing on the other side, which is consumption, conservation, new technologies, all of which are necessary if we are going to use these oil resources in a wise fashion.

It is unfortunate that the first thing that Governor Bush would suggest to the American public is that we ought to, in fact, treat the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge much as we would an oil field in East Texas. There is a world of difference between those two, and perhaps Governor Bush does not understand that.

But the Arctic Wildlife Refuge is not just that. It is a refuge for wildlife, of caribou and other species, that are greatly threatened by additional development in the Arctic, and it is important that we understand that, because I think, again, as Vice President GORE pointed out, you need not destroy our environment to improve the energy situation in this country.