

His plan is to exempt dividends supposedly because of double taxation, except most of the corporations who pay dividends do not pay Federal income taxes. They have taken advantage of loopholes through Bermuda and other places to not pay taxes. They are not double-taxed. That is not the issue, double taxation or fairness. It is to give a huge gift to the wealthy.

The average tax cut for an Oregonian, for my State, with an income of \$32,000, people who could use a little help, it will be \$40. Do not spend it all in one place. But the average millionaire tax cut, \$45,000, those who have already done so well under his previous tax cuts, and it will compound the State's financial problems. It will cost the States \$4 billion, this little dividend gift to wealthy investors, and it will cost my State \$100 million, a State already in crisis.

There is no credible economist in the United States of America who pretends that this would in any way stimulate the economy, especially since the money will not be refunded to these wealthy folks until next year even if they choose to spend it in a way that might create jobs.

Then the other leg of his way to boost our economy is a war. I believe many are puzzling over what is this about. Is there this a tremendous threat? Well, he has not yet revealed either to me, the United States Congress in any of our classified briefings here on the floor of the House, or in unclassified briefings or in other materials the proof that there is a credible and immediate threat from Saddam Hussein.

We do know that in North Korea they have nuclear weapons. They are building more nuclear weapons. They have tested long-range missiles. We do know in Iran that they have a very advanced nuclear program. Apparently Saddam Hussein does not have one at all, and his missiles that he has, so-called, can reach only a couple of hundred miles.

So how is it that this is the most credible and immediate threat that we should spend hundreds of millions of dollars, potentially thousands of American lives, tens of thousands of lives of innocents in a war against Saddam Hussein while weapons inspectors are in there, when we have gotten what we proposed, which is let us go in there and find if he has weapons of mass destruction. Give the process time to work. There is no reason to rush to war with potentially catastrophic results and one that is certainly not going to help us with these pressing domestic problems at home.

In fact, it is going to rob from that, since the President is now talking about a long-term occupation and rebuilding of Iraq similar to Japan after World War II despite the fact that, of course, basically their culture is not as integrated as that of Japan. In fact, the people who live in Iraq do not get along very well. There is a number of divisive factions. They have no tradi-

tion in democracy, and a long-term occupation and democracy-building in that area is going to be very problematic.

So the President should focus on real steps to help real Americans with their real problems at home and real threats to our domestic integrity or our international security. Where is Osama bin Laden? Remember, dead or alive? Guess what. He is still alive. He is still planning attacks on the United States of America. The President needs to refocus his priorities.

REJECTING THE APOSTLES OF INACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, in recent days we have heard a loud and relentless chorus of critics who are attempting to hamstring President Bush and restrict his ability to defend this country. These foreign and domestic apologists for inaction would subordinate U.S. national security decisions to an international litmus test.

They are subverting the real issue beneath the false allure of avoidance and a smokescreen of diplomatic double-dealings and evasions. Under their specious logic, the burden of proof shifts from Saddam Hussein's evil regime to the free and democratic nations insisting that he disarm.

It is a known fact that Saddam developed, deployed and destroyed thousands of lives with weapons of mass terror. It is not a question of whether or not he has terror weapons.

American soldiers found and destroyed chemical weapons depots 12 years ago. Saddam later confirmed our fears with the thousands of corpses that littered the Iraqi countryside.

Here is the real question: Where and when will he choose to use the countless terror weapons he still has? Will it be here in the United States? Will Saddam's agents launch the attack, or will Saddam quietly transfer his chemical or biological weapons to al Qaeda or any other terrorist organization? Will they be leveraged to blackmail freedom-loving nations into inaction in the face of future aggression?

The answer is that we cannot know what this dictator will do, and for that reason the only acceptable outcome to the United States is that either Saddam Hussein voluntarily destroys all the materials related to his nuclear, chemical and biological weapons development programs or a coalition of free nations will do the job, and this brings up a widespread misperception.

The purpose of the U.N. inspectors in Iraq, a purpose that is either misunderstood or it is being manipulated by the left, is simply to verify that Saddam is declaring and destroying his known but hidden weapons of mass destruction programs and weapons caches.

