States announced a record increase, 17.4 percent, in the premiums that Medicare beneficiaries will be forced to pay, a record not matched in the 38-year history of Medicare. Why this increase? Because of the President's prescription drug bill, a drug bill written by the insurance industry, written by the drug industry.

□ 1015

Twenty-three billion dollars in direct subsidies go from the pockets of seniors, with their premium increase, into the coffers of the insurance companies, $180 billion dollars extra profits for the already record profitable drug companies.

And this has happened over and over on the House floor: middle of the night votes, literally a bribe offered on the House floor during the passage of Medicare. That is why Democrats are unveiling today the New Partnership for America's Future to take our country in a new direction, to take our country in a better direction.

JOE LOCKHART SHOULD LEAVE THE KERRY CAMPAIGN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, CBS has publicly apologized for airing the story on President Bush's National Guard service which relied on fraudulent documents. The fallout from this story will be felt for a long time. CBS has discredited itself as a news organization.

Some were surprised to learn that the man who produced those forged documents, Bill Burkett, was in contact with the Kerry campaign. A series of e-mails has surfaced showing that Burkett spoke with Max Cleland, an adviser to JOHN KERRY's presidential campaign about assisting the Democrats with a counter attack on Bush.

Also, a senior adviser to KERRY, Joe Lockhart, said that on the advice of CBS producer Mary Mapes, he spoke with Burkett about Vietnam and the Presidential campaign shortly before the piece aired. Lockhart's role in this attack is particularly disturbing.

Fraudulent political attacks by anyone are reprehensible. Joe Lockhart is talented and intelligent, but I believe he should excuse himself from the Kerry campaign.

WAR IN IRAQ IS COSTING U.S. LIVES AND DOMESTIC PROGRAMS

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of waking up every morning to the news that more men and women are being killed in Iraq. I am as patriotic as anybody, but why are we in Iraq? We have discovered that we were misled. There are no weapons of mass destruction. But our young men and women are dying every day.

At the same time, we are spending $1 billion per week on this war. We are spending $1 billion a week, but we have 44 million Americans without health insurance. We have rising poverty. We have men and women who work every day but cannot afford to pay rent. Yet this administration is cutting the section 8 program that would support families in their ability to have a house.

What are we doing in education? Far too many dropouts, not only in our inner cities but in our rural areas. This President says, leave no child behind, but it is empty rhetoric. He is not putting his dollars where his mouth is.

RECOGNIZING 10 YEARS OF REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN U.S. HOUSE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, several of us are coming to the well this morning to celebrate the decade since those revolutionary, visionary Republicans gained a majority in this House and helped put America back on the right track.

Today, Americans are paying lower taxes. We have a stronger, more well-trained military, and we fight every day to decrease regulation and to get at the heart of waste, fraud and abuse in our government. None of this, not any of it, would have happened without those passionate patriotic Republicans.

We understand that small businesses are what fuel this economy, so we have worked to help create and expand jobs. We have created health savings accounts, which give Americans more control over their health care dollars, greater choices.

Our historic tax relief has helped push America out of recession and helped to protect the American Dream for future generations. Republicans know that government does not create jobs; small business does. And we celebrate 10 years of success.

TEN YEARS: ADVANCES

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have been in the majority here in the House of Representatives for 10 years now, and a lot has changed. We have helped to free working families from the heavy tax burden, but we need to make our work permanent. We need to make a child tax credit, elimination of the marriage penalty tax and the elimination of the death tax permanent. Only the Republicans are committed to doing this.

We have established a more optimistic welfare system that encourages self-sufficiency and has shortened the welfare lines. But there are still families on welfare who want to get off, so there is more work to be done. Only Republicans are committed to doing this.

Since 1994, unemployment rates are lower. Median household income is higher. A greater percentage of Americans are graduating from college. Home ownership rates are higher. And the violent crime rate has decreased.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers prove that American families are better off, much better off with Republicans making the laws.

GOP 10–YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Americans celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Republican majority in this House of Representatives. Let us remember that it was President Reagan's emphasis on security that provided the legacy that we now use as the starting point for the Grand Old Party.

If Congress does not see to it that every American is safe, does anything else matter? Republicans answered this question by strengthening our military, equipping our troops, confronting terrorists on their turf and taking care of our veterans when they return home. From the fall of the Iron Curtain and the demise of communism to the liberation of Iraq and Afghanistan, Republicans have driven policy that has transformed unsafe nations while protecting our own.

Republicans recognize that we do not need to seek a permission slip to defend our Nation and that nothing is more important than a safe, secure America.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS: A PROUD AND POSITIVE 10-YEAR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, for the last 10 years, the House Republican majority has built a proud and positive record that has improved the lives of American families. In 1994, Republicans were overwhelmingly elected to bring leadership and accountability to Washington. Republicans had a clear vision to restore fiscal responsibility, rebuild our defense and intelligence, and create jobs through relieving the tax burden and reforming welfare, improving education for our children, protecting the lives of the unborn and the sanctity of marriage, and leading with honesty and integrity.

In the last 10 years, the stock market has more than doubled in value. Poverty has decreased. Unemployment has