

Forces. So I look forward to debating this very thoughtful presentation and associate myself with his remarks and the legislative initiatives; and I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for his leadership.

Let me say that I also associate myself with the gentleman's remarks as it relates to the toughness, as it relates to the battle of our Reserve troops and others who have offered their service for a number of years and have been called to duty; and many of them are not able to determine whether they will be in for 6 months or for a year or 18 months or 2 years.

We certainly have the protection of their jobs, but in many instances we are still having disagreements or having to advocate for our reservists to their various employers, some of whom are concerned or unsteady about keeping the reservists' jobs for them and, therefore, certainly undermining the family unit and the ability of that reservist to provide income and support for his or her family.

I happen to be a supporter of the legislation that would allow reservists to retire at 55, just as we allow the active military to retire at 55. It seems unlikely that we would lengthen the time of service for reservists who are apt to be called into battle at any moment. We have lost lives of those who are reservists in Iraq. The numbers are mounting, and they are on the front line.

When I went to Iraq, there were many who were skilled in many other aspects other than combat or police work; and lo and behold, they were being used for service that they were not trained for. So I associate myself with those remarks and certainly support the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) for his efforts in support of our veterans, because we have long been overdue in the full support of our veterans who are willing to give their full measure. And as they are able to come back to our communities, the very fact that they are willing to give the ultimate sacrifice, we should make good on our promise, which is to continue to provide them with benefits on a continuous basis.

Let me also add my congratulations to the veterans hospital that is in my district. We just added the Fischer House. Congratulations to the Fischer family and thank them for their support and all the leaders in Texas that helped bring about this new Fischer House in one of the largest veterans hospitals in our State. And that is, of course, a facility for the families who have come for the long-term wounded to be able to stay at a place of comfort without, if you will, providing an unnecessary financial burden when they are already suffering from the ills of their loved one, whether they are wounded by way of their service in Iraq or suffering with other conditions.

So I am very grateful to our community leaders who helped bring the Fischer House about in my congress-

sional district and commit myself to continue to work with them.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we bring sunlight where sunlight is needed, and today and in the weeks and months to come I am going to take my place on this floor and remind this Congress of its constitutional responsibility. And, in fact, I am going to take off and challenge anyone, first, take off any discussion of a partisan hat and challenge anyone that wishes to make this a partisan issue each step of the way, because I believe that this is so devastating and so much a challenge to the constitutional integrity of this Nation.

And, more importantly, in this Congress I believe that we must shed ourselves and step away from anyone declaring this to be partisan or anyone suggesting it is partisan, because once you begin the partisan debate, I know what happens: You immediately cease any sort of true effort for the Speaker of this House to address the responsibilities of this Congress, and that is to thoroughly investigate Dr. David Kay's report that we have heard over the last few days and that of the Carnegie Institute regarding weapons of mass destruction.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, that I intend to call for full congressional hearings, public hearings, not just in the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Select Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Judiciary, to ensure that we review the questions that David Kay has raised the lack of evidence and intelligence for weapons of mass destruction and the representation, as I close, Mr. Speaker, to the Congress and the American people by this administration that we must go to war on that basis.

Full congressional hearings, no independent commission, full congressional hearings.

SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH

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

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, last week during the State of the Union address President Bush spoke to us about the Iraqi War and described how the Kay report, the Dr. David Kay report, indicated dozens of instances of what the President called weapons of mass destruction-related program activities.

Now, I am not sure what a weapons of mass destruction-related program activity is, but I do know what it is not. It is not a weapon of mass destruction, because we have not found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. And, in fact, David Kay himself has said so. He has resigned his position as the United States Chief Weapons Inspector in Iraq, working for the CIA.

He has stated that in his opinion, Iraq does not have stockpiles of chem-

ical weapons of mass destruction or biological weapons of mass destruction, that Iraq does not have nuclear weapons, and any nuclear program was rudimentary in nature, according to Dr. Kay. He feels that these stockpiles do not exist now and did not exist before we went to war with Iraq in March of 2003.

