

grateful for liberation, which is higher than the estimates I learned in a September visit. My appreciation for the troops and their families is profound. My oldest son is now deployed in Iraq, and I was able to speak by phone with him as he begins his year of active duty.

In Baghdad, we visited the FBI Command Post where experienced agents from across America lead investigations of identifying terrorists, uncovering terrorist financing, and analyzing bombings and murders of Americans. This came to life with Congressman ROGERS, a former FBI agent, and by the accompaniment of Indianapolis Special Agent in Charge Tom Fuentes who has an extensive career of professional investigation.

We helicoptered to Kirkush to visit with the newly arrived troops of the North Carolina Army National Guard. Their morale was high as it was explained that the local Iraqi security forces were making a real impact establishing order. Proof of the local forces' effectiveness is that Hussein loyalists are brutally attacking them with the Iraqis fighting back with a new resolve to build democracy.

In concluding our briefings we met with Jim Haveman, formerly Community Health Director of Michigan, who explained the upgrading of Iraqi healthcare. The previous system, which was totally focused for the Baath Socialist Party members, has been expanded for all citizens and the Ministry of Health was among the first to be transferred to Iraqi control. All 240 Iraqi hospitals and more than 1,200 primary care clinics are open.

Visiting Jordan was an unexpectedly pleasant surprise. Jordanians are enthusiastic in helping the coalition rebuild Iraq because a stable Iraq protects Jordan's growing economy.

At the Jordan International Police Training Center, professional police from 20 nations are training classes of 500 Iraqi police trainees with a goal of producing 32,000 graduates by December 2005. Without notice or preselection our delegation interviewed four Iraqi students who told of their heartfelt desire to play a role in building a democratic Iraq.

That evening I met with the Chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Jordan. The AmCham had recently hosted in Jordan a second business conference on Iraq, together with Amman World Trade Centers. The conference was attended by many Iraqi business people during which it was suggested that contracts that are either in place or soon to be awarded to hopefully create more than 1 million new jobs in Iraq. The AmCham is promoting Jordan for the value it offers as a launching pad for doing business in Iraq.

Hungary is home of the International Law Enforcement Academy at Budapest where since 1995 police officers from formerly communist nations have been trained to detect and fight financial and organized crime. Iraqis will soon join the classes to learn of the relationships between organized crime and terrorism, which work to acquire financing and provide munitions.

In the former totalitarian police state of Hungary, which is now a dynamic member of NATO, it is a dream come true to see freedom flourish in just 15 short years of democracy. President Bush has this same vision of democracy for the Middle East, which he knows will benefit the people of the region and is the best way to protect American families from fu-

ture terrorist attacks. Just as in Hungary, the road is bumpy, but the benefits are crucial for peace and freedom. After World War II we rebuilt Germany to deter it from being a breeding ground for communists and now in Iraq we can stop it from being a breeding ground for terrorists.

September 11 confirmed we are in a global war we did not seek, but we clearly now have a choice of fighting terrorists overseas at their homes or we will fight them in America at our homes. From Qatar to Iraq to Jordan to Hungary competent and dedicated patriots are making a difference.

In conclusion God Bless our Troops, we will not forget the attacks of September 11.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

COMPARISON OF VOTING RECORDS IN REGARD TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding. I have been watching the national debate and, of course, all of the talk shows and all of the discussion about Senator KERRY's service to the country, the President's service to the country, who is patriotic, who is not patriotic. I think that it is important to lay out in lines of demarcation across what is fair political comment and what is not. I think that, first, service to our country gives any Member who has served, especially in a war like Vietnam, the platform, the right, to certainly have a position, a credible position on what we should do with respect to national defense. On the other hand, service in the military does not by and of itself mean that you are not accountable for, if you are elected to Congress, your voting record.

What I would like to do is to simply say that I have no quarrel with Senator KERRY's having served in Vietnam. I think that is a good thing and I think that being a veteran is something people should be commended for. On the other hand, I think it is very important to say that that is not a substitute for a strong defense voting record. I heard several people attacking the President the other day and Vice President CHENEY in particular, saying that Vice President CHENEY had a poor voting record on defense and that Senator KERRY had a good voting record on defense. So what I did was go to the Almanac of American Politics, which puts together a series of ratings on Congressmen and Senators. It is done by the National Journal. It is considered to be nonpartisan. It is considered to have a great deal of credibility. They give people ratings by groups that they think are good, honest brokers of where you stand in particular areas.

For example, I have, I think, a fairly low AFL-CIO rating. Other Members of Congress have a high rating. That rating is in the National Journal, where people can open it up and see my rating. Senator KERRY also has a rating from the American Security Council. He has a rating that was given at the same time that he was in the Senate that the Vice President, RICHARD CHENEY, was in the House of Representatives, and in which a real barometer for being a good, strong defense Democrat, Sam Nunn of Georgia, was in the Senate. I looked at this rating. The rating at the time when they were all three in Congress, Vice President CHENEY, at that time Congressman CHENEY, had a 100 percent American Security Council rating for being strong on national defense as reported by the Almanac of American Politics. Sam Nunn, Democrat from Georgia, had a 100 percent rating for being strong on national defense under the American Security Council rating system as reported in the Almanac of American Politics put out by National Journal. Senator KERRY had a zero for a national defense voting record as rated by the American Security Council, as reported by the National Journal's Almanac of American Politics. Once again Vice President CHENEY, 100 percent in votes in support of a strong national defense. Sam Nunn, Democrat from Georgia, 100 percent for a strong national defense. Senator JOHN KERRY, zero.

