

decade ago. If this were the only figure, this 17,000, it would be huge by any measure. But, in fact, you find thousands and thousands of contract employees. If you wonder where the rest of these employees are, there are 6,000 in Washington, there is another approximately 1,200, a 1,000 to 1,300 in 10 regional offices across the country.

When I get down to my State of Florida, we had a total, I believe, of 65 EPA employees in this particular fiscal year.

So people who think that EPA is out there in the States protecting the environment, it is not so. They are in Washington, and they are passing countless rules and regulations. A tremendous amount is spent on administration.

And then some of the programs we have heard talked about like Superfund. Superfund, I have explained to the House, over 80 percent of the funds on Superfund have been spent on attorney fees and studies.

I had a gentleman visit me in my office yesterday, and he said a Superfund site in Florida was identified in 1984. He said it went through a half a dozen project administrators and they still have not done anything to resolve the problems of the Superfund site. That is in Florida.

Here is a site in Nevada. Lyon County commissioners, and this is part of a release from them, asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to halt mercury cleanup program of the Carson River. The mercury that they were going to clean up is left over from mining operations of the Comstock Lode in the 1800's.

Then we have another example, of Vermont here, Burlington, Vermont. Twelve years ago, after a site was picked there to clean up some hazardous waste left over from a coal gasification plant, nothing was done. They spent millions of dollars. Very little was done in the way of environmental cleanup.

So we are paying more, we are getting less, and the more I talk about this, the more examples that are brought for me from across the country, and that is part of the debate. Republicans favor protecting the environment, preserving the environment. Republicans favor clean water, clean air, clean land. But when you spend money like this, when the money goes for a bureaucracy like this, and it does not go for a cleanup, then we have a real problem.

I want to quote as I get towards the end here a comment from Carol Browner, EPA administrator, who said in the New York Times in 1993, in November: "When I worked at the state level, I was constantly faced with rigid rules that made doing something 110 times more difficult and expensive than it needed to be. It makes no sense to have a program that raises costs while doing nothing to reduce environmental threats."

Now, that is Carol Browner, former Florida EPA administrator, comment-

ing on her experience in dealing with the Federal Government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I call on Carol Browner, I call on this administration, I call on my colleagues, to stop paying more and getting less. We can do a better job if we concentrate and effectively utilize our limited taxpayer dollars.

A SPECIAL DAY, A SPECIAL EVENT, AND VERY SPECIAL STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DE LA GARZA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I participated in an Earth Day celebration back home in my district. The event was a Hometown Trees celebration and took place at the Kika de la Garza Elementary school whose principal is Mr. Jose Louis Trigo.

We planted a live oak tree in remembrance of the children of the Oklahoma bombing tragedy. This was donated by first grader Amy Sojak and her classmates. Amy and her classmates are students of Miss Veronica Galvan. Fourth grade student Joel Espinoza was the master of ceremonies. And awards were presented to the following students for their essays which emphasized the special and unique benefits provided by trees: Victor Villarreal, Brandi Martinez, Andres Aguilar, Juan Carlos Lopez, and Denise Sepulveda.

What was particularly exciting about the occasion is that 10 year old Victor Villarreal was recognized as the Hometown Trees National Essay Contest Winner for the Southwest region. He is the son of Guadalupe and Francisca Villarreal.

Over the past 5 years, Hometown Trees, sponsored by IGA supermarkets, Louisiana-Pacific and Coca-Cola, has teamed up with thousands of local volunteers in communities nationwide to ensure that the future generations will enjoy the ecological and aesthetic benefits of trees. This year, as part of the Hometown Trees initiative, IGA sponsored a nationwide environmental essay contest for children age 12 and under.

Young Victor won the contest—quite an accomplishment and one of which he can be very proud. His essay was chosen for its uniqueness and creativity. It vividly captures the importance of trees from a child's perspective.

