

cuts for the wealthy, to trade that the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) talked about, to helping keep our soldiers as safe as possible that the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) talked about.

I want to talk for a bit about Medicare, not the fact that the bill, they told us it would cost \$400 billion, it will cost \$534 billion. That was sort of a purposeful mistake from the President. Not about Medicare privatization, that mistake. Not about the gap in coverage, that if you have \$5,000 in drug costs, the government only pays \$1,000 of it, you have to pay \$4,000 out of pocket. The mistake I want to talk about is not even the fact that the drug and insurance companies wrote that legislation.

What I want to talk about is the specific prohibition in the bill that clearly the drug industry, the President at the behest of the drug industry, inserted into the bill that prohibits the government from negotiating the price of prescription drugs.

Now understand, the Canadians pay a lot less than we do for prescription drugs because the Canadian Government negotiates directly with the drug company on behalf of 29 million citizens of Canada to get the best price. But this legislation, written by the drug companies, excuse me, written by the President, this legislation expressly prohibits our government on behalf of 39 million Medicare beneficiaries, prohibits our government from negotiating the best price for our Medicare beneficiaries. That is why we pay so much for our prescription drugs.

Now, when the Architect of the Capitol bought the carpet in this room, he did not take the manufacturer's word that a fair price would impair carpet fiber research and then pay whatever the carpet company wanted. When the Park Service buys rangers' uniforms, it does not take just the first bid, no matter how expensive.

But with drugs, the President and his allies in the drug industry and his friends that run the House of Representatives, the Republican leadership, they say the government must pay any price the drug industry wants to charge. That is why Lipitor costs \$763 here, but \$438 in Canada. That is why Fosamax costs \$797 here, an anti-osteoporosis drug, mostly for women, but only \$323 in Canada. That is why Tamoxifen, a breast cancer drug, costs nine times in the United States what it costs in France, even though U.S. taxpayers paid for much of the research through the National Institutes of Health to develop those drugs.

Now, this policy, this mistake, this mistake on Medicare that the President made that says we are not going to negotiate price, we are going to let the drug companies charge whatever they want, this mistake is a joke on the American people; and the drug companies are laughing all the way to the bank.

Perhaps the reason for this Presidential mistake, the Medicare prescrip-

tion drug Presidential mistake, is the fact that the millions of dollars have come from the drug industry to the Republican Party, and the word on the street is the drug industry is going to give President Bush's reelection \$100 million.

#### A GROSS EXAMPLE OF STATE-SPONSORED DECEPTION

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, our great country has sustained itself for more than 2¼ centuries because of the brilliant construct of our government, and the essential ingredient in that construct is the separation of powers.

Ultimate power does not reside in any one place. You have the executive branch, the legislative branch and the judicial branch, each with equal powers. It is the responsibility of the legislative branch to make the laws and then to oversee execution of those laws by the executive branch. The question that ought to be on the mind of every American today is to what extent is the legislative branch of this government, the Senate and the House of Representatives, carrying out its responsibilities under those separation of powers. I think when you begin to look at that question, you find that we are not doing a very good job at all.

The most recent example of that, of course, is the revelation that we have had in a recent book that the administration spent \$700 million, apparently illegally, that was allocated for Afghanistan, took that money and spent it in preparation for the war in Iraq, when they said they were not engaging in any such preparation. That is a grave deceit. It ought to be investigated by this Congress thoroughly and completely. But it is not the only deceit with regard to the war in Iraq.

We were told when the administration sent their resolution here to the Congress that we had to go to war in Iraq because of weapons of mass destruction. We have found no weapons of mass destruction more than a year later; no stockpile of chemical weapons have been found more than a year later; no mobile weapons laboratories have been found more than a year later. There is no uranium from Niger in Iraq.

Saddam Hussein was not an imminent threat, nor was he a grave and gathering threat. He was not in league with Osama bin Laden. The two were hostile to each other and antagonistic to each other.

