

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to my colleagues, if they have children or grandchildren, pay attention to what I am going to say because this is very important.

Recently, there was an article put out by AP that was in the Indianapolis Star which was on the front page that I read, and it said that women and children should eat less fish, and the reason they should eat less fish is because there is a high mercury content in the fish and it can cause neurological problems in the children and in the parents if they eat too much fish.

What the article did not say is that many of the vaccinations that adults get and many of the vaccinations that the children get have mercury in them. So we are not supposed to eat the fish, but it is all right for the pharmaceutical industry to put a preservative called thimerosal into a vaccination and then inject their children with it and then the children get the mercury directly from a needle and it goes into the brain and causes neurological problems.

This is not baloney. My grandson got nine shots in 1 day, seven of which contained thimerosal, mercury; and within about 2 or 3 or 4 days, he became autistic. These are pictures of children from across the country who were normal children who received a number of shots containing mercury, and they became autistic. Many of their parents have testified before my committee as to how their children were before they got the shots and how they were after they got the shots.

We have been raising Cain with the Food and Drug Administration to get mercury out of children's vaccines and we got it out of almost all of them. But it is still in three: the HIB vaccine, the Hepatitis B, and the flu vaccine. I want to get it out of all of them because no child should be subjected to having mercury injected into their body. If it is bad for them to eat fish with mercury in it, then it is sure a heck of a lot worse for them to get a shot from a needle, a vaccination that puts mercury into their bodies.

Children used to get one or two shots. When I was a kid, we did not get many shots. We were kept out of school if we had mumps or measles or any of those things, but now they give them shots for all that. A child, before he starts in the first grade, gets as many as 30 shots. Can the Members imagine 30 shots with mercury in them, the cumulative effect of that on the brains of these children?

For those who are concerned about it as adults, and I see some gray hairs in the room, the flu vaccine, the tetanus vaccine, almost all the vaccines that we get, and our troops get in the field, get as many as 11 in 1 day in the Persian Gulf, most of those contain thimerosal, which is 50 percent mercury.

We need to collectively, as a body, tell the Food and Drug Administration and our health agencies to get mercury

out of all vaccines. It is not necessary. If we go to single-shot vials, we do not need to have mercury in there as a preservative to make sure that they are not contaminated. All we have to do is use common sense.

The problem is it is going to cost just a few cents more per shot to make sure that it does not contain mercury. If we really care about the thousands of children who are becoming autistic and the people who are getting Alzheimer's, we need to get mercury out of the vaccines. There is an epidemic of Alzheimer's now. We used to have one out of 10,000 children who were autistic. Now it is one out of about 200.

Anybody who has a parent or grandchild ought to listen to what I am saying, because if their child gets numerous shots with mercury in them, they run the risk of being autistic. I have had hearings for 4 years now, and I am telling the Members that scientists from around the world agree with what I am telling them. Many countries in the world have taken mercury out of the vaccines. We need to do it here.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this week the House is on the verge of passing a \$2.3 trillion budget with a \$521 billion deficit, showing that it is impossible to finance three wars with three tax cuts and expect a different result.

This budget repeats the same mistakes that have resulted in a jobless economy and a wage recession in America, the lowest wage growth in any period of time in a period of economic "growth." The Republican budget continues the status quo policies that have resulted in 2½ million Americans who have lost their jobs, 43 million Americans without health care, 4 more million Americans since the President took office, 2 more million Americans in poverty who walked out of the middle class into poverty, wages frozen, and \$1 trillion in corporate and individual bankruptcies. Three years, \$3 trillion dollars added to the Nation's debt, and 3 million Americans have lost their jobs. What a record.

During the 2000 presidential campaign, President Bush said he opposed nation-building. Who knew it was America he was talking about?

This budget, the President's economic policy, is really a tale of two budgets: one for America and one for Iraq. We have spent more than \$100 billion on Iraq's occupation without promising the same future here at home.

In Iraq they get universal health care and free job training, while in America 44 million Americans go without health care, 10 million children without health care, and 8.2 million Americans without jobs.

