

Madam Speaker, before the war, Iraq was about oil. As the war continues, it is about billions in unaccounted-for oil revenues which the U.S. had custody of, responsibility for; and now nobody knows nothing.

MODERNIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 1 week ago in this Chamber the President of the United States began a national conversation about modernizing Social Security. I think there are a few things every American needs to know about Social Security reform.

First and foremost, if you are over the age of 55, Social Security reform will not affect you.

Secondly, to every working family, small business and family farm, we will bring about this reform without raising payroll taxes on working Americans.

The third thing we need to know is, the current system cannot afford to pay promised benefits to younger workers, so we have to bring the new and powerful idea of personal retirement accounts to give Americans the opportunity to make the same amount of dollars work harder for them in the future.

President Franklin Roosevelt, on January 17, 1935, said in a speech to Congress about Social Security that its second wave would be "compulsory, contributory annuities which in time will establish a self-supporting system for those now young and for future generations." President Roosevelt's vision for Social Security was right for the 20th century, and his second vision is right for the 21st.

\$750 BILLION "ROUNDING ERROR"

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, we have all done it. We all make mistakes. They are unavoidable. Yesterday we learned that the White House budget made a tiny little mistake, a \$750 billion "rounding error."

According to the President's budget, the new Medicare prescription drug benefit is now going to cost the taxpayers \$1.2 trillion, not the \$400 billion they told us just last year. That is quite a difference from last year when the White House budget director, the man responsible for the money, assured everybody, "The Congressional Budget Office estimate for the prescription drug bill was and remains \$395 billion."

And lest we forget, last year during debate on the Medicare benefit, our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHN-

SON), chairman of a House subcommittee on Ways and Means, "I am pleased that the President has proposed to strengthen Medicare with a \$400 billion plan which adds prescription drug coverage."

Well, the joke is on the taxpayers and the senior citizens of America. Rather than funding \$400 billion, it is a \$1.2 trillion "rounding error." What is worse, this mammoth new program does nothing to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. We need reimportation legislation to deal with the affordability and cost of prescription drugs.

These are the same individuals who are now trying to sell Americans on their fix for Social Security.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEEDS BIPARTISAN REFORM

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, last week the Democrats booed when the President laid out his plan for Social Security. I promise one thing: I will not boo when and if they lay out their plan.

I welcome the Democrats' ideas on Social Security. I think it is very important to make a bipartisan reform. We need to protect and preserve Social Security not just for the next election, but for the next generation. I beg my Democrat colleagues to put a plan on the table. We will not boo. We will look at it and take the best of your ideas and combine them with the best ideas of the Senate, the House and the White House.

We all seem to agree, in the year 2018, more money will be going out of the trust fund than is going in. We all agree in the year 2042, if we do not whack benefits 27 percent, the program will be going bankrupt. We all agree that in the 1950s, there were 16 workers for every one retiree, and today there are 3.3 workers for every retiree. And we all know this because the Democrats participate in the Federal Employee Thrift Savings accounts, which allow them to choose interest-earning accounts similar to the personal accounts the President has proposed.

Madam Speaker, I again ask the Democrats, Please put your ideas on the table; we will not boo.

HONORING RALPH LOPEZ

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Ralph Lopez as the sheriff of Bexar County. Sheriff Lopez was reelected to serve the people of Bexar County for a fourth term this

past November, 2004. He has dutifully served the people as sheriff since 1993, and continues to excel as one of Bexar County's most memorable sheriffs.

Before serving as sheriff, he was a decorated member of the San Antonio Police Department for 35 years, and was a cofounder of the Crime Stoppers Program in 1983.

While a member of the San Antonio Police Department, Sheriff Lopez worked towards receiving a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Since the early 1990s, Sheriff Lopez has received numerous awards, including the Outstanding Political Service Award from the Texas Public Workers Association in 1996 and the Barbara Jordan Award for Excellence in Public Service in 1995.

Along with his many accomplishments for the people of Bexar County, Sheriff Lopez has been married to his lovely wife, Nancy, for 46 years. I ask that we honor Sheriff Lopez, who exemplifies what is the best of San Antonio.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT RIDDLED WITH PROBLEMS

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the \$651 million included in the President's budget for the Yucca Mountain project. An increase in funds for the Yucca project that is consistently riddled with problems is ridiculous.

Last year the Department of Energy faced insurmountable hurdles it was unable to overcome, resulting in its failure to submit its license application on time. The second highest court in the United States ruled that the Yucca Mountain radiation standards were inadequate to protect the health and safety of the American people and that the EPA knowingly ignored the scientists' recommendations. We are talking about the harmful effects of radiation being underestimated by a mere 290,000 years.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to its credit, refused to rubber-stamp an electronic database required for licensing the Yucca repository, and expressed serious concerns about the lack of information supplied in the license application.

Instead of dumping even more money into a \$9 billion hole in the Nevada desert, we should be investing in clean, renewable energy sources and moving toward energy independence. Instead, the President is slashing critical funding for renewable energy while adding \$651 million to the Yucca Mountain debacle.

Fraud, waste and abuse in government, look at the Yucca Mountain project. It is the poster child.