

about this positive, positive economic growth.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle during 2001, 2002, 2003, said if we cut taxes we are going to send the U.S. economy right into the dumpster and we will send the deficit sky-high. Time and time again, many of my friends and I would appear on different programs, and that was what I heard, over and over and over again: Any kind of tax cut is going to exacerbate the deficit and ruin the U.S. economy. Madam Speaker, we have found the exact opposite to be the case.

Similarly, as we look at the trade issue, 94 percent of the world's consumers are outside of our U.S. borders. We need to do everything that we can to continue to open up new markets for U.S. goods and services.

We have put into place positive trade and growth policies, and those policies are, I am very happy to say, helping the United States of America and creating opportunity for even those victims of the tragedies on the gulf coast.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina 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. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear thereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MCCOTTER 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 Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise at a perfect opportunity to talk about the deficit.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), my colleague, would have the

American public believe that we are in great shape. What he did not tell us was that the deficit currently is \$8 trillion; that 20 percent of that deficit is owned by Japan, China and other foreign countries; that 40 percent of that deficit, in fact, is a trade-off between our various agencies in the Federal Government; and that our children and our grandchildren are going to be paying on that deficit. He then wants us to believe that, as a result of the tax cuts, the economy's in great shape, but give me a break. Stop trying to fool the American public.

The reality is, as a result of those tax cuts, this \$8 trillion deficit currently exists, and as we continue to throw money after money over to Iraq and rebuild Iraq, give them education, give them health care, rebuild their infrastructure, we are failing to even want to spend time to rebuild the infrastructure of New Orleans, Mississippi and Alabama, and in fact, have not even contemplated how we are going to pay for the Katrina loss. But let me give my colleagues some other news.

It is, in fact, true that the Republicans are proposing to offset the cost of Katrina against people who can least afford to lose dollars, and they are going to use dollars that go to low-income folks, Medicare, Medicaid. They are going to use dollars that go to college education. They are going to use dollars that go towards the HUD department that provides for housing, and the list goes on.

So I do not know how he could stand on the floor of this House and make people of America think that we are doing well. We are really not, and in fact, the trade deficit continues to rise, and people in America are still out of work, while many of the companies are going across the border or across the seas and giving jobs to people in China and other countries.

The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) needs a wake-up call so we can begin to tell the people of America the truth.

ENERGY BILL VOTE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, let me switch horses just for a moment and talk about what just happened on the floor of the House.

We just had a vote on the energy bill, and my colleagues will recall that the vote, when it began, was supposed to be a 5-minute vote. Ultimately, it ended up probably being a 45-minute vote, and again, the Republicans are twisting arms of their colleagues to get them to vote in support of a bill when, in reality, they would not have done that. In fact, there are many times on the floor of the House when the vote should have been called and it was not.

I am going to quote some of my colleagues specifically on this issue. The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my colleague says, Once again, on an issue of critical importance to the American people, the Republican majority has chosen to trample the democratic process and manip-

ulate the outcome of a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives after the vote was completed. This is unethical subversion of our democracy, and the Republican leadership has brought shame on themselves in the House of Representatives. Unquote.

One would think that this was the first time that the Republican leadership had made a decision to trample on the rights of the people and to engage in shameless conduct by twisting arms on the floor of the House, but let me give my colleagues some background when this has happened previously.

On October 7, 2005, this is the bill we are talking about right now, the Gasoline for America's Security Act. The vote began at 1:57 p.m., a 5-minute vote. It was gavelled down at 2:43 p.m., some 46 minutes later.

On July 27 and 28, the legislative day of July 27, on the CAFTA, the vote started at 11:00 p.m. and went on till 1:20 a.m. Vote 442, it lasted 63 minutes. It originally was supposed to be a 15-minute vote.

In previous Congresses, on July 8, 2004, it was the Sanders amendment on the PATRIOT Act to the fiscal year 2005 Commerce Justice State appropriations bill. That was a 38-minute vote.

On March 30, 2004, on a motion to instruct conferees on PAYGO on the fiscal year 2005 budget resolution, it was a 28-minute vote when it should have been a 5-minute vote.

On November 22, 2003, the final passage of the conference report on H.R. 1, the prescription drug bill, imagine this, a 3-hour vote. During this time frame bribes allegedly offered.

On final passage of H.R. 1, the prescription drug bill, it was 50 minutes.

On March 20, 2003, final passage of the budget resolution, it was 26 minutes long.

On July 12, 2001, the campaign finance bill, this was a timeout to determine what was to occur next on the floor, 13 minutes.

On October 9, 1997, passage of fiscal year 1998 D.C. appropriations bill, 33 minutes.

The longest votes prior to the Republican majority in the House, October 3, 1994, a timeout to accommodate changes in the floor schedule was only 44 minutes.

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And the list goes on.

Madam Speaker, this is a specific example of how the Republican leadership has used the floor because they are in the majority to push and shove and make people vote the way they want them to vote instead of the way in which the Member had chosen to vote previously. I call upon the American people to pay attention because as time goes along, it will be revealed what is happening on the floor of this House.

Let me switch veins one more time. Everybody has been talking about Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Let