I do not think we should continue to debate ad nauseam Senator KERRY's record with respect to Vietnam. I think his words when he testified to the Senate and said that American servicemen had murdered 200,000 people, I think he should be accountable for that. I think he should be accountable for the statement when he said that 80 percent of them were stoned on pot 24 hours a day and that they ravaged the country like Genghis Khan. But I do not think that we should ad nauseam debate his service. We should, though, debate his voting record and whether that voting record portends well for the United States of America in terms of a strong national security should he become President of the United States. I think that we ought to go to the record, we ought to get off this who shot JOHN and who is bad and who is good and who served and who did not, but go to the voting record and analyze who would be best in terms of making a strong national security apparatus for our country. In my estimation, that is not Senator KERRY.

I again thank the gentleman for yielding.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, it certainly is my honor and my pleasure

to join with the Congressional Black Caucus in this special order. Before I get started, I could not help but hear the comments of my colleagues from the other side. I just find it so interesting that the chairman said just a moment ago, we should not get caught up in who shot John. But over the last hour or so, that is exactly what has been done. The fact still remains that John Kerry went to war, that John Kerry earned medals, that John Kerry gave his blood, sweat and tears for this country, and it is interesting that while John Kerry and others fought in Vietnam where, sadly, 58,000 young men and women died and he fought alongside of them for what this country is supposed to be all about and upholding our Constitution, and the fact is that when he came back and he provided his observations, by the way, exercising his first amendment rights of freedom of speech, now some many years later he is being criticized for what he said.

Madam Speaker, I think that in this country we have to be very careful that if on the one hand we are going to salute the flag, shed tears at baseball games when the Star Spangled Banner is played, stand up over and over again for our men and women who are in harm's way, I think one of the greatest things that we can do to honor them is not be about the business of tearing up anyone for doing exactly what those men and women in Iraq and in Vietnam and in Korea and in other wars have done. What they are there about is uplifting our Constitution. John Kerry had the right to come back and express his observations.

I, too, like the last speaker on the other side, am getting tired of this back and forth of who did this and who did that. But the fact still remains that when all of the dust clears and when we look at what in fact did happen, there was a man named John Kerry that got on a plane and went to a foreign land called Vietnam, that he obeyed the orders of his Commander in Chief, that he stood up in a war over and over and over again. I am not even going to get into what the President may have been doing or not been doing. But I do know that another thing we should not do, and I think it is as denigrating to our soldiers when we go after one of them who has already served and when he comes back and expresses his views, is to say to him that there is something wrong with you. We must be about the business of upholding this wonderful document called the Constitution of the United States of America.

And so, Madam Speaker, before I begin, I just want to take a moment to salute our troops. I salute the young men and women who I see at Walter Reed Army Hospital with amputated legs and arms and hands. I salute our young men and women, and the Congressional Black Caucus, we salute the young men and women who are standing up for us over and over and over

again and obeying the commands of their Commander in Chief. I salute the families of those who have lost men and women, husbands, wives, friends, relatives, fathers, daughters, aunts, uncles in this war in Iraq.

□ 1915

So let it not be said that while members of the Congressional Black Caucus before this war started stood up and said to the President, please, do not go to war, now that we are there, we salute our troops and we pray for them.

Madam Speaker, tonight we come as the Congressional Black Caucus to the well of this House to talk about some very interesting situations in our country that are domestic as opposed to foreign.

There are many people in our country who are watching us tonight who at the end of the week will have no paycheck. When their daughter or son comes and says, mommy, can I go to the movie with my friends, they will not have the money to give to them. The reason for that, Madam Speaker, is because they have no jobs. So we rise as the Congressional Black Caucus this evening to discuss the state of our Nation's economy.

As you well know, Madam Speaker, we are now approaching graduation season. I am sure that you and many other Members of this great Congress will be fanning out across the country delivering commencement addresses at local colleges and universities. In fact, next Saturday I will be traveling to North Carolina to speak to the 2004 graduating class of Shaw University.

Madam Speaker, I have to be honest with you, I really have been wrestling with exactly what I am going to tell these optimistic, intelligent young people about their prospects of finding a job once they have earned their degrees.

At this very moment, Madam Speaker, there are over 8 million people without a job in America. The members of the Congress Black Caucus and I have come to the House floor time and time again to remind this Congress and the president of this fact.

Over 8 million people, some of whom are probably watching this special order right now on C-SPAN, some of them unable to watch it because they cannot afford cable, but those people woke up this morning without a job. There are people in small-town America, in rural America, in urban America, in black America and in white America that have not yet realized the recovery of the economy because they are still without a job.

The truth is, Madam Speaker, our Nation's unemployment situation is not just reserved to the service industry or the manufacturing industry. All segments of our economy have been affected, and, as a result, all segments of our population are feeling the awful sting of joblessness.

