

(Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a study released by the House Committee on the Budget staff concludes that the cost of the Iraq war and the Iraq occupation could easily reach \$417 billion over the next decade. That is \$17 billion more than the President has proposed for a prescription drug benefit for our seniors. The report says the best-case scenario would cost taxpayers only \$308 billion. Deputy Defense Secretary Wolfowitz said recently, "No one I know of would ever say that this war is cheap."

That, Mr. Speaker, contradicts what everyone in the Bush administration was saying before the war. Budget Director Mitch Daniels said Iraq would be "an affordable endeavor" that "will not require sustained aid." Top White House Economist Glen Hubbard said back then before the war, the "costs of any such intervention would be very small." And another White House aid, Larry Lindsey, was fired after he said it would cost \$100 billion to \$200 billion.

The report details how the President's request allocates \$157 per Iraqi for sewage improvements, while the President's budget has only \$14 per American for sewer improvements. This is U.S. tax dollars. The administration is devoting \$38 per Iraqi for hospitals, compared with \$3.30 per American.

The President is seeking \$5.7 billion to rebuild and expand Iraq's electricity generation, transmission and distribution systems, just as millions of Americans are regaining power lost due to Hurricane Isabel, and Congress continues to deal with the fallout from the August blackout in my part of the country and in the Northeast.

The President's request would send over 350 times more per person, \$255 per Iraqi, compared to 71 cents per U.S. citizen on electric power rehabilitation.

The President wants \$856 million to upgrade Iraqi airports, seaports, railroads and communication systems. Another \$470 million would go towards repairing roads, bridges and houses in Iraq and rehabilitating Iraqi government buildings.

The fine print of the President's request shows how far U.S. expenditures are going overseas and how the Bush administration, frankly, misled us before the war when he said this could be done on the cheap.

In Iraq, \$875 million is earmarked to restore drained marshlands, while at home the administration wants to hold wetland conservation programs to last year's level at \$100 million, one-eighth as much.

We have a duty, to be sure, to help the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as they rebuild their countries, but not at the expense of our own. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1738, the Iraqi Parity Act, a bill to require the U.S. Government to pay for infrastructure and social service needs for the 50 U.S. States in the same amount as the

amount of relief and reconstruction funds provided to Iraq. State and local governments in the United States deserve, at a minimum, the same level of Federal involvement to address infrastructure and social service shortfalls as the amount of relief and reconstruction funds provided to Iraq.

What I am hearing from my constituents, and I have come to this floor day after day reading letters from constituents about their concern about our entry into the war and the aftermath of that war and how the administration may not have told us everything, it may not have told us the truth in how this Congress, this Republican leadership in this Congress, has failed and refused to investigate these expenditures and failed to and refused to investigate many of the other issues around the Iraq war.

But what I am hearing from my constituents in these letters is the U.S. cannot go it alone in Iraq. My constituents are uncomfortable with the huge price tag for reconstruction; my constituents do not feel their tax dollars should bear the entire burden of reconstruction in Iraq; my constituents do not feel our troops should bear the entire burden of protecting Iraq; and, most of all, my constituents are concerned that the administration is simply not doing enough to ensure the safety of our men and women in the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue that this Congress needs to debate. We need answers. We need the Bush administration to tell us what their plans are. How long we are going to be in Iraq? How we are going to rebuild that country? How much it is going to cost, and when we are going to withdraw from that country?

SERIOUSNESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I just would like to start by saying that Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in fighting World War II, did not tell the American people how long it was going to take or what it was going to cost; all he told them was that we were going to win.

Ronald Reagan did not tell the American people how long it would take or what it would cost to defeat communism; he just told the American people we were going to win.

This week, two items on the agenda will give Members of both parties the opportunity to show the American people just how serious they are about winning the war on terror. In the coming days, we will hold hearings on the President's supplemental spending request for military and democracy-building operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

And also this week, the House will likely debate the conference report on the Homeland Security spending bill.

