

from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), said that the plan will promote economic growth, a strong economy, and new and better jobs for our workers.

So the question now is, Where are we today? Did the predictions come true? Well, today, 18 months after these big and bold predictions, the Nation's economy and all of the economic indicators have headed south. The stock market has lost \$4.5 trillion since President Bush took office.

If we look at this chart, over 2 million people have lost their jobs since President Bush took office and the economic plan was passed. Income for American families in middle-income brackets has declined 2.2 percent since the Republicans took office and, last week, for the first time in 8 years, the poverty rate in our country went up again. Consumer confidence has dropped in each of the last 4 months and is at the lowest level since November 2001. The Federal budget, in just over a year, went from a \$236 billion surplus to a \$165 billion deficit. That is over a \$300 billion swing, almost \$400 billion. And if we look at this chart, turned record surpluses into deficits for the decade ahead. An amazing, unbelievable, incomprehensible change in our economic budget health.

A wave of corporate scandals has eroded people's faith and trust in our Nation's free markets. As Ronald Brownstein wrote yesterday in the Los Angeles Times, he said, "Almost all of the key measures of economic well-being for average families improved during Bill Clinton's 8 years in the White House and now, under the second President Bush, the trend lines are pointing down again."

This is a Republican group that has been wrong, and I mean dead wrong, twice. They were wrong about the Democratic plan in 1993, and they were again wrong when they talked about their own plan more than a year ago.

Today, they have an opportunity to sit down with Democrats and write a new economic plan in a bipartisan way that would create long-term economic growth and opportunity for all Americans. But to date, they refuse to reconsider any aspect of a plan that was passed long before September 11, 2001. In fact, what they are doing today is simply keeping on passing bills to make their failed economic plan permanent. I guess the byline here is if it is bad and not working, let us make it permanent. Let us rigidly, tenaciously hold on to what is not working, so that it can continue to not work.

The sole passion of House Republicans has been to reward their wealthy political clientele for the next decade and beyond at the expense of every need of the American people. They are content wasting the people's time with ridiculous, nonbinding House resolutions when they have at least 20 major economic issues to address that might and would affect people's lives in a positive way.

Where is the debate on the future of Social Security? Where is the min-

imum wage increase legislation? Where is education funding so that we really leave no child behind? Where is the real pension legislation so that we protect people's pensions against corporate misbehavior? Where is the real prescription drug legislation that will actually at least get the price down for people's prescriptions? Where is the health care and Medicare-buttressing legislation?

Well, I will tell my colleagues where it all is. It is nowhere. They have nothing better to do. They cannot finish the budget. They have put nothing substantial on the floor since the August recess. We have been here 3 days a week doing nothing but renaming post offices. We are fiddling while America's economy implodes around the American people's ears.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time to wake up and address the most important problems that we face. Let us come together on a new budget for America, a new economic plan for America, and let us stop talking about meaningless nonsense resolutions about something that might or might not happen 10 years from now. The American people are living in today and tomorrow. They are not waiting for what might or might not happen 10 years from now. Let us stop the meaningless nonsense resolutions when we ought to be dealing with the American people's important problems today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GUADALUPE CANTU

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, Mr. Guadalupe Cantu, who passed away on May 11, 2002 in McAllen, Texas, at the age of 79. I want to express my condolences to his wife, Elida, and his son and daughters, Alonzo, Elvia, and Hilda.

Guadalupe Cantu was not famous. Outside of my Texas congressional district, very few people knew him. But to me, he epitomized what every man should strive to become. Guadalupe Cantu and his wife came to this country in search of democracy and hope and promise for a better life. He began his adult life as a Mexican migrant farm worker and expert carpenter. He traveled throughout the country doing the hard manual farm labor that most Americans refuse to do; and yet, because of his hard work and the work of others like him, America produces food enough to feed our Nation and most of the world as well.

Guadalupe Cantu was never ashamed of the hard work he did, but he wanted something better for himself and his family. He strove for personal excellence and became a successful general contractor. Mr. Cantu knew that edu-

cation was the key to future success. He and his wife, Elida, made sure that their three children went to school and stayed in school. No matter where the family traveled as they followed the harvest, they always returned to the Rio Grande Valley in time for the first day of school.

Guadalupe and his wife, Elida, made the great sacrifices necessary and ensured that each of their children received a college education. From Mr. Cantu's work in the fields and in his construction business, he understood that no one can accomplish anything alone. He realized early on the power of working together and involving the community. He passed along to his son, Alonzo, the construction and building skills that he had learned so well. Armed with a college education and his father's guidance, Alonzo has become the largest and most successful residential and commercial developer in McAllen, Texas. Mr. Cantu encouraged his daughter, Elvia, to pursue a career in pharmacy entrepreneurship. Today, she and her husband own several independent pharmacies. His daughter, Hilda, inherited his love of learning and became a wonderful school teacher.

