

Quite frankly, whether the statement is accurate or not, and I do not believe it to be accurate, America's foreign policy decisions are not designed to win popularity contests. They are designed to protect and defend America, her citizens, and her allies.

In the days since September 11, there have been those who actually seem to believe that if we had been more understanding of extremist regimes and terrorists that perhaps they would have left us alone. There is a troubling trend in this campaign season. It has become almost formulaic, and we are hearing it from everybody, from the Democratic Presidential candidates on down. Criticize the President, criticize our foreign policy, criticize our country, criticize what we offer, and do it as loudly and as often as they can.

The alternative to President Bush's bold, tough foreign policy that puts terrorists and rogue regimes on the run is one that relies on the international community to take collective action. We have been there. We spent 12 years letting the U.N. throw paper at Saddam Hussein while Saddam's military launched missiles at our pilots, at American pilots enforcing the U.N. no-fly zones over Iraq. For 12 years the U.N. turned a blind eye while such as France allowed its citizens to profit from the Iraq Oil for Food or, as some call it, the Oil for Palaces Program.

International consensus, multilateralism? These are terms the policy wonks and the intellectual elites love to use. They are terms that sound great on paper, but an unyielding dedication to them has proven disastrous in the real world. Multilateralism and collective action are terms that we in the real world know to mean that America should stop leading and let the status quo remain. Those who profited from a status quo that allowed Saddam to remain in power, that allowed terrorists to grow and flourish in Afghanistan do not want us to act.

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Nations that have neither the will nor the military capability to take on terrorism on a truly global scale should not criticize those that do.

It was 3,000 Americans, our buildings, our Pentagon that were targeted on September 11, and those responsible needed to know that we were going to do more than lob a few missiles. We have taken steps to reshape the world for the better, and whether this pleases the French is irrelevant. We alone have the capability and the responsibility to stamp out terrorism, and it is to President Bush's credit that he was not deterred by apologists for terrorists and Saddam.

Should America make a turn backward, back to the days when multilateralism and collective action were more important than promoting freedom and targeting terrorism, when we relied on the U.N. to slap dictators on the wrist and sit idly by as Afghanistan became a giant terrorist training

camp? If we take that step back, then we are signifying our weakness.

The debate is very clear: Do you prefer that we act preemptively to prevent another September 11? Do you believe swift, decisive action in lands breeding terrorism is preferable to emergency response on the streets of our cities in the aftermath of an attack? Do you want American foreign policy dictated by your elected leaders or those in Europe?

I think the answer to this is clear. We all know the answer to this and, certainly, when we read polls like this one from the Iraqi people who say their life is better today than it was a year ago, we know the answer to that question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BONNER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my 5 minutes out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

TAX CUTS DO NOT CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about the continual frustration that Americans feel when it comes to their jobs, or lack of jobs.

The American people are getting mixed messages when it comes to the economy, and we have a responsibility to give it to them straight and put in place the measures that are going to help.

The administration tells the American people that the economy is growing, and we hear today that a new survey shows that 28 percent of employers plan to add workers, but we have yet to see such strong growth. The Congressional Budget Office estimates only 4.8 percent of the gross domestic product growth in 2003, providing strong suggestions that the growth touted by the administration is not sustainable. Not only is that growth not sustainable, the American people are not feeling the effects of it.

My Republican colleagues will say, but the unemployment rate dropped in January. However, by stressing the unemployment rate has dropped to 5.6 percent, they fail to tell the rest of the story that paints the true picture of the job market in our country. Job

growth is not following economic growth. Profits are up, but job creation is not. It is that simple. The working-age population has increased by 2.4 percent and needed an additional 4.7 million jobs since March of 2001 just to support these new workers. Instead, jobs since then have decreased by 2.35 million, creating a gap of 7 million jobs lost in the job market.

There are not enough jobs to even sustain the growth in population, much less provide employment for all of our workers affected by plant closures, company downsizing, and the outsourcing. Each month, 125,000 additional Americans want to enter the workforce. These people are not to be confused with our currently unemployed workers; rather, these are Americans who have graduated from high school or college. And, the 112,000 jobs created in January do not even compensate enough for these new workers, much less help absorb the 2.35 million Americans who have lost their jobs since this recession began.

To make matters worse, the economy only created 21,000 jobs in February, and an additional 392,000 civilian workers left the workforce last month. However, the Labor Department's monthly unemployment statistics do not count that 392,000 unemployed workers. They do not count any of the 2.8 million Americans who constitute the "missing labor force," or those who have given up looking for jobs or left the labor market all together. Sure, the unemployment rate can drop if we do not count those who have already left the labor force. But, if we include these workers into the unemployment statistics, the country's current unemployment rate jumps to 7.4 percent.

And what have we done for those who have found themselves laid off or unemployed? The administration cut taxes and said tax cuts will create 306,000 jobs each month. Yet, in 8 months, a total of only 294,000 jobs have been created, not the 2,448,000 that this administration said tax cuts would create. Just a little short.

If the Republican majority is not going to create jobs, they should at least help the country's unemployed by extending unemployment benefits. Again this year, Congress left town before Christmas without providing unemployed Americans with a 13-week temporary extension of their benefits. It is March now, and Congress still has failed to act on this important benefit to unemployed Americans.

