

standards, he needs to start to clean house. He needs to get rid of some of these extraordinarily, ethically challenged members of his administration who profited by tens of millions or hundreds of millions of dollars while Americans saw their pensions and their investments go down the drain.

Start in the administration.

#### NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to talk about the need for a national energy policy and push the conferees to move. We all know that we have an overreliance on foreign oil. That is why we need to push for the renewable portfolio presented in the Senate bill. We need to protect our marginal wells, and we need the development of ANWR.

We all know that we need to increase our electricity generation. That is why we need to continue to push for the use of natural gas in generation. We need to support and focus on clean coal technology and continue the use of nuclear generation which is very clean to the environment.

The national grid is also a concern. We need to continue to expand the national grid; hence, the need to move the electricity title of this bill.

Energy independence will drive down costs across the board and decrease costs. It will help create jobs and help the economy to continue to move forward. Eighty-four percent of all Americans say in a recent poll that we must not leave, we being legislators here in Washington, that we must not leave Washington without the enactment of a national energy plan. I am one that agrees with this poll.

#### CORPORATE GREED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the fact that the Bush administration has close ties to industry is not, in and of itself, a problem. Part of the administration's job, to be sure, is to support American business as long as doing so coincides with what is best for the American people and does not compromise the principles and the values upon which this Nation was built. With the Bush administration, that is where the problem arises.

The interests of the American people should outweigh the interests of individual industry. Too often, with this administration, industry prevails regardless of the impact on consumers. One of the most disturbing examples of priorities run amok is the administra-

tion's kid glove treatment of the pharmaceutical industry.

Last year prescription drug costs increased in this country 17 percent while the overall inflation rate was only 1.6 percent. Rising drug costs fueled double-digit increases in the health insurance premiums. Rising drug costs are putting State budgets in the red. Rising drug costs are bankrupting seniors on fixed incomes. Rising drug costs are costing American business literally billions of dollars.

The Bush administration's response to this situation? Well, they spent the last couple of months putting together a study arguing that American consumers, get this, American consumers must continue to pay the highest prices of any country in the world for prescription drugs because, if we do not, medical research and development from the drug industry will dry up. The study is available at [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov). I encourage every Member of Congress and every voter to read it. If my colleagues had any questions about how closely aligned this Republican administration is with the big drug companies, this study makes it clear they are in lock step.

I wonder if it is any coincidence that this study came out of the Department of Health and Human Services planning office which is managed by a former employee of the drug industry. This study, which quotes drug industry-backed experts and trivializes the attempts of every other industrialized nation to secure lower drug prices, says that the best bet for American consumers is the status quo. We do not want to change. Drug prices keep going up.

Private insurance strategies to reduce costs are okay, it says, but anything more aggressive than that will stop R&D in its tracks, the drug industry, I mean HHS, warns us.

The drug industry does not mind private insurance strategies, because these strategies have not prevented double-digit increases in prescription drug spending, but if we go any farther, the drug industry, I mean the administration warns us we will be responsible for killing research and development.

Drug makers topped all three measures of profitability for 2001, return investment, return equity, return on sales almost every year. By far the most profitable industry in America. They pay the lowest tax rate of any industry in America.

The overall profits of Fortune 500 companies went down 53 percent in 2001. Drug profits went up 33 percent in 2001. They spend twice as much on marketing as they do on research and development. U.S. tax dollars finance almost half the R&D through the National Institutes of Health in this country, but American consumers are thanked and should be grateful when they pay twice and three times and four times what prescription drug consumers in any other country in the world pay.

Regardless of whether this administration thinks the cost control methods other countries have used are good or bad, how could it possibly be in America's seniors' interests, in American prescription drug users' interests for our administration to say to drug makers, as they said, price your products however you want, there is just nothing we can do about it?

Congress today is debating competing drug coverage proposals. The Bush administration and the drug industry support the same proposal. They helped each other write it. It is the Republican bill, the one that forces seniors to go outside of Medicare to turn to prescription drug insurance HMOs to purchase private drug plans, the one that cuts costs not by bringing prices down but by offering the benefit that is only half as generous as Members of Congress receive.

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That is the point. The drug benefit in the Republican plan is only half as good as the one that Members of Congress receive.

The drug industry recently financed a \$3 million ad campaign touting the Republican bill. The Bush administration recently released a study saying that the best seniors can hope for is the Republican bill, because the Federal Government would rather provide a bare-bones drug coverage than stand up to the drug industry and demand lower prices, something that Republicans will not do, something President Bush will not do, because the drug industry does not want them to do it. Where do the best interests of American consumers fit into this picture?

#### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that as we talk about corporate accountability, maybe it is an appropriate time to talk about government accountability. If corporations did what government has been doing, they would be chastised and probably sent to jail. Let us take this opportunity to start reviewing what government does in terms of accountability, in terms of honesty with the American people, who are really, the investors and stockholders in government.

The taxpayers of this Nation send their money to Washington and then, guess what happens? We do not do a very good job and we're not being honest with the public. There is a lot of hoodwinking. Let me give a few examples.

The Social Security trust fund. Actually, there is no trust fund. It is an accounting gimmick where there are IOUs given to the Social Security Administration with the provision that

they cannot cash in those so-called IOU government bonds. It can only be an act of Congress. So we have, number one, fooled the American people with the words "trust fund" when it is really not a trust fund.