It reads: "Trees are important in my hometown because at La Joya, 'The Jewel of the Valley,' we treasure trees—our jewels. They add that special spark that only nature can provide. Anything that mother nature creates, is a true treasure that no other power can originate. Treasure your jewels!"

To specifically honor Victor's accomplishment a tree donated by IGA and Carl's Grocery was planted. It will forever be a living monument to him. These trees will be enjoyed by all the community.

What made this occasion particularly unique for me is that I feel the sentiments expressed by Victor are shared by his fellow students. What I saw in the faces of the youngsters was an eagerness not just to participate in an event for the one day we officially recognize as Earth Day, but rather a desire to make every day Earth Day.

This tells me that as we celebrate this 26th Anniversary we have passed on to our children and grandchildren how important it is to look after our environment in the way we live our lives every day. That is quite an accomplishment—and Victor, and all of his fellow students, are quite an outstanding group of youngsters.

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I join all of my colleagues today in commemoration of April 24, 1996, the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide which occurred under such tragic circumstances 81 years ago, and it is my purpose to join with my colleagues to insist that such inhumanity never be repeated again.

Mr. Speaker, today we are recalling the loss of 1½ million Armenians who were killed and a half million more who were driven from Turkey. No person of any decency can do other than oppose this sort of inhumanity, and all join in a statement of hope for a world free of genocide and ethnic conflict.

I have the great privilege to represent a large and active Armenian population, many of whom have parents and grandparents who were amongst the persecuted religious, political, and intellectual leaders in the turn of the century Armenia.

Today's Michigan community of Armenians follow the great tradition of doing much to further the commercial, political, and intellectual growth of Michigan and of the country. It is my hope that today's effort to honor the victims and the survivors of this genocide will educate all of us, will educate our neighbors country men and all of the world's people so that peace remains a priority of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We look back to honor those who have died, but we also look forward and say, "Never again."

□ 1745

BUDGET SHORTFALL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago I announced, along with the chairman of the Committee on National Security, that we were going to address a shortfall in funding under the Clinton administration budget that seriously impeded the capability of our pilots to operate their aircraft effectively and safely. That was done on the heels of the hearing in which we talked about the three, now four, F-14 crashes since the first of January and the three

AV-8B Harrier Marine Corps jet aircraft crashes since the first of January.

We talked about the fact that the Clinton administration is not going to spend the money to make the safety upgrades to 24 of the Marine aircraft that are going to be piloted by young Americans. The chairman of the full committee, my friend FLOYD SPENCE and I made the decision that we would commit to spend the money that was necessary to upgrade those aircraft so that they are 50 percent safer than they would otherwise be, and we also made the commitment to make the \$83 million in safety upgrades to the F-14 aircraft.

It was an indication to me, Mr. Speaker, that the Clinton administration's defense budget, which has been slashed in excess of \$150 billion below the budget put together by Dick Cheney and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Colin Powell, it was another indication to me that this budget is coming apart at the seams.

Today I have the duty of reporting to my colleagues and to the American people that there is another indicator that the Clinton defense budget is coming apart at the seams. That indicator is that we now have examined the ammunition supplies that the U.S. Marine Corps will depend on in the two major regional conflict scenarios. That means if they should get involved in a conflict in the Middle East and at the same time be involved in a conflict on the Korean peninsula, would they have the ammunition to carry out both of those operations, which is a requirement that the President of the United States has told the American people the Marines will be able to meet.

The answer, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately is no. The Marines do not have the basic ammunition load necessary to carry out two major regional contingencies. Their ammo pouches in those contingencies will at some point be empty, and they will be empty because the Clinton administration is not willing to spend the money to put that ammo in their ammo pouches.

I have received now from the Marines a list of ammo that they need to be able to fight those contingencies for the American people, and that ammo list comes to \$369 million. I have talked this over with the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from South Carolina, FLOYD SPENCE, and we have agreed that we are going to commit today to fund that full ammunition load for the U.S. Marine Corps.