So, Madam Speaker, what do I tell these young people at Shaw Univer-

sity? Should I tell them to hold on to their degree until President Bush's trickle-down economic policies take hold? Should I tell them that this President has yet to create one net job, but if they just hold on for one, two, maybe three years longer, that will change? What do I tell them, Madam Speaker?

Madam Speaker, it is indeed time for change in this country. It is up to us, the stewards of government, to turn this cycle of fiscal and economic mismanagement around.

Next Friday, the Department of Labor will release its monthly report on this Nation's unemployment situation. Unlike last month, I hope this month's report will reveal a decrease in the African American unemployment rate, which is consistently almost double that of the national rate.

So that we will be clear on what those numbers are, African American unemployment in this country is 10.2 percent. The national rate is 5.7 percent. It is interesting that just a few weeks ago the New York Times published an article where it said that in New York, 50 percent of African American males are unemployed. They did not say the unemployment rate is 50 percent. The reason why they did not use the words "unemployment rate" is because those are people they can measure. They concluded there were 50 percent of the African American males who did not have a job.

Madam Speaker, while Wall Street is celebrating a rebounding economy, people on Main Street, America, are agonizing over how to simply pay their bills.

In March, more people exhausted their Federal unemployment benefits than in any other month in the last 30 years. These educated, hard-working Americans are now unable to find a job and unable to receive the Federal help that was allowing them to feed and clothe their families in the interim.

As I travel throughout my district, the number one request that I get from my constituents is, Mr. CUMMINGS, can you help me find a job? There are almost 120,000 people in my home State of Maryland that were unemployed in March. To be honest, I have trouble explaining to them why it is that, despite their skills, despite their education and their desire, they are unable to find gainful employment in this great land of opportunity.

When I think of my constituents who just want to provide for their families, I cannot help but be bothered when I hear the President and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle blame all of the country's economic woes on September 11, corporate scandals and the drumbeat to the Iraq war.

I realize that my colleagues are probably facing the same questions from their constituents regarding unemployment as the folks in Baltimore and Howard County are asking me. But let me remind my Republican colleagues

that every President and every administration has had to overcome significant challenges. How about World War II, the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, the Iran hostage situation, the Cold War and the first Persian Gulf War?

I could continue on, but my point is that every President has faced these types of challenges, and still, and still, managed to create jobs, except one since the Great Depression, and that is George W. Bush and this Republican House and Senate.

So, Madam Speaker, we either need to change the policies or change the leadership of this country. I would submit that we should do both.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland (Chairman CUMMINGS) for holding these weekly special orders, which provide us a forum to speak out on the most pressing issues facing our constituents, the African American community, and, indeed, our country.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the chairman for the outstanding address that he delivered yesterday at the National Press Club. In his eloquent and very thoughtful message, he outlined the Congressional Black Caucus' agenda and our priorities on both the domestic and foreign policy arenas. Part of his address was dedicated to the topic that is on the minds of millions of Americans today, and that is jobs and the economy.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the same vital issue. We know that people are suffering under the Bush economy and we know that we must reverse the damage done and move forward to grow our economy and create real, good-paying jobs. We must also protect existing jobs here at home.

Economic security should really be part of a major national security strategy. It should be a key component. How do we ensure domestic tranquility when so many Americans are jobless?

I think most of us are familiar with Bush's less-than-rosy record on the economy, but I want to just start with some statistics about Bush's poor record on job creation in minority communities.

As the gentleman from Maryland (Chairman CUMMINGS) mentioned, the African American unemployment rate in March increased to an astounding 10.2 percent, while Hispanic unemployment rates remained persistent at 7.4 percent. These harsh and telling numbers came during the very same month, mind you, that the Bush administration was really bragging and boasting about an economic recovery.

Excuse me? But I just have to ask, just who really is benefiting from our Nation's long overdue job creation efforts? I cannot tell you how many of my constituents have asked me that very same question.

Another question I often hear is, what is President Bush's plan for cre-

ating the millions of jobs that he has lost, mind you, that he has lost on his watch? What is he doing to address the suffering which jobless individuals have endured during his 3 years in office?

I hear former, and, yes, they are former manufacturing workers, talk about the decimation of their sector over the past 3 years. It is really hard to fathom the reality that since taking office, President Bush has lost about 3 million good-paying jobs. Under this administration our country has simply hemorrhaged manufacturing jobs, and given this administration's support for outsourcing jobs and shipping them overseas, the pain and the suffering from job loss will likely only worsen.

We all know that manufacturing is extremely critical for the financial security of millions of families. Every manufacturing job creates at least four other jobs. It is also critical to our national security. Today, manufacturing is at a 53-year low. What a lost opportunity and what a sad record this administration has created.

Does this President and this administration care about the decimation of an entire industry? Does this administration have a plan to really remedy this mess? And that is what it is, it is a mess, and it is creating havoc in the lives of millions of American families. And what about the Republican leadership in Congress? Can they explain the 2.8 million manufacturing jobs lost over the last 3 years?

Yesterday the Republicans unveiled a proposal entitled "Jobs for the 21st Century." Like many of their proposals, we know better than to be fooled by that name. The plan is really another classic Republican example of how rhetoric, rhetoric, mind you, trumps substance, and how the monied interest's agenda reigns supreme.