The need for extended unemployment benefits is real. This is the longest recession without job recovery since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began collecting data in 1939, since recovering from the Great Depression. This is the longest recession without job recovery. We do not need statistics to demonstrate that need. To those of us who hear from and visit with our unemployed constituents, it is equally clear.

We continue to hear the hollow argument that our recent economic growth

mitigates the need for jobless benefits. There has not been job growth in our country. I would like to talk about a conversation I had with a constituent of mine. Let us call her Mrs. Crawford. Mrs. Crawford, single and 60 years old, was laid off quite some time ago. In January she joined the 80,000 Americans who lose their unemployment benefits each week. I asked Mrs. Crawford if the administration's economic policies have helped her, and she told me that not only did she not receive any tax cuts that were supposed to stimulate the economy, the so-called economic growth as a result of these tax cuts has not increased her job opportunities.

The administration will tell her that the economy is growing, and we do not need extension on jobless benefits, but they have conveniently left out the fact that the temporary extension was created to deal with the very economic conditions we face today. In fact, the program was created when unemployment stood at 5.7 percent and the country had lost 2 million jobs. Now, the unemployment rate is at 5.6 and the country has lost a net of 2.35 million jobs. And with 80,000 Americans losing their unemployment benefits each week with no jobs to go to, there is no doubt about the need for an extension.

The Senate voted last month, 58 to 39, to support an extension. Let us stop sending the American people these symbolic, yet mixed messages of support, and pass a clean bill extending unemployment benefits. If the majority of this Congress is not going to talk straight on the economy, the least they can do is provide Americans with temporary relief.

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

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

SUPPORTING BUSH ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of President Bush's economic initiatives. As a former small businessman, I have watched closely as the President's initiatives have improved the economy, even in the aftermath of September 11.

Mr. Speaker, we are getting a lot of backlash from folks who say the economy is not doing well. Well, they are wrong. These are just a few of the positive headlines that are coming out of my district: "West Texas Housing Moves Up At Record Levels." "State-wide Confidence Index Predicts Economy is on the Upswing." "Jobless Rate

the Lowest in Almost 4 Years." "The Economy is Doing Well."

When President Bush took office, the economy was headed into a recession. The stock market had just collapsed, the manufacturing industry was at an all-time low, and then the United States was hit with the events of 9-11, and then military campaigns on the war on terrorism. Now, durable goods shipments are up, factory orders are up, consumer spending is up. Today the housing ownership rate in America is the highest it has ever been in the history of this country. The President has shown, and I agree, when you put the money in the hands of the small business people in America, they will create jobs. Mr. Speaker, what the President knows and what I know is that the American people know how to spend their own money a lot better than the United States Congress does.

In an article dated just a week ago in Odessa, Texas, saw sales tax revenues rise for the 15th straight month, and the entire Permian Basin showed strong gains and signs of improving. In Odessa, more and more people are employed and they are spending their money, which is strengthening the local economies.

The Democrats are saying, we are not adding jobs to this economy. Well, the truth is, the economy has experienced 6 consecutive months of job growth and has added 364,000 jobs over the last 6 months. There are nearly 3 million more workers now than in early 2002. Basically, more Americans were working in January 2004 than at any other time in the history of this country.

Democrats would have the American people believe that more and more people are being laid off every day. Once again, they are wrong. The unemployment rate is down. Today's rate, in fact, is below the average for the entire decades of the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s. Even when the Democrats ended a temporary extended unemployment benefits program in the 1990s, today's unemployment rate is lower than it was at that time.

The manufacturing arena, which has struggled for 37 months of decline, is reporting expanded employment for the fourth consecutive month. So that when Democrats complain that the industry is hemorrhaging, that is simply not true. Like former President Reagan, I believe fervently that the government should cut taxes and regulations on small businesses, enabling them to do what they do best, and that is create jobs.

Those in the House who oppose these values believe that the Federal Government has an income problem. That is not true. The Federal Government has a spending problem.

When my sons came home from college and said, Dad, I am out of money, can I have some more, the answer was, no, you will have to tighten your budget and work with the money that your mother and I give you. What they

know, what I know, and what my colleagues know is the way we cure deficits is not with giving people more money; you encourage them to spend less money. And that is the way the Federal Government should act.

I believe in tax cuts as a solution rather than a contributor to the deficits. I credit President Bush's tax cuts, which were pushed through Congress for an additional 21,000 new jobs just last month.

I served for years in the land development industry, and I watched the market move up and down and back and forth, but more recently I have seen a huge surge in the housing market. More single family homes were purchased in 2003 than any other year in the history of this country, and the homeownership rate in America is at an all-time high. President Bush's initiatives to dismantle the barriers to homeownership include providing down payment assistance through the American Dream Down Payment Initiative, increasing the supply of affordable homes through the Single Family Affordable Housing Tax Credit, and increasing the support for the Self-Help Ownership and Opportunities Program, and increasing home-buying education and counseling.

In June 2002, President Bush issued the American Homeowners Challenge to the real estate and mortgage finance industries to encourage them to join the effort to close the gap that exists between minorities and nonminorities. The President also announced the goal of increasing the number of minority homeownership by at least 5.5 million families before the end of the decade.

Congress has a choice. It can continue to grow the economy and create jobs as the President's policies are doing, or it can raise taxes on American families, hurting the economic recovery and any future job creation.

I stand with small businessmen and women of America who say the President is absolutely right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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