Since September 11, some have tried to split homeland security from national security, as if they were two separate issues. But the war on terror cannot be won if we employ such flawed logic. Homeland security and national security are one and the same, and only by accepting this fundamental fact can we hope to defeat terrorism.

Whether we like it or not, we have to fight this war on terror. Our choice is whether to fight it in the streets of Baghdad, or in the streets of Brooklyn.

Critics of the President's policy suggest that spending billions on civil defense without aggressively fighting the terrorists everywhere they live and plan will, in and of itself, make America safer. But in this war, with an enemy that acknowledges no rules of engagement, we should not have to rely on responding to their actions; they should be responding to ours. And today in Afghanistan and Iraq, they are.

Here at home, the President's comprehensive security policy has made America a safer and better prepared Nation than ever before. Our intelligence and law enforcement communities foil terrorist plots every month. Our enemies, those here and around the world, are on the run, killed or captured, hiding in caves, or sitting in cells.

And the comprehensive security policy of the Bush doctrine is the reason for our success in the war on terror and our only hope for seeing that war through to ultimate victory.

If the President's critics do not like this policy, then it is time for them to either propose their own or get out of the way.

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In the hearings and debate, the President's critics once and for all will finally reveal either alternative war policy or their basic unfitness for wartime leadership.

THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the state of our ailing economy. The administration recently announced that it is requesting \$87 billion from Congress to fund the war and rebuild Afghanistan and Iraq's infrastructure and the economy. This is in addition to the \$79 billion that Congress made available for these efforts last spring.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have any problem with fighting the war against terrorism, whether it is in Iraq or in Afghanistan, but I am wondering where the funding is to rebuild our own economy.

Just put this \$87 billion in context for those in the Chamber and for our

constituents at home, \$87 billion is more than our government spends on any domestic agency, with the exception of the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services. With this request, we will spend more rebuilding Iraq than we will spend rebuilding crumbling American roads and bridges. We will spend more in Iraq than we spend on rebuilding outdated schools where our children are educated. In fact, we will spend more rebuilding Iraq than President Lyndon Johnson spent to fund the entire Federal Government in his first year in office, and that was the first year of our Great Society. My colleagues on the Republican side talk about how bad it was; well, we are actually spending more in Iraq than we were in the first year of the Great Society.

While this administration is focused like a laser beam on Iraq, and I agree with some of that, we are falling asleep at the wheel while driving our economy. Quite frankly, our economy is swerving and is heading for a wreck. If you have lost your job or cashed your last unemployment check, you already know you are in a wreck.

Mr. Speaker, we have presided over the largest fiscal reversal in history by turning a \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$3.3 trillion deficit. Under this administration's economic leadership, 3.2 million Americans have lost their jobs, and these jobs will not return, if you read the business sections of our major dailies. The gross domestic product growth has averaged 1.6 percent, and real business investment has fallen to 10.4 percent.

Now, if we show these figures to the administration, we will hear their cries of recession and economic swings. Well, this country has weathered recessions before, but these figures do not represent just any recession. These figures represent the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. That is right, the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression.

This administration has the worst economic record since Herbert Hoover presided over the Great Depression. And as much as this administration hates to admit it, tax cuts are not the answer to every economic problem. Oh, they promised us that cutting taxes would ease the burden on businesses and pave the way for job creation. Well, since the President took office, we have had three major tax cuts and lost 3.2 million jobs. That is over a million jobs lost for each tax cut. And this Congress, by the way, enacted those tax cuts.

This country has already lost 437,000 jobs this year, raising our unemployment levels to 6.1 percent. Factory employment in this country has declined in every single month for the last 3 years. In fact, of the 3.2 million jobs lost under this administration, 2.7 of them are manufacturing jobs. And over 150,000 of those manufacturing jobs come from my home State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor of representing the 29th District of Texas, and it is the third most blue-collar district in the country, according to the last census. These good-paying jobs belonged to my constituents and provided them with a livable wage and a good chance to achieve the American dream. In 1950, manufacturing jobs represented one-third of our country's labor market. Today they represent one-tenth. Part of this country's economic problem is it does not make anything anymore. It is great to be the information economy, but it is not great if you do not have anything to have any information about. Our push for free trade has pushed our products and our jobs right out of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Port of Houston, the second largest port in our country. The port has been an economic boon for both the city of Houston and Texas and our region. But for the sake of our country, I just wish those ships going out of the port were as full as when they come in.