We should be providing incentives to companies that create real jobs here at home, rather than sending them overseas. That is why we have launched a discharge petition to bring the bipartisan Crane-Rangel manufacturing bill to the floor.

Our efforts to keep jobs here at home must also extend beyond our manufacturing sector, because not only are companies exporting our manufacturing jobs overseas, they are also exporting high-paying white-collar jobs overseas as well.

According to a recent study by the Haas School of Business, 14 million white-collar service jobs representing 11 percent of the total United States workforce are in danger of being outsourced overseas.

We should also consider legislation like the Defending American Jobs Act introduced by my colleague the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS). This legislation would prohibit companies that lay off a greater percentage of U.S. workers than they do overseas from receiving grants, loans or loan guarantees from the Federal Government. That just makes common sense.

The Republican House leadership really should allow us to consider these types of proposals.

Instead of short-term extensions to the transportation bill, we should really be voting on a strong highway bill that would create over 1.8 million jobs. The Republicans' reliance on these short-term extensions have cost America thousands of jobs already. And what about the Republican leadership's failure to extend Federal unemployment benefits for out-of-work Americans? That, to me, is just mean, it is unconscionable and it is wrong.

In March, a record 354,000 Americans exhausted their State unemployment benefits, and the number of long-term unemployed Americans is rising, with nearly one in four jobless workers out of a job for 27 weeks or more. That is a long time. By the end of this month, 1.5 million Americans will have exhausted all of their benefits.

So I think that the Republicans really should be ashamed of their "compassion." This compassion is a compassion that I, quite frankly, do not understand.

□ 1930

It does not extend to helping jobless workers feed their families or pay their utility bills until they can find a job. Even Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan has expressed his support for extending unemployment benefits to long-term unemployed workers, saying that it would be, I think he said it would be a good idea because of the exceptionally high number of exhaustions.

Chairman Greenspan has also admitted that he does not have all the answers when it comes to the economy. As a member of the House Committee on Financial Services, I have the opportunity to question the chairman on a regular basis, and in March I asked him, I said what do we tell our young people? And the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) I think said this very eloquently tonight as he reflected upon what he is going to talk about at these graduation speeches.

I asked Chairman Greenspan, what do we tell our young people after they have gone to school, after they have played by the rules, after they have done everything we have told them to do to realize the American dream, what do we tell them when they cannot find a job? What do we tell them in terms of where are the jobs of the future? We have lost manufacturing jobs, the service industry is decimated, and now the high-tech industry will soon be gone. So what in the world do we tell our young people? Where are the jobs? Where are the jobs? We are trying to get our young people focused on how to stay off the streets, how to be productive citizens, how to engage in productive work, and yet there are no jobs out there for them.

Chairman Greenspan's response was he just simply did not know. He did not have the answer. That is in essence

what he said. And I must say that the answers, quite frankly, are not to be found in the policies of this Bush administration or this Republican-controlled House. We must answer these questions and take action to reverse the loss of jobs that we have seen under this Bush administration.

Democrats have a plan to do exactly that. We have a plan to create jobs, to keep jobs on our shores, and to prevent the shipping of jobs overseas, a policy that the Bush administration has totally, mind you, totally embraced.

So it is up to the American people now to wake up. November really cannot come fast enough. We must ensure that the tide is turned as we move together to create economic growth and good-paying jobs for all.

So I thank the chairman again for the opportunity for the Congressional Black Caucus to talk to America to try to raise these issues with regard to how we see the deal going down, as it relates to the American people and the jobless rates and the job loss and the shambles that many people find their lives in.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for her statement. Sometimes people ask the question, why is it that members of the Congressional Black Caucus continue to stand up on these issues. Somebody asked, they said, well, you may stand up on these issues, but you may not win. And one of the things that former Congressman Gray of Pennsylvania said, and I will never forget it, it is embedded in the DNA of every cell of my brain. He said, "You may not win every battle, but you set the trend."

If we do not speak up on these issues, the fact is it seems like a train is going down the track and it seems like we are just kind of going along with it, but what we do week after week and day after day is stand up and say, we have a greater vision for America and we want to do everything in our power to bring that vision into reality. So I really appreciate what the gentlewoman has said.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, it would be morally irresponsible of us if we did not fight these battles and, hopefully, one day we will win the war.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from the State of Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, at this point I would like to commend my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), for his leadership, his tenacity, and his great performance as the chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus. I call him my brother, and he is doing such a fantastic job, and I am so pleased to be part of his team.

Earlier, before we began our hour, I came in at the end of the Republican Special Order, and I was just stunned. I could not believe what I heard my colleagues saying about Senator JOHN KERRY.

I spent yesterday, all day, with Senator KERRY. He visited the State of Ohio, and we talked about jobs, jobs, jobs. We started in the City of Youngstown, where a little company that used to make wire hangers went out of business because wire hangers were being made cheaper in China and in Youngstown these poor folks were out of jobs. I have spent quite a bit of time over the past 2 years in Youngstown because of the steel companies that were going out of business and the steel workers in Youngstown who are losing their jobs. They all were out at this rally looking for an opportunity to talk to someone who understood what it meant to be out of work and without a job.