It is not the inspectors' mission to fruitlessly scour the Iraqi countryside in a feckless search for Saddam's terror weapons. In a country larger than the State of California, that would be an empty objective doomed to fail. Outside observers cannot hope to uncover the truth within an uncooperative and hostile regime. It is an impossible task to discover weapons of mass destruction within a ruthlessly wicked and oppressive dictatorship that refuses to cooperate. Iraq is not destroying its weapons.

Let us just be clear about it. Saddam is an evil tyrant. He illegitimately holds power by controlling the thoughts and the behavior of the Iraqi people with a climate of state-administered terror. His secret police coerce the Iraqi people into a terror-driven code of silence.

Time and time again over the 20th century the West learned that the scale of crimes committed by totalitarian regimes was far worse than we even knew. It was not until those brutal regimes fell and their victims documented the full extent of the monstrous abuse that we learned the truth. We saw it in Hitler's Germany. We saw it in the Soviet Union. We saw it in Cambodia, and eventually we will see it in Cuba, and once Saddam fails and falls, the Iraqi people will shock and disgust the world by revealing the full ghastly scope of Saddam's oppression.

This much is obvious today. We will never get to the truth about Saddam's weapons so long as his regime holds power. We need to recognize that it will be extremely difficult for Saddam's past and future victims to tell inspectors what they know.

□ 1045

When they, their friends and their families are subject to brutal and wicked reprisals, including rape, torture and murder at the hands of Saddam's secret police, U.N. inspectors cannot approach the truth in Iraq. And it is not their job to discover Saddam's weapons. No, the onus is squarely on Saddam Hussein to prove to the world that he has disarmed.

Unfortunately, many observers continue claiming that the United States has to round out the indictment of Saddam Hussein's regime with additional evidence. No such evidence is needed. No more facts need emerge before America can rightfully take action against this regime. We have all the evidence that we need. The pages of history. There has never been a threat confronting the United States that was overcome or improved through inaction or the counsels of contrived evasions and equivocations. The American people expect us to face our threats squarely and directly.

Many observers would have us pin the security of the United States to a fading fallacy, the discredited notion that a U.N. inspections team, operating within a hostile regime, can adequately secure our security. They cannot.

There is great danger in so elevating the trappings of international consultation and the rituals of multilateralism that they become a surrogate for our true purpose: we have to protect ourselves and the world by disarming Saddam Hussein.

Some observers refuse to acknowledge the grave consequences of allowing Saddam Hussein to remain in power. In the hierarchy of aggressive and military regimes, Saddam's dictatorship is a clear and present danger to the United States. And by providing Saddam added time, added time to supply, train and support terrorist groups, these endless pleas for patience convert a virtue into a vice. Any nation which naively denies the clear threat from Saddam Hussein's regime is placing the free world at jeopardy by ignoring this dictator's infamous past and evil aspirations.

Regardless of what others may say, the final authority governing American action is not the United Nations. It is the Constitution of the United States and the decisions of our own elected government. If and when President Bush decides America must confront Saddam Hussein's regime, he will be exercising his authority as commander in chief and expressing the broad support already demonstrated by Congress through the Iraq Resolution passed months ago.

The Left is attempting to turn us from our purpose with another bit of sophistry. They claim our imperative to confront Saddam Hussein's dictatorship is a diversion from the war against terrorism. Well, far from a diversion, confronting Saddam Hussein is a central and defining measure of our commitment to win the war on terrorism.

If President Bush determines that America must act, he can be confident that the unified support of the American people will be with him until the danger is defeated. The President should know that we stand beside him and that the United States will not shrink from our obligation to defend freedom.

While we seek the broadest possible coalition of freedom-loving countries in this effort, we cannot let a hunt for international consensus divide us and deter us from our purpose. We will not be dissuaded from taking action to defend America.

GUAM REQUESTS ADDITIONAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, the people of Guam eagerly anticipate the State of the Union report which President Bush will deliver tonight. While the President will speak in broad terms about the Nation, I take this opportunity to let the Nation know about the situation on my home island of

Guam, which has been recently devastated by Super Typhoon Pongsona.

