

President Kennedy lowered tax rates in the 1960s, we had several years of real economic growth of 5 percent. And the same is true of tax relief during the 1920s, where economic growth averaged 4.3 percent.

History has shown us that tax relief can spur economic growth and can allow hardworking American families to keep more of what they earn and increase government revenues.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some say that tax relief is too expensive. But in fact, under a worst-case scenario, if the President's plan generates no economic growth at all, the package would account for only 5 percent of the \$2.2 trillion budget proposed for next year. Yet as many of my colleagues from across the aisle decry deficits and tax relief on the one hand, they are the first to demand more Federal spending on the other. Instead of focusing on the 5 percent of the budget that constitutes tax relief, perhaps we should all focus on the 95 percent which constitutes Federal spending, much of which is pure waste and duplication.

Today, we have nearly twice as much inflation-adjusted Federal spending per family than when I was born. Do we really need that much Federal Government? And over this same period, inflation-adjusted Federal spending has grown seven times faster than our family budgets. Is it any wonder that our family tax burdens are near an all-time high? A middle income American family can now pay up to 40 percent of their income in Federal, State, and local taxes. That is not tax fairness.

The President's economic program is tax fairness because it provides tax relief to taxpayers, especially middle income Americans.

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Mr. Speaker, 46 million married couples would keep over \$1,700 of what they earned, enough to pay two mortgage payments. Now that is a housing program. Thirty-four million families with children would keep an additional \$1,500, enough to purchase a new personal computer for their children. That is an education program. Six million single women with children would keep \$541, which could purchase a month of day-care. That is a child care program.

Middle-income families would also receive additional relief from accelerated reduction of the marriage penalty, a faster increase in the child care tax credit, and immediate implementation of the new, lower 10 percent tax bracket.

To boost investor confidence and encourage investment, the President's plan also eliminates the unfair double taxation on dividends. The elimination of this unfair double taxation on dividends is expected to produce a one-time increase in equity values of up to 5 percent, at a time when we desperately need to increase stock values and consumer confidence.

Mr. Speaker, about half of all dividend income goes to our seniors who

often rely on those checks for a steady source of retirement income.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot tax, spend, or sue our way into prosperity. We can only grow our way into prosperity. I strongly encourage Members to support the President's jobs and growth plan.

#### BOMBS AND BULLETS WILL NOT WIN WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here to share the opposition of my constituents to a war in Iraq. The folks I work for understand that the war on terror cannot be won with bombs and bullets, that we can fight with bombs and bullets, but that will not end terror, nor will this approach ensure the safety of Americans. Only a strategy of multilateralism, humanitarian aid and development can win the war on terror. Only a strategy that preempts new terror attacks without creating new terrorists can win the war on terror. Bombs, bullets, and war are not the solution to terrorism. My constituents understand this.

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) has been coordinating with an organization called Poets Against the War. This organization has been collecting poems written by Americans around the country. Their poems reflect their concerns about current U.S. policy toward the war against terror and Iraq.

Today it is my honor to share a poem that was written by one of my constituents, Elizabeth Barret, an 83-year-old woman from Mill Valley, California. She wrote a poem called "Peace."

"I will listen to my heart. I know that I need to open my heart to God. The prospect of war makes me cry out for peace. Where are all the mothers and children? Where are all the men whose hearts have been hurt? Do they not know that they were at one time children too?"

"The world needs peace. We have become very small. We need to love each other more than ever. Who will help the world? The women and children will save the world."

Mrs. Barret eloquently makes the key point that we should measure every single decision this House makes by its affect on our Nation's children. She understands that an invasion of Iraq will inspire a new generation of terrorists to threaten our children.

Instead of following this path of destruction, we can work to contain Iraq and concentrate on destroying al Qaeda. That is what is best for our children. One of those children, 15-year-old Carina from San Rafael, California, wrote this poem. It is called "Lady Paz."

