the energy savings associated with promoting bicycling.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, our friends from around the country will be joining us this week for the Bicycle Summit. I would urge my colleagues who are not part of the over 160 members of the Congressional Bike Caucus to join this week, to get their official Bike Caucus membership pen, and to join us for a ride at 2 p.m. on Friday with the members of the Bike Caucus and the Bicycle Summit around Washington, D.C..

Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for us to do something in a very ''bike-partisan'' way that will make America healthier, make our families safer, and enhance economic security while we do something that enriches the life of us all.

THE NATION'S FISCAL CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Nation's fiscal crisis and budgeting process that, frankly, defies logic.

As we consider the budget this week, let us keep a few facts in mind:

First, our Nation's debt is out of control. We are expected to run a $427 billion deficit in 2005, with more deficits projected well into the future. This is $600 billion if you count what is being stolen from Social Security trust funds.

Second, we do not even have a firm grip on where our money is going. For example, at the Department of Defense, only 6 of 63 departments are able to produce a clean audit. That is less than 10 percent.

Third, the Bush budget omits so many major expenses that the budget is virtually a sham. The administration has essentially cooked the books using Enron-style accounting.

So here we are trying to pass a budget that hides half our problems. Already we know that foreign holdings in the United States, as far as United States debt, are on the rise and that the trade deficit is totally out of control.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this Congress will wake up and restore fiscal responsibility. The Blue Dog Coalition's 12-step reform plan is a good place to start. It requires a balanced budget, stops Congress from buying on credit, and puts a lid on spending. The time to stop digging is now.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Most Reverend Edward J. Slattery, Bishop, Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma, offered the following prayer:

O God, Creator of us all, in Your love You have invited us to address You as Father; and therefore, Father, we call upon You and ask You to bless the members of our Nation's House of Representatives.

Bestow upon our elected officials full gifts of wisdom and insight, courage and perseverance; that their capacity to know the truth might be deepened and their desire to choose the good strengthened.

Turn their hearts to You, Father, and move them each day to pray for Your guidance, that they might lead our Nation in peace, preserve our cities in harmony, and guard our people and their liberties.

Grant them so to love justice and fairness that the laws they enact this session might promote tolerance and equality, bring dignity and respect to the poor, and a message of hope and healing to Your world.

Hear us, Father, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HENSARLING led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING THE MOST REVEREND EDWARD J. SLATTERY, BISHOP OF TULSA

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce our guest chaplain who so thoughtfully and graciously led us in prayer this morning.

The Most Reverend Edward J. Slattery serves as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa. Bishop Slattery was ordained a priest on April 26, 1966 for the Archdiocese of Chicago by the late John Cardinal Cody.

During his time in Chicago, Bishop Slattery served as Pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish. This was an inner-city Hispanic parish on the south side of Chicago.

Additionally, Bishop Slattery served as President of the Catholic Church Extension Society, a funding agency for the American home missions.

In late 1993, Pope John Paul II notified then-Father Slattery that he had decided to name him Bishop. On January 6, 1994 the Holy Father ordained 13 men as bishops. Among the 13 men was one American, Edward J. Slattery.

A week later, Bishop Slattery was installed as the third Bishop of the Diocese of Tulsa at Holy Family Cathedral.

By the grace of God he continues to serve over 80 parishes in 21 counties, as a shepherd for the People of God in eastern Oklahoma. It is an honor to have Bishop Slattery as our guest chaplain and I know my colleagues join me in welcoming and thanking Bishop Slattery for being with us here today.

SEEDS OF PEACE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the administration for their strong stand in bringing peace to the Middle East and to all regions in the world.

Several weeks ago I displayed an editorial drawing showing where the seeds of peace had been planted thanks to our work in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Syria is withdrawing from Lebanon. Iraqi citizens have voted in its first democratically held election. India and Pakistan are cooperating over Kashmir. The Israelis and the Palestinians are making strides towards settlement of their long-standing disputes. Libya has surrendered its nuclear arms. And now as we turn our sights on Iran and North Korea, we urge them to join other nations in surrendering these dangerous weapons.

Only through this administration have these strides and gains been made possible. Only through the firmness of this presidency have we finally stood up to terrorists worldwide and said enough is enough.

Finally, leaders of the Muslim community have stood up and rebelled against Osama bin Laden, commemorating the one-year Spanish train bombing.

Finally, people are starting to recognize freedom and peace do have a cause, they do have a price. The cost is loss of life of American personnel. But if peace comes to the world, those sacrifices would have been worth it.

STOP FUNDING A CROOKED WAR

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1