

# Letter, 4/17: Sacrificing children to buy weapons

Your article ("CBO: Budget pact barely touches 2011 deficit," April 14) speaks of the Congressional Budget Office finding that the \$38 billion cut agreed to by congressional leaders last week is actually not a cut at all because the \$8 billion in domestic spending cuts is offset by the deal's nearly equal increases in defense spending.

This is no surprise. As long as a revolving door exists between the executive and congressional branches and weapons companies' lobbyists, as long as no one completes audits of the Defense Department, as long as military bases and contractors in nearly every legislative district can send lobbyists to threaten the jobs of thrifty legislators, the budget for the military will go up and hurt low-income and working people.

Congress just cut \$500 million from the budget for food given out by the Women, Infants and Children program. Apparently we plan to malnourish our children to make more weapons.

The conservative Cato Institute proposed far deeper annual cuts than the fake cuts we got this year from Congress or than Barack Obama's \$800 billion proposed for the military. They call for \$1.2 trillion across 10 years by cutting our nuclear weapons, reducing Army and Marine Corps' sizes, terminating unnecessary weapons systems and reforming our military's maintenance, supply systems and intelligence.

Indeed, the president's own bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform proposed cuts of over \$100 billion dollars per year in military spending reaching to 2020. The commission also called for the retention of balance between military and nonmilitary cuts.

No country can be strong by feeding guns to its military without feeding food to its children or jobs to its workers.

*Paul A. Olson, Lincoln*