

million Medicare beneficiaries. The bill we want to bring to the floor ensures that the government will use the purchasing power of millions of seniors to negotiate lower drug costs just like we do for the veterans health care system. And this would lower prices by about 50 percent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in order to truly help seniors with the prescription drug bills, we have to do something about the outrageous and skyrocketing costs. That is the key. Republicans and the pharmaceutical companies shamefully refuse to address the cost issue. As I have stated before, Democrats will continue to work on behalf of America's seniors and continue to fight to pass legislation that finally addresses the high cost of prescription drugs.

AD GROWTH INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the President keeps telling America that his administration is good for the economy. I have to admit under this administration one sector is booming. In fact, booming may not be a strong enough descriptor. Stellar, bottomless, and gusher could easily describe the runaway growth in the need and use of political campaign commercials by the administration's campaign.

They are awash in cold, hard cash, and they are spending it as fast as they can get it in. They are spending more on airing a 30-second commercial than the network spends on making a 30-minute hit show. Talk about a growth industry.

The networks have brought us reality TV, but this administration has brought us fiction TV. After 30 seconds one would swear the moon is made of Swiss cheese and the U.S. economy is too good to be true. Remember what our mothers taught us, if it is too good to be true, it is not true.

Every time a new spot runs extolling the virtues of the administration, keep these numbers handy because the administration will not be talking about them: Since the President took office the stock market is down. Yes, down. Forget the slight-of-mouth they are attempting, look the numbers up. The Dow Jones industrial average is lower than when the President came in. 4 years later they have negative growth in the stock market. Is that the kind of economy America wants?

If one is saving for their retirement, they have just experienced 4 years of net loss. If one is living on a fixed income, their nest egg has 4 years of constant financial assault. If one is a tech buff, the same is true about the NASDAQ, 4 years later it is significantly lower than when he came in. Is that the kind of economy that is good for America? Four years later the money is worth less, lots less.

So the administration uses special effects in its commercials to make it seem like Americans are better off. The smoke and mirrors might cloud the truth, but the smoke is only good for 30 seconds and then reality takes over.

If the administration wants to take credit, and they say they do, then they have to take credit for the U.S. stock markets that are lower than when they came in. The stock markets tell the story about the U.S. economy under the stewardship of this administration.

This can be summed up this way: The privileged few became the beneficiaries of the administration's use of our tax money. Do not let their commercials trick my colleagues into thinking anything else. Millionaires got a cool extra \$100,000 from this administration's tax cuts. Go look at your own 1040 and do the math. What did you get? The average is about \$700. The administration gave the rich about \$10,000 per month and the rest of America got 60 bucks a month. That is a lot of zeros. That is a lot of smoke and mirrors to cover that up.

Now the administration claims we never look at what has been going on. So let us be fair. When the President took office, the Nation's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent. Today's unemployment rate is 30 percent higher than it was when the President took office. That is the record. But one will not find it in any commercial that this administration is showing.

Millions of Americans are without jobs. I cannot call that economic growth. I call it a real life crisis for people when they cannot find a job and the administration is unwilling to help. Unemployment is 30 percent higher today than when the President took office. This administration has 2 million jobs less than when they took office. That record is only surpassed by the great Herbert Hoover in the Great Depression.

Now, there is a commercial for you. The administration would need a lot of extra smoke to cover that up. The administration's economic policies have their closest comparison with the Great Depression. These are the facts. One might say this is reality TV just in case all those fictional accounts of the U.S. economy under the administration have one confused.

With the amount of smoke the American administration is using, it is no wonder the level of pollution across America is higher than ever. America is choking from pollution caused by their fictional TV adds. They have got 112 more days and it is over.

SUDAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we should be troubled by a

number of concerns that are getting sometimes less attention than I think they should. First let me say I am so very proud to acknowledge two Members in the other body that will be addressing the Payne-Wolf resolution to declare the acts in Sudan genocide. With 400,000 people displaced, women and children and men being murdered, villages being burned, the world watches.

I am reminded of the millions who died in Rwanda. And we cannot stand idly by. It is imperative that the people of Sudan rise up in opposition to their government that continues to allow the murder and pillage against those innocent individuals.

I look forward to working with the United States Congress in ensuring that Sudan, the government in Khartoum, understands that we mean business and will not stand by while this tragic, murderous brutality occurs.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the American people to look closely at this question of the CIA intelligence breakdown before the war in Iraq. Because I believe every life is precious. And I believe our Constitution ensures that we in America pride ourselves in supporting peace over war and that we understand the importance of teaching and giving truth to the American people.

And so this breakdown in intelligence, which caused or at least gave to the Congress the basis upon which that resolution was passed, many of us knew it was wrong and voted against it, we should not allow that perspective to go off silently into the night. It is important for the American people to ask the question why and to get the right answers.