We moved from the City of Youngstown on to the City of Cleveland, where mayors from all across the State of Ohio were talking about the issue of loss of jobs. We had the mayor of the City of Columbus, Michael Coleman, we had the mayor of the City of Cleveland, Jane Campbell, we had the mayor of the City of Parma, Dean DePiero, we had the mayor of the City of Toledo, Jack Ford, and we had the mayor of Chillicothe and other suburban mayors seated out in the audience, and all of them talked about the impact of the policies of this Bush administration on their ability to administer their own cities: the tax cuts, the lack of jobs, which meant lack of income to their budgets.

In the City of Cleveland alone, since George Bush took office, we have lost 70,000 jobs. In the State of Ohio since he took office, we have lost 160,000 jobs. As we talk about that, we talk about the impact that it has on a school system. In the City of Cleveland, our public school system has a \$100 million deficit as a result of loss of income from people out of work in the City of Cleveland, as a result of loss of income of businesses who are losing their tax dollars, or losing income and, therefore, not able to pay the tax dollars.

We talked about the fight that cities across this country, because their budgets are low, are having to lay off firefighters, are having to lay off police officers, and at a time when we are fighting the war on terrorism one would think that this administration would have an economic policy that would allow the frontline defenders, the first responders to be able to handle the jobs that they have to handle. It is a terrible situation. We are talking about laying off teachers as well.

Well, the thing that I will say is that JOHN KERRY has an economic plan to deal with job loss in this country. He is unveiling a comprehensive economic agenda that will unleash the productive potential of America's economy to help create jobs, 10 million jobs in his first term. He believes that Americans should not subsidize moving jobs overseas. He will eliminate tax breaks for companies that create jobs overseas and use the approximately \$12 billion in annual savings to cut the corporate tax rate. Under his plan more than 99

percent of tax-paying companies will see their taxes go down. He would jump-start manufacturing job creation with a new jobs tax credit that would pay the employers' share of the payroll taxes for any net new jobs created by the manufacturers and other businesses affected by outsourcing and small businesses in 2005 and 2006. As President, he will take our country into a different direction on trade enforcement. Rather than turn a blind eye to clear trade violations when American jobs are on the line, he will make clear through his actions that when the U.S. enters into a trade agreement we will expect our partners to live up to their side of the deal, unlike what we are dealing with right now where, for example, with steel, we are having steel dumped into our country and there are no policies through the World Trade Organization that will support our country.

I was just stunned, as I came in this room earlier today, and the speaker on the Republican side was talking about JOHN KERRY. He could not be talking about the JOHN KERRY I traveled with yesterday. He could not be talking about the JOHN KERRY that fought in Vietnam, that was in a boat, and he got ready to leave and he heard that one of his crew was back there and harmed and he went back to pick up the crew member that he had lost and got shot in the process. He could not be talking about the JOHN KERRY I know that received bronze medals, that received Purple Hearts, and came back to this country to speak up on behalf of all of those fighting over in Vietnam.

He has been supportive of a strong and responsible military his entire career. I would challenge, when we are going to compare records, Vice President CHENEY or President Bush to compare the type of record that JOHN KERRY has of serving in the military.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on and on, but what I want to say here is I am so pleased to be here this evening with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus. We are the voice of the people who are left out and locked out of this process. We are the voice of those who need an extended unemployment tax benefit. We are the voice of those who have been perhaps in trouble with the law and need an opportunity to get gainful employment and have an opportunity to make their lives right. We are the voice of the people who are not heard, who need the support of Members of Congress like the Congressional Black Caucus to make a difference.

I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with the chairman, and I will be here every time he needs me. But I want the people who are listening to us to understand that it is about jobs. It is about jobs. It is about jobs.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield just for a moment, as I listened to the gentlewoman I could not help but think about the fact that so often when people hear the words "Congressional

Black Caucus" they automatically assume that this is a caucus that just speaks for African American people. When the gentlewoman talked about the rally and all of the people who had been laid off up there in Ohio, I could not help but think, and the gentlewoman can tell us, were we talking about a rainbow of different colors? It is not just, I am sure it was not just African Americans.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Absolutely not. And that is one of the things that as a Congressional Black Caucus, we represent the Congressional Black Caucus but we also represent constituencies that are not totally African American. My congressional district in the City of Cleveland is probably 50 percent African American, but I represent Latinos, I represent Caucasians. There are 84 different ethnic groups in my congressional district that come from all over. I represent a district that is very, very poor and some of it is very, very rich.

But at that rally in Youngstown yesterday there was a rainbow of folks, all kinds of people, all out of a job. And when you are out of a job, your color, when you start talking about the issues of being unemployed and locked out, the color, there is a rainbow of colors. It is not just black folks, it is not just white folks, it is not just brown or yellow folks. All people, a lot of people of all races are out of jobs and they were there at that rally yesterday saying jobs, we need jobs, we need jobs.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, the gentlewoman said something else that was really quite telling. When the gentlewoman talked about the deficit in the school system, we in Baltimore, we have a deficit too of about \$58 million, if I remember correctly. When we are talking about educating children, one of the things that we have consistently said in the Congressional Black Caucus is that while we want to make sure, we do not want people to be confused, that we do not want to ever see another 9/11 happen again. So we believe in fighting terrorism, but we also want to make sure that we take care of the people here at home.

