

constituents at home, \$87 billion is more than our government spends on any domestic agency, with the exception of the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services. With this request, we will spend more rebuilding Iraq than we will spend rebuilding crumbling American roads and bridges. We will spend more in Iraq than we spend on rebuilding outdated schools where our children are educated. In fact, we will spend more rebuilding Iraq than President Lyndon Johnson spent to fund the entire Federal Government in his first year in office, and that was the first year of our Great Society. My colleagues on the Republican side talk about how bad it was; well, we are actually spending more in Iraq than we were in the first year of the Great Society.

While this administration is focused like a laser beam on Iraq, and I agree with some of that, we are falling asleep at the wheel while driving our economy. Quite frankly, our economy is swerving and is heading for a wreck. If you have lost your job or cashed your last unemployment check, you already know you are in a wreck.

Mr. Speaker, we have presided over the largest fiscal reversal in history by turning a \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$3.3 trillion deficit. Under this administration's economic leadership, 3.2 million Americans have lost their jobs, and these jobs will not return, if you read the business sections of our major dailies. The gross domestic product growth has averaged 1.6 percent, and real business investment has fallen to 10.4 percent.

Now, if we show these figures to the administration, we will hear their cries of recession and economic swings. Well, this country has weathered recessions before, but these figures do not represent just any recession. These figures represent the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression. That is right, the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression.

This administration has the worst economic record since Herbert Hoover presided over the Great Depression. And as much as this administration hates to admit it, tax cuts are not the answer to every economic problem. Oh, they promised us that cutting taxes would ease the burden on businesses and pave the way for job creation. Well, since the President took office, we have had three major tax cuts and lost 3.2 million jobs. That is over a million jobs lost for each tax cut. And this Congress, by the way, enacted those tax cuts.

This country has already lost 437,000 jobs this year, raising our unemployment levels to 6.1 percent. Factory employment in this country has declined in every single month for the last 3 years. In fact, of the 3.2 million jobs lost under this administration, 2.7 of them are manufacturing jobs. And over 150,000 of those manufacturing jobs come from my home State of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor of representing the 29th District of Texas, and it is the third most blue-collar district in the country, according to the last census. These good-paying jobs belonged to my constituents and provided them with a livable wage and a good chance to achieve the American dream. In 1950, manufacturing jobs represented one-third of our country's labor market. Today they represent one-tenth. Part of this country's economic problem is it does not make anything anymore. It is great to be the information economy, but it is not great if you do not have anything to have any information about. Our push for free trade has pushed our products and our jobs right out of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the Port of Houston, the second largest port in our country. The port has been an economic boon for both the city of Houston and Texas and our region. But for the sake of our country, I just wish those ships going out of the port were as full as when they come in.

Mr. Speaker, our country is in a dire economic situation. It does not take too much to go out and listen to our constituents to know that. Like my colleagues, I listened intently when the President recently talked about the need for unity and sacrifice, and I think he is right. But our country's economy and unemployed workers have sacrificed enough. It is high time that this administration made some sacrifices and the tough decisions necessary to start putting this country and all of our people first.

#### AMERICAN EFFORTS TO HELP IRAQIS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have some good news after that speech. As we talk about Iraq and how to fund our efforts over there, I do not think we should forget the amazing deeds that our troops are doing every day. Major combat has ended, and there are still terrorists at work in the country, but a powerful tyrannical regime has fallen, and, of course, it will take time and concerted efforts before democracy can grow from the ash and rubble of 35 years of Saddam Hussein.

Far from the headlines about the United States' military mission in Iraq, American GIs are daily making contributions to help mend Iraq both from the ravages of combat, but also from a decade of neglect, as I say, under Saddam Hussein. From the rebuilding of the hospitals to the delivery of school supplies and care packages, our troops have personally organized over 5,000 different humanitarian projects while, also, at the same time, trying to secure the security for Iraq. Slowly but surely change is coming to

the people of Iraq, and it is the United States who is delivering that change, and someday, I believe, the world will realize this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to detail a sampling, just a small sampling, but a few examples of projects carried out by our U.S. troops recently. For example, a battalion of the Army's 101st Airborne Division is hooking up the folks back home in America with Iraqi villages, organizing, in typical American style, an "adopt-a-village" campaign for sending care packages of school supplies, sports equipment, canned food, and toiletry items. So far, the 426th Forward Support Battalion has signed up the city of Salem, Utah, several Minnesota residents, and a Tennessee car dealership to help two villages. Perhaps others want to help today.

An Army reservist with the 432nd Civil Affairs Battalion from Green Bay, Wisconsin, dreamed up the "Backpacks for Iraq" project which aims to ship 2,000 donated packs filled with school supplies given by people in Wisconsin and elsewhere. So far the soldier has distributed 120 packs with another semitrailer truckload on the way.

The Combined Joint Task Force-Seven started a "Beansies for Baghdad" program which is delivering more than 7,000 stuffed animals and 1,000 classroom school supplies packages to Baghdad neighborhoods and children's hospital wards.

The Army Reserves 171st Area Support Group in Nasiriyah in southern Iraq collected money from the soldiers to buy stoves, refrigerators, fans, televisions, and kitchen tables and chairs for three orphanages which the troops have taken under their wing, in a city where, at the same time, fierce fighting rages daily in that location.

Soldiers from the Army's 490th Civil Affairs Battalion from Abilene, along with others from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, have rebuilt a school from the ground up in a village outside Ar Ramadi, adding a new roof, a bathroom, water tanks, fans, windows, and chalkboards.

