How do you solve teen pregnancy in the United States of America? You are here in Washington. You would think the solution to teen pregnancy is handing out condoms in school. That is not how you solve it.

Listen to what 12,000 students told in answer to this survey: The best way, teens need to know that parents disapprove of teen use of birth control. The number one thing that resulted in fewer teenage pregnancies was when the teens know that parents disapprove of birth control activities.

What do we do here in Washington? We encourage additional birth control, and it is exactly the opposite outcome of what we should be doing.

Number two, parents and teens do activities together regularly. This is how you slow teen pregnancy in America. Number one and two are exactly the opposite of what we are recommending here in Washington.

Number three, teen use birth control properly at first and last act. Again, that is three, that is down the list with these students as opposed to parents being actively involved with their kids.

I pointed this out because there is a lot of discussion in this city about how Washington can solve these problems, and the reality is when you actually talk to the students, the right answer is parents being actively involved with their kids is the best thing that can happen.

Now, what could Washington do to help this situation? We have a tax rate that says $37 out of every $100 that a typical American family earns gets paid into taxes to the government in one shape or form or another, either State, Federal, local or property taxes.

So if we really want to help solve the problems of cigarette use in teens, alcohol use in teens, marijuana use in teens, if we want to slow the pregnancy rate amongst teenage girls, if we really want to help with these things, why don't we talk about reducing this tax burden on families so that one of the parents or both of the parents can be home more often and more actively involved with their kids?

TRIBUTE TO PAUL ROBESON

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Paul Robeson, accomplished scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, Rutgers University valedictorian, twice All-American Football hero, graduated Columbia University Law School, practicing attorney, Shakespearian actor, and, for two decades, was considered one of the greatest baritones in the world.

Mr. Speaker, on April 9th, thousands of his fans and admirers throughout the world will celebrate the 100th birthday of one of America's most gifted and accomplished individuals, Paul Robeson.

For several years now, there have been efforts under way to try and have a commemorative stamp in his honor and bearing his name. For some reason, the Postal Service has not seen fit to do so. Therefore, I take this opportunity to ask the question, why, and urge the Postal Service to correct this oversight.

Surely Paul Robeson fits the criteria. Dr. James Alsbrooks points out that various reference books refer to Mr. Robeson as an ''American Treasure'' and deserves respect. Among them are the World Book Encyclopedia, Britannica, Collier's Encyclopedia, and the Academic American Encyclopedia, which states that Paul Robeson was one of the most distinguished Americans of the 20th Century.

In addition to his brilliant stage career, Robeson learned several foreign languages. He played the title role in the 1943 Broadway production of ''Othello,'' which ran a record 296 performances.

In 1944, he was awarded the Academy of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for best diction in American Theater and the Donaldson Award for Best Actor. In the 1930s, Robeson spent a great deal of time in Europe and was deeply impressed by the Soviet Union and its seeming lack of racial prejudice.

In 1939, he returned to the United States. He supported the American war effort during World War II and campaigned for the sale of war bonds.

After the war, Paul Robeson became increasingly disillusioned with the treatment and status of blacks in American society. He became a spokesman on civil rights issues. In 1950, as a result of some pro-Soviet Union statements, the State Department revoked his passport, charging him with procommunist leanings. However, in 1958, the Supreme Court upheld his right to go abroad.

Paul Robeson was what we today would call an activist-artist-scholar, who had a profound impact on forcing America to look at racism, classism, militarism and a concept of mass struggle. He was attacked relentlessly, brought before the House un-American Activities Committee, and hounded continuously by ultra right wing conservatives. However, Robeson continued to stand, fight, speak out and perform. He was indeed a tall tree in the American forest.

□ 1830

Given all of these accomplishments and all of these attributes, it is inconceivable that we could deny the placement of such an American on one of our postage stamps, especially given the fact that Bugs Bunny, Wolfman, Frankenstein, John Henry, Paul Bunyan and other symbols adorn these precious vehicles of communication.

As we proceed to the 100th birthday of Paul Robeson, I urge the U.S. Times Postal Service to move expeditiously to correct the gross injustice, to correct and recognize the enormous contribution of one of our most gifted, most talented, and most impactful citizens. He stood for what America is destined to become: free, just and equal. Let us put him on a stamp.

REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Joint Economic Committee, sometime ago I began or the Joint Economic Committee began a review of a proposal which came to us from the International Monetary Fund through the Treasury of the United States. Secretary Rubin, in essence, passed along the request of the International Monetary Fund, the IMF, for an appropriation of $18 billion to, in their words, permit the IMF to continue their work.

