

secretary-treasurer of the Contra Costa County Central Labor Council, where organized labor has been a vital force in Silicon Valley's efforts to come to grips with the livability of that fast growing area; and John Ryan, the executive secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, where in Cleveland they have been part of a coalition with the Catholic Archdiocese of Cleveland, reaching out to communities around Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, these are leaders of vision, people who know that smart growth is not the same as no growth; leaders who know that dumb growth can be too expensive and choke long-term prosperity; and that in working together business, citizens, and organized labor, we can truly make our communities more livable where our families are safe, healthy, and more economically secure.

HAITI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Goss) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express some very serious concerns about events that happened yesterday not in Afghanistan, where we are fixated by the CNN optic of what is going on there in Tora Bora and elsewhere, but about events in a friendly neighboring nearby country, democratic country, Haiti.

News reports indicate that a group of individuals attacked the Haitian National Police in the early morning hours. The government of Haiti official report claims that this was some type of attempted coup against President Aristide. There is no particular evidence to support this claim, however.

We are certain of some of the aftermath by some of the initial reports we are receiving from the area. President Aristide has unleashed mobs of his political cronies against U.S. and French official installations and against the homes and offices of numerous political opposition leaders. In fact, those homes and offices were, in several instances, burned to the ground.

Also, the mobs were directed against various independent radio stations, which were forcibly shut down. And there were apparently orchestrated riots staged in cities and towns all across Haiti. Most tragically, these mobs burned to death, in a very brutal way, a number of innocent people.

Given President Aristide's lack of commitment to democratic norms we have been watching through the years, I believe he owes the international community today, and now a detailed explanation of exactly what did happen yesterday in Haiti. I call on the United States Government, the friends of Haiti, and the Organization of the

American States to seek thorough, complete and verifiable information on the following issues, at a minimum:

First, whether yesterday's attack on the national palace was deliberately staged by the Aristide government, as many think; secondly, that given the officially sanctioned attacks on the U.S. Consulate, these are our people, our property in Haiti, and the French embassy's Cultural Institute, whether Haiti intends to abide by its prior commitments to protect diplomatic personnel and facilities. This is at a minimum. And, third, given Haiti's legal agreement to various U.N. and OAS human rights treaties, whether the Aristide government will cease its attack on Haiti's independent media and democratic political parties and their leaders.

Unfortunately, we have been asking for this for a number of years now and we have not been seeing much cooperation from the Aristide government. In fact, I think most observers would fairly say there has been a very noticeable and significant retreat from democracy in that country, tragically.

One of the immediate consequences for my State of Florida and for the United States is a problem we have been talking about with regard to immigration troubles and terrorism, and that is our porous borders. We are now confronted with people fleeing Haiti, as has been their want in the past, refugees exposing themselves to the treachery of the Florida straits at this time of year, coming over in unsafe boating conditions, and trying to reach the safety of the shores of the United States of America.

It is a tough proposition for us on how to treat these people humanely and not encourage more people from coming. I think most Members will recall we have had floods of people in the past, so many that we have had to create camps in Guantanamo before, and I am afraid we are on the verge of another immigrant problem of that magnitude.

I think that it is very important that we look at Haiti very directly as part of a failed legacy of the Clinton foreign policy program. I am sorry to say that. There are many of us at the time that said that the policy was misguided; that it would not work; that the kinds of sanctions the Clinton administration put against Haiti would backfire, and, indeed, they did. Haiti has not had much leadership, and what it has had seems to have been away from democracy. I think it is a spectacular failure of foreign policy.

I think that the misery level in Haiti is spectacular also, regrettably. And I think that the brutality we saw yesterday, again in the mob violence, was brutality that is spectacular and inhuman and very, very regrettable.

□ 1245

I think we have a spectacle on our hands that needs to be explained in

what did happen yesterday, and in the events surrounding the further repression of democracy and the apparent actions that the Aristide Government is claiming that it now must take from yesterday's events in order to stamp out the last few remnants of decency and democracy and civilization of that wonderful country. It is time for accountability, and I think the world needs to know that.

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN TAX CUTS GO TO LARGEST CORPORATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we remember following the horrific events of September 11, several gas stations around the country raised their prices to \$4, \$5 and \$6 a gallon. Most called that war profiteering, but the overwhelming majority of Americans came together. They gave blood and put out their flags. Many went to New York and the Pentagon to help. Thousands volunteered in their communities. School children collected pennies, nickels and dimes to send to the victims and families.

Something else happened in Washington, D.C., not war profiteering in the simple sense of raising gas prices, but a more sophisticated kind of political profiteering. This Congress, lobbied hard by the President and the Republican leadership, first of all gave a huge multi-billion dollar bailout to the airlines, requiring nothing from the airline executives, providing nothing for airline security, doing nothing for airline safety. When many tried to include help in this bill for the 100,000 airline workers who had lost their jobs, Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) told us now is not the time, that extending government assistance to laid off workers "was not commensurate with the American spirit."

Then President Bush and this Congress gave billions of dollars in tax cuts and subsidies and rebates to the largest corporations in the United States. A tax refund to IBM, for example, literally in the form of a check from the Federal Government for \$1.4 billion, \$1 billion to Ford, \$900 million to General Motors, hundreds of millions of dollars to American and United Airlines, as if the bailout was not enough, and the list goes on and on and on.

More recently, with unemployment creeping up to the highest 2-month increase we have seen in 21 years, with the anxiety that people have about their jobs, with LTV and Republic Technologies steelworkers and other