

No, we are hearing none of that from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Instead, what do we hear? They say it was a mistake, an honest mistake, more innocent than it looks. We certainly do not hear any calls for investigations.

Well, I am both shocked and appalled by these reports, and I am calling for the appropriate House committee to investigate. The American people deserve to know.

FAILED REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC PLAN

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 1,168 days since President Bush and the Republican Party embarked on their economic plan for our country. During that time the national debt has increased by \$1,636,400,551,909.99.

According to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday the Nation's outstanding privately held debt was \$4,228,487,022,143.12. Foreign holdings, debt held by foreign governments and others, not Americans, now total \$1.5 trillion. This is an increase of \$740 billion since January 2001 and is now 41 percent of all privately held debt.

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PROGRESS IN IRAQ REPORTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's New York Times front page surprisingly detailed some of the progress being made daily in Iraq. The article described dozens of small-scale construction initiatives or microprojects that have been under way throughout Iraq. This includes digging wells to supply water to hundreds in small towns and helping to restore historic sites that are essential to the local culture.

This is only a grudging glimpse of the good news that has been taking place in Iraq since the American military and coalition forces liberated the nation from Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime. I have seen firsthand the positive progress being made in Iraq to build a civil society which fights terrorist training to protect Iraqi and American families.

I am encouraged that media outlets, such as the New York Times that for too long ignored the good news in Iraq in favor of police-blotter journalism, are now showing limited signs of balanced reporting.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

HONORING STUDENTS AROUND NEW YORK CITY WHO PARTICIPATED IN CONSTITUTION EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the over 100 students from around New York City who participated this year in the Constitution Education Engagement Project. The CEEP program, of which Carl Bonomo is the founder and Dorothy McCloskey is the director, takes secondary school students from around New York City and asks them to have hearings, discussion and debates and arrive at a piece of legislation for this Congress to consider.

This year, the winner was from the Wadleigh Secondary School. Their piece of legislation, which addresses the inequities in education funding, I will be introducing in the RECORD following these remarks, as well as the list of students who participated to make this project such a success.

The legislation that they have come up with addresses problems that affect over 41 States in the United States, and that is the inequity between funding among different school districts. In New York State alone, \$17,000 is spent per student in one district compared to \$6,000 per student in others.

Since 1973, 45 different States have had to address the inequities in school funding. The students at the Wadleigh Secondary School are among our brightest and best. They are members of the CEEP program, which seeks to address the problems we have in our country through the legislative process.

I hope this House joins in paying tribute to their successes.

FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the proposed Federal marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Marriage for thousands of years has been between one man and one woman. This body passed the Defense of Marriage Act, along with 38 State legislatures. Yet in recent years, courts and other government authorities have actually worked against these efforts to protect marriage.

Today, because of local government authorities, homosexual couples are able to be married in certain States and cities in our country. It will not be long until a couple will try to force another State to recognize this marriage; and sooner or later, they will find a Federal judge who will side with them.

Congress must take a stand now against these efforts to thwart the will

of Congress, State legislatures, and the American people. Thus far, Federal law has not stopped courts from ruling in favor of these illegal unions. Organizations have challenged DOMA in arenas that further remove the decision-making process from the general public and their elected representatives, barring the majority of Americans from being heard during the process.

We should support efforts to block Federal judges from overriding DOMA, but only the Federal marriage amendment can protect the American people's will from being silenced once and for all.

OVERTIME PAY REGULATIONS

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on August 23, President Bush's new overtime pay take-away rules will go into effect. These rules will slash wages for over 6 million Americans.

Since 2001, this administration has passively stood by while Americans lost their jobs and unemployment benefits; but here in Congress, we have a duty to fight for the safety and security of workers who need overtime wages to pay their bills and make ends meet.

If these rules go forward, the outcome will be disastrous for working families who depend on the income from overtime wages in order to live. Hardworking mothers and fathers in my hometown of Los Angeles will see their workplace more than their homes, their bosses more than their families as they are forced to work longer hours for less pay.

Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous for Congress to deny overtime pay to the nurses, policemen, secretaries and every other person who works for a living, while the administration rewards millionaires and big corporations with tax breaks. Slashing overtime wages is another example of this administration's disregard for the well-being of the middle class.

INVESTIGATION OF SANDY BERGER

(Mr. HOEKSTRA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, has admitted to removing highly classified terrorism documents from a secure room during preparations for the September 11 Commission hearings.

According to reports, Mr. Berger knowingly, and this is an arrogant, total disregard of the law, knowingly removed handwritten notes he had made while reading classified documents by sticking them in his jacket and pants. He also removed several classified documents. Some of these documents were discarded by Mr. Berger and are still missing.

The missing documents are highly classified reports on the Clinton administration's handling of al Qaeda terror threats during the December 1999 millennium celebrations. They included critical assessments of the U.S. response to terrorist threats, as well as identification of vulnerabilities at U.S. airports and seaports.

Removing highly classified anti-terrorism information from a secure area is extremely dangerous, and misplacing such information is absolutely inexcusable.

Mr. Berger has attributed his actions to sloppiness. A person in Mr. Berger's position does know better than to do something so irresponsible, and he should be well aware of the serious consequences.

