

America, health training funds in the President's budget were cut by 64 percent. 150 clinics and hospitals have been rebuilt to serve 3 million Iraqis, and yet in America community health care clinics are cut by 91 percent in the President's budget.

Under veterans, \$60 million has been spent to train Iraqi veterans of past wars, but we are cutting veterans medical care here in the United States by \$257 million.

In the area of education, we have built or rebuilt 2,300 schools in Iraq, but Leave No Child Behind is underfunded by \$8 billion in the President's budget.

Iraqi universities are getting \$20 million for higher ed partnerships; but in America, the Pell grant has been frozen for 3 years while the cost for education has gone up 10 percent.

The area of law enforcement, \$500 million to train the Iraqi police, yet the COPS program in the United States under the President's budget was cut by \$659 million.

In the area of public housing, \$470 million is being spent for Iraqi public housing; yet here in the United States, \$791 million is cut from section 8 vouchers.

In the environment, we are paying \$3.6 billion for clean water and sewage systems in Iraq; and in America, under the President's budget, we cut \$500 million from the clean water for safe drinking water here in the United States.

In the area of infrastructure, the port of Umm Qasar was completely rebuilt in Iraq, yet the Corps of Engineers budget under the President's budget was cut by 10 percent.

Roads, we spent \$240 million on roads and bridges in Iraq. Here at home, the President has a veto threat on our highway and mass transit programs.

As President Bush seeks reelection, he can say he kept his commitment against nation-building. The problem is his opposition to nation-building is here at home. With this budget, the administration, the President is telling the American people that they have two priorities, two sets of values, two sets of books: one for the Iraqi people and one for the American people. And yet those are the wrong values.

The American people are the most generous people in the world. They are willing to commit to Iraq's future, one of a better tomorrow, but not at the expense that comes at the expense of America's tomorrow; not that comes at the expense of America's children.

America can no longer be so generous around the world if the future that we hold for the American people is less than the one we are promising in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, the same values that we hold for Iraq we must pledge for all Americans.

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

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

#### THE PRESIDENT'S INATTENTION TO MANUFACTURING AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a week ago this evening right around this time, President Bush held his third news conference in 3 years during prime time for the American people to examine his record and for them to watch the President answer for some of his policies, good and bad.

The President, if you recall watching that news conference, was asked by a reporter if he would outline what his largest mistake or one of his biggest mistakes was as President. And the President literally could not think of a mistake that he had made.

Well, tonight the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), and I are going to help the President a little bit, not to make the President look bad, that is not really our mission, but to help the President help the Nation understand what some of those mistakes are by pointing them out, perhaps forcing the President to think a little more about them, because I do not think he has given a lot of thought to his mistakes and some of the wrong directions and wrong courses that he has taken the country and ultimately to learn from those mistakes and then to correct those mistakes.

I was speaking with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) a moment ago. He said when he was a child he was taught over and over, and probably everybody in this Chamber has been taught, that one of the first things you do is you learn from your mistakes. But obviously you need to recognize those mistakes.

This chart here tonight just gives an idea of some of the issues that the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and I and others this week will discuss about some of the President's mistakes with weapons of mass destruction, with Medicare, and veterans, tax cuts with small business, with manufacturing, with Head Start, the energy bill, flip-flopping on a whole host of issues, the environment, and many others that we will get to later.

But I want to talk tonight about the President's inattention to manufacturing and to the economy. And to me, I do not think there is a person watching when the President kind of stood back almost in shock and said I just cannot think of any mistakes. I just cannot think of any mistakes.

I think almost every American thought about our economy, how there are schools in decline, in part because

of Federal inaction and Federal wrong action, about the environment, about the job situation, about their communities. And tonight I want to point out that the President's largest mistake on the economy may have been embodied in this economic report of the President, something that the President's chief economic advisor put out not too long ago signed by the President on page 4.

In this economic report, the President and his chief economic adviser kind of trumpet their success in the economy. They say we predicted 2.6 million jobs would be created this year, even though they have already lost 3 million jobs.

Then the President's chief economic adviser, and probably his largest mistake in showing how he really has not thought about this, the President's economic adviser trumpeted outsourcing, saying that outsourcing, our losing jobs to other countries, whether they are blue collar manufacturing jobs, they are steel and auto machine tools, chemicals, whatever, or whether they are white collar jobs, maybe phone operators, maybe computer programmers, maybe even radiologists as we have outsourced those jobs, the President's chief economic adviser said outsourcing is just a new way of doing international trade. More things are tradeable than were in the past, and that is a good thing.

Secretary Snow, the President's appointee as the Secretary of the Treasury, said outsourcing is part of trade. It is one aspect of trade, and there cannot be any doubt about the fact that trade makes the economy stronger.

It is hard for me to think that the American people when they hear George Bush say I cannot think of a mistake I made, that they do not think about the lost manufacturing jobs in this country.

My State of Ohio, we have lost 2,000 manufacturing jobs in my State every week. We have lost more than 200 jobs every single day in manufacturing in the Bush administration. One out of six manufacturing jobs in Ohio, not temporary layoffs, those jobs have gone to China, those jobs have gone to Mexico, those jobs have disappeared.

The President's answer, when he does reflect on his mistakes, when he does reflect on the economy, he has had two answers. He said we need to do more tax cuts for the most privileged, trickle down economics, hoping that will perhaps create some jobs in the country. It clearly has not. We have lost 3 million jobs in the United States. His other answer is outsourcing. His other answer is more trade agreements, more NAFTA-like trade agreements that ship jobs overseas, that hemorrhage jobs to China, that hemorrhage jobs to Mexico, that send our good-paying industrial jobs abroad.