What we have here is a gross example of state-sponsored deception. The Founding Fathers realized that this kind of condition could express itself at one time or another during the history of our administration; and, in fact, there have been times when it has, perhaps never as gravely as it has under the present set of circumstances.

But they set up a procedure to deal with it, and that procedure is in the hands of the leadership of this House of Representatives.

But, unfortunately, the separation of powers that has served this country so well for more than 2¼ centuries has now morphed itself into a monolithic government, where the leadership of this House takes its orders almost on a daily basis from the White House and there is no oversight of executive actions. There apparently is little or no oversight of executive spending.

So we go on, stumbling forward, blindly. Now more than 700 American servicemen and -women killed in Iraq in this illegal, unjust and unnecessary war; thousands of Americans maimed, injuries they will carry for the rest of their lives, if indeed their lives are not shortened thereby; tens of thousands of Iraqis, perhaps hundreds of thousands, including innocent women and children, killed.

Where is the oversight? Where is the action that is supposed to come from this House of Representatives in examining these illegal, unnecessary actions on the part of the executive branch? Have we not seen enough? When are we going to go into action? When are we going to live up to our obligations under the Constitution? When are we going to do what is necessary to sustain this great democratic Republic?

We need action now. We need an end to the monolithic government and a return to the historic separation of powers which has served this country so well.

#### AN UNJUST, UNPROVOKED WAR

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been a little over 1 year since the President of the United States, without just cause and without being provoked, invaded Iraq. Over 700 Americans have given their lives for this war, roughly 10 each week, not to mention the thousands wounded, the billions of dollars spent, and the international good will squandered.

This is the same President Bush who last week could not think of a mistake he had made. We were told that this war was necessary to keep us safe. We were told Saddam Hussein had the world's most dangerous weapons and could strike at any moment.

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Now even the President has made tacky jokes about looking for the missing weapons of mass destruction under his White House sofa. That was certainly an insensitive mistake.

In fact, the President's appetite for belligerence and bloodshed only weakens us, it makes us more vulnerable, encouraging further violence and increasing the risk of nuclear destruction.

The President's inaccurate declaration about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities are not just incompetent, they are immoral. And what a mistake that was.

There has to be a better way, and there is, one that emphasizes brains instead of brawn, one that is consistent with American values. I have introduced legislation to create a SMART security platform for the 21st century. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. We need to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and keeping the American people safe must be our highest priority. On that point the President is not mistaken, but he is wrong, wrong to equate our security with aggression and military force. Just because you have a hammer, not every single problem is a nail. The United States possesses the world's largest hammer in the form of its mighty military, but some situations require a more delicate touch.

SMART security calls for aggressive diplomacy, a commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, strong regional security arrangements and vigorous inspection regimes. The United States must set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons and the development of new nuclear weapons.

We must maintain our commitment to existing international treaties like the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

To be smart we would support and adequately fund programs like the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Russian Federation and the states of former Soviet Union to dismantle nuclear warheads, reduce nuclear stockpiles, secure nuclear weapons in Russia. And we must replicate this program in other troubled regions like North Korea and Iran, because it is a mistake to believe that every country will proactively choose to give up its nuclear program. In the long run negotiations with other countries will keep us much safer than believing we can scare them into submission.

The Bush doctrine has been tried, and it has failed. In fact, it is a huge, huge mistake. It is time for a new national security strategy. SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, our commitment to peace and freedom, our compassion for the people of the world, and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART security is tough, pragmatic, and patriotic. SMART security is smart, and it will keep America safe.

#### SAN JACINTO DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the anniversary of the

Battle of San Jacinto, the victory of the independence for Texas, and the greatest, most diverse State in our Union.

Proving its timeless value as a story of political struggle and personal heroism, the Battle of the Alamo has been made into another feature-length motion picture, "The Alamo," by Disney, not doing as well at the box offices we have, but I bet you it is doing well in Texas.