"I imagine there are jungles inside her if not under her fertile skins, what

hope? I know it is our vampire wishes that leech life from this stolen soil our scrawled, thoughtless messages that degrade such indelible bark.

"I can see her relief so clearly, the dark impressions of her liquid eye casting cacophonous shadows across our curve of hazy planet.

"Give us your real hand, the one where sap pulses warm and whose clasp is meaty and sharp through sun's dream-tricks whose brown fingers don't leave us abandoned and guessing.

"Will you take us, our legs streaked in ash, our misconceptions bending and bending, the fissures in earth's crust growing deeper, the molten rock bubbling up like blood? Oh, peace, you must be a tainted lady. A tainted lady to tame us screaming so."

Mr. Speaker, Carina understands that violence is not the way to peace. She understands that we can start a war in Iraq and destroy Baghdad from the air. And she understands that after sending our soldiers and their soldiers to the grave, we can win a war in Iraq, but that will not win the war on terrorism.

The only way to win the one war that matters, the war on terrorism, is to bolster crumbling societies, support economic development and end support for undemocratic regimes. Let us do the right thing for ourselves and for our children. These children, 25 percent of our population, are 100 percent of the future of this Nation.

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

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

#### TROOPS IN IRAQ WILL ONCE AGAIN BE EXPOSED TO DEADLY CHEMICALS

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk on behalf of three doctors and myself. I was a physician during the Vietnam War. I was in Long Beach. I saw the troops coming back from the Vietnam War, and I saw what the war did to them. I also have been in government since then and have seen how our government for many years denied that

Agent Orange had any effect whatsoever on the troops.

In 1984 we settled a claim for all of the problems created by Agent Orange, which we finally admitted. Now we have a case before the Supreme Court at this very time where they are trying to reopen that claim on behalf of people who are suffering even 40 years after the war.

It is for that reason that I raise the issue today of depleted uranium in Iraq. I was there. I was in Iraq in 1991, and I was there again this year; and the evidence is overwhelming of the impact of what Iraq has suffered from depleted uranium and what we, the United States, are about to suffer.

Dr. Al-Ali said that before the Gulf War they had only three or four deaths a month from cancer. Now it is 30 to 35 patients dying every month, and that is just in his department. That is a 12-fold increase, 1,200 percent increase in cancer mortality. Studies indicate that 40 to 48 percent of the population in that area will get cancer in 5 years. That is almost half the population.

A woman doctor, Dr. Ginan Hassen, said, "I studied what happened in Hiroshima. It is almost exactly the same here. We have an increased percentage of congenital malformations, an increase of malignancy, leukemia, brain tumors, and the rest." Under the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council, now in its 14th year, Iraq is denied the equipment and expertise to decontaminate its battlefields from the 1991 Gulf War.

These are two Iraqi doctors talking. Let me quote an American doctor, Dr. Doug Rokke, who was appointed by Norman Schwarzkopf to go in as a part of the decontamination team and clean up what we did. We dumped 300 tons of munitions with depleted uranium in this area that he was sent in to clean up. He says: "I have 5,000 times the recommended level of radiation in my body. Most of my team are now dead." Eighteen out of 24 people, American soldiers sent in to clean that up, are now dead.

Dr. Rokke says, "We face an issue to be confronted by the people in the West, those with a sense of right and wrong." First, a decision by the United States and Britain to use weapons of mass destruction, depleted uranium. When a tank fired a shell, each round contains 4,500 grams of solid uranium. What happened to the Gulf was a form of nuclear war. That was 1991. We are about to do it again. People are talking about 3,000 missiles into Baghdad in the first day and 3,000 on the second day, all with depleted uranium on the point. Why is that used? Because it is so penetrating, when it explodes, it creates a white dust, uranium oxide, and people walk around, it gets in their lungs and reproductive organs. Children died. That is where those figures come from for the children. That is why we have so many malformations at birth among Iraqi women. It is to the point today where Iraqi women say, Is my child normal?

