

libraries and in bookstores all across America. It is called the "credibility gap and the leadership problems of President George W. Bush." There are so many books being published now that maybe the Dewey decimal system will have to be revised for America's libraries.

I recommend this new section to my colleagues and to the general public.

Last week, the latest edition to this collection was published, raising again serious questions about the President. I predict that rather than directly confront the substance of Ambassador Joe Wilson's criticism in his book, "The Politics of Truth," the White House will instead, as they have in the past, attack his motives, his character, as they have done with the critics before him.

Recent history is littered with the Bush White House smear campaigns against good and brave people, all of whom share one simple characteristic, loyalty to the truth.

Let us start with John DiLulio, the White House's director of faith-based programs in 2001. He said that the Bush administration was more focused on politics than on good policy, and he is gone.

If that sounds familiar, it is because it is the same thing the former Treasury Secretary, Paul O'Neill, said in his book, "The Price of Loyalty." O'Neill rightly warned that the massive Bush tax cut would wreak havoc with our fiscal system, and remember what the White House did after Paul O'Neill's book came out. They launched an investigation and tried to smear his credibility and his reputation. Of course, that investigation went nowhere and the book stands for what it says.

How about Richard Clarke, a trusted, lifelong bipartisan public servant who was devoted to protecting Americans against terrorism? He wrote this book, "Against All Enemies," which says the war in Iraq has diverted needed resources from the war on terror. He felt this Nation had a right to know.

Do my colleagues know how the White House responded? With a shock and awe media campaign to try and discredit Clarke. They said Clarke was just angry because he wanted a more prominent position, that he was essentially a Democrat or that he was out of the loop. Out of the loop? He was the administration's top anti-terrorist official on September 11.

If we cannot trust Richard Clarke, why not General Anthony Zinni? Zinni served in Vietnam, commanded the troops in Somalia, directed strikes against Iraq and al Qaeda, and served as the Bush administration's Mideast peace envoy. He had the audacity to agree with Clarke that the war in Iraq undermined the war on terror. He has not been asked to serve on any more diplomatic missions.

Then there was Larry Lindsey, former economic advisor to the President, who was fired when he correctly

said that the war in Iraq would cost as much as 100 or \$200 billion, but the President did not want to hear it. The administration did not want to hear it, and they certainly did not want Congress to hear it. Today, we are fast approaching \$200 billion, all of it borrowed, all of it borrowed, for the war in Iraq. Too bad for his career, because the facts were important to him. Larry Lindsey is gone.

General Eric Shinseki apparently had the same problem. He said that we might need several hundred thousand troops in Iraq to secure the peace, to secure the peace and provide for the force protection of our soldiers. The White House did not like that. Soon enough, Shinseki had stepped aside, but now we have 150,000 troops and asking for more to try and secure a peace that has been so badly compromised because of the lack of preparation by this White House. Too bad that General Shinseki decided that he had to tell the truth and was compelled to let the American people know.

But there is more. The White House threatened to fire the Health and Human Services actuary, Richard Foster, if he revealed his higher estimates of what the Medicare prescription drug bill would really cost. Instead of having an honest debate in the Congress on the real cost of the prescription drug benefit, they said, no, keep the figures from Congress. Of course, Congress voted for the bill, and now we find out it is going to cost \$140 billion more than we had anticipated. It is too bad. It is the law of the land, but it was done because of the intimidation by somebody in the administration who wanted to tell the truth.

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Are you starting to see a pattern here, Mr. Speaker? Others have weighed in, too. Historian and political analyst Kevin Phillips says that Bush's self-interest trumps the national interest in his book "American Dynasty." Kevin Phillips is not a liberal, or a Democrat, he simply wanted to explain what was going on inside of the administration in terms of the self-dealing special interests, which brings us back to Joe Wilson.

As Members will recall, in the President's State of the Union address in 2003, President Bush said that Saddam Hussein had tried to obtain nuclear material from Africa, even though he was told it was not true; but he came to the halls of Congress to tell the American people that is what happened. Wilson heard the speech and blew the whistle. Unfortunately for Wilson, his allegiance to the truth did not just result in the character assassination of Joe Wilson. In a particularly insidious and dangerous move, someone in the White house publicly revealed that Wilson's wife was a CIA agent, putting her life at risk, ending her career, and the people she worked with. That is what happens when you try to tell the truth in the Bush administration.

