

eye of a clerk who has lost her job, let him look in the eye of a steel worker who has lost his job and tell him that outsourcing is a good thing because it makes us more efficient.

Then in the same report, Mr. Mankiw, the President's top economic guru, the top economic adviser, said that we will this year create 200,000 jobs a month. Well, after he said that, even the President's people, including the President, said we did not really mean 200,000 a month, because the first month they fell 199,000 jobs short, and every month they have fallen way, way short of this job creation they promised.

Then the President's economic adviser said, you know, maybe in response to this, and this really shows how out of touch they can get, maybe in response to this we need to reclassify what manufacturing is. Perhaps, because a bottling company is a manufacturing job, you take the syrup in a Pepsi or Coke bottling plant with 200 or 300 employees, and you take the carbonated water and put them together, that is a manufacturing process.

Maybe, they suggest, the President's top economic people, that we should reclassify fast food, I am not making this up, this is in this report, the fast-food restaurants, maybe they should be considered manufacturing. Because you have the hamburger and you chemically treat it, you cook it; you take the cheese and you chemically treat it, you melt it; then you put the bread on, and you create these manufacturing jobs. Then you take the syrup and you push the button so the syrup and the carbonated water mix. This administration actually is thinking about reclassifying those service jobs as manufacturing jobs.

Now, I am not making fun of people working in fast-food restaurants. In fact, if the Bush administration is going to reclassify those as manufacturing jobs, let them pay more than \$7 an hour; and let them give these young men and women, or older men and women in these fast-food restaurants, decent wages and decent benefits, if they are going to call them manufacturing jobs.

Then the last point I wanted to make is in terms of how out of touch this government can get. One of the leading Republicans in this institution, the chairman of the Committee on Rules, recently was complaining that Democrats and others are saying that we have lost manufacturing jobs.

He said, the fact is that you Democrats, you critics, you media people, you economists, you workers who are complaining about lost jobs are simply not looking at the economy right.

Here is what he said. He said there are 430,000 Americans who make their full-time living selling on ebay. This is not reflected in the economy.

So are we going to count garage sales as economic growth? Are they going to pay them health benefits? Is that where my friends want to take the U.S. economy?

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

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

FREEDOM OF IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN IMPORTANT IN WAR ON TERRORISM

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, late last October I traveled to Iraq with several other Members of Congress, and what I saw was a country in tatters, a country that had experienced little or no infrastructure investment in decades.

But I also saw a people who, despite torture, government-sponsored slaughter and oppression on the scale of Lenin, a people who, despite all this, retained a glimmer of hope. And I thought, is it not amazing? Thirty years of torture, and Saddam and his henchmen could not break the spirit of the Iraqi people. They still had that thirst for freedom and that thirst for opportunity.

Today, watch the news that comes from Iraq. Occasionally look past the newscaster, actually take a look at the hustle and bustle behind the newscaster. You will see marketplaces, traffic jams, people on their way to and from work. That is the free market at work.

President Bush is the focus of an enormous amount of partisan political criticism. There are those, mostly on the other side of the aisle, who believe that simply getting bin Laden would end terrorism. They think we were wrong to go to Iraq, that Saddam could be contained. In short, those opposed to our work in Iraq believe Saddam's regime had no role in terrorism and that our effort will not bear any positive results for America and the world.

What a shortsighted, small view of the world and a basic misunderstanding of terrorism. Terrorism will not be stopped by removing a leader or a command structure. Terrorism is not going to be that easy to tackle.

What is going to make a difference could be this: Iraq has an interim Constitution on schedule and they are moving toward freedom. Iraq's electricity levels are exceeding pre-war capacity. They passed that benchmark last fall. The international community has pledged \$32 billion to improve schools, health care, roads, water and sanitation. The nation now has a stable currency. A free press is growing. Iraqis have access to more diverse, independent sources of news. Hundreds of democratic meetings are taking place all across Iraq. America has captured 45 of the 55 most-wanted members of Hussein's regime. There are

900,000 telephone subscribers and 225,000 wireless subscribers. All of Iraq's 22 universities and 43 technical institutions and colleges are open. And, this may not sound important, but its value is immeasurable, the Iraqi children no longer have to recite "long live leader Saddam Hussein" each morning.

