

funding to help States and local communities make the most of Federal resources.

Republicans are also dedicated to national security and the war on terror. We are promoting responsible government spending and are committed to upholding vital American programs like Social Security. Democrats are committed to rhetoric that does nothing to keep America safe or grow our economy.

It has even come so far that the minority leadership is willing to contradict themselves in order to block growth. On March 6, the House minority leader stated on Fox News Sunday that "we must stop robbing the Social Security Trust Fund of its money to pay for other things." Yet in the June 24 edition of Congress Daily she stated, "There is nothing wrong with Social Security lending money with the prospect of returning it."

This week, I sat down in my office to do some reading and came across a series of editorials from leading Republican and Democrat Members. It was the sharp contrast in our ideologies that I saw when reading these articles that made me want to come to the floor tonight.

One of the Democrat's editorials claimed that the first 6 months of the 109th Congress will be remembered as legislatively unproductive. This is not only untrue, but it demonstrates the complete unwillingness of the House minority to acknowledge and join in the effort for progress in America.

Republicans are proud of our vast accomplishments in the first half of the 109th Congress and we hope we can work with our friends on the other side of the aisle to bring forth ideas for the betterment of the Nation. I am proud of our accomplishments not just because they represent good policy but also because so many of them attracted bipartisan support. More than 40 rank-and-file Democrats voted with us to enact some of the most important measures of this Congress—despite opposition from their leadership. I want to thank those on the other side of the aisle who acted in this Nation's best interest and put politics aside.

We are working towards solutions that will create a stronger America that we can hand down to future generations with pride. We want to preserve vital programs like Social Security, continue to create jobs, lower taxes for hardworking Americans, and address the security issues facing our country. I look forward to the day that the minority joins us in a bipartisan effort to strengthen our Nation and stops attempting to block progress for the sake of partisan politics.

In the meantime, I hope the American people will examine the record so that they can see which party truly is out of the mainstream. When they do, they will come to one and only one conclusion—that the Republican principles of progress and solutions are benefiting the entire Nation, while the Democrat tactics of obstruction and stonewalling contribute nothing. It is the Washington Democrats, Mr. Speaker, that are truly out of the mainstream—not the Republicans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

SMART SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to register my continued sadness and frustration with the Nation's Iraq policy. As much of Washington now focuses on a Supreme Court nomination, and as many Americans prepare for August vacations, I hope none of us forget the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and the disastrous decisions that put them in harm's way in the very first place.

We are fast approaching 1,800 deaths in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, and for what? Are we any safer from terrorism? The recent attacks in London would seem to indicate that we are not. If the Iraq war has done so much to enhance American Security, why did we have to expand the PATRIOT Act last week and clamp down even further on our civil liberties?

The truth is our military presence in Iraq is contributing to the chaos there, not alleviating it. The occupation has sparked more intense feelings of anti-Americanism and breathed new life into the insurgency. A recent government report even voices concerns that terrorists and insurgents are succeeding at infiltrating the Iraqi police force.

Like all of my friends in Congress, I believe nothing is more important than supporting our troops, but I believe the best way to support them is to bring them home to their families as soon as possible. Ending the war should be the first step in a complete overhaul in our approach to a national security policy. We must redirect our priorities and our resources so that peace and diplomacy, not aggression and chest-beating, become the guiding lights of our foreign policy.

I have come up with a plan that I have labeled SMART Security, with SMART standing for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. There are five components to SMART.

First, stop future acts of terrorism, not by arbitrarily invading sovereign nations, but by collaborating with NATO and the U.N., by strengthening our intelligence capabilities, and by enhancing efforts to cut off financing of terrorist organizations.

Second, stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, not by deposing regimes that do not have them, but with diplomacy, enhanced inspection regimes, and regional security arrangements. The United States should also

work more closely with the states of the Soviet Union to secure loose nuclear material, and we should set an example for the world by living up to our own international nonproliferation commitments.

Third, address root causes of terrorism, like instability, despair and hopelessness. So SMART includes an ambitious international development program, debt relief, democracy building, sustainable development education, especially for women and for girls, and more for poor nations.

Fourth, shift U.S. budget priorities. Does it make any sense at all, Mr. Speaker, that we continue to invest billions of dollars in a missile defense shield? The Cold War is over, and our defense priorities should reflect the new threats of a new era. Among other things, we ought to be investing in renewable energy sources that will help wean the Nation from Middle Eastern oil. It is unbelievable to me that the Congress may soon pass an energy bill that costs us billions of dollars, but barely addresses the problem of dependence on oil imports.

Fifth, pursue alternatives to war. At its core, SMART is about choosing peace over war and resorting to force only in the most extreme circumstances. So it includes an emphasis on effective conflict assessment, early warning systems, multilateral response mechanisms, and other tools that will help avoid military action.