Because it is important when we take our young soldiers, our family members into war, they go into battle on truth and on a Constitutional purpose and that Congress votes for war in a Constitutional manner.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this country has the opportunity to rise to its highest moral values and that means that it does believe that freedom is not free and that we all will rise to defend our Nation and that we recognize the tragedy of 9/11, that we will not use falsehoods, however, in order to engage in a war that could have been solved by U.N. inspectors, could have been solved by coalition.

So I ask my colleagues to help support the resolution that we offered in the Senate and the one in the House on Sudan. I ask my colleagues to ask the questions of why our intelligence failed, that it never fail again that we send out Americans into war for falsehoods as opposed to truth.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 33 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Joseph W. Collins, Pastor, Mount Carmel United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, this Congress of the United States represents the diversity of our land from the Potomac to the Pacific, from the Great Lakes to the Rio Grande, from the Everglades to Mt. McKinley, from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachian hills; yet we are one Nation.

Almighty God, this Congress represents the diversity of our people from Native American to each new immigrant, from those in poverty to those living in prosperity, from the newborn child to those in their 90s. We are one Nation.

One Nation with a common heritage, a heritage consecrated at Yorktown, fought and died for on Gettysburg's fields, washed in blood on the beaches of Normandy.

Almighty God, shower upon this Congress Your wisdom and guidance. Amidst our diversity help us to remember that we are one. We share a common heritage, the right to life and liberty. Help this Congress to govern fairly and effectively. May they seek to do that which is worthy of Your blessing. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ETHERIDGE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 410. Concurrent Resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adop-

tion of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world.

WELCOMING DR. JOSEPH W. COLLINS

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the guest chaplain for today is Dr. Joe Collins; and as the Speaker pointed out earlier, Joe is presently the senior minister at the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, which is in the gentleman from North Carolina's (Mr. BURR) district. But Dr. Collins served for 8 years at the Central United Methodist Church in Denton, North Carolina, which is located in the district that I am pleased to represent.

Dr. Collins is a graduate of the Duke Divinity School and was awarded his Doctor of Minister degree from Drew University in New Jersey. Joe and his wife, Lynne, are parents of three children, and his son Garrett accompanies him today.

Mr. Speaker, we are indeed pleased to cordially welcome Dr. Collins to the people's House.

REPUBLICAN ATTACKS ON SENATOR JOHN EDWARDS ARE WRONG

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend the honor of my State's senior Senator. Last night on this floor, Republican Members attacked Senator JOHN EDWARDS over his career as an attorney for ordinary people who have been wronged. The critics could not be more wrong.

Growing up in the small town of Robbins, JOHN EDWARDS learned the values of hard work and standing up for the little guy. He used those values in his profession as an outstanding legal mind to fight for folks who would turn to him as their last chance for justice.

In North Carolina, we know well that JOHN EDWARDS earned a reputation as the people's lawyer. The Raleigh News and Observer called him "an avenging angel." The Charlotte Observer called him a "powerful advocate for average North Carolinians. And the Wilmington Morning Star said, "By background and occupation, Mr. EDWARDS seems inclined to take up for people who work hard and struggle against long odds." Others described him as a "soft-spoken David who has done battle with the Goliaths" on behalf of the little guy.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are wrong to attack JOHN EDWARDS. He has earned an outstanding record for leadership and service for the people of

North Carolina. He will make a great Vice President.

TRUE CONSERVATIVES SUPPORT THE FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, full-page ads across official Washington say it all: "True conservatives oppose the Federal Marriage Amendment."

Oh, really? As one of a handful of Members of Congress with a 100 percent rating from the American Conservative Union, I think I can legitimately claim that title, and I profoundly disagree with the assertion in the ads.

In fact, true conservatives believe in conserving, protecting, and defending the foundational institutions of our society and of Western Civilization. True conservatives believe, as I do, that marriage was ordained by God, established by law, that it is the glue of the American family and the safest harbor to raise children. And true conservatives also know that the only effective response to judicial activism at the State and Federal level is a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman.

Do not believe what one reads, Mr. Speaker. True conservatives support the Federal Marriage Amendment.

CONGRATULATING HOUSTON, TEXAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I just want to announce that I believe JOHN EDWARDS will be an excellent Vice President, and certainly I hope that those of us who adhere to the Constitution will do what is right and not amend it.

But I rise today to congratulate Houston, Texas, because this evening we will be the host of the All-Star Game. I want to congratulate Drayton McLane, and I want to congratulate the Astros because we are a team that loves America's pastime; and, frankly, I believe it will be an exciting evening and afternoon of events, and we will get the chance to see great outstanding Americans play America's most favorite pastime.

We know these are difficult times, but I think it is just appropriate to celebrate a city that is welcoming all those who are coming to enjoy a wonderful evening and see all the great All Stars from all over the Nation.

And I also want to congratulate Drayton McLane and the Astros for their great charitable contributions to our community: the Urban Initiatives program of Major League Baseball that encourages inner-city youth to play