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker. The IMF, which was established in 1945, over the years since 1945 has had a total, a quota appropriated to it, of about 36 billion U.S. dollars. So one might ask why it would be that the IMF would come to us today and in one lump sum request the appropriation of $18 billion, a 50 percent increase in 1 year over what they have had over the past 50-some odd years?

So we began to look at this as a very serious matter. This is $18 billion of U.S. taxpayers' money that would be used for purposes around the world; for perhaps good purposes, in some instances, and perhaps for questionable purposes in other instances; but $18 billion, billion with a B, of U.S. taxpayers' funds.

So when we began to look at the operations of the IMF, we noticed that something was quite peculiar. That was that, after a great deal of study, we determined that the average amount of interest that the IMF obtains in making its loans to risky creditors in other countries is about 4.7 percent; that is right, 4.7 percent.

By today's standards, or by any standards in the modern world, 4.7 percent is a fairly low interest rate. Americans who buy homes pay in the neighborhood of 7 percent. Americans in this day and age who buy cars pay an interest of 9 or 9½ percent. Americans who use credit cards pay interest rates from 18 to 24 percent. So 4.7 percent interest is a relatively low interest rate.

After we determined that this was the case, we drafted some legislation to try to change the way the IMF does business. Mr. Speaker, we did not suggest that the $18 billion of American taxpayers' money should be forwarded, appropriated and forwarded to the International Monetary Fund. We said, before we even consider sending them another dime, that we ought to change the rules as we see them, as we participate in the IMF, as to how it operates. They would be some fairly simple and straightforward changes.

The first change would involve our ability to find out what the IMF is doing, why they make their decisions and how they make them. Because today they do it in secret, Mr. Speaker. They do it in secret. And, as a matter of fact, even when Members of Congress ask why the decisions were made that were made, we cannot see their minutes, we cannot see their reports, we cannot see the studies of the results of what they obtained. So we are requesting to be able to see into their procedures: transparency, we call that.

We also introduced in the same bill, which happens to be H.R. 3331, a provision that would require them to use American dollars, both in the case of the $36 billion they already have and in the case of whatever we may appropriate in the future, and that they loan at market interest rates, adjusted for risk.

That is an important factor, because, Mr. Speaker, if you have the opportunity to go out and borrow some money, if you are a lender and you start loaning at 4.7 percent, believe me, you have lots of customers. So we would require that they loan at market rates, and we would also require that they establish an independent advisory board that would report to the public periodically about their activities.

The reason for me taking the floor to explain this tonight, because I have done this before, is that a very prestigious organization in Washington, the Heritage Foundation, will soon release a report, a draft of which I have here. They support the notions and the concepts contained in H.R. 3331.

They say, for example, that with regard to the issue of being able to see what the IMF does, they say, ''Demands for greater transparency are a part of nearly every piece of legislation involving the IMF.''

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an article by Brett Schaefer on this subject.

The material referred to is as follows:

HOW CONGRESS SHOULD REFORM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

(Brett D. Schaefer)

Recent weeks have seen vigorous debate in Congress over America's participation in and funding of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Both the Senate and the House of Representatives have passed supplemental appropriations bills containing the $17.9 billion requested by the Administration for the IMF. Both bills request specific reforms in IMF operations or policy. Unfortunately, either these reforms would have little impact on the current operations of the IMF, or they are completely unenforceable.

Congress should utilize the rare opportunity offered by this legislation to reform the economically harmful activities of the IMF.[1] Short of denying funding for or eliminating the IMF, the best way for Congress to correct its failings would be by enacting legislation like The IMF Transparency and Efficiency Act of 1998 (H.R. 3331), sponsored by Representatives Jim Saxton (R–NJ), Richard K. Armey (R–TX), and Tom Campbell (R–CA). This bill attempts to shine a bright light on the internal workings of the IMF, which have been all too often closed to outside scrutiny. In addition, it would mitigate the market distortion caused by IMF loans. It requires the IMF to charge market interest rates on its loans, and establish an independent review board to examine its policies, practices, and results. Finally, H.R. 3331 contains the most stringent enforcement measures of any current reform proposal.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

The Senate passed a supplemental appropriations bill on March 26, 1998, to grant the Administration's request for $17.9 billion for the IMF. Negotiations between the Administration and the leadership in the Senate resulted in changes that greatly weakened the reforms demanded by earlier versions of the bill. For example, instead of demanding that the IMF pass a resolution to change its loan policies, a provision approved in the earlier version by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the new agreement only requires the Secretary of the Treasury to certify that the world's seven largest economies—the so-called Group of 7 (G–7) nations—agree to use their influence to push two specific reforms in IMF policies.[2] These reforms would obligate recipients of IMF assistance to: (1) end government subsidies and directed lending and (2) comply with international trade agreements. This deal removed the provision in the original legislation that would punish the IMF for failing to enact congressionally mandated reforms. Instead of demanding concrete results on reform before granting money to the IMF, the legislation recently passed by the Senate merely requests a nebulous promise from the G–7 countries to pursue reform.

The Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives passed two supplemental appropriations bills on March 24, 1998. One contains appropriations for both the IMF and the United States' arrears to the United Nations, and the other provides funding for U.S. participation in the Bosnia peacekeeping mission, military expenses in the Middle East, and disaster relief. The reform provisions for the IMF in the House bill are very similar to those originally present in the Senate bill. Specifically, before the funds appropriated in the bill could be dispersed, transferred, or made available to the IMF, the Secretary of the Treasury must certify that the IMF Board of Executive Directors had passed a resolution requiring every user of IMF resources to: (1) comply with all international trade agreements and obligations to which the borrower is a party; (2) eliminate government directed lending or subsidies; and (3) guarantee that countries would not discriminate between domestic and foreign creditors or debtors when resolving debt problems.

In addition, the House bill includes three directives that (1) the Treasury report on advances in financial transparency, application of internationally accepted accounting practices, elimination of subsidies, and improving the effect of IMF assistance on worker's rights; (2) the President ensure that no U.S. resources are ''made available, directly or indirectly, to promote unfair competition against the American semi-conductor industry''; and (3) the IMF member countries establish an advisory commission on the international financial system.

Although the House bill is stricter than the Senate legislation, it remains far from ideal. Both would give the IMF $17.9 billion—the entire Administration request—with ineffective or unenforceable conditions, and would result in little change in how the IMF does business, which is the root of the problem.

THE IMF TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1998

As a lender of last resort, the IMF disrupts the global market. Worse, the secretive nature of the IMF prevents any accurate evaluation of the extent of this disruption. The problem, therefore, is not that the IMF lacks sufficient funds, but that its distribution of subsidized loans and its secretive nature reward poor governance, encourage excessive risk-taking by investors, and conceal information necessary to counter these effects. The best way to avoid these outcomes would be to shun these kinds of subsidized loans altogether. Short of eliminating the IMF, which would be the ideal solution, Congress can focus on mitigating the more harmful consequences of IMF lending.

The best vehicle for achieving this goal is The IMF Transparency and Efficiency Act of 1998 (H.R. 3331), sponsored by Representative Jim Saxton (R-NJ), Richard K. Armey (R-TX), and Tom Campbell (R-CA). H.R. 3331 demands that the Executive Directors of the IMF initiate specific reforms:

Increase transparency. Demands for greater transparency are a part of nearly every piece of legislation involving IMF reform. Despite Congress's appropriation of $17.9 billion in American taxpayer dollars to the IMF, the organization refuses to grant Congress or the American public timely access to the minutes of its board meetings, its loan agreements, and its performance evaluations.

[1] For detailed criticism of the IMF and the detrimental effects of its policies on developing countries and the global economy see: Bryan T. Johnson and Brett D. Schaefer, ''Congress Should Give No More Funds to the IMF,'' Heritage Foundation Backgrounder No. 1157, February 12, 1998; ''No New Funding for the IMF,'' Heritage Foundation Backgrounder Update No. 287, September 23, 1997; and ''The International Monetary Fund: Outdated, Ineffective, and Unnecessary,'' Heritage Foundation Backgrounder No. 1113, May 6, 1997; Bryan T. Johnson, and John Sweeney, ''Down the Drain: Why the IMF Bailout in Asia is Wasteful and Won't Work,'' Heritage Foundation Backgrounder No. 1150, December 5, 1997.

[2] The G–7 includes Canada, France, German, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It meets periodically to coordinate economic policies, discuss treaties or agreements, and issue policy statements. The G–7 are the seven largest contributors to the IMF and control 44.82 percent of its votes, according to the 1997 IMF Annual Report.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I was on official travel with the President of the United States last week, and I missed a number of votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall numbers 80, 78, 76, 75, 74, 73, and 69. I would have voted yes on rollcall numbers 79, 77, 72, 71, 70, and 68.

A HISTORICAL HEALER: MARY JANE LAWSON BROWN

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

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a historical healer, Mary Jane Lawson Brown, who has been considered to be one of the most important figures in the history of health care in Palatka, Florida.

Born in 1882, Mary Jane Lawson was an incredible person by any measure, let alone an historic and extraordinary woman. In 1915, Mary Jane Lawson enrolled in training school for embalming, one of the only two women at the