One of the things, and I have said it many, many times, I think the greatest threat to our national security is our failure to properly educate our children. And if the money is not there for teachers, not there for the janitors so they can have clean schools and clean buildings, I say that it is their turn. In other words, it is our children's turn. We had our opportunity to get our education and we got it or we would not be here. But now it is their turn. And then they have to go through this deficit. Why? And they are suffering because of it, because I know in Baltimore we just had a proposal where we are going to increase class sizes. Why? Because we have to lay off teachers.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, the same issue is being raised by Barbara Byrd-Bennett, the CAO of the Cleveland Municipal School District,

the need to have to raise class sizes. It is so very important that we educate our children.

One of the things that we have learned since 9/11 is that one of the reasons that terrorism happens or flourishes in many countries is because people are uneducated or they have been brainwashed into one direction, that they feel like they are left out and locked out of the process that they have no control over, so they figure out who are they going to point the finger at, and if they start pointing the finger they start pointing it at the United States.

But as important or more important is that we must educate our own. I want to see the people in Iraq, I want to see them get better. I want to see them have a school system and health care and roads, but not as much as I want the people of the United States to have a health care system, to have education, and to have roads.

□ 1945

And we need to be directed towards an agenda or a policy that will allow our people to back to work, that will allow our people to rebuild our own country, the roads, the sewer systems, the bridges. That is a back-to-work agenda. That is what we need for the United States.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, finally, let me just say this: I cannot help but be moved by your words with regard to Senator KERRY. And I understand you were with him yesterday. It pains me tremendously, as I said a little earlier, that our military can go and fight for this Constitution and can fight for America to maintain its strength, can fight for our freedoms, can fight for the conventions and opportunities that we have, but then to hear people slam him because he comes back after doing all the things my colleague said, and I am glad he made it clear, all the things he said, he could come back and express his views, and thank God we have a country that says you have freedom of speech; but then he gets slammed for the very freedoms that he placed his life on the line for. Something is wrong with the picture.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, time will show and time will tell that the John Kerry that I know and the John Kerry that I have worked with and that I traveled with is a man of substance, a man of strength, a man who wants to see this Nation back on its feet and wants to see this Nation be a leader in the international arena that will lead other countries back to greatness and not be misled by other countries as well. In that strength, I am sure he will do well.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for this exchange of words.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I will yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my good friend, such time as he may consume.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for

yielding. I also want to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman for his outstanding leadership as chairman of the caucus. And especially was I pleased to be at the National Press Club as he laid out in sharp relief for the national press what it really takes to get people involved in our country where African Americans stand, what we believe in, and what it is going to take to convince us that we need to be supporting different individuals who run for office.

And I was very pleased with the eloquence with which he displayed that information and conveyed it, and I want to thank him.

I am also pleased to join with him tonight and my colleagues to discuss the state of our economy and look at the job loss in America. I will not focus on the nearly 3 million jobs that have been lost since the President took office; but I will take a look in a micro-fashion just at my city, the City of the Big Shoulders, the city of Chicago, the city that sits by the lake.

In February, the Chicago Tribune reported that Chicago finished first as the job-loss Capital of America. The nine-county region lost nearly 58,000 jobs last year, outpacing every other major metropolitan area in this country. New York, the runner-up, lost 45,000 jobs, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The job loss in Chicago and throughout the State are troubling because Illinois represents mainstream, middle-of-the-road America. Major employers in Illinois have cut jobs. The hardest hit industry has been the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing jobs statewide are at their lowest levels since World War II, falling from 936,000 in 2000 to 870,000 today.

A number of job losses in Illinois and throughout the country can be attributed directly to this administration's policy of outsourcing. I could not believe it when a senior administration official suggested that that was a good and appropriate thing to do, NAFTA and cheaper wages overseas. Obviously, Chicago can never compete with the lower wages paid in China. However, our workers are the very best when it comes to productivity.

It is a shame that we do not manufacture dress shirts for men in America. Think of all the people who used to work in the garment industry, people who could go to work, knowing that they were helping to dress America. Now every time you look in the label, the back of whatever garment that you wear, you will find that it is produced somewhere other than in our country.

Therefore, we must utilize every effort to persuade companies to keep their manufacturing operations in America.

Even more troubling is the devastating job loss and high unemployment rate among African American males. We have a way of saying that if other parts of the community sneeze, then the African American community catches pneumonia.

When it comes to work opportunities, black men are seriously disproportionately unemployed. The Department of Labor statistics suggest that nationwide unemployment for African American males is 32 percent. In the city of Chicago more than 50 percent of young African American males between the ages of 16 and 22 are out of work and do not go to school, do not have a job.

The New York Times recently cited a study by the Community Service Society, a non-profit group that serves the poor. The study showed that in 2003 one of every two African American men between 16 and 64 was not working. Mark Levitan, the report's author, found that just 51.8 percent of black men, and I am not talking about Chicago, I am talking about the Nation, 51.8 percent of black men ages 16 to 64 held jobs in New York City in 2003. The rate for white men was 75.7 percent, for Hispanic men 65.7 percent, and for black women 57.1 percent.

The employment population ratio for black men was the lowest for the period Mr. Levitan has studied, which goes back to 1979. The tragedy is it is not just New York. It is Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, and other major cities in America.

