

huge deficit, a deficit that risks the future of Social Security and Medicare and means likely future interest rate increases.

Democrats have proposed a true economic stimulus plan that is fair, fast acting and fiscally responsible. Our plan would create 1 million new jobs this year, provide an extension of unemployment benefits to millions of Americans still looking for jobs, provide tax relief to small businesses to invest in new equipment this year and provide assistance to cash-strapped States and municipalities.

I do not think there is any question about the choice; but unfortunately, the Republicans have the majority and will likely be able to push their tax cut plan through the House later this week. I think it is very unfortunate because it will do nothing to reverse the economic downturn.

TURNING THE ECONOMIC TIDE

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, I am very interested in what the previous speaker had to say. The gentleman from New Jersey just went through the President's economic and job growth package by detail, yet failed to go by detail into the Democratic alternative to creating jobs and stimulating economy because they have no alternative. The gentleman quotes the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities as if they are a think tank with credibility. That group is filled with Democratic Hill staffers and former administration people; and obviously, they are not a think tank, they are an opposition research organization, so they have no credibility in terms of what we need to stimulate our economy and grow jobs.

Mr. Speaker, too many Americans ready and willing to work are not able to find work. That is the problem. Companies are not investing or expanding, and jobs are not being created. The President's jobs and growth package which the House will take up this week will help remedy those problems. His proposal will immediately stimulate the economy to create new jobs and provide the framework for long-term economic growth. It will provide stimulative tax relief on dividends and capital gains, move the income tax rate reductions planned for 2006 up to this year, and it will eliminate the marriage tax penalty. It will increase the child tax credit, and it will accelerate business depreciation schedules.

Mr. Speaker, that is a real jobs and growth package, and it is not based on some opposition research organization, it is based on history and we understand when we cut taxes we grow the economy. All of these provisions will get jobs into the hands of people who need them, and money in the form of paychecks, not handouts, in the hands of American families.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the Committee on Ways and Means will propose a package to help create jobs for the millions of Americans out of work and help create an economic environment that rewards investment and risk. The President's plan is an American solution to an American problem.

Congress should get out of the way and let entrepreneurs and workers create jobs through investment, innovation and hard work. But for them to do that, they need real tax relief, substantial enough to do some good in our \$10 trillion economy. We do not need timid proposals or hidden tax hikes in the guise of offsets that will only reinforce current anxieties.

Mr. Speaker, after the brief session in 2001, the economic ramifications of the 9/11 attacks and the understandable anxieties during the buildup to the battle of Iraq, we have finally turned this corner toward greater economic recovery. The American people want jobs, and they deserve an economy strong enough to create those jobs.

The President's proposal will create jobs and, finally, turn the economic tide away from anxiety and into the favor of workers, small business people, homeowners, parents and retirees. I look forward to the debate and its ultimate passage.

THREATS TO CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the previous gentlemen spoke and said that the Democrats have no plan and have no alternative. The gentleman knows that is false. The Democrats have a solid plan for economic growth, tax cuts to the middle class, not to the wealthy, targeting people who are going to spend it rather than those who are going to keep it, tax incentives for small business, which are a solid part of our plan, extending unemployment benefits and helping States with Medicaid funding. The difference is that our plan is fiscally responsible and fast acting and will prime the pump and get the economy going again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the threats to our constitutional freedoms. On September 11, we saw two planes kill thousands of people in New York. Our country has been in two conflicts overseas since then. There is insecurity in the land. Historically at times like these, Presidents and Congresses have run rough-shod over our constitutional freedoms and taken away individual rights.

A few examples in history: When we were about to go to war with the French, the Congress passed and John Adams signed the Alien & Sedition Act

which made it illegal to talk against the government and people were thrown in jail for doing so. Abe Lincoln during the Civil War suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus. During World War I, we again threw people in jail for speaking against the government. During World War II, we rounded up over 100,000 Japanese-American citizens and put them in internment camps. Fifty years later we realized we had done them wrong, and we apologized and paid them a meager sum. During the McCarthy era in the Cold War, 160 secret hearings were held and lives were ruined if you exercised your constitutional rights.

