

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this week the President delivered a \$2.5 trillion budget to Congress and the American people. What was missing was nearly a trillion dollars for his plan for Social Security.

What was missing was the \$1.8 billion, the cost of making the tax cuts permanent and retiring tax cuts.

What was missing was the cost of the war in Iraq. He has already spent \$280 billion. He has asked for \$80 billion more, none of it in the budget.

What was in the budget was \$60 billion cut for Medicaid. Over 40 million people, children and poor people, a \$60 billion cut.

What was missing was a \$2 billion cut that was in the budget for community development block grants, monies to cities and towns to build their infrastructure, to help in their housing and other local community programs.

What was in the budget was a cut to Upward Bound, TRIO and other education programs, cuts to our firefighters, at the same time asking for permanent tax cuts. We have got to do better and I hope we will.

THE BULGARIAN MIRACLE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of the strong partnership between the United States and Bulgaria.

For over 100 years the United States has enjoyed diplomatic relations with Bulgaria. With its new era of democracy, our two countries now stand together in the war on terrorism and our friendship is stronger than ever.

Bulgaria is a new democracy which recognizes the importance of furthering freedom throughout the world. By sending over 400 troops to rebuild Iraq and train security forces, the country is playing an important role in helping the Iraqi people. Also, with a contingent in Afghanistan, Bulgaria is protecting the modern world by containing terrorists at the source.

Bulgaria is also a country of great accomplishment. Last year I was honored to meet Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha and to attend the White House ceremony honoring Bulgaria's admission into NATO. Under his leadership, the Bulgarian economy is being transformed and EU admission is planned in 2 years.

During my visits to Bulgaria, I have seen firsthand the Bulgarian miracle, the establishment of a dynamic democracy and the restoration of economic freedom.

As the co-chair of the Congressional Bulgaria Caucus with the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER), it is also my privilege to work with Ambassador Elena Poptodorova.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

NO TO PRICE INDEXING AND PRIVATIZATION

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Social Security benefits have steadily increased over the years because they have long been calculated by indexing them to wage increases which on the average go up 3.6 percent a year, so Social Security benefits increase with rising wages.

The administration wants to change all of that. They want to index Social Security benefits according to price increases, not wages. As a result, millions of future retirees will see their future Social Security benefits reduced as much as 40 percent because prices do not increase as fast as wages.

Let me give an example. If you began work in 1959, retired in 2003 at age 65, under wage indexing where benefits rise with rising wages, you get \$1,158 a month. Under price indexing, your benefits would be frozen. You would get only \$701 a month. So there would be a 40 percent cut in benefits with price indexing and a person would lose over \$100,000 in retirement benefits over a lifetime.

Why the switch to price indexing? Because privatization is going to create an additional shortfall. The administration is going to have to borrow money to set up private accounts, and the shortfall is going to be for 45 years. They are going to have to borrow up to \$15 trillion. They are going to try to get the money off the backs of America's retirees. It is wrong. No to privatization and no to price indexing.

CLOSING CRITICAL LOOPHOLES

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 terrorists struck the heart of the American people. By infiltrating our country and living among us, these enemies were able to plot and execute an attack on thousands of innocent Americans. It is imperative they do not have that opportunity again.

Driver's licenses are the primary identification document in the United States, yet 11 States, including my home State, Washington, do not require applicants to provide proof they are in the country legally to obtain IDs. The 9/11 Commission report states: "For terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons."

These gaps in the system are critical loopholes. With a driver's license, the wrong person can then go on to pur-

chase a firearm, rent a car, and board a plane.

Mr. Speaker, as a former law enforcement officer of over 33 years, I can speak firsthand to the danger of firearms in the wrong hands. We do not need to make it easier for the terrorists to get weapons. I urge my colleagues to vote for the REAL ID Act today and take another stop to a more secure Nation.

WHERE IS REPUBLICAN OUTRAGE?

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we and the American public found out that the Bush administration once again has not been telling us the truth about the cost of the Medicare prescription drug benefit. It now appears it is going to cost over a trillion dollars. When they debated it on the floor of Congress, they said it was going to cost \$300 billion, and at the same time, of course, the administration and the Republican leadership kept the people from coming forward with the real information that they thought it was going to cost \$600 billion.

Now it is over a trillion dollars. Where is the Republican outrage? Where is the Republican commitment to balance budgets and fiscal responsibility? No, they have instead chosen to lower their voices.

I wonder if it has anything to do with the fact that those Members with independent voices in the Republican Caucus lost their positions. Those who had independent voices on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs lost their chairmanship and their positions. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) who spoke out independently on behalf of America's veterans lost his chairmanship and even his position on that committee.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder what has happened to those independent voices for the good of this Nation and the Republican Party.

HONORING SPECIALIST LYLE RYMER, II

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's bravest, Specialist Lyle Rymer, II, who was a lifelong resident of the Fort Smith, Oklahoma, area. Lyle was recently killed in Iraq while honorably serving his country.

A member of Arkansas Army National Guard's 239th Engineering Company, Lyle was killed by an enemy