

yet through a grassroots effort was able to raise the amounts of money that he needed to wage very difficult campaign battles.

Mike was 45 years only when he died. Not many of us who have lived much longer could have accomplished what he did.

The test, Mike, of someone's life is how much you leave in others. You leave a lot in a lot of us. We carry on much better because we know that you are behind us and we know the example that you have set for us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO MIKE SYNAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to follow up in part of my 5 minutes and also pay tribute to Mike Synar as my colleague from West Virginia just did.

Mike Synar was the first person, actually, from Washington, or a Congressman, if you will, who came down when I first ran for election in 1988. He was also a champion of the environment, and I was largely elected to Congress back in 1988 because during that summer in New Jersey we had our beaches closed and huge washups of debris that came ashore and caused us to lose billions of dollars in our tourism industry.

Mike came down as a leading environmentalist in Congress and did a press conference with me and met with some of the editorial boards. It was for the first time I saw him on the train coming from New York to New Jersey. I never met anybody who was so dynamic and cared so much about the environment and about the principles of the Democratic Party and the Nation as a whole.

I watched him here. He was sort of a mentor in a way because he was on the Committee on Commerce, then it was called the Energy and Commerce Committee, which is the committee that I am now on, that deals so much with environmental issues. He encouraged me to become a member of the committee and helped me to get on the committee. I often looked to him for advice.

He was almost exactly the same age that I am, and when I heard about his illness and when I heard that he had actually passed away, I was very saddened because there really were very few people in the House of Representatives who had the dynamism, who cared so much about his country, who cared so much about the principles

that he espoused and was able to translate that into action. He will be sorely missed.

BUDGET CUTS IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker, I came here today because I was concerned about the budget and where we are going in terms of education programs in this country. Last night during the State of the Union address, President Clinton stressed education. He stressed the need for a properly educated America because of the challenges that we face in the future, particularly with regard to job opportunities, competing in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a shame, and he certainly challenged the Congress to do something about it, but it is a shame that in the last year in this House of Representatives the Republican majority has really cut funding for education programs, whether it is on the secondary school level or the higher education level. I think over the next few months, unless something dramatically changes and the Republican leadership decides that they are going to prioritize education as they promised, we are going to see dramatic change in the ability of our schools and our colleges to provide affordable educational opportunities for the average American.

The budget, as many of us know, manifests itself in many ways. There has not been appropriation for the Education Department. The budget that the Republicans passed actually cuts back significantly on a number of education programs. The CR, the continuing resolution that we are operating under now that was proposed by the Republican majority, cuts funding or lets the Department operate its various education programs at significantly lower levels than what is necessary to keep going with the programs that we have.

Already, we are beginning to hear that some of the Republican suggestions for spending or appropriation levels for next year will also severely impact our educational programs.

One of the things I am most concerned about is the GOP proposal to eliminate \$1.9 million in direct student loans. They do not favor the direct student loan program. In the last couple of years, the Democrats put forward this new program where the loans would be coming directly from the colleges and universities rather than banks and financial institutions.

In my district, at Rutgers University, Rutgers has been able to take advantage of this program and provide a lot more loans to a lot more students than would be available under the existing institutional student loan program. Officials at Rutgers, and a lot of other colleges in the State, have told me that if this program is abolished or limited, as the Republicans propose, to certain schools and eventually phased out, that there will be a lot less student loans available.

We have also seen programs with the Pell Grants because of the shutdown

and the uncertainty. The Education Department now really does not know what kind of schedule or information it can provide to the colleges and universities about student loan availability for next year or Pell Grants and other higher education grant availability for next year.

I think that what the Republican majority is forgetting is that when we talk about higher education loans or grant programs, students need to know in advance what kind of funding levels are available and what kind of student loans are available. This process of shutting down the Government and not having an appropriations bill, not being able to plan for next September or even next semester is having a terrible impact on our educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, we need to wise up and prioritize education. That is what President Clinton said last night, and I hope the Republican leadership gets the message.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. DELAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KILDEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KILDEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CUTS IN EDUCATION FUNDING COULD RESULT IN HUMAN DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. VENTO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, our children's future is at risk as the Republican Congress is defunding education. I very much agree with my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. PALLONE, and his comments about education, especially higher education.

The initial 7-year budget plan, in fact, sliced \$10 billion out of the higher education loan and grant programs. Now, since then, some of the message has gotten through and that has not persisted in the final version of the budget. But, nevertheless, they in fact deauthorized the direct lending program, which will indeed mean that the dollars do not go as far in terms of