The Justice Department is currently conducting a criminal investigation. We should render Mr. Berger the benefit of the doubt, but these admitted actions have the potential of undermining U.S. national security and damaging the integrity of the September 11 Commission.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION SMEAR CAMPAIGN

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, well, here we go again. Anytime the heat is on the Republicans, the Bush administration, they leak something out and try and smear somebody.

The 9/11 Commission report is coming out tomorrow, and just 3 days before it they bring up something that has been investigated for 9 months. They leak it out of the Justice Department.

Now, even conservative reporters like Norm Ornstein and David Gurgin have said they are enormously skeptical about this whole thing. David Gurgin said it is suspicious.

It is not suspicious. It is what they always do. Whenever there is something coming up, they find a way to leak out something like against Ms. Gorelick on the 9/11 Commission. They never wanted the commission, and now it is going to come out and say bad things about them. So they are going to smear all the people around it as quickly as possible.

That is a standard operating position for these people, and it is despicable. Why do they not let the Justice Department do the report? It was 9 long months ago it started. Let them bring it out when there is going to be an indictment.

We will do the same for the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and we will do the same for all the Members on the Republican side who want to raise these kinds of issues. Why do we not wait until the people in the Justice Department make the decision?

FINAL OVERTIME RULES

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on their policy of liquidating overtime pay as we know it, the Republican majority should end their covert sabotage and come out of the closet. The right to overtime pay is a fundamental right guaranteed for the past 66 years by the Fair Labor Standards Act. For 6 million or more American workers, however, that right will expire in exactly 1 month's time.

On August 23, a Bush administration rule will be implemented to strip hard-working Americans, including certain police officers, nurses, preschool teachers and many others, of rightfully earned overtime pay. Republicans must admit their war on overtime. Come out of the closet.

The House Republican leadership is now refusing to bring the fiscal year 2005 Labor-HHS appropriations to the floor. The Republicans fear the truth and power of a Democratic amendment to reverse this Bush rule and protect workers' rights to overtime pay. The Republicans are afraid to expose their unjust policy to the voters.

Under the Bush economic plan which favors the haves and have-mores, an increasing number of American workers have had to rely on overtime wages simply to pay their electricity bill or their monthly mortgage.

But overtime for working families is also an issue of fundamental fairness. In Iraq, 90 percent of the frontline soldiers are the children of these working families. Mandating that employees work extra hours without adequate pay is a betrayal of the trust of the families of our heroes.

Vote "yes" on overtime pay. Bring it to the floor today.

THE MAJORITY'S NEW STRATEGY

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, 6 million Americans are about to lose their right to overtime protection, police officers, firefighters, preschool teachers; and I believe that a majority of this House is ready to vote against that proposal and is ready to restrain that proposal from becoming law.

I have, Mr. Speaker, to commend the majority because they have found a new way to subvert the will of the majority. On two occasions what the majority has done is permit a proposition to come to the floor, lose, as they did in the case of the Medicare vote, lose as they did in the case of protecting civil rights under an amendment to the PATRIOT Act, and then fix the result after they have lost.

This time they have come up with a new strategy. Because the majority knows it will lose this vote on overtime, they are prohibiting the vote from coming to the floor in the first place.

If the Labor-HHS appropriations bill were reported out of committee and brought to this floor, this House would get a chance to work its will and defeat this proposal that will deny 6 million Americans the right to overtime.

I say, Mr. Speaker, to the majority, bring it to the floor. Let the House work its will. Let the majority protect the rights of 6 million Americans.

THE CRISIS IN THE SUDAN

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a sense of urgency to call on my colleagues to act now, before we adjourn, upon the crisis that is developing more and worsening every day in the Sudan.

Over 1 million Sudanese have been displaced and 30,000 have been killed so far in Darfur, and we understand that a minimum of 1,000 people a day are dying, being killed. Women and girls are being systematically raped and brutalized by thugs who have been reported to sing with glee as they inflict pain and humiliation beyond belief.

I stand here today not only as a Member of the United States House of Representatives but as a Jew, as part of a people who are still haunted by the killing of 6 million during World War II, while there were people in the world who knew what was happening, and as a grandmother who does not want to face my grandchildren who say to me, Grandma, you were in the Congress when people were killed in a genocide in the Sudan, what did you do. That is a question we all have to ask ourselves.

We should pass a resolution today before we leave this Congress that we will act, not just talk about it.

WHEN THE HEAT IS ON, BUSH TEAM USES NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION FOR POLITICAL COVER

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, just 3 days prior to the release of the 9/11 Commission report critical of the Bush administration's lack of attention on terrorism, a 7-month-old FBI investigation of former National Security Adviser Sandy Berger was leaked to the media. The timing of the leak is sort of curious.

Previously, the Bush team has used national security information and memos to disparage 9/11 Commission members who they did not like. Now, tomorrow, the 9/11 Commission is preparing to release their report, and we know it will be bad for the Bush administration. We know we were not as safe as we should have been on September 11, and we still mourn the thousands who died that day.

The Bush administration opposed the creation of the commission. They