Secondly, we have spent all that money on other government programs and written these nonredeemable IOUs. We have experienced under Secretary Rubin and the Clinton administration, and now in the Bush administration, when we reach the limit of allowable debt, well, it is disregarded. We have a law that says we cannot go deeper in debt in this country without the permission of the United States Congress, signed by the President. Yet we play games with it, with the disinvestment of retirement funds for civil servants. So when we exceed the debt limit, what happens is the Treasurer starts pretending that we are not writing those IOUs to the retirement funds for government employees. Some call it disinvestment. This is another area where it just would not be acceptable nor would it be legal if it were done in the private sector.

The lockbox. The lockbox is another hoodwinking gimmick. It simply was an effort of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, to try to make people believe that there was some additional security to Social Security trust funds if we had the gimmick called a lockbox. But nothing changed. The IOUs were still written and the money was spent for some other purposes.

Again, what I am trying to suggest is we take this opportunity to review what we are doing in the United States Congress and the Federal Government as a whole. In 1995, when the Republicans took the majority in this U.S. House of Representatives, one of the first things we did was to require an audit of all government departments and agencies. That initial audit came back and reported that, in most of these agencies and departments we cannot audit because their books are so bad. But what they had audited so far we found \$100 billion that is unaccounted for in government assets, which is what government supposedly owns. The auditors could not find that \$100 billion worth of property.

The Government Performance and Results Act was another thing Republicans did when we came into the majority in 1995. And that required annual audits of all the departments and agencies. The auditors came back and said the books are so bad in so many of these departments and agencies that we are unable to give them an audit. These were supposed to be annual audits. Yet from 1995, 7 years later, there are still agencies and departments that do not have their books in order in such a way that they can actually be audited.

We play games in our appropriation process. We come up with a budget resolution that, since I have been here for the last 9½ years, that budget has never been adhered to. And frankly,

Mr. Speaker, I am upset that while we get on our pompous soap boxes here and criticize the corporate world, that needs criticizing and they need to go to jail, and they need to go to real jail, not some kind of country club jail for white-shirt crimes, we should also be looking inward at our own accounting practices and the way we handle taxpayers' money.

302(b)'s. This is a provision where, after we pass the budget, we send it to the appropriators and the appropriators come up with how they are going to divide that allotted money between the several appropriation bills. But what has been happening, and what I suspect is going to happen this year, is we turn out the early appropriation bills, and we add extra money to those bills so it is attractive to everybody. And then the final bills that come out, that are very popular, whether it is veterans or military or education, they say, look, we do not have any more money under the budget and we end up overspending.

Let me just conclude by saying we need to have a lot better accountability to the investors in the United States Government; that is the taxpayers' money. Let us take this opportunity to review, renew, and do a much better job of the way we handle this business of government and taxpayers' money.

#### IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 395

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, later today the House will consider a resolution that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the ratification of the constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, which enjoys the support of both the chairman, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), of the Committee on Resources.

The constitution of Puerto Rico established a republican form of government and provided for a broad bill of rights that followed both the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man. This constitution also provided for the election of all members of the legislature of Puerto Rico by the free will of the people of Puerto Rico.

The ratification of the constitution by the people of Puerto Rico is the most significant democratic achievement of the Puerto Rican people in the 20th century. This bipartisan resolution recognizes the historic event that came about 50 years ago through the principles of democracy. It is through these same principles that I stand before my colleagues as the only elected

representative here in Congress of some 4 million Puerto Ricans and ask for your support of House Concurrent Resolution 395.

#### JOHN WALKER LINDH NOT A "GOOD BOY"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, as most Americans awoke, they were greeted with headlines like the one I saw in my hometown Palm Beach Post: "Lindh's Dad Says Son a Good Boy." John Walker Lindh being described by his father as a good boy.

While I ran on the Mall this morning, I was listening to NPR, and I was listening to the defense attorney for that good boy, John Walker Lindh, describe his client as a slightly misguided youth who was actually in Afghanistan fighting the cocaine traffickers and the poppy growers and the drug lords. John Walker Lindh, a good boy.

It was difficult yesterday, because I received calls from two of my constituents, Ed and Maureen Lunder, whose son Christopher, at the age of 33, perished in the World Trade Center; and Stanley and Carol Eckna, whose son Paul perished in the World Trade Center at the age of 28.

John Walker Lindh, the good boy, will celebrate his birthdays in a Federal prison; and when he turns 41, he will celebrate his birthdays outside in the free world. Christopher and Paul do not get any birthdays any more. They do not get any anniversaries. They do not get to see their kids grow up. But John Walker Lindh is a good boy.

Maybe it does not startle people that the ethics of this Nation are collapsing. I remember when our President and chief executive officer of this Nation lied to a grand jury and lied to the American people. And at that time I heard from my colleagues who said, hey, listen, the economy is good, do not worry about it; it is his personal business.

Now we have companies like Endrun, formerly known as Enron, and WorldCom, formerly WorldCom, stealing money out of the till and enriching themselves at the cost of the consumer, taxpayer, and investor. And now we have John Walker Lindh described as a good boy.

Where are the ethics of this Nation? What about those 3,000 lives that were lost in the World Trade Center in New York and Washington, D.C. at the Pentagon, and in that airplane in Pennsylvania? Collaborating with the enemy, to me, was always treasonous. No matter how you describe it, no matter how you tie a bow on that package, John Walker Lindh has committed treason against the common good and purpose of this country. He violated our constitutional premise. He violated the sacred oath we have as citizens to protect