

INCREASING DEBT AND OVERPROMISING

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wore my Adam Smith tie this morning because today we are going to talk about some ways that might help us give discipline to ourselves on how much money we spend and how much overpromising we do.

Two areas. One, I am from a farm in Michigan. That is where we usually try to reduce the mortgage so our kids have a little better chance. In this Chamber and in the Senate and the White House, what we have been doing for the last 20 years is increasing the debt. Every year for the last 20 years the debt subject to the debt limit has been going up. Plus, we have been overpromising in Medicare, Social Security. The unfunded liability is a huge burden on our children.

So, hopefully, today we can join together to help give ourselves discipline on overspending by changing the law.

ECONOMY

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

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, just 3 short years ago when this administration took over, there was \$236 billion surplus, 22 million jobs had been created, and the country was experiencing its lowest drop in poverty in a decade. Now, all those trends have reversed themselves.

Today the unemployment rate is 30 percent higher. 8.2 million people are looking for work, and more jobs are disappearing in our country every day. Outsourcing, sending good manufacturing jobs out of our country.

I am from the State of Michigan. We have lost over 200,000 jobs and 136,000 of those in the manufacturing sector. Something must be done. We must take care of American citizens first. People are paying more for their food, for their clothing, for their gasoline. We have got to do something about this.

Let us invest in America and American families. Health care is a debacle. We can fix that. America needs new leadership. Make sure you get out and extend your right.

BEAUFORT FAMILY TREE FARM SERVES AS A NATIONAL MODEL

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Burris family of Beaufort, South Carolina, upon receiving the 2003 South Carolina Environmental Awareness

Award for their Cypress Bay Plantation, one of the best tree farms in America.

The entire family, which includes Dr. "Skeet" Burris, his wife Gail, and their sons Hank, Andy, Ben, Tony and Charlie, have themselves worked the 1,600-acre tree farm in Hampton County since 1986.

They have won many awards including the South Carolina Tree Farm of the Year in 1995, National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award in 2000, and Private Conservationist of the Year in 2001.

Today, the beautiful lands of Cypress Bay Plantation contain well over 200,000 trees teeming with wildlife, and are used to educate local children on the environment.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the Burris family for their commitment to environmental excellence.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

VETERANS PROGRAMS ARE BEING UNDERFUNDED

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the untested ideas of liberty, equality, and democracy. But today as a new generation of veterans is being created in Iraq and Afghanistan, Republicans are underfunding the programs that are vitally important to our veterans by passing a budget that underfunds veterans health care by \$1 billion and rejecting Democratic efforts to fully fund VA health care.

What is even worse is that this will not stop this year because the Bush administration's plan for the 2006 budget includes a \$900 million cut in funding for veterans health care. And this will conveniently not come into effect until after the election.

No Republican has come forward and rejected the Bush administration's latest proposals to cut veterans programs. Not one. This is outrageous.

Democrats are fighting to honor veterans by honoring their sacrifices. Why are the Republicans making our sons and daughters fight bravely on the battlefield and come home and fight the government for their benefits?

THE LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS OF CBS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month we learned of more good economic news about the expanding economy. 947,000 new jobs created in March, April, and May alone. One

might think that almost a million new jobs in 3 months constitutes big news, but it was not big news on "CBS Evening News."

"The CBS Evening News" spent 20 seconds glossing over the creation of nearly a million new jobs. CBS then aired a 2-minute report about 1,300 people being laid off in Ohio. The laying off of 1,300 workers and their families at any time is sad. I have hope and faith that those families will soon be back on their feet. But for CBS to bury the good news about a million new jobs and magnify the bad news of 1,300 layoffs smacks of partisan media bias. Twenty seconds for good economic news, 2 minutes for bad economic news. If it is not liberal media bias, I do not know what is.

ARE WE BETTER OFF?

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration has demonstrated a complete failure to plan for our operations in Iraq and a complete failure to plan here at home. One has to ask, Are we better off than we were 4 years ago?

When President Bush took office, we had a \$236 billion budget surplus and the Nation had created 22 million jobs over the previous 8 years.

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The number of uninsured had decreased for the first time in 12 years, and the country had the lowest poverty rate in 20 years.

Today, 8.2 million are Americans looking for work; 1.8 million private sector jobs have been lost. The number of uninsured has increased by 3.8 million, and gas prices are at a 23-year high. Household income has decreased by almost \$1,500, and college tuition is up by 28 percent. This is absolutely not acceptable, and it is not something that just happened.

President Bush had only one economic policy when he took office and he had only one today, tax cuts for those who need them least.

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, if the American people have somehow stumbled on to C-SPAN this morning, trying to find either Oprah or Regis, let me urge you to set your VCRs because later today you are going to get a chance to see the fundamental difference between our side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle.

You see, our friends on the other side have suppressed their appetite to raise your taxes long enough, and just like

that chain smoker who has to go to the drawer and find that little addiction, they are coming back to it again today with a proposal to raise your taxes \$18.9 billion.