Some still believe all of this is irrelevant to the war on terrorism. Do you think terrorists are worried about what we are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan? Absolutely. Do you think terrorists fear this President? Do they fear America? You bet they do. The terrorists fear America. I do not mean that figuratively. Those who would destroy America, they literally fear this President and the resolve of the American people and our military, because we have not been afraid to take swift, decisive action.

President Bush said America would not tolerate al Qaeda, that we would not tolerate a Middle East that pumped out hatred and vitriol. Our engagements in Afghanistan and Iraq speak volumes to the terror network.

Does our work in Iraq make hostile nations think twice about supporting terrorism? Yes, indeed, it does. Will our effort to bring the Iraqi people into the modern world, into the free marketplace, the community of free nations, make a difference in the long struggle to destroy what breeds terrorism? Absolutely it will.

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

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECORD NUMBER OF AMERICANS EXHAUSTING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, congratulations to the Bush administration. They have set yet another record. This complements their previous record of the largest job loss and the worst job record since Herbert Hoover was President of the United States in the 1920s. But their latest is notable also: 1.1 million jobless workers by the end of this month will have exhausted their regular unemployment benefits without receiving an extension or additional aid. If we go all the way back, we have been keeping data on extended unemployment since 1971, 33 years ago, there have never been so many people who have exhausted unemployment benefits without successfully finding work.

Now the Bush administration and the Republican leaders in Congress are refusing to extend unemployment benefits. Is that because we are in such a

deep economic hole? After all, their tax cuts have dug us into a \$650 billion deficit in the coming year, so maybe we just cannot afford unemployment benefits any more. No, actually there is \$17 billion in the Unemployment Trust Fund, money paid in by workers and their employers, sitting on deposit, or actually not, they borrowed the money and spent it on something else.

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But at least there is a credit for \$17 billion; and, in fact, they are expecting that because of the taxes levied for unemployment benefits, that that fund will actually grow in the coming year, as 1.1 million people exhaust their benefits, do not find jobs, and cannot get an extension.

Now, the Republicans have a couple of arguments as to why they think this is a good thing. They think it is a good thing because the unemployment rate is low. Well, yes, actually, the way they keep the books, the unemployment rate is low. All of these workers, these 1.1 million who will have exhausted their benefits will no longer be considered to be in the workforce, and they will not be counted as unemployed. It is sort of a beautiful thing they have created here. If everybody in America lost their job today, a year from today, when they had all exhausted their unemployment benefits and no one had gotten a job back, if they had all been outsourced to India or somewhere else, we would have zero unemployment, according to the Bush administration, the way they keep the books. So that is a pretty phony argument, and you do not have to travel very far in America to find people who want work and cannot find it. Certainly in my State, that is not hard at all.

Then they say, now the Republicans have decided that unemployment benefits are welfare. Yes, that is true: an earned benefit for people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, most often through trade policies that exported their jobs or misplaced budget priorities on the part of this administration and tax policies and trickle down economics. Those people, they say, are just a bunch of welfare cheats, because they say that this would discourage people from going out and finding work if we extended unemployment benefits.

Mr. Speaker, that is the most outrageous thing. I mean, I guess a lot of these Republicans and the Bush administration do not know real people and they have not gone out and walked the streets and gone into the malls and talked to people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, cannot find work, and just wanted a little bit of help so that they can keep their household together, so they can make the bare minimum payments on their house, their utilities, and put food on their table for their kids. The Bush people think, well, that is welfare. It is an earned benefit. People paid these

taxes. There is money sitting in the unemployment trust fund. They should just give us a straight up-or-down vote.