So in sum, war and fear and insecurity can make us lose our moorings.

After September 11, we rushed to pass the PATRIOT Act in 6 weeks. The PATRIOT Act has some good provisions which update old laws; but it also seriously undermines the Bill of Rights and many other provisions. Take one, the fourth amendment, which says there shall not be any searches of a person's home without a court issuing a warrant.

One of the worst examples of a fourth amendment violation in the PATRIOT Act is a new provision called sneak and peek. That means you can have a secret search of your house. The government can come into your house, they can search it, take things, and you may never learn. Sounds like the fourth amendment out the door.

Under the current regime President Bush can label somebody an enemy combatant, and they are thrown into a military brig even if they are an American citizen. There is no contact with the outside world, no attorney, no charges, no trial, and the person may be detained indefinitely. That does not sound like American justice to me.

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And then just last week over in the United States Senate as the New York Times reports, we had a secret hearing in the Senate Intelligence Committee. The White House and the CIA proposed that the CIA and the military be given authority to collect intelligence on American citizens. Not even during the Cold War did we go this far. We have always kept separate the FBI, which does domestic law enforcement, and the CIA and the military, which deal with threats outside the country.

There are many more examples of our rights being eroded today. The President must be held to account for these violations. The Congress must get a grip on these abuses. The Congress should step forward, step up to the plate and review these policies and review these laws. The Congress needs to conduct real oversight in public, not behind closed doors, and needs to protect our constitutional freedoms. Ben Franklin said it best 200 years ago when he said, "If we surrender our liberty in the name of security, then we shall have neither."

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SET TO PASS THE PRESIDENT'S
ECONOMIC PLAN

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment as I begin my remarks and talk about an issue that is so important. I first begin by commending President Bush for his strong leadership on the economy. While so much of our Nation's attention, in fact attention around the globe, has been focused on President Bush's successful leadership as well as the successful efforts of our American men and women to liberate the oppressed people of Iraq from the brutality of Saddam Hussein, President Bush and House Republicans have been working to get this economy moving again. It is so important that we focus attention today on the economy. Today we are going to have action in the House Committee on Ways and Means to create jobs and give Americans the opportunity to go back to work.

Let me tell you why it is important to the people of Illinois. In Illinois we have 6.6 percent unemployment. Unfortunately in the district that I represent, an agricultural-industrial district in the south suburbs of Chicago, our unemployment is actually higher. Grundy County, the county that is my home county, has almost 12 percent unemployment; LaSalle has 9.8 percent unemployment; Will County has 7.9 percent unemployment; Bureau, 8.7; Kankakee, 8.5 percent. Clearly we need to get the economy moving again because it affects folks back home. The philosophy of what we are going to pursue today is following the direction the President laid out for us earlier as we work to get this economy moving again, creating jobs, giving those who are unemployed the opportunity to get a good-paying job and go back to work. Our strategy is to put extra money in the pocketbooks of workers so they can meet their families' needs and raise their take-home pay by cutting their individual taxes. We want to give business the incentive to invest in the creation of jobs.

Economists have analyzed the plan that is before us today and they project that the plan that we will be debating and passing out of the Committee on Ways and Means and hopefully out of the House this week with bipartisan support will create 1 million jobs over the next 16 months. Two-thirds of this package benefits individual taxpayers. In fact, if you pay Federal income taxes, you benefit. We double the child tax credit, from \$600 to \$1,000. That benefits 1.1 million families with children in Illinois. We eliminate effective immediately the marriage tax penalty. We make effective immediately the Bush individual rate reductions and expand the lowest tax bracket for low-in-

come Americans so more low-income Americans will have their taxes lowered in that new 10 percent tax bracket created for low-income Americans. I note that we also provide additional alternative minimum tax relief, one of the consequences of a bad policy we are still living with from the 1980s. The bottom line is two-thirds of this package benefits average taxpayers, putting extra money in the pocketbooks of workers for their families' needs.