I grew up in rural America where folks were hard-working, Bible-reading Christians. And my mother used to tell us that the Bible said that idle hands and an idle mind were the devil's workshop. And so we have to ask the question, if young African American men are not working, how are they surviving? Are they being driven to participation in the negative underground economy selling drugs and joining gangs?

It is for this reason that I, along with other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, the 100 Black Men of America, the NAACP, The Urban League, National Association of Black Psychologists, and others have begun to focus attention on the state of African American males. We have selected barriers to employment as an area of focus. And we hope over the next year to examine these issues in detail and provide some recommendations for needed changes.

Clearly, every segment of our society must be able to enjoy the American dream. I appreciate my colleagues for taking the time out to shed light on this subject this evening. And as I listen to different people talk about jobs that you cannot find, it reminds me of the song that we used to listen to some years ago that talked about a man who would get up in the morning and the writer wrote that every morning about this time she brings my breakfast to the bed crying, get a job. He says, "When I read the paper, I read it through and through, trying to see if there is any work for me to do."

The reality is that in too many instances the answer is absolutely, no. And if you cannot find a job, then you lose hope. You feel like a failure. You feel like you do not have a place.

Well, I believe that this administration is failing. This administration is failing because it has produced a feeling of hopelessness and helplessness among too many people. And when you fail, you ought to get a failing grade. And when you get a failing grade, sometimes you get put out.

Well, I believe the remedy, Madam Speaker, is to put this administration out and let us get in another group who can bring hope, who can bring to the American people a feeling that yesterday is dead and gone but tomorrow is something that we can look forward to. And what we want to look forward to is the ability to get up in the morning, go to work, have a job, produce for our families and children, and move America on to becoming even greater than what we have known it to be.

So I thank my colleague for taking out this Special Order and have welcomed the opportunity to participate in it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his statement and for his eloquence. He said something when he was talking about African American males and the unemployment rate. One of the things that I talked about in my district was coping skills. But when we talk about, as my colleague just said, in the Chicago area 50 percent unemployed black males, we have to find a way to create hoping skills.

And as he said, when people lose hope, that is a major problem. And when they do not have any money and have children to feed, and have to take care of themselves, that is a rough situation to have hope around.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I certainly agree with my colleague. I thank him for that observation. I think in many instances what has happened, many of the jobs that traditionally were held by African American males no longer exist in this country.

For example, African American males worked in production. First it was in farm production. Then with the industrial revolution, they went into the factories and worked in production again. Now that we are becoming more and more of a high-tech service economy, we have not provided a thinking process where young African American boys have recognized in many instances that the jobs their grandfathers had and fathers had that they could expect to get no longer exist, so they have fallen behind in many instances in school because their father did not have to get an education, they did not get an education.

My father did not have much education, my uncle who I celebrate right now, he just became 100 years old, neither one of them had any education; but they were two of the smartest men I have ever known in my life. And they had these coping skills. They developed these coping skills to deal with the environment of which they were a part.

So we have to find ways to help bring all of our society into the 21st century

so that everybody can have an opportunity to play on an even playing field. And that is what the gentleman has been doing as he has led this caucus. That is what the Congressional Black Caucus is trying to do is bring hope to all of America.

□ 2000

I thank the gentleman for your leadership and I welcome the opportunity to participate this evening.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentleman very much.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my good friend, the gentlewoman from the great State of Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the time we have on the floor to be able to make an important statement.

I have some very dear and respected constituents who have had the opportunity to join us today, experiencing the legislative process, meeting with their Senators, meeting with their Members of Congress. They wanted to know what this process was. And I said the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) called this special order in order to make the RECORD, because if we do not make the RECORD for those who cannot speak for themselves, if we do not make the RECORD so that all might read in the largest story of the United States, as long as this Congress's doors have been open there has been a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, if we do not enunciate the RECORD and let people know on this night, April 28, 2004, we stood on the floor to claim a clarion call for those who cannot speak for themselves and to be able to insist that this Congress address the question of loss of jobs.

The numbers are 3 million. Each of our respective States have experienced the pain of manufacturing jobs being gone. Some of us have had on occasion businesses moving from one State to the next so there have been broad headlines. A new company opens up in Texas, and those jobs are there, but those jobs are lost from the State they moved from. The economy may be percolating but it is not boiling.

I think it is shameful that in the midst of the terrible turmoil in Fallujah, Marines now in bunkers under siege, fighting for their lives, in a war that was declared over over a year ago, that these brave Marines and these brave military personnel, these civilians who are there as contractors, are in a turmoil fighting for their life.

Yet, they may return home and not have a place to live and not have food to eat and not have a job. And so I ask the question to the President, I ask the question to this Congress, why cannot we rally around in a leadership of this Nation or proposing leadership issues that would answer the loss of jobs.

Let me cite for you an example that I would think bring shame and certainly pain to this body. I pay tribute tonight to Nicole Goodwin. Nicole Goodwin is a former member of the

United States military. Not one of 10 years ago or 6 years ago or 8 years ago or 3 years ago but a recent returnee from the combat zone of Iraq. I wanted everybody to get a chance to meet Miss Goodwin.