#### THE REAL MISERY INDEX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate today to talk about the economy. Today, Chairman Greenspan is meeting with members of the Federal Reserve to determine whether to increase interest rates. Part of my talk will include excerpts from the Wall Street Journal of April 11, 2004, their editorial.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a lot of good economic news of late. In March, the economy added 308,000 new jobs. U.S. factories have expanded for the 11th consecutive month. For the first quarter of 2004, the gross domestic product increased by 4.2 percent. It is continuing the strongest growth in 20 years.

And we have seen that Federal tax cuts of the last few years have put the United States near the top, or at the top of the advanced large economies in their growth. We have offered incentives to work, to save, and invest, according to the Joint Economic Committee.

But instead, the media have done a terrific job of convincing everybody these are the worst of times. A poll, conducted by the American Research Group in mid-March, found that 44 percent of Americans believe that the country was still in a recession. That is strange when you consider that the last recession ended way back in the year 2001. And for the last two quarters of 2003, the U.S. economy grew at an annualized rate of 6.1 percent, the fastest growth in 20 years. Even more remarkable, the percentage of gloomsters was higher in March, when we created 308,000 new jobs.

By nearly every objective measure, the U.S. economy is stronger and is getting stronger. Let us look at the Misery Index, the measure created by the late economist, Arthur Okun. He added the rates of unemployment and inflation. This may not be the most sophisticated metric to use, but it does capture the two greatest threats to household wealth and security, that is inflation and unemployment. Comparisons to the 1990s' bubble years excepted, the U.S. economy is doing very, very well.

Today's unemployment is 5.7 percent, close to the level President Bill Clinton boasted about as he sought reelection in 1996. Meanwhile, inflation has fallen by a full percentage point over the past 8 years. I have a table which indicates that the economy compares favorably by reelection standards and President Bush's policies should be enjoying at least a modicum of respect.

In 1976 under President Ford, the Misery Index was 14.5 percent. In 1980 under President Carter, it was 20.6 percent. In 1984 under President Reagan, 11.8 percent. Under Bush I in 1992, it

was 10.5 percent. In 1996 under Clinton, 8.4 percent. This year under Bush II, it is 7.7 percent. It is the lowest of all those Presidents at the time they were seeking Presidential reelection.

In conclusion, in 2003, the United States economy grew at a faster pace than the eight other largest advanced economies: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the United Kingdom. We are seeing steady increase in manufacturing and overall productivity. Retail sales increased strongly in March, rising 1.8 percent, the largest monthly gain in a year.

In conclusion, we are seeing the economic policies of the Bush administration and the resulting action by this Congress are enabling the economy to expand, offer new jobs, new opportunities, and increase the quality of life for all Americans. That is the good news for all of us.

#### STOP GENOCIDE IN SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, everyone should read Mark Lacey's piece in today's New York Times titled, "In Sudan, Militiamen on Horses Uproot a Million." The article says, "The men on horses killed my parents," referring to the militia who have been armed by the Government of Sudan. "Then the planes came," referring to aerial bombardment by the Government of Sudan. Marc Lacey writes, "Human rights groups and international officials charge that the militia has been used as a tool of the government to pursue a radical policy resembling ethnic cleansing."

"The militia knows no rules of war. They ride camels and horses and use automatic weapons against those they come across. They ride into the villages en masse and shoot anyone in sight. As the militiamen torch and loot, the villagers grab what they can and run."

One young woman did not have time to get away. She was in bed when the Janjaweed moved in. Two men entered her hut, and raped her in front of her family. Raping, then branding the survivors is common practice in this forgotten land. Refugee after refugee tells the same story. Men on horseback, air raids, soldiers sweep into villages. As this crisis rages on, 1 million people are now internally displaced, and 100,000 refugees were forced into Chad. Unknown numbers have been murdered, and the world does little.

With the rainy season just weeks away, the window for getting humanitarian assistance is closing. The international community has 6 weeks left. USAID has warned that by fall, the mortality rate will be 5 times the threshold for a major catastrophic event.

Why is the aid not getting there? The Government of Sudan continues to

stall in the issuing visas for aid workers and is preventing full humanitarian access to the region. The international community has just 6 weeks to act on their behalf.

Where are the voices of outrage? Remember Rwanda 10 years ago? Remember all of the celebrations with regard to remember Rwanda and never let it happen again. Where are the voices? Is the international community going to fail the people of Darfur, Sudan? What will the world tell those who survive? Why is the United Nations and the international community not doing more?