Super Typhoon Pongsona struck Guam on December 8, 2002, with sustained winds of 155 miles per hour and wind gusts exceeding 200 miles per hour. This severe typhoon battered Guam for 8 long hours; and in its aftermath, Guam's power, water, and wastewater systems were seriously damaged. In addition, Guam had just begun to fully recover from another storm, Typhoon Chata'an, which struck in July 2002, barely 6 months before Typhoon Pongsona.

Our island looked like a war zone. Hotels had their windows blown out and over 120 concrete power poles snapped due to the force of Pongsona. Aluminum typhoon shutters were ripped off the windows; and air conditioners were blown off roof tops and windows, creating holes for rain to destroy the interior of our homes.

Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Station, and Apra Harbor, were hit hard, as well as our own civilian airport, closing both airports and delaying relief flights. Four fuel storage tanks at the Port of Guam caught fire and burned for days, jeopardizing nearby storage tanks filled with aviation fuel, gasoline and diesel fuel. Two tanks were destroyed completely, while two others have been damaged.

Many people on Guam who have lived through other typhoons over the years have remarked that Pongsona was the worst typhoon they had ever experienced in their lives. I was there to witness this.

President Bush declared Guam a major disaster area following Super Typhoon Pongsona, and the FEMA emergency management agency, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Catholic Social Services, and many other volunteers mobilized for the relief and recovery effort. We on Guam are sincerely grateful for all these efforts and for the incredible response of the Guam National Guard, the Government of Guam employees, and the reserve and active duty military units on Guam. There is nothing more humbling to a community than to see the outpouring of assistance to us in our time of desperate need. There is nothing more heroic than to see Guardsmen, government employees, and volunteers leave their own ravaged homes behind and respond to the call of duty.

Seven weeks later, as I speak today, 20 percent of our island is still without power. Power outages plague our community every day. The water system is still not at full capacity, and the government is still coping with the enormous challenges ahead. Governor Felix Camacho and Lieutenant Governor Kaleo Moylan took office on January 6, 2003, facing the daunting task of completing the recovery. The 27th Guam legislature, under the leadership of Speaker Ben Pangelinan also assumed office with these great challenges awaiting them. Our people pray for our

leaders to succeed, because not since the liberation of Guam from its World War II occupation of our island have we faced such difficult times.

We are facing 20 percent unemployment, a bottoming out of our tourist industry, and an expensive recovery that may last the rest of this year. We need the Federal Government to extend whatever help is available, not just to clean up after the typhoon but to help us restore our economy and rebuild our basic infrastructure. We need hazard mitigation assistance to make Guam less vulnerable to the next super typhoon, and we need the prayers and the support of the American people for their fellow American citizens who live on Guam.

We are a community that prides ourselves on our self-reliance and our resilience after any hardship. We have great optimism and great faith in our future. We need a hand right now, and we ask that President Bush and the Congress take just a minute as we reflect on the blessing and opportunities of our great country to remember that some Americans are facing great hardships tonight. Please remember Guam.

AGRICULTURE DISASTER IN NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the sad state of agriculture in my home State of North Carolina. And, indeed, farmers across the Nation took a big hit in their wallets thanks to Mother Nature last year.

As Congress prepares to receive the President's State of the Union address, we must pay special attention to those folks who are hurting down on the farm. At one time last summer, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center, nearly one-third of the United States experienced moderate to extreme drought conditions. The prolonged period of dry weather severely aggravated North Carolina's long-term drought problems.

Consequently, my State experienced the worst drought we have seen in 100 years. This drought impacted every region of North Carolina and nearly every community where commodities are grown. Many farmers had to watch crops wither on the vine and die despite their best efforts. And when rain finally came, it came too late to save what was already lost and impaired their ability to harvest what little they had.

In North Carolina, farmers have experienced \$400 million in crop losses. While crop insurance has paid out \$90 million in indemnities, which helped, it comes at a cost of \$63 million in premiums. So crop insurance has not been a viable solution to losses of this magnitude.

The Secretary of Agriculture designated nearly the entire State of