In the area of health care, 2,200 Iraqi health professionals and 8,000 volunteers are receiving free training. In America under this budget that the Republicans and the President put together, health training funds are cut by 64 percent.

One hundred and fifty clinics and hospitals have been rebuilt, serving 3 million Iraqis, providing 100 percent prenatal and infant coverage. In America, community health care clinics are cutting funding by 91 percent; Maternal and Child Health Care, Healthy Start, and family planning, all frozen.

In the area of jobs, \$60 million is being spent to retrain the Iraqi veterans. Yet we have cut the manufacturing job training program by 67 percent over 3 years.

In the area of education, we built 2,300 schools in Iraq and underfunded Leave No Child Behind in America by \$8 billion.

Iraqi universities are getting \$21 million for higher ed partnerships. In America, the Perkins loans are cut by \$99 million and Pell grants are frozen.

The police in Iraq, \$500 million for training. In America, the COPS program is cut by \$659 million.

In the area of housing, \$470 million is spent on Iraqi public housing, while in America \$791 billion is cut from Section 8 housing vouchers.

In the area of environment, we are paying for \$3.6 billion in water and sewers in Iraq; and in this budget, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which deals with drinking water here in America, is cut by \$500 million.

The port of Umm Qasar was completely rebuilt in Iraq. The Army Corps of Engineers cannot afford U.S. port security upgrades since their budget has been cut by 63 percent.

Roads, we have spent \$240 million on roads and bridges in Iraq, but mass transit, including highway funding, remains stalled under this administration.

As President Bush seeks reelection and we think about his pledge in 2000 to oppose nation-building, he has the dubious honor of saying he kept his pledge because he is opposed to nation-building here in America.

I am not opposed to what we are planning for Iraq. That is a good thing. But I oppose the notion that we will literally reconstruct Iraq while we deconstruct the United States.

In this budget this administration, this Congress, is telling the American people that they have two priorities, two sets of values, and two sets of books, one for Iraq and one for America. Compared to how Americans view their futures, we cannot deny Americans the same dreams of affordable housing, affordable health care, affordable education that we have promised Iraq and their children. America can no longer afford to be so generous if hope for a prosperous tomorrow and a better tomorrow is diminished here at home for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the same values we hold for Iraq we must pledge for all Americans. So we cannot allow our economy

and our prospects, which this budget will lay out an economic vision, that still results in 2½ million Americans in the last 3 years who have lost their jobs, 43 million Americans without health care, nearly \$1 trillion worth of corporate and individual assets have been foreclosed on, and 2 more million Americans have walked out of the middle class into poverty. If we are going to do nation-building, we must do it here at home, not just overseas.

#### MEDICARE

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

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to speak on behalf of Ohio's seniors and America's seniors.

Mr. Speaker, about 14 million low-income seniors, 438,000 of them in Ohio alone, will now be receiving their medications for a mere \$2 to \$5. They understand that this new law, the new law about Medicare reform and prescription drugs, is a step in the right direction. The countless baby boomers who devote portions of their monthly paycheck to help buy grandma and grandpa's medicine, they understand that this expansion of Medicare is important. They know that when they are able to devote a little less money to prescription medicines for their parents, they might be able to devote a little more of that money to their kids' college tuition.

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The many older Americans who have experienced a tragic illness that requires a litany of medications, they understand the peace of mind that this law provides to the catastrophic coverage. Because of this law, the cost of their many, many medicines is kept at a minimum, instead of spiraling off into infinity.

The millions of seniors who live in rural areas across America and doctors who serve them, they understand the benefits of this new law, especially the increased financial assistance to rural providers.

The hundreds of patient organizations who endorsed and support this new law, groups like AARP, the American Medical Association and the Alzheimer's Association, they understand that the law represents a good first step in improving the lives of millions and millions of patients.

I could go on and on, showing the countless benefits of this new law. Instead, I will boil it down into the simplest of terms: while this plan may not provide the entire solution for every senior's particular medical and financial problem, it does provide some solutions to the substantial number of seniors who formerly were choosing between food and medicine, gasoline and medicine, heating fuel and medicine. Those choices were untenable.

