

JOB CREATION THROUGH TAX RELIEF, A VICTORY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, we all know that our sluggish economy is in need of a shot in the arm. As I travel my district and talk with constituents in Kansas, I am hearing one constant theme: reduce the tax burden on working families.

They tell me that on their tight budgets, even an additional \$100 per month would make a significant difference. I believe their request is reasonable. They understand what many in Washington never seem to comprehend: their hard-earned money belongs to them and not to us. They know how best to stretch every dollar to take care of their family.

Tax relief for American families has always been one of my top priorities, so the plan that the House passed comes as a breath of fresh air. Under the House plan, a typical family of four in Kansas would see their earlier tax bill reduced by over \$1,100. That is almost \$100 per month.

Best of all, our plan would create almost 1 million jobs next year, 8,000 of those jobs in Kansas. Job creation through tax relief, this truly is a victory for American families.

AMERICA NEEDS ANSWERS ON ADMINISTRATION'S USE OF DEFENSE MONEY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, as the House debates defense authorization, it is fair for the American people to ask what is happening to their tax dollars going for defense. Over \$1 trillion in Department of Defense accounts remains unreconciled. Audits have been suspended.

Worse, this administration led this Nation into a war based on the pretext that Iraq was an imminent threat, which it was not. The President described Iraq as an imminent threat. It was not. The Secretary of State presented pictures to the world which he offered as proof. But as of today, with the administration having total control over Iraq, nothing that has been said has been substantiated.

Where are the weapons of mass destruction? What was the basis for this war? How can we spend \$400 billion for defense if we cannot defend the truth? How do we defend the truth if we do not demand answers from an administration which took this Nation into a war on a pretext?

HONORING EMS WEEK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of emergency medical service professionals. These highly trained specialists are able to respond at a moment's notice, knowing that a matter of seconds can mean the difference between life and death.

There are over 750,000 EMS providers throughout the United States providing invaluable community service daily. Today, with the ever-present threat of terrorism, their job is more needed than ever. They stand on the front lines, trained and ready to respond to possible chemical and biological attacks to give us the best chance of survival in the case of a tragedy.

This week, we recognize the dedicated work of paramedics and emergency medical technicians through Emergency Medical Services Week. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saying thank you to these men and women who work day and night all through the year to save lives.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

"FIRST OBSTRUCTION, NOW DESTRUCTION"

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, "There is no more fragile construct than a stone wall. In any scandal, the shortest route to safety is always the truth." [144 Cong. Rec. H1333 (1998).

These are the most appropriate words of Majority Leader, TOM DELAY. And yet one full week after asking the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice to come clean about the reported attempts to divert Federal resources for purely political purposes in Texas, all we have is that very same fragile stone wall.

The administration obstruction has now turned into State document destruction. Borrowing a page from Enron's playbook, State destruction has been ordered of all notes, correspondence, photos, et cetera, related to the search for Texas legislators; and at the same time, the Department of Homeland Security indicates that it has "no idea how long the investigation would take or when the tapes might be released."

Never known as "Timid Tom," it is time for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) to join us in getting immediate disclosure of all related documents and end the stonewalling.

HELP SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I am speaking on behalf of small businesses, owners and employees, in this time of economic downturn.

The key to President Bush's economic package is to provide jobs to Americans who desire to work. The plan will provide a great boost to small businesses, which create 70 percent of the jobs, or two out of every three jobs.

One of the most significant weaknesses in the present economy is the low level of business investment. The President's plan will triple write-offs for business equipment from \$25,000 to \$75,000, will reduce the cost of capital, and help these enterprises grow. There is a current phase-in schedule that will reduce the income tax paid by small businesses. This plan will speed these reductions up and make them immediately.

All of the components of the President's package put together are projected to return an average of over \$2,000 to 23 million small business owners this year. The Council of Economic Advisors projects that the President's plan will create 10,000 new jobs in the second half of 2003, 890,000 jobs in 2004, and an increase of 1.4 million jobs in just 18 months. Private sector analyses reach similar conclusions.

The sooner Congress acts, the better it is for small businesses.

WATERGATE ALL OVER AGAIN?

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, destruction of evidence, obstruction of justice, withholding of secret taped conversations between government officials and possible wrongdoing, misuse of Federal law enforcement agencies for domestic political purposes.

It sounds like Watergate in 1974 and Richard Nixon, does it not? Yes, it does. But sadly, these government abuses have occurred in the last 10 days in our country. The silence of Republic leadership and the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), on these government abuses is deafening.

These are the facts: last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had to admit it used Federal antiterrorism resources paid for by taxpayers to track down Texas State legislators, hardly a terrorist threat even on their worst days.

Fact number two: in a taped telephone conversation last week, the Texas Department of Public Safety apparently asked, unethically if not illegally, for the U.S. Homeland Security Agency to get involved in this political matter.

Fact number three: the U.S. Homeland Security Agency refuses to let the public know what was on those taped conversations. Today, we now find out there is destruction of evidence by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The American people deserve answers.