

we are making right here in Washington, D.C.

I stand here before you today in the House of Representatives suggesting that some of the economic indicators in Ohio are outpacing the national average. In Ohio, we have an unemployment rate of 9.7 percent, but yet in the counties that comprise the 16th Congressional District, Stark County outpaces by that nearly 1 percent more, at 10.7 percent, outpacing the national average. In Ashland County we are at nearly 13 percent unemployment, and in Wayne County we are almost at 10 percent unemployment.

The people of Northeast Ohio are demanding success stories, and Washington, D.C., has a part in playing a substantial role.

We visited the Heinz plant in Stark County. We also had the opportunity to visit another name brand factory in our district, the Smucker factory. The success stories that are there are clearly evidence that the entrepreneurial spirit of America is alive and strong.

What I heard as the common theme from these great individuals and great Americans was that America will recover and we will rebound, but we have to believe in our leadership, we have to believe in our process of dialogue, and respect that we have in the dialogue, that we have in debate, which will restore our economy, and they expect us to demand public policy that will make America stronger.

I was visiting the Defense Metals Technology Center and also meeting with the Blue Green Alliance on energy back home, and they suggested that we have the right tools with the right leadership in Washington to recover and restore jobs back in Ohio, and I talk to you with the respect and dignity that we should have in this chamber here.

We may differ on ideas. We may differ on opinions about how to move our States and our economy and our country forward. But at the end of the day we all want to see prosperity for our Nation. We all want to see Americans get back to work. And those Americans, like the ones at Alliance Castings that punched the time clock every day, played by the rules, brought a lunch pail to work and believed they were contributing to the future success of their family and their loved ones, are now going to be left on the streets with an unemployment check and a pink slip.

We have got to do our part here. We need a manufacturing policy in America, one that helps us embolden those small employers back home like the Heinz factory and Smuckers, two of the big names that we all recognize, but many more, like Sarah Plastics.

I visited with a CEO and a gentleman that has countless numbers of ideas, but he doesn't have the resources to bring his products to market. We have got to help him, and that is what this Congress is aiming to do with helping small businesses. A tax reduction for 95

percent of the Americans in this country. That is significant. The largest tax reduction with the economic stimulus package, the largest tax reduction in our Nation's history, for every American in this country and small businesses who help rebuild our economy day-to-day.

I also heard from Project Rebuild, folks who are giving opportunities and second chances to Americans, those students back home that maybe dropped out of school and are now finding success stories working to build a skill and trade that they can take back and use in this great and diverse economy to help build America and make America stronger.

I heard from Walsh University students, giving their speech for one of their business luncheons, the fact that we have young entrepreneurs in that audience who are looking to make America stronger by bringing their innovative ideas and working with the local businesses. I believe that is going to be the key to success in our education stories back home, is that we marry up our local economies to the industry and talent that we have at our local universities.

Leadership is about action, and that is what they expect in this Congress, that we will act on the ideas of public policy to make our country stronger.

REMEMBERING COLUMBINE

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Sunday night a candlelight vigil was held at Columbine Memorial at Clement Park in Littleton, Colorado. Yesterday, April 20th, marks the 10-year anniversary of the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado. This senseless act of violence touched all Americans. As a community and Nation, we were in shock and disbelief that such a horrific incident could take place anywhere in the United States.

The volunteer members of the Columbine Memorial Foundation have dedicated themselves to preserving the memories of those who were lost on that terrible day. I am proud to recognize their tireless efforts in establishing the memorial.

The Columbine Memorial Foundation gives a description of the events that occurred immediately following the shootings at Columbine on April 20, 1999, that eventually led to the establishment of the memorial:

"At first, there was an outpouring of flowers, notes, poems, ribbons, stuffed animals, pictures and other objects that were brought to Clement Park to pay tribute to those who had died, were injured or traumatized. From the initial outpouring of emotions and disbelief came the concept of establishing a permanent public memorial near the high school. This memorial should

serve to honor those innocent victims, but also provide an historic record of this tragedy and to deliver a message of hope for many generations to come. This memorial is dedicated to honor and remember the victims of the April 20th, 1999, shootings at Columbine High School.

"The Columbine Memorial consists of an inner ring of Remembrance with unique personal remembrances submitted from the families of those who were murdered. The outer ring of Healing is for all those who were injured on April 20th, 1999, and for the larger community who was touched by the tragic events at Columbine. A variety of general text gathered from interviews of students, teachers, the injured and their families and other community members tell diverse stories of healing, changes in the community and hopes of the future.

"There are overlooks along and on top of Rebel Hill providing panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains, the eastern plains and the Columbine community."

The candlelight vigil was a moving tribute to the memories of the students and the teacher who had fallen and to their families and to the members of this community who have suffered so much from their loss.

We will never be able to thank the members of the Columbine Memorial Foundation enough for their leadership in making the memorial a reality. Through their extraordinary personal contributions to preserve the memories of the lives lost that day, we will never forget the tragic events of April 20th, 1999, at Columbine High School.

THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS WAS AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE HEMISPHERE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Summit of the Americas held this last weekend in Trinidad and Tobago constituted an embarrassment for this hemisphere. Fidel Castro in Cuba is a psychopath and a serial killer, but he has long had a plan. His long-term goal has been to have the United States apologize to him and for the United States to bankroll his oppressive totalitarian apparatus before he dies. He wants the United States to apologize for having kept the U.S. market and its millions of tourists and billions of dollars in financing from him and for having denied him full diplomatic relations for decades.

In order to achieve his goal, Fidel Castro has been recruiting advocates for years. The ideological and psychological fascination and dependency that Hugo Chavez has on Fidel Castro has allowed Castro to utilize Chavez's billions of petrodollars to purchase many important advocates.