Now, this is a startling conclusion from our Chief Weapons Inspector because it is so different from what the Bush administration told us in the fall of 2002 in the run-up to the congressional vote of whether or not to give congressional authority to the President to use military authority to deal with what was described as the imminent threat to peace, to regional peace and world peace and to the United States, the imminent threat of the use of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I voted to give the President that authority based upon the representations of the administration because I wanted to disarm Saddam Hussein of those weapons of mass destruction. Now, we have finally captured Saddam Hussein, and I am glad that we have; I am glad he is out of power. I believe both Iraq and America are better off now that he is in custody. But, Mr. Speaker, we have not found those weapons of mass destruction; and we now have a report from Dr. Kay that those weapons of mass destruction did not exist and they do not exist today.

Hussein had weapons of mass destruction in the 1980s. We know that because he used them in murderous ways against his own citizens, the Kurds in northern Iraq, and he used them to murder tens of thousands of Iranian citizens. But the issue is not what he had in the 1980s. The issue is whether he had such stockpiles in 2002 and 2003. We were told with complete certainty by the President, by the Vice President, I was told with 20 other Members of the House in a briefing in the White House on October 2, 2002, by Condoleezza Rice and George Tenet that there was complete certainty that Iraq possessed these weapons of mass destruction. And based upon those representations, I voted with many of my colleagues to give the President that war authority.

Now, it is now clear that there were half-truths and deceptions from the administration as well as mistakes from the Intelligence Community. And I stand here tonight to call for an independent investigation, an independent review, of both the work product of the Intelligence Community of the United States and the work of the administration policymakers that stated with such clarity that we faced an imminent threat from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Clearly the American people were misled. Clearly the Congress was misled. I was misled by the Bush administration and by the United States intelligence agencies.

The President and the Vice President continue to want the American people

to believe that there was this threat and is this threat of weapons of mass destruction. The President talked about WMD-related program activities last week without clarifying what they were. The Vice President continues to insist that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. These statements are contrary to the report of the Weapons Inspector, Dr. Kay.

I call for an independent investigation and review so that we can get to the bottom and find out the truth.

JOBS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight while Americans are watching the New Hampshire primary in anticipation of new leadership for our Nation, they are watching and waiting for the new budget proposals from President Bush. President Bush came to our Toledo community last week, the day after he delivered the State of the Union address right here in this Chamber.

He ran into a hornet's nest. The community college where he spoke had just announced layoffs in the workforce training field the President was there to highlight. The unemployment in Toledo had just increased to 8.4 percent. Our part of the country has been hit extremely hard by the jobless recovery. We have more than 300,000 unemployed workers in the State of Ohio, and that, of course, does not even count the workers who have given up looking.

The family-owned tool and die shops that dot the landscape of the Great Lakes region are dying. I received an e-mail last week from one of these small business owners telling me about the devastation in the tool and die sector. "I have something that most of you should be concerned about in Congress. I just counted the auction brochures I have collected since February 1, 2002, until January 22, 2004. Would you believe 629 auctions?" And those are just the ones this businessman received.

He says, "Our President thinks that everything is great and our economy is bouncing back and we will all be in the bucks this year. I have received a report that estimates 50 percent of the shops in the Detroit area will fold by the end of 2004. So how do you get this message up to Washington? I guess we need to fire up the voters and clean house this fall. Have a good day, Larry."

In his State of the Union address, President Bush failed to mention extending unemployment benefits. This is a huge issue in our part of the country. People have paid for those benefits and they do not understand why the Republicans would refuse to extend unemployment benefits. They certainly do not understand why the Republicans refuse to allow even a vote on extending unemployment benefits.

In the short term, unemployment benefits are highly stimulative for our local economy. They prevent a cratering of consumer demand, and we all know that the consumer is propping up this weak U.S. economy. In the long term, a countercyclical program for public works jobs could help a lot. Investing in our communities and putting people to work so that our deficit starts to come down makes sense.

Just replacing one city's, Toledo's, wastewater treatment system, the bill for that \$400 million. Indeed, that is double the \$250 million the President said he wants to spend nationwide on new job training programs. Investment in public works can put people to work. Frankly, we have people out of work now who already have the skills needed to assume a job.

□ 2000

They just do not have the jobs.

I just visited Sunoco Refining in my district. They had advertised for 10 people in that company; 2,400 people applied. That is a staggering indicator of how many people are looking for work in just one place in America.

