

Moreover, this resolution uses overly optimistic Administration budget estimates rather than the usual non-partisan estimates from the Congressional Budget Office. Furthermore, it assumes unacceptable cuts in key domestic priorities such as education, housing, health care, job training and environmental protection, even though Congress will likely restore the needed funding. While this resolution provides \$350 billion in additional Medicare spending, it would place a Medicare prescription drug benefit in competition with Medicare "modernization," as well as provider givebacks that the Republican Leadership has estimated will cost as much as \$174 billion. The projections also leave out an assessment of the lost revenue from extending expiring tax credits and modifying the individual minimum tax that will impact 39 million middle-income taxpayers over the next 10 years. And these five-year projections fail to disclose the cost of making last year's tax cuts permanent, as the Administration's budget proposes. Over the customary ten-year budgetary window, extending the tax cuts cost \$400 billion. A more realistic set of assumptions would show that the 10-year budget surplus has already vanished.

The disappearance of the 10-year surplus compels us to consider not just a one-year but also a long-term budget plan. The American people have the right to know how the Congress proposes to restore fiscal discipline while enacting additional tax cuts, boosting spending for the military and meeting commitments to a growing number of retirees. The Administration and Congress should devise budgetary rules that make tax cuts and spending contingent on the realization of specified targets for the budget surplus and the federal debt. Unfortunately, this budget fails on all those counts.

I am also deeply concerned about the draconian cuts to the Small Business Administration. The budget proposes cutting funding for the 7(a) loan program in half. Last year, this loan program provided over \$94 million in assistance to Rhode Island's small business community. Additionally, the Administration proposed cutting funding for employment and training programs by \$685 million. With more than 1.4 million workers laid off over the last year, we need this funding now more than ever. The budget would also slash the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by \$300 million. This program is crucial for all New England states and particularly for our seniors, who might otherwise be forced to choose food over heat. Finally, the budget would cut \$417 million from Public Housing Capital Fund, which helps provide 1.2 million families nationwide—40 percent of whom are elderly or disabled—with affordable housing. Housing needs are especially acute in Rhode Island, where 38 percent of renter households pay more than 30 percent of their income for rent.

I urge my colleagues to reject this misguided budget and to develop one that will ensure security at home and abroad, without dramatically increasing our debt, borrowing against Social Security and Medicare, or abandoning our commitments to children, workers, senior citizens and all Americans.

SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong solidarity with Israel during this time of crisis.

Built on the backs of international Jewry, consisting largely of pogrom and Holocaust survivors, modern Israel has weathered many battles against her existence. Our sole democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel is no larger than the state of New Jersey, and is situated amid enemy nations. These countries and their leaders have objected to Israel's existence since her declaration of Independence in 1948. It wasn't until 1979 that Israel entered into a peace treaty with Egypt, and 1994 with Jordan. Nevertheless, the Israeli people defied all odds; the army won countless wars and small battles, and the western society flourished.

After the Intifada of the late 1980s, Israel took a monumental step by joining Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO, in signing the Oslo Accords. This agreement laid out specific steps to be taken by both parties to ensure a lasting peace in the region. The PLO renounced terrorism, and Israel recognized it as the representative of the Palestinian people. At the same time, guidelines were given for the election and creation of a Palestinian government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the redeployment of Israeli troops from those regions.

The period since 1993 can be characterized as a struggle between those who were committed to peace and the necessary steps to maintain the peace, and those who weren't. Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism was never realized; suicide bombings and terrorist attacks peppered the peaceful landscape in Israel. Obviously, there are two sides to every situation. Although Israel took steps to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Jewish settlements were continually built and populated. This undoubtedly contributed to the sense of unrest.

In 2000, the situation combusted. We called it the second Intifada, but wasn't it just a continuation of the first? The use of terror as a political tool never ended; the current crisis is merely a culmination of the inevitable. The situation reached a detrimental turning point with the reprehensible act of terror we now call the Passover Massacre. This was followed with a string of suicide bombings perpetrated against different populations in Israel.

Today, Israel finds herself in an unbearable situation. Despite Israeli trust, Yasser Arafat allowed terrorism to invade Israeli society. He failed to keep his promise, and as the elected leader of the Palestinian people, he must take responsibility for his inaction. Israel has every right to enter Palestinian cities and refugee camps to root out terror. What other choice does Israel have? Is Israel supposed to wave suicide bombers through the checkpoints, allow wanted terrorists to go without arrest? Are we to expect Israel to sit by and watch her country crumble, and her people be murdered in groups of 20 while they sip coffee at cafes?

The answer is an unequivocal no. And as a Member of Congress, I will support Israel's decision regarding security and self-defense in any way possible.

IN HONOR OF MIMI SILBERT

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mimi Silbert, President, Chairman and CEO of the Delancey Street Foundation, on the occasion of her 60th Birthday and the 30th Anniversary of Delancey Street.

Mimi Silbert is the cofounder and director of Delancey Street; a San Francisco-based self-help residential education center where drug addicts, criminals, and the homeless go to turn their lives around.

Since 1971 more than 14,000 people have successfully been through the Delancey Street program and are now leading crime-free, drug-free lives in mainstream society. Residents have learned to read and have acquired skills; they attend college and are part of the work force, they are raising families, they are clean, they are sober, they are reborn. And each and every one of them has the extraordinary Mimi Silbert to thank for changing their lives.

All of this is done at no cost to the taxpayer or client. One of the most unique features of Delancey Street is that they have never accepted government funds nor do they have any staff. Delancey Street has started over 20 business training schools which generate income and train the residents in marketable skills.

The psychiatrist Karl Menninger has called Delancey Street "the best and most successful rehabilitation program in the world." There are now five facilities throughout the country: San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Mexico, New York, and North Carolina.

Mimi Silbert is an inexhaustible dynamo who does what she does not of love, commitment and belief in the value of humanity. She has been called the "Mother Teresa of America's down and out". In San Francisco she is our treasure who has touched and miraculously changed so many lives. We love her and are forever in her debt.

I am proud to join my constituents to thank and praise Mimi Silbert for her marvelous achievements, indomitable spirit, and her inexhaustible service to San Francisco and our nation. As we celebrate her birthday we will keep in mind all those who have been reborn through her extraordinary life work. Happy Birthday Mimi!

HONORING 90 YEARS OF GIRL SCOUTING

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts organization. In the past 90 years, this organization has grown to a 3.8 million membership, making it the largest organization for girls in the world. Girl Scouts is a worldwide family of 10 million girls and adults in 140 countries. This organization should be honored for all the wonderful things it does to help empower our young girls.

Specifically, I would like to share with you the contributions of the Girl Scouts Fair Winds