We also jump-start the economy by providing incentives for business to invest, providing for what some people call bonus depreciation, that others like myself call accelerated depreciation, but allowing business to deduct at least 50 percent or more this year of the cost of buying a company car, an office computer, telecommunications or machine tool equipment, or if they are making their office or business more secure, investing in security and equipment, they would be able to recover the cost of that much more quickly. When you think about it, when you encourage a business to buy a company car, there is an autoworker in Chicago or the south suburbs whose job is created. We also allow companies losing money this year to go back and recover some revenue and capital from previous years so they have capital to invest in the creation of jobs.

And due to the President's leadership, we work to provide assistance and relief for those who invest for their retirement. Today, 84 million taxpayers are stockholders. That is over half of American households. Many are senior citizens who have saved for their retirement. Today they are taxed twice on their dividends from their stock holdings. That is not right. It is not fair. I realize my Democratic friends think that is okay because they want to keep the money here in Washington and they think they can spend it better than these stockholders can. The President says we should eliminate that double taxation. We make a big step with the proposal before us today by equalizing the tax treatment between capital gains and stock dividends. Those in the 10 and 15 percent bracket will only pay a 5 percent tax rate. Those in the higher brackets will pay 15. This is a good plan. It puts extra money in the pocketbooks of consumers as well as encourages businesses to invest.

I want to draw attention to one issue which I have been so involved in, which is a key part of the plan that is going to be debated and passed out of the Committee on Ways and Means today, and that is the issue of the marriage tax penalty. There are 42 million married working couples, like Jose and Magdalena Castillo of Joliet, Illinois, two laborers, and, of course, their children Eduardo and Carolina. They live in Joliet, Illinois. They work hard for their living. They benefit from this plan today. When we worked 2 years ago to pass legislation to eliminate the marriage tax penalty because of the

rules in the other body, we had to phase it in. Today we are going to pass legislation to make marriage tax penalty relief effective this year. It is wrong to tax marriage. We benefit the Castillo family by eliminating the marriage tax penalty this year. When you think about it, that is \$1,400 they can spend in Joliet, Illinois.

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE
PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC PLAN

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, recently President Bush traveled to my home State of Ohio to sell his tax cuts. He went to a manufacturing company of I believe the largest Republican contributor in Ohio to extol the value of his tax cuts. He met with the executives of that company who will enjoy large tax cuts. He did not talk specifically about what individual workers who make 20 and 30 and 40 and \$50,000 a year will get, but understand as the President came to Ohio and talked about this tax cut, his 500-plus-billion-dollar tax cut, that half of that tax cut will go to people whose average income is \$968,000 a year. So half of that tax cut will go to people who on the average make about \$1 million a year.

The President now has shifted from talking about the tax cut because that has fallen on deaf ears, even on the ears of a Republican Senator in Ohio who has said "no" to this tax cut, thinking it throws the budget way out of balance, thinking that the tax cuts go far too much to the wealthiest citizens and not enough to middle-income Americans. The President now has shifted his talk to talk about jobs, saying that the Bush economic plan is not so much about tax cuts but is about job creation. What he does not say is since he took office, we have lost 2.6 million jobs in this country, most of them manufacturing jobs. We have lost manufacturing jobs literally every single month of the Bush presidency, something that has never happened since we have been keeping records on those kinds of things. There has been negative economic growth and negative economic job activity since the President has taken office. That has not happened in the last 50 years. At the same time the President's similar kind of tax cut which passed his first year in office is not paying the kind of benefits that he hoped. He 2 years ago asked Congress, asked the American people for a similar economic package to the one he asks for today. Yet today he is asking for it again even though we have lost 2.6 million jobs and we have lost manufacturing jobs in this country every single month since the President took office. The President wants to give tax cuts to the wealthiest citizens in this country, leaving a few hundred dollars for people making 40 or 50 or 60