I encourage all Americans to learn and relearn this important historical story.

On this day I want to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two newspaper articles from the Baytown Sun and the Pasadena Citizen that are newspapers in my district regarding the tremendous devotion and expertise of the San Jacinto reenactors, many of whom are my constituents. These folks have committed tremendous amounts of time and resources to providing an educational service to our community, and some of these reenactors have gone so far as mastering the original Mexican Army drills in the original Spanish, and many were involved in the production of the Disney film "The Alamo" as consultants and extras.

The story of San Jacinto occurs less than 60 days after the fall of the Alamo. On April 21, 1836, exactly 168 years ago today, approximately 900 Texans and Tejanos of the Texan Army overpowered a large and better trained Mexican Army. I say Texans and Tejanos because the struggle for Texas independence was not between Anglos and Hispanics.

For example, noted Tejano patriot Captain Juan Seguin commanded a cavalry company during the final victory at San Jacinto and later became a senator in the Republic of Texas. For those people that have seen the movie "The Alamo," they will remember he was sent out from the Alamo seeking reinforcements and against his wishes was told to stay away so he could live to fight another day at San Jacinto.

One of the main proponents of the Texas Revolution was Lorenzo de Zavala, who served in the Mexican Government until the military dictator General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna abolished the Mexican Constitution of 1824. Zavala, a former Mexican citizen, went on to become the first Vice President of the Republic of Texas.

Less than 100 years after American patriots threw off the tyrannical British Empire's military domination, Texans and Tejanos succeeded in a similar struggle against a military dictator, General Santa Anna. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed without their consent from a restrictive Federal republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated military despotism."

As Sam Houston and other Texas delegates signed the Texas declaration of independence, General Santa Anna's army was besieging the Texans and

Tejanos at the Alamo in San Antonio. The Alamo fell on the morning of March 6, 1836, when Lieutenant Colonel William Barrett Travis, former Tennessee Congressman David Crockett, and approximately 200 other Texans and Tejano defenders were killed in action.

The Mexican Army was full of confidence after their hard-fought victory at the Alamo, and Texan forces were in retreat, but in late April 1836 they chose not to flee to the safety of Louisiana and instead turned to fight on the banks of the bayous outside of Houston, Texas. In fact, the San Jacinto battleground is in the new congressional district that I am receiving.

On the afternoon of April 21, 1836, the two armies were camped near one another, but the Mexican Army, confident of its superiority, failed to post guards during their afternoon siesta. They underestimated the determination of the Texan army in its fight for an independent nation and were totally unprepared for the surprise attack. As a result, the nation, and then the State of Texas, was born. Like the American Revolution, the Texan Revolution brought many different people together fighting military oppression.

A misconception of the Texas war for independence is that the conflict was a case of Anglos versus Hispanics. But accurate Texas history tells us that Hispanics who had long lived in Texas mostly did not refer to themselves as Mexicans, but instead thought of themselves as Tejanos. Tejanos inhabited Texas long before Mexico existed, and they lived there for the same reason Anglos later moved there, for freedom and productive land.

Many folks were happy under Mexican rule until General Santa Anna's forces began plundering areas of Texas, and then Tejanos and Texans both reacted with revolution.

It is inspiring to me that many Tejanos joined the fight for independence when the Mexican Government became an exploitive military regime. The brotherhood of freedom can be stronger than the brotherhood of nationality, as Tejanos proved at Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and also along the banks of the San Jacinto River, and in this the government of the Republic of Texas.

Like the American patriots in 1776, Texans did not create a perfect State with their independence. It would not be until June 19, or Juneteenth, 1865, that Texas' African American citizens achieved the freedom that is an inalienable human right. Every Juneteenth we remember that struggle for equal rights is long and difficult, and demands our own enduring commitment.

On San Jacinto Day we celebrate the achievements of Texan and Tejano patriots, and renew our commitment to preserving our represented government, freedom, and human civil rights.