

Instead, let us rely on the very best of America, our commitment to peace, our commitment to freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership.

Let us be smart about our future. SMART security is tough, SMART security is pragmatic and patriotic, and it will keep America safe.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS REPORT ON USDA WASTE

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today as a member of the Washington Waste Watchers, a Republican working group dedicated to rooting out rampant waste, fraud, abuse and duplication in the Federal bureaucracy.

Despite the major economic recovery that is under way, despite more new jobs and historic rates of homeownership, Democrats keep demanding that we take tax relief away from American families. Take away the tax relief that is responsible for the unparalleled growth in our economy, the tax relief that is creating jobs, the very same tax relief that has actually added revenues to our Federal Treasury. That is right, the Treasury Department reports that revenues are up due to tax relief-generated economic growth.

When it comes to the Federal deficit, Mr. Speaker, our fiscal challenges lie on the spending side, not on the taxing side; and that is where we must focus our attention. And by any measure, spending is out of control in Washington. For only the fourth time in the history of our Nation, the Federal Government is now spending over \$20,000 per family. This is up from just \$16,000 just 5 years ago. This represents the largest expansion of the government in 50 years. Since I have been alive, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget.

Clearly we have a spending problem, not a taxing problem. Now is not the time to raise taxes on American families, as so many Democrats seek to do; but it is time to take the trash out in Washington, the waste, the fraud, the abuse, the duplication.

Let me give you just a few typical examples we found recently in just one government department, the Department of Agriculture. The Office of Rural Rental Housing made \$4.4 million in rental subsidy overpayments in just one State simply because they could not verify the income of the recipients.

Can you imagine going to a bank or an automobile dealer and having them just hand out a loan without verifying your income? Do they not typically ask for a pay stub or a tax return? It is only common sense in the rest of America, but apparently not with many Federal bureaucrats. And Demo-

crats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this? \$4.4 million of the people's hard-earned money squandered. That is enough money to fully armor 142 Humvees in Iraq.

Because the Rural Utility Service will not allow water and waste projects to be funded by both government grants and private loan sources, American taxpayers paid for more than \$85 million of unnecessary grants over a 4-year period. This same agency made loans totaling about \$100 million to projects that could have been financed with private credit. Instead, taxpayers, American families, were forced to finance them. This policy does not make any sense, yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this? That \$85 million in unnecessary grants could have been used to purchase over 53,000 Kevlar vests for our troops in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, almost everyone believes that we should help provide adequate nutrition for the neediest Americans; but because a food stamp program State agency in the Midwest did not provide oversight over its field offices, and because they had not performed a management review in over 7 years, almost \$2 million in Federal funding was improperly spent on administration of the food stamp program in the year 2000. That money could have bought 720,000 gallons of milk for food stamp recipients in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine starting up a small business and not reviewing your finances for over 7 years? My guess is the business would go bankrupt. Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

Mr. Speaker, this is just the tip of the iceberg. The list goes on and on and on, and so does the waste, the fraud, the abuse and duplication. It has been going on for decades.

Republicans are working hard to root out the waste of American tax dollars, but too often our Democrat colleagues keep fighting us every step of the way. Last year, the Committee on the Budget approved a budget asking for authorizing committees to identify just 1 percent, just 1 percent, of waste and fraud and abuse within their budgets. But again the Democrats fought us every step of the way. One of their leaders reviled our efforts, ridiculed it, and said it was "a senseless and irresponsible exercise."

Mr. Speaker, the American people disagree. With the Nation at war and with a large Federal budget deficit, there is no better time than now to root out this senseless waste, fraud and abuse, because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money Washington spends that counts; it is how Washington spends it.

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

REASONS WHY ADMINISTRATION HAS TO GO

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I can hardly stop laughing after that last speech. You would think the Republicans were not in charge here. I think he was talking about President Bush and the Republican House and the Republican Senate that is wasteful. They have shoveled it out the door to all kinds of things.

Mr. Speaker, I read a quote the other day that astonished and frightened me. I think most Americans feel the same way. Here it is:

"The world should have expected the shocking photographs of Iraqi prisoners being tortured at the Abu Ghraib prison."

That is a pretty strong message, the kind of damning statement about U.S. foreign policy in Iraq that we might expect our enemies to say and even use to recruit. But the words were spoken by the head of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International's Secretary General Irene Kahn went even further in her remarks, saying U.S. policy has actually made the world a more dangerous place. "Sacrificing human rights in the name of security at home, turning a blind eye to abuses abroad and using preemptive military force when and where it chooses, have neither increased security nor ensured liberty." And, tragically, this sentiment is likely to get worse. The world now knows that at least three prisoners have died in U.S. custody in Afghanistan. There are other allegations apparently under investigation of beatings and sexual abuse.

As it stands now, we might never know the full extent of U.S. prisoner abuse in Afghanistan, because the top U.S. general says it is classified.

The AP quotes Lieutenant General David Barno as saying anything made public will contain only "some of the key conclusions." Also being kept secret are the "specific techniques used," the commander said. Those are code words for things like beating and hooding and other abuses.

The International Red Cross has been trying to get into other U.S. prison facilities in Iraq besides Abu Ghraib, but the Red Cross has been denied access. What else is yet to be discovered? Why is the military stamping "secret" on its activities in U.S. prisons in Iraq? The AP says evidence of abuse has surfaced in at least three other detention facilities in Iraq. "Secret" is what the administration and its civilians in charge at the Pentagon are saying.

The honor of every decent U.S. soldier is tarnished by prisoner abuse that the administration refuses to account