

White House conference that we had here in October. We had some 1,700 leading people in travel and tourism come to Washington at the end of October, and they asked Congress for legislation dealing with a partnership act which allows the government and industry to work together. This would be really a prototype for legislation in the future.

We have the bill before us, H.R. 2579. This bill allows America to compete not only in our country, but also internationally in the travel and tourism industry. Again, it is the outgrowth of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism. It is a real job creator. There is not a bill before Congress that will create as many jobs as the Partnership Act, H.R. 2579, so I am asking Members to sign on. It is a real economic stimulus, especially for our local communities.

We now have 195 cosponsors. We want to do what is said to be impossible. We want to reach 218. So, you see, we are in striking distance. We are striving to achieve the ultimate goal, which is 218 cosponsors. I am asking all Members to become involved.

We have come a long way. We have made strides that others have said would be unachievable. But with all our success, we have a long trail ahead of us. We must get the job done. Time is of the essence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to focus on travel and tourism, because of what it means to our economy and what it means to jobs for all Americans. It is time for us to focus on this emerging industry. After all, travel and tourism, telecommunications, and information technology are the three greatest job producers of the 1990's and the 21st century. If we in Congress are forward looking and if we in Corning are going to focus on what has to be done for our economy and for the future of this country, then we have got to focus on travel and tourism, and we have got to do that today, because we have only 2 months before USTTA closes down.

So I ask all Members to focus on travel and tourism. Let us complete the big job we started. I ask all Members to help by cosponsoring this legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the time to express my concerns about travel and tourism this afternoon.

CUTS IN EDUCATION ARE HITTING HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to focus on education this afternoon, because I am very concerned about the consequences of the House Republican leadership and their spending proposals with regard to education,

the cuts that they have implemented or they are trying to implement in education.

Essentially what we are seeing now is that these cuts are hitting home. I am going back to my district, and I know others have heard from their districts and their hometowns, are hearing back from the school boards and from local residents about the fact that teachers now have to be laid off or taxes have to be raised in order to provide for education programs that the Federal Government will no longer fund under these Republican proposals.

I have said before that education is one of the priorities that the President and the Democrats in Congress have stressed should not be severely impacted during these constant budget battles on the floor. Yet once again we face the situation where the House passed a spending bill a few weeks ago for the remainder of this fiscal year that would severely cut, provide the largest cut in educational programs in the history of the Federal Government.

This is basically amounting to a 13-percent reduction from the last fiscal year, a \$3.3 billion cut in education programs. The Senate, fortunately, as I have mentioned before, when this bill went over to the Senate, tried to restore most of this, about \$2.5 billion in education funds. However, the Senate bill will not prevail if Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican extremists, the Republican leadership, do not go along with the Senate version. So we have to constantly push to say that the House version that makes all these cuts in education funding is not the way to go, and that we as Democrats support the Senate version and the President supports the Senate version to put back a lot of this education money.

Now what does this all mean? A lot of times on the floor of the House we talk about money or about amounts of money or percentages, and some people wonder what does it mean to me locally back at home? Well, it means a lot. I think we have got a very good glimpse of that today, or I should say yesterday, in the New York Times. The New York Times had an article in yesterday's paper, "Federal Budget Impasse Hits Home With the Threat of Layoffs in School Districts."

It takes us to a relatively small town in upstate New York, Schenectady. There they are starting to send out notices to the teachers to tell them they are going to be laid off because of the cutbacks in Federal funding. I just wanted to read some sections of this article, if I could, because I think it is so indicative of what the impact is of these House Republican cuts in education funding. It talks about Teresa McAnaney and her colleagues at the Pleasant Valley Elementary School in Schenectady who:

... have tended to view the budget stalemate in Washington as a distant drama that has mainly led to the periodic closing of the nation's parks and museums and a handful of Government agencies.

But earlier this month, this faraway crisis hit home: the superintendent's office notified Ms. McAnaney that she would be among 16 teachers and aides in the city school district at risk for layoffs in the fall because the district had no idea how much money it would receive from the Federal or state governments.

She says that "The uncertainty is the most frustrating part of this whole thing."

This is what we are talking about. This week, this Federal Government is operating with a stopgap funding measure that extends for 1 week. This Friday again the Government or certain agencies of the Government, including the Education Department, will close down if we do not pass another bill extending funding for another week or another month. The process has to stop, because with these stopgap measures and taking the education funding from week-to-week, which is what the Republican leadership has been doing, there is so much uncertainty back in our hometowns and throughout this country about education funding that they do not know what to do. What they have to do is essentially plan for the worst, lay off teachers, particularly those funded through title I for various programs, and tell them and assume they are not going to have the money for the next fiscal year. The only way that they can avoid that is if they go and take their local property taxes in order to keep some of these teachers and some of these programs going.

I went on further in the article, I thought it was particularly interesting, because further on in this New York Times article they have another individual who is also from Schenectady, who talks about how Congress and the Federal legislators are not paying attention to what is happening in the small towns. This gentleman is quoted as saying that "I don't think those people realize how their fighting is hurting ordinary people like myself * * * Maybe they should come into a school to see the problems they are creating every day."

He says, "It has reached the point that people cannot even plan."

Once again, I think that is the problem here. We keep talking about this Federal budget and the Republican leadership keeps saying that if we cut this money out of education programs, it will not matter. Let me tell you, it does matter. We are going to see more and more that it matters in coming weeks if the Republican leadership does not turn around and restore this education funding.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2745

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2745.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.