This tax increase would not be to go to support our troops in the war on terror. It would not be to cut the deficit or to pay down the debt. No, it would be to spend more money on social programs to the tune of \$150 billion over the next decade.

If you set your VCR and you ever want to know the difference, play it over and over again, and if you happen to lose the tape, you can just play "Nightmare on Elm Street" because that is what this tax hike would do to the American people.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND THE IMPACT ON TEXAS

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about how Texas families and workers are struggling to survive during this administration's handling of our economy.

While Democrats here in the U.S. House of Representatives have been fighting to stop the exportation of American jobs and create more jobs here at home, the administration has chosen a completely different path.

In my State of Texas, we have lost over 175,000 manufacturing jobs. Health insurance premiums have increased by 65 percent since the beginning of the Bush administration. The cost of a college education has increased by 28 percent in the State since the beginning of the current administration. Household income has decreased by \$204 over the past 2 years. 808,000 have joined the ranks of the uninsured in Texas since the beginning of this administration.

How long are we going to sit here and just talk about each other instead of addressing these issues?

As the law-making body, Mr. Speaker, of a system created to serve, protect and enhance American ideals, liberty and longevity, we must rebuild our economy, put families first before corporations and stop the rampant outsourcing of our jobs overseas.

BROWARD COUNTY FUNDING

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

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Urban Area Security Initiative grants. The Department of Homeland Security awards these grants to urban areas based on credible threat information, population density, and critical infrastructure.

Broward County, which is in my district, has been designated an embarrassing and unacceptable 10 percent of

this homeland security money by the city of Miami who has kept the rest.

Mr. Speaker, Broward County is the home of 1.6 million people. It also houses Port Everglades, which is home to 19 cruise lines. It also houses a large petroleum tank farm, which is the sole provider of fuel for 12 south Florida counties, including Miami Dade. The port employs 10,000 people and generates \$1.7 billion in business activity and \$545 million in wage annually.

Broward also has an international airport, which is located within close proximity of both Port Everglades and the petroleum tank farm. Broward County remains an extremely vulnerable terrorist target, and it must be treated as such.

So I am here to voice my unwavering support for the Department of Homeland Security to create a new urban area for Broward, as well as Palm Beach County.

This is my second consecutive day to come to the floor about this issue. I am speaking for my constituents and will continue to do so until this outrageous offense by the city of Miami is corrected.

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, California's the fifth largest economy in the world. One would think that the Republican administration would be paying attention to the economic indicators in California and realize that all is not well in the economy.

Since President Bush took office, 1.9 million jobs have been lost. Californian unemployment remains above the national average, and one in 10 persons in my District is unemployed. Jobs that have been created are low-paying and do not provide benefits such as health care and other important benefits.

There is a direct link between getting a good education and getting a good job, but the ability to get that good education has been undermined by the inability to adequately fund the best higher education system in the United States, the California higher education system, because students are now being turned away. Eligible to get in, all the tests, all the ability to get in, but no room in the inn. Why? Because this administration has failed to adequately fund the Pell grants and Perkins loans for students to make education accessible.

During the 1980s, we learned that voodoo economics did not stimulate the economy. Neither is hoodoo economics stimulating the economy today.

HONORING FATHER'S DAY

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday was Father's Day. This is a day specifically set aside to reflect and honor fathers.

Being a father is not something that should be taken lightly. A study by child psychologist Michael Lamb demonstrates exactly how important the presence of a father is in the development of a child. It found that a strong bond between a father and a child has a positive effect upon the development of the child.

It is a statistical fact that children with involved loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior. These children are also more likely to avoid high-risk behavior such as the use of drugs, truancy and criminal activity, than to children who have uninvolved fathers.

Mr. Speaker, even though the time to celebrate Father's Day has come and gone, the importance of being a father never diminishes. I rise today to recognize the caring and loving fathers for all they do for their families and also encourage them to continue to fulfill their role in the family.

HIGHWAY BILL EXTENSION

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we passed a fourth extension of the highway bill that expired last fall. That is all fine and good, but no longer can we leave the States holding the bag because of a veto threat from the Bush administration and a reluctance by the Republican leadership to lend the necessary investment that industry, commerce and the workers of this Nation want in our infrastructure.

Investment in our infrastructure spells jobs. Tell me what is wrong with a bill that creates jobs. One would think that Mr. CHENEY and Mr. Bush would jump on a chance to create jobs.

Since the first day the Cheney-Bush leadership took over in Washington, 9.9 million private sector jobs have been lost. Today, 8.2 million people are looking for work, and 4.7 million people are working part-time for economic reasons.

Unfortunately, this highway bill has fallen victim to political differences within a divided Republican party. Even though we have had enough support to pass this bill since last year, the divided Republican party has held up passage of a fully funded bill for months.

The President opposes congressional Republicans from both the House and the Senate. House Republicans are divided against each other. The President has even gone against his own Department of Transportation when they say what is necessary for investment in infrastructure in this country.