

Another one is a plant closed, everything sells, from Verona, Pennsylvania. Here are two complete stamping and machine tool shops closing. They are selling all their equipment. They are looking for buyers. This is from Oak Brook, Illinois.

Here is a plant closing, everything must sell, from North Carolina.

Another one here from Marion, Ohio, complete shop close-out auction. The absolute auction, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in my district, complete liquidation of the Cuyahoga Falls plant.

Precision C&C job shop downsizing because of outsourcing, from Scottsboro, Alabama.

Another one from Massachusetts, large-capacity fabricating and machine shop closing.

Another one, 3 days, two tremendous public auctions, two companies, machinery and equipment and real estate. Plant closed, everything must go, real estate for sale.

Another company, plant closed, everything sells.

Another one from Ross, Ohio, plant closing due to relocation overseas.

Another one from Medina, Ohio, facility closed, all must go.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think the President understands the depths of this problem in this country. These are companies, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of companies representing hundreds of thousands of workers who are going out of business, who are downsizing, who are shipping their jobs overseas; yet the President says that he supports outsourcing, that outsourcing is a good thing.

The President needs to look in the eye of some of those 800,000 workers in this country who have seen their unemployment compensation expire in the last 3 months, and this Republican Congress refuses to extend those benefits. It is not just 800,000 workers. It is 800,000 families; it is millions of children; it is communities; it is our schools. Everyone is affected by the plant closings.

The President's answer, if there is bad economic news, and if he looked at some of these plant closings, fire sales, going out of business auction brochures, he would say we need to do more tax cuts for the wealthy, maybe some of it will trickle down and create jobs; we need to do more trade agreements like NAFTA. That is the President's answer to every bad piece of economic news. When the President sees unemployment goes up, he says more tax cuts for the most privileged and more trade agreements that hemorrhage jobs overseas.

When the President sees bad economic numbers, terrible trade deficits, the highest in history, our trade deficit with China alone is now \$124 billion, and that is where a lot of these companies are going, the President's answer is we need more trade agreements like NAFTA and tax cuts for the wealthiest people in the country.

Mr. Speaker, we need to pass Crane-Rangel, which will give incentives for

domestic manufacturers and small businesses. We need to extend unemployment compensation to those 800,000 families.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ECONOMIC GROWTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago I came down to the floor to talk about our economy and the steps that President Bush and Congress have taken to offset the recession and the trillion-dollar impact of September 11 on our economy.

Part of my remarks that day focused on tax relief and the effect it has had in helping our families, working families, and small businesses weather what has been some tough economic times; and I think it is important that we reiterate our support for tax relief because there are those across the aisle who are increasingly supportive of raising your tax bill. I want to let my constituents in the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee know that I am standing beside tax relief legislation. I stand with cutting their tax bills.

In 2003 under Republican leadership and under Republican tax legislation, 91 million taxpayers received on average a tax cut in the amount of \$1,126. This is real relief for 91 million Americans. So when the rhetoric from the other side of the aisle starts flying that tax relief is only for the rich, you can judge for yourself whether you think 91 million Americans would consider themselves rich.

A few months ago, candidates for the Democratic nomination were all calling for tax increases. Virtually all of them opposed the tax relief which has allowed 91 million Americans to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks. On July 28, a Washington Post column

proclaimed: "Candidates Not Shying Away From Tax Talk: Candidates Discuss Raises, Not Cuts."

It is important to note they may think you can tax your way to prosperity, but you cannot. You cannot. We know that it is important to leave that money with the taxpayer. Well, today we have a single Democratic candidate, and he is on record for raising some income tax brackets to pre-Bush levels. The question every American needs to consider is this: Why should we raise taxes? What do higher taxes do to the economy? It is a simple answer: higher taxes take capital out of the private sector and give government more money to spend.

I think a vast majority of Americans, and I know the folks in my district, know that higher taxes do not grow our economy; they grow the government.

Something else I think the American people should know is that the tax relief that we have passed, the tax relief responsible for giving 91 million Americans an average of \$1,126 in relief last year is not permanent. In short, this tax relief will end in 2011; and at that point, virtually all taxpayers will start facing higher tax bills. Democrats largely do not support making this relief permanent. Americans will again be subject to the marriage tax, the death tax. A family of four making \$36,268 will see a tax hike of over \$2,000; that is if we do not make permanent our tax relief legislation, and that is something that we are working to do.

The President and this Congress are working to ensure that this relief is permanent, and I look forward to the debate because we are on the side of lower taxes, economic growth, not tax hikes and big government. We are for leaving the money with those who earn it.

MCGOVERN-DOLE FOOD FOR EDUCATION

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, currently there are more than 300 million chronically hungry children in the world. Around 130 million of these children, mainly girls, do not attend school. The rest go to school hungry, severely limiting their ability to learn. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program is helping to change this grim reality. One exciting example of this program is taking place in Afghanistan where World Vision is making a difference in the lives of 37,000 children.

In Afghanistan, 52 percent of children under 5 are malnourished. Access to education is extremely limited, and the quality of education, when available, is poor. The Taliban largely excluded girls from formal education, and women were prohibited from teaching. The World Bank estimates the primary

school enrollment rate at 39 percent for boys and 3 percent for girls. In the current environment, the demand for education opportunities far outstrip supply. Schools run multiple shifts, and many classes meet outside with the barest minimum of basic material, teachers, and facilities.