Well, that is sort of the third thing here, is the Republican leadership does not want a straight up-or-down vote on this issue. Why? Because if we had a straight up-or-down vote in the United States House of Representatives and in the United States Senate on an extension of unemployment benefits, to spend some of the money out of the trust fund to help these 1.1 million people who cannot find jobs and their benefits are exhausted, it would pass overwhelmingly. So they will not allow us a vote. We managed to attach an amendment to an unrelated bill and finally did trigger a vote on that, and it was amusing to watch all of the Republicans line up on the other side of the aisle after they had been beat to heck by their leadership to change their votes one after another after another after another, because they did not want to be on the wrong side of the issue.

But then their leader got up at the end of the day and said, do not worry, that will never come out of conference. Why will that not come out of conference? Why will not the will of the people of the elected House of Representatives, who voted 227 to 179 in a tangential way of extending unemployment benefits, and who voted more overwhelmingly to up front extend those unemployment benefits, why will he not let that come out of conference? The money is in the trust fund, the suffering is real, people need some help. Let us have an up-or-down vote and extend unemployment benefits for all Americans.

ALAN BABIN, A TRUE TEXAS WAR HERO

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I stand here to recognize one of Texas's finest soldiers and a true Texas hero. On March 31, 2003, Alan Babin of the First Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment started his second day of war. On that day, the third platoon, a platoon that he had recently joined, was working to secure a bridge on the Euphrates River near Samawah when enemy fire intensified and a soldier took a shot in the head. Alan, who was a paratrooper medic, gave up cover and sprinted the 20 meters to aid the soldier. In that sprint, Alan took a shot in the belly. That single action has warranted Alan the title of war hero; a purple heart, a bronze star medal with V for valor. However, neither Alan's brave action nor the rewards that followed came at a small price.

Alan is a fourth generation military man. Both his mother and father served in the military. Now he is fighting a second battle, and it is a long

battle. He is fighting that battle from a hospital room.

Today he has undergone over 70 surgeries. He has battled severe infection, meningitis, and stroke. Alan lay on the battlefield for 3 hours in pain until he was evacuated to the USS *Comfort* where he received excellent medical treatment by the folks there and very loving people that took care of him; but in the process, he suffered a stroke, and this infection grew rampant in his entire abdominal cavity. Most people did not think Alan was going to make it. The doctors said, if you are people of faith, you need to begin to pray.

My colleagues need to understand Alan's family. His mother, Rosy, and his dad, Alan, and his sister Christy, they went to the task. Rosy started e-mailing her friends and relatives and neighbors in Round Rock, Texas, and in the rest of Texas; and this spread throughout the entire country until thousands of people began to pray for this young man and to send encouragement.

When we got Alan finally here at Walter Reed, he was still with an exposed abdominal cavity, which had to be washed every night to fight the infection, and this 23-year-old man was fighting that battle with his mother by his side, and she has vowed not to leave his side until he is well. His little sister came up here to visit him. His dad was here by his side. Now, these folks, along with the folks back in Round Rock, Texas, are helping Alan battle through this terrible tragedy.

Alan continues to persevere daily, and he is overcoming all of the odds and the doctors say, whatever you are doing, keep doing it. These obstacles are being overcome. Just the other day I ran into Rosy in church and she told me, Alan actually picked up his glasses and put them on his own nose. That shows his motor skills are coming back from the stroke. That little victory was a huge thing for his mother. They have closed his wounds; the infection is going away. He has come from months and months in bed to therapy sessions. In the doctors' eyes and in the generals' eyes, this young man has overcome the worst odds that anybody can overcome. Now, each day it is a blessing that he continues to recover.

His service and his sacrifice has not gone unnoticed. The folks back home, knowing that Alan would not be able to climb stairs, the folks in Round Rock, Texas, the builders and contractors went and built a room on their two-story house at ground level so that Alan will be able to negotiate to and from his bedroom when he gets to come home. The whole community is behind this family.

During his stay at Walter Reed Hospital, he was visited by many, many people, including President Bush, Vice President CHENEY, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Members of Congress, and numerous other military officials. I was there when he was awarded his