Now it has turned into a voracious revenue machine for the Federal Government that is taxing 2.4 million American families, and that number is due to quadruple to over 12 million families in just a year; and if nothing is done, it is going to put the tax bite, extra taxes, on 41 million American families who will be subjected to the millionaires tax. But the Bush administration is more concerned about making permanent tax cuts for those who need it the least, as opposed to dealing with the alternative minimum tax. We do not hear any outrage. That is something we should debate on this floor.

Or remember the lockbox where the two candidates for President, was it just 2000, Al Gore and then Governor Bush, were going to lock up the Social Security trust fund to make sure it was available for future generations? Now under the fiscal policies of this administration and his allies in Congress, we are borrowing every cent of the Medicare prescription drug benefit from the Medicare trust fund. That is something that is worth debating.

The tax cut that is being pressed would fund the Social Security deficit three times over and avoid a disaster as the baby boom generation approaches retirement.

This administration has refused to join us in the battle against the Republican leadership to extend unemployment benefits for workers who have had them expire. That is worth debating.

Or the loss of manufacturing jobs across this country. It is fascinating to hear the administration's one concrete proposal to increase the number of manufacturing jobs that I have heard in the last 3 years, and that is to reclassify the people who work at McDonald's, providing the service at those restaurants, that they are somehow going to be manufacturing jobs. They are going to change the definition. That is worth debating too.

But what is it that the administration wants to talk about? Not the false choices in Iraq that have put us in a disastrous situation on the ground and putting young men and women in harm's way, not the deeply flawed policy where we are not following through in Afghanistan. They want to talk about gay marriage.

I would strongly recommend that instead of pursuing something that was brought to us by Republican judges in Massachusetts, we let the States alone debate the real issues and not deal with a Federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

HONORING JOHN REDDEN, PASCACK VALLEY'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished citizen from the Fifth Congressional District from New Jersey, which I represent. Mr. John Redden has been named Pascack Valley's Citizen of the Year.

John is deserving of such acclamation for his many contributions to his community. He serves on the board of the Pascack Community Services. He has owned a Westwood-based business for over 20 years. And John, who has a wife and three children, has generously given of his time and money to donate to many community organizations. He has used his passion of sports to encourage athletic involvement in the community for having coached both basketball and baseball.

I might add that John is a worthwhile recipient of this award not only for the many contributions but in the way that he undertakes them. He supports his community silently, asking no credit whatsoever for his charity to his community. He supports his hometown organizations simply because he loves his neighbors and the community means so much to him.

I commend John for his dedication to his community, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on receiving this prestigious award.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HAITI

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Haiti this past weekend. It was the third time I have been there since January 1. And I am on this floor tonight because I want to share in the most straightforward way that I possibly can that it is clear to me that a bloodbath in that country is imminent in spite of the fact that President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has agreed to the peace plan worked out by the international community.

I went down to Haiti this past Saturday to be an observer as the international community, made up of United States, Canada, France, the OAS, CARICOM, and the United Nations, presented a peace plan; and it was a tough peace plan. The plan called for three persons from the international community, these organizations, to select a council of wise persons, of seven wise persons, who would then choose what would end up being a prime minister. First in the plan they offered the President, they said they would give him a name and he would either accept it or reject it. He asked them to give him more than one name. They ended up agreeing to give him two names that he could choose from, and the President accepted the plan. I was there. He accepted the plan.

But the opposition has rejected the peace plan. They have refused to negotiate. They also have sent a signal to groups of thugs and a newly formed army of exiled criminals that they will support the violent overthrow of the democratically elected government of Haiti. These thugs and the newly formed army, made up of exiled former military officers and criminals known as The Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, commonly referred to as FRAPH, have murdered many people in Cap Haitian, and they now control several cities.

For the last couple of days, these crooks, criminals, former military officers have been on television warning that they are on their way to Port-au-Prince. They are now on their way to Port-au-Prince; and if in fact these thugs who are armed with very sophisticated weapons, M–16s, go to that capital and they try to take the palace, there will be a bloodbath. Lavalos, the millions of people who support the President will be there to protect the capital, and this confrontation will end in the loss of many lives.

It is time for the international community to come to the aid of Haiti. It is time for us to understand that we can avoid this bloodbath in Haiti; and it makes good sense to say to the opposition who refuses to come to the table that the game is up; that, in fact, if they want to be obstructionists, we are going to insist that they get out of the way so that we can move with stabilizing Haiti.

We simply cannot stand by and watch this situation unfold and not recognize that a coup d'etat is in progress in Haiti. Immediate international assistance is essential to stop the escalation of violence. The United States should work with the Organization of American States, the nations of the Caribbean community referred to as CARICOM, and other countries to provide assistance to Haiti to stop the violence, disarm the thugs and death squads and protect the Haitian people.

