

I want to commend its authors, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for their vision and commitment to ending the horrors of HIV/AIDS globally.

I also want to take this moment to thank former representative Ron Delums, Sandra Thurman, Mel Foote, Jesse Jackson, Senior, and others who have provided leadership efforts to try to combat the problem of AIDS in Africa.

The legislation that we have passed today will provide significant funding over 5 years for HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, and research in developing nations. The bill establishes a trust fund at the World Bank that has the potential to leverage \$1 billion a year from donor nations and the private sector.

We currently face a crisis as it relates to HIV/AIDS globally. Perhaps nowhere is this crisis more evident than on the continent of Africa. More than 16 million people have died from AIDS since the 1980s, 60 percent of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Not since the Bubonic plague ravaged Europe in the Middle Ages has there been a more devastating disease.

Currently, 23 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are affected with either HIV or with AIDS, with new infections coming at the rate of 5,000 a day, according to the World Health Organization. In South Africa alone, it is estimated that there are more than 1,500 new HIV infections each day.

Unfortunately, due to our accelerated travel and trade, the pandemic is spreading to Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and India rapidly.

I applaud President Clinton for his courage and vision to declare HIV/AIDS as a national security threat. He realizes that the global spread of HIV/AIDS has the potential to destabilize governments and disrupt trade in free market democracies abroad.

The Congressional Black Caucus 2 years ago urged Secretary Donna Shalala to declare a state of emergency relative to HIV/AIDS in communities of color in America because we realized that this disease destroys our most precious resource, and that is, our people.

Mr. Speaker, as the most developed nation in the world, we have an ongoing obligation and responsibility to share our technology and medical expertise with developing nations. Former President Franklin Roosevelt once said that the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

Today this Congress took a step to lift the lots of those who have too little. The World Bank AIDS Marshall Trust Fund Plan will help to ensure that the Federal government, our Fed-

eral government, commits to addressing this issue over the next several years.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have joined with other Members of this House who took a bold and gigantic step in not only dealing with an issue at the domestic level, but going abroad, understanding that we are a world community. I salute Congress for the action that it took this day.

#### THE BIASED MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, newspapers, magazines, and nightly news shape the opinions of its readers and viewers. In fact, it has been said that whomever controls multimedia controls our culture.

Unfortunately, more often than not, the media's message is biased, but in few cases has it been as slanted as it has been with the saga of Elian Gonzalez.

April 22nd was the first time in American history that the U.S. Government decided that a custody case should be settled with automatic weapons. Yet, to those who know the biased media, it was no surprise that, according to the Media Research Center, major news outlets such as the New York Times, USA Today, and Newsweek magazine, did not run the photo of a Federal agent seizing Elian with an automatic weapon in hand.

The Media Research Center, which is a media watchdog group which seeks to expose bias and favoritism among multimedia, has compiled an impressive record showing how the national media built the public relations rationale for Elian's eventual return to Cuba, and then justified the government's raid on a private residence to ensure a political victory for the Clinton administration and the Communist regime of Cuba.

In all of the coverage and controversy over the rescue of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez, the media have taken the stark contrast between American liberty and Cuban tyranny and muddled it to the point that much of the American public could now think that Cuba is no different than the United States, or even that Cuba is better than America.

We would like to think that the Cold War is over, but for the people of Communist Cuba, the Cold War remains. Is it any wonder that after being barraged with liberal arguments, the public told network pollsters that they approved of the violent seizure of Elian?

Analysts from the Media Research Center identified four patterns of distinct liberal media bias:

One, the news media have deliberately undermined the moral legit-

imacy of Elian's Miami relatives specifically and anti-Communist Cuban Americans in general; two, the news media have consistently praised the actions and achievements of Fidel Castro's Cuba, claimed that it was better for children than America, and played up the paradise that Elian could dwell in among the Communist party elite.

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Three, the news media have justified Attorney General Janet Reno's actions and arguments and lamented any resistance and delay in sending Elian back to Cuba.

Four, the news media have dismissed congressional criticism of the INS raid and have branded calls for investigation as unpopular and totally unnecessary.

Analysts concluded that, if the media were interested in a balanced presentation of the Elian controversy, they would have scrutinized the administration more than justified it.

They concluded that the media would have explained the regimented reality of family life in Castro's Cuba.

The Media Research Center states that the media would have balanced the questioning of the motives of Elian's Miami relatives by questioning the motives of the reunification camp and they would have encouraged more discussion and oversight instead of trying to cut it off.

Thomas Jefferson said that "the advertisement is the most truthful part of a newspaper." He may have been correct because, regarding the Elian controversy, it is apparent the media have been more interested in entertainment than in covering the facts.

The media do not tell the American public of the everyday horrors that take place in the homes of 11 million enslaved Cubans, the horrors that take place in the scores of Cubans, like Elian's mother Elisabet Brotons, who was willing to take the risk of their lives to escape.

The media have failed to question why Joan Campbell, posing as a church lady for the National Council of Churches, feverishly raised funds to send a boy back to a country that persecutes religious believers.

Why did the INS send a heavily armed SWAT team to seize Elian in the name of parental rights, but it has done nothing to reunify another survivor from that ill-fated freedom journey with her beloved 5-year-old daughter in Cuba.

On Tuesday, May 23, at 2:30 p.m., I invite each of my colleagues to come and learn the answers to these questions by attending a special briefing to be held by Brent Bozell, founder of the Media Research Center, who will give a presentation on how the media have distorted the truth regarding the case of Elian Gonzalez.

Come learn the real reason why the Gonzalez family and anticommunist

Americans everywhere are valiantly fighting for a fair chance to give Elian in his fair day in court in the United States.