She has a new and wonderful baby. She was dishonorably discharged. But let me tell you her story because she is, in fact, not just a former war veteran, someone who spent nights with missiles and explosives around her surroundings, someone who was serving as other were fallen or wounded. This is how Nicole Goodwin travels these days, with a one-year-old daughter pressed to her chest in a snuggly, a heavy backpack strapped across her shoulders and a baby stroller crammed with as many bags of clothes and diapers as she can hold.

When and you are a homeless young mother these are the things that you carry. The story goes on to say, as it is called "Home From Iraq and Homeless," that now every day she soldiers on to find a residence where the rent is not covered by payment in kind of late bus rides and early morning rising to move from one shelter to the next. All the while she keeps in mind the acronym she earned or learned in the Army. Leadership. L is for loyalty. D is for duty. R is for respect. S is for selfless service. H is for honor. P is for personal coverage. And I is her favorite and that is for integrity.

A homeless veteran. A young woman with a child. A combat veteran is homeless and without a job. What can America say to its best and brightest who have come home from a war and they cannot find a job.

Let me just finish her story by saying a war veteran wearing a backpack, pushing a stroller and carrying a baby, stayed in another strange hotel room last night, mostly because the city of her birth does not know how to welcome her home.

Mr. Chairman, I would ask you tonight as we know that Miss Goodwin probably still walks the street and is homeless and is without a job. I would like to see the Congressional Black Caucus rally around her with certainly the members from her constituency to be able to ask the State why they cannot help an Iraqi war veteran, a young woman who now walks the street as we speak homeless with a daughter, without a job.

I yield to the gentleman for the opportunity to respond.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I wanted to make it clear that we will do that. We will rally around Miss Goodwin, but the sad part about it is Miss Goodwin is only one, and I am sure that there are many, many others and then the question becomes how do we make sure we rally around all of them. Because as you just said, with our men and women in bunkers in Fallujah and with them fighting and giving up their blood, sweat, tears and lives, and then for those who are able to come back and end up in situations like this or somewhat similar is a shame.

So, yes, we will rally around here but we must find ways to rally around the many others who are voiceless, who the New York Times never interviewed, the ones that will never appear on the front page of the Washington Post, the ones that you will never hear about on ABC News, those who we have to find and help.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. As we discussed, you were absolutely right. She is symbolic of millions, and what I would like us to be reminded of is we have a job, and that is why we need to have a leadership change in this country because in the State of Texas we are talking about 500 jobs lost in the month of March, but we are talking about 175,200 jobs lost since January of 2001.

We are talking about a Congress that is struggling to pass a transportation bill that will create jobs. We are talking about those who are incarcerated, African American males who come out having paid their time and not able to find jobs.

We are speaking as well about programs that have been cut, the Small Business Administration funding which creates jobs, and yet the budget from the Bush administration refuses to refund or add monies back to create those jobs that would come about. We need a common sense plan to recognize, one, that the budget and the economy is failing, but as well that we need a change in government, one that allows a President to promote jobs and to claim that he is concerned about people like Miss Goodwin and other homeless persons and others who are educated, without cause.

As I close, let me say that I thank the Chair for allowing me to speak and I thank the gentleman for having this special order to talk about the importance of jobs in America.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

BALANCE THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I would like to address certainly different issues that I think are possibly more serious than a lot of challenges this Congress has faced, this Nation has faced in fact.

This is the 195th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, and in my district Republicans are celebrating Abraham Lincoln's birthday with their annual dinners. And I think of what Abraham Lincoln said in his Gettysburg Address when he indicated that, Can a country of the people, by the people and for the people long endure?

And now I am concerned about the system that we have in the United States where we have so many lobbying groups pushing for more money and a political system where Members of the House and the Senate often are better off and increase their probabilities of getting reelected if they start promising more programs, if they take home pork barrel projects that might allow them to be on the front page of the newspaper or on television and it ends up that they have more publicity if they spend more money down here.

And that has led us into a dilemma of overspending and overpromising. And I have put this pie chart up simply to review how the Federal Government now spends approximately \$2.4 trillion in the year that we are budgeting for right now.

We see the largest portion of our total spending pie that represents 21 percent of the total spending of the Federal Government is Social Security. But Medicare, which is now 12 percent, is going to overtake Social Security in terms of the percentage of total spending, total Federal Government spending that it consumes, and that is going to happen within the next 25 years.

Part of it is because we have dramatically expanded the Medicare program to now cover more benefits, including prescription drugs. And there is a problem with prescription drugs because if you are on Medicare and you do not have the proper drugs and you go into the hospital, then Medicare pays for all those prescription drugs while you are in the hospital. So to the extent that some of the new prescription drugs can keep you out of the hospital, it is reasonable to have some help from Medicare to furnish those drugs to keep you out of the hospitals.

But what we have done now is we have expanded the entitlement program in Medicare for prescription drugs without making strong changes to the programs that are going to keep the program solvent. So the actuaries in Medicare are estimating that the unfunded liabilities for Medicare now is approaching almost over \$60 trillion. In other words, over \$60 trillion would have to be put in a savings account today with returning the amount of interest that would represent inflation plus the time value of money to come up with enough money to continue to pay benefits and to have enough money over and above the FICA tax, the payroll tax that is contributing to the Medicare fund.

As we go around this pie chart, we see that defense is 20 percent, 2 years