The Naval Coastal Warfare sailors delivered over 200 packages of school supplies after a San Diego church donated \$800 to ship them to poor children in a southern Iraq port city. On their own time, sailors with the Inshore Boat Unit 15 from Corpus Christi, Texas, constructed 16 children-sized picnic tables using just scrap lumber as materials to do this.

Mr. Speaker, Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 based in California supervised a wholesale renovation of a girls' high school in southern central Iraq. The school now has freshly painted rooms and new electrical wiring, lighting, ceiling fans, and bathrooms. The \$72,000 needed for the project came from funds that were confiscated from Saddam's Baath Party.

U.S. reservists from a Denver-based combat engineer battalion have adopted a small village in northern Iraq

where, on their own time, they are building a playground and equipment and restoring the irrigation well system.

Army engineers from Fort Lewis, Washington, have resurrected a water treatment plant in Iraq, freeing Iraqis there from the scourge of dysentery. And elsewhere, Mr. Speaker, American troops are volunteering to pick up and fix up orphanages, schools and hospitals, and even kicking in cash from their own pockets to buy refrigerators, stoves, and beds for needy Iraqis.

So it is clear that our troops are doing more for the Iraqi people than was ever asked of them. Out of compassion, character, and a will to do what is right, our men and women abroad will make sure that the job gets done and that change comes finally to these long-forgotten people.

#### CHANGES NEEDED IN ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, this morning I went out to Walter Reed Hospital again. I went out 2 weeks ago. There are boys still coming home without legs, without eyes, all kinds of casualties. And one cannot help but listen to my colleague from Florida and think how well our troops are doing and what they are doing on behalf of all of us, but to continue to see what is going on at Walter Reed is very sobering.

And everybody who is going to vote for money around here in the next week or so ought to go out to Walter Reed and walk around and talk to some of these people. Talk to the kid I talked to today who was riding in a Humvee that ran over one of these IEDs that implement some kind of explosive device that people just make up by tying a bunch of things together, and he loses a leg and is on a ventilator at Walter Reed. When you see that, you realize that we could do all of these humanitarian projects, and God knows they need them, there is plenty of stuff to do; but until we are able to bring security to that country, we are not going to be really dealing with what affects the Iraqis, nor protects our own people.

Now, I came back from Walter Reed and I sat down in my office and I turned on the television, and there is the President talking at the United Nations. Just like the last talk: We know what is right. You people ought to get behind us. The same tone to the world that we heard before.

The world believes that we all ought to do it together in the United Nations. We ought to make it that way, not the United States charging out and deciding we are going to do it, and you are either for us or against us. That kind

of cowboy mentality did not work, and it has created the mess we have today. There was no hint in anything the President said of acknowledging the foolishness of going to Iraq alone. What he wanted them to do was to say, you are right, you did exactly the right thing, and we were really wrong. We should have endorsed what you were doing from the start. But the world is not going to do that.

The President is going to have to change the tone in which he talks, and, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how we get him to do that.

We are going to have an opportunity with a resolution for \$87 billion.

Now, Mr. Bremmer was over in the Senate yesterday, and he said, we do not anticipate having to ask for any more. Now, this is the war department of Mr. Rumsfeld that did not anticipate that they would need water purification, did not anticipate the need for generators, did not anticipate anything in the way of reconstruction. That is why we are in the mess we are in today.

□ 1300

Everybody knew we were going to win the war. Our troops are the best in the world, but it is how we put it together afterward that is so missing, and the United States cannot do it by itself. We cannot write all the rules and regulations.

Yesterday, the newspaper carried a story that says Iraq is now for sale. The United States has sort of put this thing through this council they have that will allow companies to come in and buy the companies in Iraq and take over. One Iraqi reacted by saying, well, now it is not going to be just the Americans here. The whole world's going to come and take advantage of us in this process.

This war department headed by Mr. Rumsfeld and Mr. Wolfowitz, nobody has changed. They are still talking the same way. These are the people who told us that this would all be over in 3 months; that the Iraqi people would run out and throw their arms around our soldiers; that we would use all that oil money; we would rebuild the country with the oil money. None of it was true, and they knew some of it was not true when the President came here before us. We cannot have a war built on a faulty premise.

Now we are going to have this week the opportunity to look at this \$87 billion. We can just write another blank check for the President, rubber stamp it, give it to him; or we can require that he negotiate with the United Nations.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m. today.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You are pure act, yet ever-still. Give us wisdom to understand the meaning in the parable of the hurricane.

Members of the House of Representatives, as so many Americans, have schedules of demanding motion. The swirl of activity may often leave best efforts shaken and priorities damaged. But may the rushing wind never lift them from the common ground or uproot deepest commitments.

In their combined energy to address America's problems and be good legislators, may the velocity of their actions never leave victims around them. Rather in the midst of the daily hurricane may they find themselves in the hurricane's eye, calmly centered on You, the All-Powerful and Source of Peace now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WHERE DO WE GET SUCH MEN?

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as he stood on the beaches of Normandy, taking stock of what it cost to invade Europe, then-General Eisenhower asked, "Where do we get such men?" I think he would have asked a similar question last week. As Hurricane Isabel bore down on the east coast, Washington did what it often does: It panicked. We closed up the government and shut down the schools. But a different story was unfolding at Arlington National Cemetery.

That solemn ground is the resting place for 260,000 soldiers. It is a site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, built to honor those who died for our