It makes no sense, and it certainly is greatly lacking in compassion and consideration for our military people to suit them up and move them around the world to project American power and protect American interests and freedom, and not give them the dog-gone ammunition that they need to get the job done.

So once again the Clinton defense budget has come up this time \$369 million short in the area of ammunition. We were first apprised of this when we

saw the GAO report, the initial informal report that said that the Marines did not have the ammo to fight two wars. We examined it. We talked to people. We finally got the list of exactly what they need to have full ammunition pouches.

So the Republicans are riding to the rescue of America's fighting people. We are going to see to it that they have the right equipment and the right ammunition to get the job done, and we are committing today to spend the money that is necessary to do that.

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mrs. LOWEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, an act of mass murder that took 1.5 million Armenian lives and led to the exile of the Armenian nation from its historic homeland.

It is of vital importance that we never forget what happened to the Armenian people. Indeed the only thing we can do for the victims is to remember, and we forget at our own peril.

The Armenian genocide, which began 15 years after the start of the 20th century, was the first act of genocide of this century, but it was far from the last. The Armenian genocide was followed by the Holocaust, Stalin's purges, and other acts of mass murder around the world.

Adolf Hitler himself said that the world's indifference to the slaughter in Armenia indicated that there would be no global outcry if he undertook the mass murder of Jews and others he considered less than human. And he was right. It was only after the holocaust that the cry "never again" arose throughout the world. But it was too late for millions of victims. Too late for the 6 million Jews. Too late for the 1.5 million Armenians.

Today we recall the Armenian genocide and we mourn its victims. We also pledge that we shall do everything we can to protect the Armenian nation against further aggression; in the Republic of Armenia, in Nagorno-Karabagh, or anywhere else.

Unfortunately, there are some who still think it is acceptable to block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance around the world. Despite our success last year in including the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act in the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill signed by the President, Azerbaijan has continued its blockade of United States humanitarian assistance to Armenia.

It is tragic that Azerbaijan's tactics have denied food and medicine to innocent men, women, and children in Armenia, and created thousands of refugees. The United States must stand firm against any dealings with Azerbaijan until it ends this immoral blockade. We must make clear that

warfare and blockades aimed at civilians are unacceptable as means for resolving disputes.

Mr. Speaker, after the genocide, the Armenian people wiped away their tears and cried out, "Let us never forget. Let us always remember the atrocities that have taken the lives of our parents and our children and our neighbors." I rise today to remember those cries and to make sure that they were not uttered in vain. The Armenian nation lives. We must do everything we can to ensure that it is never imperiled again.

REMEMBER THE MARTYRS

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

Mr. TORKILDSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER], and many others to remember the Armenian genocide.

Last week Members of Congress, the Nation and the world observed Yom HaShoah to honor and remember the millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust. Sadly, one tragic truth about the Holocaust is that it occurred 20 years after the Armenian genocide, which took the lives of over 1½ million Armenians. In fact, it was Hitler who uttered the infamous statement, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

Today we stand here in this Chamber and in places around our Nation to do just that, to remember the Armenians, remember the martyrs, to say we will always remember them and we will never let the world forget the Armenian genocide that occurred at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

It was just over 81 years ago that 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered and another 500,000 were driven from their homeland during the 8-year genocide. Revisionist historians have sadly doubted the historical reality of the genocide. The Armenians were not killed indiscriminately or at random. The Armenians murdered between 1915 and 1923 were the victims of a calculated extermination through starvation, torture and deportation, a genocide in every cruel meaning of the word and nothing less.

Earlier today back in my district, Mayor Peter Torigian of Peabody, MA held a remembrance and flag-raising ceremony that included 8 survivors of the genocide. These people are living proof that the genocide occurred. Their words bear witness to the reality of what happened 81 years ago.

Mayor Torigian often tells a terrifying but very sobering story of his mother, who survived the genocide. Any time someone tries to deny the historical reality of the genocide, he reminds them that his mother, who was quite ill and confined to a nursing home, often repeats an Armenian