Mr. Speaker, we did that once to them, and we are about to do it again. We are about to do it again, and we are about to do to our own troops, hundreds of thousands of them, what we did to Doug Rokke. Dr. Rokke marched in there and did his duty. I am here talking for the veterans of our country and for the women and men who are on the line for us out there. I do not want them sent into that.

We are going to march troops right through the very place where this happened to the Iraqi people. Will our government admit what they are doing? No. They will not talk about what is going on with depleted uranium.

Here is the issue. The Secretary of VA, Mr. Principi, remember the Bush administration, writes a letter to the Department of Defense and says please do preservice evaluations on all of the men and women so we can look at, when it is over, what the difference is.

How can we send 300,000 American people into war that kills Iraqis left, right and center with impunity? This is an unjust war. There are many reasons to be against this war; but this reason, the soldiers and Marines and sailors of the United States are the major reason we should not be doing it. We are exposing our own people to something that we will not admit we are doing.

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#### MOURNING THE PASSING OF WAUKEGAN POLICE CHIEF MIGUEL JUAREZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give sad news to the House, that we have lost the police chief of Waukegan, Illinois, Miguel Juarez, last night in a tragic heart attack. Miguel Juarez led the police department in the largest city in my congressional district, he was the highest ranking Latino official in our city, and he was my friend. Miguel Juarez at age 50 passed away and completed a distinguished career.

Miguel was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, and came to the United States at the age of 1. He joined the U.S. Marines and served our country with distinction in Japan, Norway and Denmark and finished as a decorated veteran at Fort Sheridan in my congressional district. In 1979, he joined the Waukegan Police Force as a police officer, rising through the ranks continuously, until he became our chief of police in May 2001. But that only understates Miguel's contribution to our community. Miguel was a member of 22 different community organizations in our town.

I extend the House's profound condolences to Miguel's wife, Rosa, and his four children. Miguel was a unique man who spoke not just English and Span-

ish, but also Japanese. He was fully qualified as a SWAT team member, he taught gang awareness, and he accompanied me recently on a drug raid at a house in South Waukegan where I saw the professionalism and bravery of the team that he built under him. I want to extend my profound sorrow to the entire Waukegan municipal team.

In the language of his original country, I would like to say, *Espero que tienes un buen viaje, Miguel, mi Amigo. Tenemos muchas lagrimas en Waukegan esta noche.* It says, I hope you have a good trip, Miguel, my friend, and we are extending many tears in Waukegan this night.

Miguel Juarez, a leader, a Latino, my friend. We lost him last night. We will miss him greatly. The House should mark that time.

#### THE IRAQI CONFLICT

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, to provide for the common defense of our Nation is a constitutional duty here in Congress, and we have no responsibility more serious than to look after the security of the people of America, and to do it in a way that honors and protects the men and women who defend our security. We certainly recognize their courage, their sacrifice and their patriotism.

I am concerned that the American-led war upon which we are about to launch, followed by an American military occupation, would make Americans here at home less secure, not more. With that in mind, I would like to refer to a resolution introduced by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and cosponsored by a number of others of us. The joint resolution has a number of whereas clauses, including that whereas Saddam Hussein is a repressive dictator who has demonstrated through his own actions, including the invasion of Kuwait and the oppression of the Iraqi people, that it is necessary for the international community to ensure his conduct is in accordance with international law.

And whereas on September 12, 2002, President Bush committed the United States to "work with the United Nations Security Council to meet our common challenge", posed by Iraq and to, "work for the necessary resolutions" while also making clear that, "the Security Council resolutions will be enforced and that the just demands of peace and security will be met or action will be unavoidable;" . . .

And whereas Congress recognizes the efforts of the President to obtain unanimous approval for United Nations Security Council resolution 1441 which affords Iraq, "a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations under relevant resolutions of the Council."

And following various other whereas clauses, we call upon the President to