

this diverse program in various communities around the country. We find it in the inner cities, in suburban areas, and even in rural communities. And for those communities who are fortunate enough to have the Head Start program, we hear nothing but praises from the parents, from the people who work in the program, from community leaders and elected officials.

Head Start was instituted under the War on Poverty some 38 years ago because the educators and researchers discovered that to the degree that we are able to provide young children with a Head Start experience, they will be better prepared for kindergarten and for education. When they started this program, preschool was only available to the upper middle class, for the most part. Certainly poor people could not afford to give their children a preschool experience, nor could working parents really afford to do that.

So little children who did not have access to preschool programs did not have the opportunity to take trips to the zoo. As a matter of fact, they did not have opportunities to take trips to farms. They did not have opportunities to take a ride on a train. They found that most of the children, particularly in poor communities, had never been 20 miles away from home. So Head Start came into being under the War on Poverty, and what a wonderful program it has been.

This program was developed a little bit differently than regular education. It was decided that Head Start would address the whole child and the family and the community. In Head Start, children get a physical examination. In Head Start, children get nutrition. They get breakfast, and they are served lunch. In Head Start, not only do children have physical examinations, receive proper nutrition, but one of the most important components of Head Start is the parental involvement component of Head Start.

I know about this program, because 38 years ago I had the great opportunity to work with the Head Start program. I started with Head Start at its inception, and I started as an assistant teacher in the classroom, working with the children. But I soon learned that I really wanted to work with the parents, and I eventually became the Supervisor of Parent Involvement and Volunteer Services.

I had the opportunity to welcome parents to the Head Start site. I had the opportunity to get parents involved with the inspection of the program, in helping determine the budget of the program, in helping to give input to the teachers.

Parents soon learned that they really did have a lot to give. Many parents who thought, because they were not educated, that they could not be of assistance to their children, but they soon learned that they could determine their children's educational destiny.

What a wonderful experience it was, seeing parents getting more involved

with their children, and children becoming alive. We found children with learning disabilities, learning disabilities that never would have been detected had they not come to Head Start. We found that there were children who did not see well, whose parents would never have had the money for eye examinations and who received corrections. We discovered that there were children with emotional and mental difficulties, and, for the first time, they had access to psychological and psychiatric help if it was needed.

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Now we are at a point in time where this administration wants to change Head Start. Some of our Members are saying if it is not broke, do not fix it. That is absolutely true. Why do we have this administration now wanting to take our precious Head Start program and block grant it to the States?

They are simply saying we want to get the Federal Government out of the business of running Head Start programs. What they are saying is we want to dump it into the laps of the States. Please do not send it to California. We have a \$38 billion deficit. If this administration block grants Head Start to California with no mandates, I will tell Members what will happen to Head Start. They are going to siphon off the money to help pay the bills.

As we look around the country, we are finding that many of our States are in great difficulty. This administration is not only talking about block granting Head Start, but also section 8 housing programs, everything they can get their hands on, divesting itself of the running of programs that are so vital to this country. I do not want this administration to make the mistake of dismantling this program.

Mr. Speaker, all I can say in closing is we have to fight to keep Head Start. We have to make sure that this program is available to the children, not cut back, not block granted, but expanded so more children will have the opportunity for this wonderful experience.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COVER- UP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to discuss what happened in the House Committee on the Judiciary. The Committee on the Judiciary on a straight party-line vote rejected the resolution of inquiry presented by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) asking that the Congress investigate the Department of Justice activities in Texas regarding the Texas legislators who broke a quorum several months ago.

Why is this so important? Because to restore the integrity of the Justice De-

partment, Congress must investigate the Department's involvement in helping Texas Republicans in a strictly partisan political matter. Congress must unveil the facts and clear the air quickly because if the redistricting scheme of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) somehow succeeds, these same Texas Republicans will be asking the same Justice Department to certify that its new plan does not disenfranchise African Americans and Hispanics in my State of Texas.

Earlier this year, as I mentioned, Texas Republican leaders abused Federal law enforcement for political purposes in a manner Americans had not seen since Richard Nixon and Watergate 30 years ago. In May when Texas State legislators blocked the gentleman from Texas's (Mr. DELAY) unprecedented redistricting scheme with a legal parliamentary maneuver, breaking a quorum which Republicans have done in the U.S. Senate and which Abe Lincoln did in the Illinois legislature in the last century, they violated no State or Federal laws.

In their response, Texas Republican leaders treated Federal law enforcement as their own personal political police force. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) acted as if the Department of Justice was an arm of the Republican Party. The majority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, which is charged with overseeing the Justice Department, publicly urged the FBI and the U.S. marshals to arrest these legislators in Oklahoma and drag them back to Texas. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) privately contacted the Department of Justice, a fact that he denied at first.

Mr. Speaker, an FBI agent in Corpus Christi, Texas, tried to track down the Texas Democratic legislators and indicated they were conducting surveillance. The Justice Department is stonewalling, and so Congress must investigate and do so immediately.

Mr. Speaker, what happened in the Committee on the Judiciary today on a party-line vote was wrong and should not stand.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS GLADIMIR PHILLIPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GERLACH). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a true American hero, Sergeant First Class Gladimir Phillipe, who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country when he lost his life in Iraq two weeks ago.

At a funeral service over the Fourth of July weekend at St. Joseph the Carpenter Church in Roselle, New Jersey, hundreds of friends, family, and members of his community came to pay their last respects to this outstanding young man who strived to achieve the American dream.

The son of Haitian immigrants and one of nine children, Sergeant Phillipe wanted to