A news article in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, paper just north of where we live announced the closure of Electrolux, a household name in this country. They make vacuum cleaners; 2,700 workers will be terminated. Their jobs are leaving for Mexico.

What kind of strange world is it when an American legend company like Electrolux that made vacuums that are bought by our own citizens, but then those jobs move to Mexico and made there by workers who make a dollar an hour but cannot afford to buy the vacuum cleaners because they are all shipped back here to the United States, what kind of sense does that make?

We have seen this system time and again. The people in Mexico who have the jobs that the people in Ohio used to do do not make enough money to buy the very products they make. Americans lose their jobs to Mexico, and they have to shop more at discount stores such as Wal-Mart that are filled with goods made by people who had the jobs that the shoppers used to have. It is really interesting. We are outsourcing that production.

So the question is, are we going to be a Nation of workers, builders and producers, or are we going to be a Nation of discount shoppers looking for that last bargain while wondering how to survive without a decent wage and without health care coverage? That is really the choice of this year's Presidential race.

Mr. Speaker, I am surely glad this is an election year. It is time for America's voters to really ring in a hopeful and really productive new year for our country.

The article I referred to earlier I will include at this point in this RECORD.

[From the Grand Rapids Press, Jan. 17, 2004]
WHATEVER IT TAKES—CITY IS DOWN BUT NOT OUT OVER ELECTROLUX

(By John Hogan, Matt VandeBunte and Julia Bauer)

The thermometer outside Greenville's Chemical Bank registered a bone-rattling 2 degrees at daybreak Friday, although morning commuters didn't need a sign to tell them of the chill.

Three miles away, pickups with cold, anxious Electrolux workers idled in snow-covered parking lots. Even though these third-shift workers punched out at 7 a.m., they waited 30 minutes to learn whether their jobs were heading 1,400 miles south, where it was a relatively balmy 51 degrees. Electrolux worker Jerry Cannon was not one of them.

The longtime Greenville resident decided he would rather sip coffee at Mike Huckleberry's restaurant a mile away.

"It's kind of hard to make yourself go to work when you know what's coming," said Cannon, a welder trying to raise four teenagers on \$15.61 an hour. "I think Electrolux knew Oct. 21 what they were going to do. I wish they would just have told us."

Indeed, Friday's "official" 7:30 a.m. announcement by Swedish-based Electrolux that it will close Montcalm County's largest employer in 2005 was anticlimactic.

Townpeople and employees saw the handwriting on the wall—notably the corporate statement one week before that a city/state incentive package fell far short of an \$81 million annual goal, the amount Electrolux said it would save by moving.

Some Electrolux workers will return to school; others hope the improving economy brings jobs. Their message? Don't cry for Greenville.

This town of 8,000 thrived on timber well before refrigerators came along, they say, and it will thrive long after refrigerator production moves to South Carolina and Mexico.

Bold? Perhaps. Mike Huckleberry calls it a homegrown confidence that Swedish executives, NAFTA and milquetoast politician's cannot derail.

I'm confident, and my fellow businessmen are all confident Greenville will survive," said Huckleberry, who opened his downtown restaurant 12 years ago.

Once you work through feelings of betrayal, or "pure corporate greed," as some workers suggest, there's confidence. It is expressed in American flags, warm greetings and handshakes in a town founded 160 years ago when New Yorkers John and Deborah Green opened a sawmill on the Flat River.

If you have any doubts, stand under the Chemical Bank sign on the south side of M-57 west of downtown, and note the stream of taillights heading to jobs in Grand Rapids.

"We're getting people willing to drive to Grand Rapids because it's only 30 miles away and they still get the benefits of small-town living," Huckleberry said.

Greenville Mayor Lloyd Walker agrees. "Greenville is not going away," he said. "We're king of the trading center for a larger area of up to 100,000 people."

Although Electrolux rejected annual incentives of \$48 million—saying they were nearly \$33 million short—Walker is confident the same package can draw interest from other U.S. manufacturers.

"The incentive package will be in place," Walker said.

NUMBER CRUNCHING

Until a week ago, the Electrolux Task Force thought it had gathered nearly \$7 million in annual tax incentives and \$30 million in cost savings from a proposed new factory. Union leaders proposed another \$31.6 million