The law is not 100 percent perfect, but it is 100 percent more than what seniors had before, which was nothing. Unfortunately, there are some who do not share the same mind set. Indeed, there are small group of obstructionists who seek to mislead seniors about this new law, instead of informing them about how to use it to their advantage. Their goal is to scare, instead of to educate; and their tactics aim to thwart instead of to improve. It is really sad.

A prime example is the left-leaning Families USA, who have taken their MediScare campaign across the country. In fact, they are scheduled to be in my home State of Ohio during the coming weeks.

To the seniors in my home State and to the seniors across the country who will be subject to the half-truths that Families USA and their allies will be pushing, I will say, beware of those who peddle fear and distrust. The flashy videos and the shiny brochures that these groups will provide will do nothing but tell you what is wrong with this new law. They will tear it down and trash the very thing that seniors have been pleading Congress to do for years, add prescription drug coverage to Medicare. They will not bat an eyelash nor turn the slightest shade of red while they claim there is absolutely nothing good about this new law.

Mr. Speaker, I have too much faith in Ohio's seniors. I know that they will not be used as pawns in the politicization of a new law of the land. I know that our seniors will take the time to learn more about this law, and they will like what they see. They will understand that Congress acted to improve the quality of their lives. This is a good first step. They will understand that groups who scare them about what a law does not do are not helpful nor productive, and that the people who instruct them about what a law does are actually trying to make a difference in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be to Ohio seniors one of those who helps them, helps them understand what this law does do for them. I want to be part of that productive group, that group that knows that progress comes in incremental steps and understands that obstructing and thwarting accomplishes nothing, that group that looks for solutions, not partisan points.

Passing a Medicare drug plan and getting it signed into law with President Bush's cooperation is finally a step forward for this Nation's seniors. Let us not ever step back.

#### ADDRESSING UNEMPLOYMENT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk for a moment about Vice

President CHENEY's trip to Dayton, Ohio. But before that, I just want to mention that the Medicare drug law that my friend from Ohio mentions just happened to be legislation written by the drug and the insurance industries. The drug industry will get \$140 billion additional profits under this law. The insurance industry gets a \$46 billion direct gift subsidy from taxpayers.

This bill was written for the drug industry, written for the insurance industry. In fact, the word in Washington is that President Bush will receive about \$100 million in contributions from the drug industry. I think that is probably all you need to know. And that is why seniors simply do not like this drug bill, do not like the new Medicare law; and that is why the Republican Party, the President, is spending upwards of \$80 million in taxpayer dollars to advertise to try to convince America's seniors that this is good legislation, that it is good law. It is clearly not.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, the Vice President came to Dayton, Ohio, last week to try to explain away what has happened to the Ohio economy. One out of six manufacturing jobs has disappeared since President Bush took office; 300,000 in Ohio have been lost. That is 2,000 jobs every single week of the Bush administration. That is 260 jobs have disappeared every single day in Ohio since George Bush took office.

In response to the bad economic news which cascades across my State, bad news almost every week on the economy, 600 people just laid off from a phone center in Trumbull County, near the district of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

In response to the bad news, the President has got two solutions every time: more tax breaks for the most privileged in our society, with the hope that some of these benefits trickle down to the rest of the people in this country. That has not worked. And the second response, the second solution is more NAFTA-like trade agreements that continue to ship jobs overseas, that continue to hemorrhage jobs. We have lost hundreds of thousands of jobs in this country, manufacturing jobs, because of these trade agreements. They simply are not working.

The question always is, How out of touch can our government's leaders be? The answer to that is I do not know. Something seems to be new every day. The economic report of the President, which came out a couple or 3 or 4 weeks ago, signed by George Bush, signed by the President, the economic report of the President talks about outsourcing jobs, one of the biggest problems in our economy; and the President's Chief Economic Adviser, Gregory Mankiw, said outsourcing jobs is a good thing because it makes the economy more efficient.

Well, let him look in the eye of a computer operator, let him look in the