If the fact that blacks and Jews are persecuted in Cuba, that gays and HIV patients are quarantined in concentration camps, and that all Cuban children are stripped from their parents and sent off to forced work camps is news to my colleagues, they can blame the biased media.

Galileo said "all truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them."

Mr. Speaker, I hope to see many of our colleagues attempting to unveil the truths about Elian Gonzalez' case by attending next Tuesday's briefing and discovering the truths about this case.

#### WORLD BANK AIDS MARSHALL PLAN TRUST FUND ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the House took up the tribute to honoring the Nation's law enforcement officers. I would just like to add my appreciation and recognition of those officers, some of whom lost their lives in my own home town of Houston, Texas. I think the resolution was one of a very important statement to acknowledge the heroes that we meet every day in law enforcement who act to keep our communities safe.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the House addressed the question of world AIDS in H.R. 3519. I rise today to discuss this very important issue.

If we were to take a rollcall of the number of HIV/AIDS cases in sub-Saharan Africa, we would find the country of Botswana and the country of Zambia and the country of South Africa with numbers reaching up into 20 percent of the HIV infected adults in those particular countries.

When I traveled to Africa in the spring of 1999 on the first Presidential mission to the continent on the issue of HIV/AIDS to discover the number of children that will be orphaned by the year 2005, noting that some 40 percent of Africa's children could, in fact, be orphaned because of the devastation of AIDS. This legislation is long in coming.

I am a very proud co-sponsor of this legislation, and I want to salute the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), ranking member, and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the cosponsor and the proponent and mover of this legislation. I am very happy to join her in this effort, and as well, to encourage my col-

leagues in the Senate and for us ultimately to have this bill before the President of the United States.

As I indicated to my colleagues, the numbers in Zimbabwe are 25.9 percent, Botswana 25.1 percent, Namibia 19.4 percent, and South Africa 12.9 percent. An even more heart-wrenching statistic is that 13 million children have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS. This number is projected to reach 40 million by 2010.

It is interesting to note the many roads we have traveled to try to fight this devastating disease. But the important point is to recognize that we must face this together. This legislation will provide \$100 million for prevention and education. This legislation is a start.

We all remember the Marshall Plan that was utilized to rebuild a fallen Europe. There is no more important issue than to rebuild humanity. AIDS is moving its way from the continent of Africa to India to China. This is not a respecter of one's income, of one's background, of the continent that one might live on.

In fact, in Zimbabwe, the life expectancy is only 38.8 years and in Malawi, 34.8 years. We are facing this devastation everywhere we go.

When I traveled to Africa, I went in to visit some of the locales and villages where HIV-infected persons were, living in desolation, alone, and without family support because of the confusion of the disease.

When I visited these bedridden individuals, I saw so many of them suffering, not only from the devastation of AIDS, but they were suffering from tuberculosis. Sometimes they were left to be cared for by children as young as 4 and 6 years old, because other families had already died.

One woman that I spoke to had already lost six members of her family, was HIV-infected herself along with her son. The reason is because she nurtured her husband who died of this disease, and none of the family members would explain what was occurring to him. It is a question of whether they even knew. So of course, she contracted the disease subsequently as well.

I do want to acknowledge as well Congressman Dellums, who formerly was a colleague of ours whose brain child this legislation was. We thank him for his constant persistence and his work with all of us, including the Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, the Congressional Black Caucus, all of whom have participated in visitations and in efforts to raise or heighten the sophistication and knowledge about this devastation.

When I was in Africa, I met with Ugandan first lady Janet Museveni, who was leading a campaign to help the orphans who had been victimized by HIV/AIDS, working with grand-

parents and providing support systems, some of whom have lost all their children, and they are caring for 10, 11, 12, 15 grandchildren.

It is important to recognize that there are things that we could do better in this bill. Frankly, I wish the Feingold and the Feinstein amendments could have been included dealing with prescription drugs.

I hope that, as we look to this bill in the future, even though the President, in his wisdom, ordered an executive order to take Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment and include it as an executive order, I believe that there is more that we could have done.

Let me also say, as I conclude, Mr. Speaker, that I was very gratified when we passed the African Growth and Opportunity Act, a legislation that I had an amendment to ask the private sector to involve themselves in fighting the devastation of AIDS was included.

Might I simply say that this is an important legislative initiative. I support it. I hope that we will see the efforts of this legislation helping to fight the devastation of AIDS.

I thank the Speaker for bringing this important piece of legislation to the Floor this week.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act.

I would like to thank Congressman LEACH for including the core provisions of BARBARA LEE's original bill, H.R. 2765, the AIDS Marshall Plan and Congressman Dellums for his public awareness regarding the importance of this bill.

This bill garners bipartisan support, including the Democratic Caucus and the CBC which both recognize the necessity of HIV/AIDS funding in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I personally saw the devastation that the AIDS epidemic is causing in Africa during a visit with the President during March of 1999. During that trip, I visited places like St. Anthony's Compound in Zambia where grandparents were caring for grandchildren orphaned by AIDS.

In Uganda, the government showed the delegation the impact of AIDS as we met with a grandmother who was caring for 38 of her grandchildren because they were orphaned by her 11 children.

I also met with Ugandan First Lady Janet K. Museveni who is leading the campaign to help orphans as we discussed the fact that over 13 million children have been orphaned because of AIDS.

This trip emphasized to me the dire circumstances existing in Africa today and the obligation countries like the United States have to combat this disease.

The goal of this bill is to create a trust fund administered by the World Bank to combat the AIDS epidemic is long overdue.

By directing the Secretary of Treasury to enter into negotiations with the World Bank and member nations, H.R. 3519 would serve as the impetus for an international response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

This bill would authorize the United States to contribute \$200 million a year through fiscal