This particular McGovern-Dole International Food Program is being implemented in 115 schools in the remote provinces of Badghis and Ghore in the western region of Afghanistan. In this area, out of a school-aged population of 60,000, only 23,000 students were enrolled in schools last year; and just some 3,400 were girls.

World Vision is providing 37,000 students with a monthly ration of wheat, rice, lentils and vegetable oil for attending school, which also serves as an incentive for poor Afghan families to send both their sons and their daughters to class. These commodity are provided by hard-working farmers in Washington State, California, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. In the most remote areas, World Vision is using donkey trains to transport the food to the schools.

In each of the 115 schools, World Vision trains community volunteers to help identify pressing needs and will provide all 37,000 students with a student kit including notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, shoes, a book bag, and a cloth wrap for girls so they are not excluded from education in conservative areas due to cultural taboos.

World Vision also works with community volunteers to make sure that the school is a proper learning environment for the children and will be supplying each school with chalkboards and chalk, desks, tables, cabinets, maps, books, water systems, and latrines.

World Vision is building nine schools over the course of the next year in the Jarward district, where there are only six schools covering just 4 percent of the total school population. While nine schools cannot address all of this need, it will allow another 3,600 students to attend classes. These schools will replace and greatly expand four temporary schools set up last year under UNICEF plastic tents. Five of these schools are being constructed with McGovern-Dole funding, and the other four are being built with private resources raised by World Vision.

World Vision is working with local councils so some of these schools will be set up exclusively for girls. World Vision's agronomists are also helping each school set up its own garden to raise cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplants, okra, onions, carrots, spinach, hot peppers, turnips and watermelon, which will complement the U.S.-grown commodities with the micronutrients that vegetables can supply. These garden projects also teach improved agricultural techniques to students and interested community members which they can use in their own family farming;

and they help the schools establish a microenterprise, selling the excess production and using the funds to defray the schools' cost.

World Vision is training 675 teachers in the new ministry of education curriculum, designed by UNICEF to replace the Taliban's restrictive system. It is also complementing teachers' meager salaries with food baskets so they can dedicate their full time to teaching instead of taking on jobs outside the schools.

This support comes at a critical time in Afghanistan's transition as the new government struggles to reestablish infrastructure in these remote areas.

Originally, World Vision's Afghanistan program was designed as a 2-year program; and in the second year it would have greatly expanded benefits to additional communities, students, and teachers. Unfortunately, President Bush severely cut funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, and this Congress failed to protect the program in the appropriations process. Sadly, many projects have been cut back to 1 year.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the leadership of this House to significantly increase funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program so its many worthy projects like the World Vision program in Afghanistan can reach even more needy children and communities.

IRAQ AND THE WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in an effort to dispel continuing myths which have been propagated with regard to the role of Iraq in the larger war on terrorism. While many Democrat Members have worked hard to promote these myths, it is time that we who know and understand the truth come forward to fully explain it.

Let me be perfectly clear. The war against Iraq is a central component in the global fight against terrorism. The Hussein regime's support for terrorism, within and outside of its borders, its appetite for the world's most dangerous weapons, and its openly declared hostility to the United States were a combination that was a gathering and growing danger to our country.

In light of the September 11 terrorist attacks, ending this regime was central to the war on terrorism and central to ensuring that more attacks on American soil, like the September 11 attacks and the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, never occur again.

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The Hussein regime established significant and numerous ties with terrorist organizations like al Qaeda for over a decade prior to September 11, 2001. This included the provision of

training, financing and sanctuary. In fact, the Iraqi foreign minister admitted in March 2003 that Iraqi funds were sent to families of Palestinian suicide bombers who attacked and killed innocent Israeli citizens, and also 12 Americans in Israel in 2003. Even the Clinton Administration agreed and repeatedly asserted connections between al Qaeda and Iraq, and explicitly said that Hussein posed a threat to the United States itself.

By ending the Hussein regime, the United States has taken away yet another incubator of terrorism. Terrorist groups benefited for years from support of Saddam Hussein and his regime. Further, by acting decisively in Iraq, the United States has sent very strong signals to other nations that have been or could be terrorist sympathizers. Had the United States not acted in Iraq, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi would likely not have declared his weapons programs, submitted to international inspections and voluntarily dismantled its programs. In addition, it is very likely that United States action in Iraq caused Iran to open its nuclear facilities for international inspection and suspend its uranium enrichment activities.

The list goes on and on, from Syria to North Korea. We are seeing changes in the way these nations deal with terrorism because of our actions in Iraq.

Those who like to spread misconceptions and myths often point to the fact that no weapons of mass destruction have yet been found in post-war Iraq. They say the President and his administration deceived the American people and the international community.

However, David Kay, our chief weapons inspector, has stated repeatedly that it was prudent to attack Iraq, and that as the inspection process continues, as it does, we will find that Iraq was more dangerous than we actually understood at the time because the regime was collapsing and Iraq was a country that had capabilities to develop weapons of mass destruction that terrorist groups have sought repeatedly.

Had the Hussein regime lost control completely, Iraq would have become a breeding ground for international terrorism, much like Afghanistan was under the Taliban, the only difference being that Iraq had the wealth and the resources necessary to build weapons that could have been directly threatening to the United States and our allies.

Further, not only the United States, but the French, British, Germans and the United Nations all thought Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction before the United States intervened.

There is also the myth that the United States and our allies intervened in Iraq solely based only evidence of weapons of mass destruction. This is not true. Again, according to David Kay, Iraq clearly was in violation of United Nations Resolution 1441. This resolution required Iraq to come clean and report on all of its activities.