

In our Madrid embassy, to take an example, this will leave us with something like three political and three economic officers besides the ambassador and deputy chief of mission to perform our essential daily diplomatic work of advocacy, representation and reporting in the broad range of vitally important areas I have enumerated. Our other embassies face similarly devastating reductions.

I have to tell you that cuts of this magnitude will gravely undermine our ability to influence foreign governments and will severely diminish our leadership role in world affairs. They will also have detrimental consequences for our intelligence capabilities since embassy reporting is the critical overt component of U.S. intelligence collection. In expressing these concerns I believe I am representing the views of the overwhelming majority of our career and non-career ambassadors.

Under the pressure of Congressional budget cuts, the State Department is eliminating 13 diplomatic posts, including consulates in such important European cities as Stuttgart, Zurich, Bilbao and Bordeaux. The Bordeaux Consulate dated back to the time of George Washington. Try explaining to the French that we cannot afford a consulate there now when we were able to afford one then when we were a nation of 3 million people.

The consulates I have mentioned not only provided important services to American residents and tourists, they were political lookout posts, export promotion platforms, and centers for interaction with regional leaders in a Europe where regions are assuming growing importance. Now they will be all gone.

Closing the 13 posts is estimated to save about \$9 million a year, one quarter of the cost of an F-16 fighter plane. Bilbao, for example, cost \$200,000 a year. A B-2 bomber costs about \$2,000 million. I remind you that \$2 billion pays nearly all the salaries and expenses of running the State Department—including our foreign embassies—for a year.

Let us be clear about what is going on. The commendable desire to balance our national budget, the acute allergy of the American people to tax increases (indeed, their desire for tax reductions), the explosion of entitlement costs with our aging population, and the need to maintain a strong national defense, all combine to force a drastic curtailment of the civilian discretionary spending which is the principal public vehicle for domestic and international investments essential to our country's future.

Having no effective constituency, spending on international affairs is taking a particularly severe hit within the civilian discretionary account and with it the money needed for our diplomatic establishment. The President and the Secretary of State are doing their best to correct this state of affairs, but they will need greater support from the Congress and the general public than has been manifest so far if this problem is to be properly resolved.

I submit that it will not be resolved, until there is a recognition that the international affairs budget is in a very real sense a national security budget—because diplomacy is our first line of national defense. The failure to build solid international relationships and treat the causes of conflict today will surely mean costly military interventions tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA WORKING GROUP

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the California Working Group, whose TV producers are being honored by the 110 affiliated local unions of the Central Labor Council of San Mateo County, AFL-CIO, and their 65,000 members and families for their production of "We Do the Work."

California Working Group has for 6 years produced "We Do the Work," the only national public television series that addresses contemporary life and issues faced by working people. The weekly series has been broadcast on more than 130 PBS stations across the country, with programs highlighting Americans' concerns about unemployment, child labor, job wages, job migration, health and safety issues, and job training, as well as programming which examines the labor culture, media coverage of work issues, and leadership within the labor movement.

The staff and board of directors of California Working Group have succeeded in their mission by producing programs that bring positive images of working people to television. The distinguished producers and members on the staff are Patrice O'Neill, Rhian Miller, Linda Peckham, Kyung Sun Moon, Debra Chaplan, Valerie Lapin, Craig Berggold, and Steve Diputado and the board of directors are Rome Aloise, Mary Anne Barnett, Danny Beagle, Barbara Byrd, Art Carter, Dave Elsil, John Garcia, Kathy Garmezy, Jeff Greendorfer, Conn Hallinan, Ben Hudnall, Bob Kalaski, Karen Keiser, Shelley Kessler, Ed Logue, Ken Lohre, Jack McNally, Kerry Newkirk, Gladys Perry, Art Pulaski, Erica Rau, Charlie Reiter, Alicia Ribeiro, Steve Roberti, Dan Scharlin, Steve Shriver, Carole Sickler, Dave Sickler, and Michael Straeter. Together they have successfully provided a forum for ordinary Americans to speak their minds and share their stories with the public at large.

California Working Group productions have been awarded Golden and Silver Apple Awards from the National Educational and Film & Video Festival, silver and gold plaques from the Chicago International Film Festival, and the Sidney Hillman Award.

Mr. Speaker, the California Working Group is an exemplary nonprofit organizations that has contributed great depth and diversity to our community and the labor movement. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the California Working Group, its staff and board of directors whose dedication and commitment to quality programming has given a voice to working Americans.

HONORING THE ROCK CITY/ROME VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Rock City/Rome Volunteer

Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These fireman must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO EMIL SCHIEVE POST, AMERICAN LEGION ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding veterans organization in my district, the Emil Schieve Post of the American Legion, in Lyons, IL, as it celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

The post was founded in 1921 by a group of World War I veterans. Its namesake, Emil Schieve was the first Lyons man killed in World War I. He died in action in France on October 4, 1918.

In its three quarters of a century in, the post has had four homes, moving to its current location at 4112 Joliet Avenue, the village's former library in 1967. In honor of its anniversary, the post is displaying historical photos from its archives that not only highlight its history, but the community's as well.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the members, living and past, of Emil Schieve American Legion Post on its 75th anniversary serving the veterans of their community.

TRIBUTE TO TING LOU

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 30, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ting Lou of Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan who was chosen Monday March 11, 1996, as the second place winner in the prestigious Westinghouse Science Awards.

Mr. Speaker, since 1942, the Westinghouse Science Talent School has identified and encouraged high school seniors nationwide to