And as we tonight, as the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) and the gentlewoman

from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) tomorrow night and many of us try to help the President through this, remind him of the mistakes that he has made, we also have an obligation to talk about what we should do. And what we should do with this economy, we can talk about these mistakes, but what we should do is we should first of all extend unemployment compensation, second we should pass the Crane-Rangel bill, which gives incentives for those corporations that actually produce manufacturing jobs in the United States instead of rewarding those companies that ship jobs overseas.

The President's mistakes can be fixed. We need to fix them by doing some of the things I just talked about.

#### PRESIDENT BUSH'S MISTAKES

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, if and when the President has another prime time press conference, and if the President is asked again to consider the mistakes that he has made, I have a suggestion: he might mention the thousands of soldiers in Iraq who have and are now risking their lives without appropriate body armor and other life-saving equipment.

We are finding out now that the President and his advisers and Cabinet were thinking about this war in Iraq for a very long time. And yet here is an AP story from March 26 of this year. It says soldiers headed for Iraq are still buying their own body armor. In many cases their families are buying it for them despite assurances from the military that the gear will be in hand before they are in harm's way.

Last October, last October, that is 8 months after the war started, it was reported that nearly one quarter of American troops serving in Iraq did not have ceramic-plated body armor which can stop bullets fired from assault rifles and shrapnel.

□ 2000

The military says the shortfall is over and soldiers who do not yet have the armor soon will.

"Nancy Durst," I am still quoting from the AP story, "recently learned that her husband, a soldier with an Army Reserve unit from Maine serving in Iraq, spent 4 months without body armor. She said she would have bought armor for her husband had vests not been cycled into his unit. Even if her husband now has body armor, Durst says she is angry he was without it at any time." Her husband also told her that reservists have not been given the same equipment as Active Duty soldiers. "They are so sick and tired of being treated as second-class soldiers," she said.

That is from the AP story. No wonder she is mad about it. This armor costs about \$1,500. And I hope the President

will support legislation that will reimburse the soldiers and families for this expense. Clearly this was a mistake. And so if asked about a mistake, the President could not only say that it was a mistake, but maybe he would like to support H.R. 3615. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) has a bill that would reimburse the families for the expense of buying their own body armor.

According to the Enlisted Association of the National Guard, as of November 30, 2003, the Army National Guard lacked \$11 billion of the \$40 billion in military equipment and training it needed to go to war. Among the missing crucial equipment components were nearly 11,000 Humvees, 20,000 radios, 156,000 night vision goggles and 148 Black Hawk helicopters that are required to meet modernization requirements.

That seems to me to be a mistake. Our troops were not properly equipped. Currently we are told that every member of the National Guard is being provided with body armor once they are in Iraq, but many of the soldiers are not even given an opportunity to train with the modern equipment before deployment.

On November 2, 2003, an Illinois National Guard Chinook helicopter was downed. This helicopter was not equipped with the latest automatic antimissile blocking system. I met the aunt of one of the soldiers who went down in that Chinook, who died because of that accident. I think she would like to tell the President that was a mistake, the cost of life of her nephew.

We know that soldiers coming home on R and R were being asked to pay to get to their homes once they came to the United States. Now, that was a mistake. The President could say that that was fixed, but is he going to support legislation introduced by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) to reimburse the families for their travel?

How about the fact that soldiers, wounded soldiers in the hospital, were being charged every day for their food? Well, we have corrected that, thank goodness, but that is something that the President might think about as a mistake that was clearly made and affected our troops.

Now for the latest report that I heard of from my State of Illinois. This was on CBS local news today, I believe. The 333rd Military Police Unit in Freeport, which just had their tour in Iraq extended, may not be adequately supplied for battle. That is because everything they owned was shipped back home. The 333rd is presently sitting on the Kuwaiti border awaiting orders, but they have since surrendered their equipment such as radios and armored vehicles to the troops who replaced them. But now since the 333rd is going to remain in Iraq, they are without any supplies. Even their personal belongings were sent home, including spare

uniforms, boots and toiletries. The soldiers only have what they are wearing and are being forced to purchase new uniforms and some equipment out of their own pockets. Military families have been receiving their soldiers' footlockers the past few days and are now frantically repacking boxes and sending all of this gear back at their own expense. This has angered families who did not believe the military thought this redeployment through.

Let me just say that the DOD has responded to these families, saying that they are looking into whether they will be reimbursed for sending equipment back.

A few mistakes. I will forward this to the President. Maybe he would like to use it at his next press conference.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### UNHAPPY EARTH DAY FOR EPA

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mention another mistake that President Bush has made: His mistake in forgetting that protecting our environment is a bipartisan effort that for 30 years has put people over polluters and public health over profits.

President Bush forgot that both Earth Day and the Environmental Protection Agency were born in 1970, created from the bipartisan resolve to clean up and protect our environment. As we prepare to mark Earth Day on April 22, the unhappy consequences of the President's mistakes are clear. The Bush administration is undermining EPA's years of hard-won achievements in carrying out and enforcing our Nation's bipartisan environmental laws.

EPA's mission is to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment, air, water and land. The Bush administration is retreating from EPA's mission and instead making politically driven decisions that benefit polluters at the expense of the American public. At a time when we should be strengthening our environmental protections, the Bush administration has taken steps to weaken our environmental protections and the enforcement of our existing environmental laws.