I have been in conversation with the State Department trying to urge them to take some action. I have talked with representation, the ambassadors from Canada, and have on call the ambassador from France. I have talked with the OAS representative, saying to them somebody must take the lead in putting together the assistance to stop this carnage. It is quite unfortunate; and if there is a bloodbath, this country is going to have to take some responsibility in it.

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The man that is leading the coup d'etat in Haiti was born in New York and holds an American passport. For the life of me, I do not understand what an American, born in New York, with a passport, is doing starting a coup d'etat in another country. Mr. Andy Arpaid, Jr., not only holds an American passport; he owns 15 factories in Haiti, sweatshops.

Unfortunately, we cannot continue. We will continue this at another time.

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

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PAYNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICA MUST STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY IN HAITI

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, my constituents have watched the escalating violence in Haiti with increasing alarm. Their alarm is caused not just by the brutality and the chaos of the revolt, but by this seeming lack of resolve of our own United States Government in confronting this threat to democracy in our own backyard.

While the President has responded admirably in dispatching envoys to seek a negotiated solution, I remain concerned that this push for dialogue is not matched by equal resolve to prevent the violent overthrow of a democratically elected government. If the Bush administration turns its back on the democratically elected government of Haiti in this crisis, the President will lose any and all credibility he has on preserving the rule of law.

By now, there should be few illusions about Jean Bertrand Aristide. He is not a paragon of virtue. He deserves an equal share of the blame, along with the legitimate opposition in Haiti, for the political gridlock which has paralyzed Haiti for years and prevented both political maturity and economic growth. But he remains a democratically elected leader, one of the few in Haiti's two violent centuries of independence. To turn our back on him would be to turn our back on the values America was founded upon, the values which have guided our foreign policy from Jefferson through Wilson, through Truman, through Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton.

Haiti's political deadlock is no excuse for violent hooliganism. The forces creating violence in Haiti today are opponents of democracy. If President Bush fails to support the elected government against violent hooligans, the United States will forfeit its role as the leader in this hemisphere. How can our government lead in advocating for democracy in Cuba when we will not raise our voices for democracy just a few miles away in Haiti?

The President's initial efforts have so far been positive; but I fear that without firm resolve, backed by a credible threat of repercussions, America risks losing her credibility as an advocate for democracy. The President needs to be more forceful in stating that he will not accept the violent overthrow of the Aristide government and that we remain adamant that we will only accept a peaceful, negotiated solution to this crisis.

The President has outlined a bold vision for expanding democracy, freedom, and the rule of law throughout the world. But if the President will not even defend democracy in our own hemisphere, he will expose his vision as little more than empty posturing.

I urge the President to take action to prevent the violent overthrow of the Aristide government and to preserve America's leadership role in fighting for democracy and the rule of law.

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

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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, I rise with the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus' Haiti Task Force to urge immediate action to assuage the political crisis that we see in Haiti.

I wrote a letter to Secretary of State Powell dated February 17 urging a more forceful effort to quell insurgents and to maintain democracy and respect for the rule of law in the region. Haiti has long been suffering with dire economic conditions and the devastation of HIV/AIDS. But now, Haiti has reached a state of crisis. To date, more than 60 people have been killed in the rebellion that is quickly escalating to a civil war.

Humanitarian aid and military assistance are needed now given the threat that demonstrators may thwart the delivery of food and other relief items.

I and the other Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have consistently supported an active role for the United States in providing humanitarian and military assistance to Haiti. Many other Members of the House and Senate have expressed a willingness to support more engaged and aggressive peacekeeping activities to prevent a full-scale civil war so close to our border and to head off the large exodus of refugees to our shores that it might precipitate.

Secretary Powell made a statement earlier about Haiti, committing the United States to working toward a political resolution to the situation in Haiti. However, he expressed his concern that the ''enthusiasm'' does not exist for the United States to take a stronger approach.

It may be necessary to use more forceful means in the short-run to prevent a humanitarian disaster. The United States must act on its commitment to upholding the constitutional process and the rule of law as the optimal way to maintain civil stability and respect for human rights in that region. We should support the proposal adopted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Nassau as a viable option to restore peace.

As we work with the government of Haiti to explore the role of the international community in averting civil war, we must also start to look beyond the current crisis. For example, Haiti continues to be in dire need of food aid and medical assistance. The current unrest has already set off an exodus of refugees; and uncertainty regarding the timing and fairness of the next elections is further promoting suspicions and instability. The United Nations has great experience in handling such issues. Even as we concentrate on quelling the violence, we must also think in terms of promoting peace and stability in the aftermath.

Operation Iraqi Freedom provides a strong model of what we should not do. Without reliable or corroborated information, we initiated aggressive war efforts and amassed large war-related expenses and lost lives of our brave young men and women. Former United Nations weapons inspector David Kay has testified to the fact that there have not been, nor