More importantly, Mr. Cantu passed along to his children a passion for working hard, perseverance, and setting high goals. Both he and his wife became American citizens to enjoy the opportunities and the freedom in this great Nation. His example of doing his best, taking responsibility, caring for others, exercising integrity, and community service was learned well by his children and grandchildren.

Guadalupe Cantu never forgot where he came from, and believed that everyone had a duty to help those less fortunate. He inspired his son, Alonzo, to initiate the McAllen Affordable Homes Project and to build the Los Encinos Project. This nationally recognized housing project has provided safe, affordable homes to many families leaving the welfare rolls. The planned community includes an elementary school, a police and fire substation, a boys and girls club satellite building, baseball and soccer fields, and other amenities. Residents of the community take pride in their homes and are building home equity.

Mr. Speaker, if all of us use Guadalupe Cantu as our example, our children would be well educated and very successful, our community would be stronger, our friends would be numerous, and our world would be a better place. I can think of no better example of greatness. Many of Mr. Cantu's hopes and dreams for his children and grandchildren were fulfilled. He will truly be missed by all, but his goodness lives on through his family and their countless accomplishments and good deeds. His kindness and generosity will never be forgotten.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Reverend Neil D. Smith, Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, from whom all blessings flow and to whom all praise belongs, acknowledging both our dependence upon You and our accountability to You, we ask Your blessings upon this House and all our Nation's leaders as they carry out their duties under Your sovereign rule.

Grant to the Members of this body both the wisdom to know what is right in Your eyes and the resolve to do it.

Lead them in the paths of righteousness and truth for Your name's sake, so that they may serve Your purposes in this generation.

May Your grace abound to them in both their personal and public lives so that in all things, at all times, having all that they need, they may abound in every good work.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is before all things and in whom all things hold together.

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 Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE 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.

PRIVATE CALENDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND NEIL D. SMITH

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), the conference chairman, it is my honor today to welcome Reverend Neil Smith to this Chamber, the senior pastor of Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Kingstowne, Virginia, a midsized church in the Evangelical Presbyterian denomination in northern Virginia. Faith Church is the church home to numerous congressional staffers, and its ministry is felt daily here on Capitol Hill.

Reverend Smith has spearheaded his church's effort toward outreach, both in the local community and around the world, with a missions presence. He is also very active in his growing denomination, attending session and general assembly meetings around the country. Last year he served as moderator of the Presbytery of the East of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Smith was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, graduated with highest honors and a BA degree from Grove City College in Pennsylvania in 1977. In 1983, he graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with an M.Div. degree, again with highest honors, and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. From 1983 to 1997, he served in churches in Downingtown and Altoona, Pennsylvania. Since mid-1997, he has been senior pastor at Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

He and his wife Mary Sue, who joins him here today, have just celebrated 25 years of matrimony. They have three children: daughter, Erin, 19, a sophomore at Grove City College in Pennsylvania; daughter Lindsay, who is a junior at West Springfield High School in Virginia, turned 16 today; and a very special boy, Nathan, 10 years old, a fifth-grader at my son's school here in Springfield, Virginia. They reside in Springfield, and, Mr. Speaker, we join in welcoming Reverend Smith and his wonderful family to this Chamber on this occasion.

TIME TO PASS A RESPONSIBLE BUDGET

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today is the very first day of the new fiscal

year, and yet the government's budget is not in order. The Senate has not even passed a budget, while the House, we continue to fight all appropriation bills, to keep all appropriation bills in line with the President's responsible budget request.

All the while political rhetoric continues to fly in the face of the real facts. Most recently I heard the troubling rumor that somehow we are trying to cut the education budget. Nothing, Mr. Speaker, could be further from the truth.

In fact, under Republican leadership in the House, Federal funding for education has more than doubled over the past 6 years. Since 1998, the overall education budget will have increased by nearly 70 percent. The President's budget for the Department of Education for fiscal year 2003 is \$1.8 billion more than last year.

Mr. Speaker, these are the facts. In spite of the twin challenges of war and economic recovery, House Republicans remain committed and dedicated to funding our priorities. It is time others joined in our efforts in this regard.

CONGRATULATING RICOH ELECTRONICS ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

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

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Orange County-based Ricoh Electronics, Incorporated, for their exceptional environmental practices. Since 1997, Ricoh Electronics has been dedicated to establishing a progressive environmental management system within their company.

In 1999, 2000, 2001, they were awarded for their outstanding waste reduction efforts by the California Waste Management Board. In 2001, all Ricoh facilities were certified Zero Waste to Landfill by eliminating all land disposal of waste from their office areas and manufacturing units.

They have also been accepted into the EPA's premier environmental recognition program, the National Performance Track, by promoting sound environmental management, continuous environmental improvement, public outreach and sustained environmental compliance.

Once again, I commend Ricoh Electronics on being an excellent example of how today's corporations can increase protection of public health and the environment in the workplace.

U.N. CREDIBILITY

(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, tyrants speak only one language, and that is the language of raw power. Neville Chamberlain learned that the hard way