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Bush administration and the United States for taking the lead on this issue. Ambassador Richard Williamson gave a moving presentation in Geneva at the 60th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights 2 weeks ago. He laid out the facts that show that ethnic cleansing is occurring in Sudan, and what did the United Nations Commission on Human Rights do, the lone body responsible? Zero, zip. Other than the United States, very few people would even speak out on this issue.

The world must do more. We must speak out. I call on this Congress to speak out. Members who care about human rights should do all they can to help the people of Darfur in Sudan. This week the House Committee on International Relations will mark up H. Con. Res. 403, condemning the Government of Sudan for their complicity for what is happening in Darfur, and calling the international community to do the same, and urging immediate humanitarian access to the region.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, The New York Times writes about rape, pillaging, and murder on its front page. We cannot say we did not know it is happening. If we fail to act, in another 10 years Darfur will be today's Rwanda and some Member of Congress will be standing here on the floor asking those in the body at that time to remember the genocide that took place in Darfur. Is that what this world wants?

IN SUDAN, MILITIAMEN ON HORSES UPROOT A MILLION

(By Marc Lacey)

NYALA, SUDAN, May 2.—Hawa Muhammad, 15, lost just about everything when the men on horseback came. They took her family's horses, donkeys and small herd of goats and sheep. They took her cooking pots and her clothing. They took her mother and her father, too.

"The men on horses killed my parents," she said, referring to the Janjaweed, loose bands of Arab fighters. "Then the planes came."

Now it is she to whom her six younger sisters turn when their bellies rumble. She recounted her tale as if in a trance.

Hawa left her village on the run and settled with thousands of others at the camp in Kalma, outside Nyala, part of a tide of a million people that the United Nations and others say has been displaced in this vast region of western Sudan. The government in Khartoum has closed the region to outsiders for much of the last year.

Hawa's account of how the attack unfolded is the same as those heard in camp after camp across Darfur, as well as the settlements across the border in the desert of eastern Chad, where the United Nations estimates another 100,000 villagers have streamed.

Many were driven away by the Janjaweed, a few thousand uniformed militia men who have worked with government soldiers and aerial bombardments to purge villages of their darker-skinned black African inhabitants.

The government denies any relationship to the Janjaweed, but ousted villagers say the links are strong, and their accounts are backed by numerous aid workers and outside experts.

Human rights groups and international officials charge that the Janjaweed have been used as a tool of the government to pursue a radical policy resembling ethnic cleansing.

The conflict has pitted Arab nomads and herders against settled black African farmers. The tensions have been worsened by droughts in the north and the slow creep of the desert southward.

For 20 years rebels in southern Sudan have sought to topple the Arab-dominated government in the north. Two million people died in that larger conflict, and a peace agreement is considered near.

But since early 2003 two rebel groups in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement, initiated a separate rebellion, complaining that the region's people, especially the black Africans, were being marginalized.

Sudan's decades-old civil war was much about religion—the north is mostly Muslim, the south animist and Christian. Darfur's conflict is over ethnicity and resources; it pits Muslim against Muslim.

The rebels here scored some early victories, and the government responded with a fury, angering countries that thought it was finally taking the country toward peace after decades of civil war.

The army has used helicopter gunships and old Russian-made Antonov plane, loaded with bombs. But the Arab-African rivalry has long festered here, and the most ruthless weapon has been the mounted Janjaweed fighters, who know no rules of war.

The Janjaweed ride camels and horses and use automatic weapons against those they come across. They ride into villages en masse and shoot anyone in sight. As the militiamen torch and loot, the villagers grab what they can and run.

An empty village is an eerie place. There are no babies crying, no goats bleating, no women pounding grain into mush. The only sound comes from the wind as it whips over the huts that used to house families but now lie toppled and torched.

Today there are many such villages in the vast Darfur region. Eleven ghost villages line the main road just northwest of here. Each stands frozen, just as it was when it was overrun.

Some were cleared months ago. Others were attacked as recently as last week. In each it is clear that life came to a sudden halt. Beds are overturned, and pots lie on their sides. In front of one hut is a child's sandal, but no child anywhere.

Fatima Ishag Sulieman, 25, did not have time to get away. She was in bed when the Janjaweed moved in. Two men entered her hut. They hit her, then they raped her in front of her family.

"I screamed, and they ran away," she said in Arabic.

Ms. Sulieman and others uprooted from their homes end up in camps, some of them organized settlements and others squalid outposts. She now lives under a tree at a secondary school in Kas, in southern Darfur. All