Mr. Speaker, our country is in a dire economic situation. It does not take too much to go out and listen to our constituents to know that. Like my colleagues, I listened intently when the President recently talked about the need for unity and sacrifice, and I think he is right. But our country's economy and unemployed workers have sacrificed enough. It is high time that this administration made some sacrifices and the tough decisions necessary to start putting this country and all of our people first.

AMERICAN EFFORTS TO HELP IRAQIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have some good news after that speech. As we talk about Iraq and how to fund our efforts over there, I do not think we should forget the amazing deeds that our troops are doing every day. Major combat has ended, and there are still terrorists at work in the country, but a powerful tyrannical regime has fallen, and, of course, it will take time and concerted efforts before democracy can grow from the ash and rubble of 35 years of Saddam Hussein.

Far from the headlines about the United States' military mission in Iraq, American GIs are daily making contributions to help mend Iraq both from the ravages of combat, but also from a decade of neglect, as I say, under Saddam Hussein. From the rebuilding of the hospitals to the delivery of school supplies and care packages, our troops have personally organized over 5,000 different humanitarian projects while, also, at the same time, trying to secure the security for Iraq. Slowly but surely change is coming to

the people of Iraq, and it is the United States who is delivering that change, and someday, I believe, the world will realize this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to detail a sampling, just a small sampling, but a few examples of projects carried out by our U.S. troops recently. For example, a battalion of the Army's 101st Airborne Division is hooking up the folks back home in America with Iraqi villages, organizing, in typical American style, an "adopt-a-village" campaign for sending care packages of school supplies, sports equipment, canned food, and toiletry items. So far, the 426th Forward Support Battalion has signed up the city of Salem, Utah, several Minnesota residents, and a Tennessee car dealership to help two villages. Perhaps others want to help today.

An Army reservist with the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion from Green Bay, Wisconsin, dreamed up the "Backpacks for Iraq" project which aims to ship 2,000 donated packs filled with school supplies given by people in Wisconsin and elsewhere. So far the soldier has distributed 120 packs with another semitrailer truckload on the way.

The Combined Joint Task Force-Seven started a "Beansies for Baghdad" program which is delivering more than 7,000 stuffed animals and 1,000 classroom school supplies packages to Baghdad neighborhoods and children's hospital wards.

The Army Reserves 171st Area Support Group in Nasiriyah in southern Iraq collected money from the soldiers to buy stoves, refrigerators, fans, televisions, and kitchen tables and chairs for three orphanages which the troops have taken under their wing, in a city where, at the same time, fierce fighting rages daily in that location.

Soldiers from the Army's 490th Civil Affairs Battalion from Abilene, along with others from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, have rebuilt a school from the ground up in a village outside Ar Ramadi, adding a new roof, a bathroom, water tanks, fans, windows, and chalkboards.

The Naval Coastal Warfare sailors delivered over 200 packages of school supplies after a San Diego church donated \$800 to ship them to poor children in a southern Iraq port city. On their own time, sailors with the Inshore Boat Unit 15 from Corpus Christi, Texas, constructed 16 children-sized picnic tables using just scrap lumber as materials to do this.

Mr. Speaker, Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 based in California supervised a wholesale renovation of a girls' high school in southern central Iraq. The school now has freshly painted rooms and new electrical wiring, lighting, ceiling fans, and bathrooms. The \$72,000 needed for the project came from funds that were confiscated from Saddam's Baath Party.

U.S. reservists from a Denver-based combat engineer battalion have adopted a small village in northern Iraq