Mr. Speaker, our current national security posture is not only morally questionable, it is functionally flawed. My objection is not just a philosophical one, but a practical one. What we are doing now is not making America safer.

It is time to get smart about national security. It is time for a new strategy that protects America by relying on the very best of American values, our love of peace, our capacity for global leadership, our belief in freedom and opportunity, and our compassionate fellowship with the people of the world.

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.)

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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 tonight in strong support of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, known as CAFTA. This trade agreement will help boost American exports, create more American jobs, help fuel economic growth, and, perhaps more importantly, help preserve

the economic liberties of the common American citizen.

Now, those favoring protectionism tonight have cited several fallacious arguments for rejecting CAFTA and other free trade efforts. Some argue CAFTA will hurt business and jobs. The opposite is true. Even more than previous free trade agreements, U.S. producers have so much to gain under CAFTA. You see, our U.S. markets are already open to Central America. Eighty percent of imports from the six CAFTA countries already enter duty free. Since our markets are already open to goods from these countries, CAFTA will level the playing field like never before for American exports.

CAFTA could expand U.S. farm exports by \$1.5 billion a year as prices of U.S. wheat and other crops are free from tariffs. Manufacturing and information technology could see exports increase by \$1 billion annually when duties are removed. And the list goes on and on. A vote against CAFTA is a vote against new American jobs.

Another argument used by those who oppose trade is concern for the trade deficit, but as I just pointed out, our markets are already 80 percent open to the CAFTA countries. It is their markets that are mostly closed to us. Therefore, CAFTA can only help ease the trade deficit.

Now, other people argue that CAFTA will somehow increase illegal immigration. The opposite is, of course, true. Most illegal aliens do not come to America because they love hot dogs, baseball, and apple pie. They come quite simply because they are poor, and they need to feed their families. Trade with these Central American countries will help make the Central American countries more prosperous. Greater Central American prosperity will lead to fewer desperate workers, which in turn will lead to fewer illegal immigrants than would otherwise come over.

The CAFTA understanding on immigration measures explicitly states that it does not impose on the parties any obligations with respect to foreigners seeking employment or residency. Simply put: A vote against CAFTA is actually a vote for more illegal immigration.

Another argument which just simply does not stand up to scrutiny, Mr. Speaker, is that somehow, some way, somewhere the U.S. loses sovereignty. CAFTA is a voluntary agreement with our neighbors to lower tariffs according to a mutually agreed-upon schedule. If any country violates their commitments, other countries, of course, are free to retaliate as they wish. But no international body can make or change U.S. law. Again, no international body can change or make U.S. law. All we do is agree to a nonbinding dispute resolution that we are free to ignore at our will.

Mr. Speaker, we must pass CAFTA and the free trade it represents. Free trade delivers greater choice of goods

and services to our consumers at lower prices. That means American families can buy better products using less of their paychecks. It is all about competition, and competition has always helped the consumer. We have over 200 years of history to prove it. And it does not matter if that competition comes from Nashville, Nicaragua, El Paso, or El Salvador.

Over the past few years, prices have dropped for a wide array of goods and services that are produced around the world, such as video equipment and toys, yet we pay a whole lot more for products that do not compete with foreign countries; for example, prescription drugs and cable TV. Competition works. Trade works. No one should come to this floor claiming to speak for low-income Americans and oppose CAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, beyond all the obvious economic benefits of free trade, we must recognize that this is fundamentally an issue of personal freedom. Nations do not trade with nations. People trade with people. With the exception of national security considerations, every American citizen should have the right to determine the origin of the goods and services that they want to purchase. Is this not the land of the free? Have not generations fought and sacrificed to secure the blessings of liberty?

Now, maybe we in Congress have the power, but do we have the right, do we have the moral authority to tell a waitress in Topeka, Kansas, she cannot buy a can of beans to help feed her family because it comes from El Salvador? Do we have the right, do we have the moral authority to tell a construction worker in New York that he cannot buy a pretty blue dress for his 3-year-old daughter because it comes from Honduras? Shame on us if we claim we do have that right.

Mr. Speaker, for over 200 years America has benefited from more trade and greater competition. I urge my colleagues to once again reject raw protectionism, reject bitter partisanship, and stand for freedom, stand for prosperity, stand for free trade and vote for the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

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

(Mr. RAMSTAD 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 gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LEVIN 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 gen-

tleman 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 gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

(Mr. EMANUEL 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 gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BLACKBURN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURGESS 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas 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 gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CASE 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SAXTON 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRADY of Texas 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 gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) is recognized for 5 minutes.