

supposedly to provide their future benefits, borrow that money, and then transfer it to wealthy investors who do not pay a penny in Social Security taxes.

□ 1415

This is Mr. Alan Greenspan's world. He hears the pain of those people at the top, those who need further tax cuts, those who have done so well over the last decade. He is willing to say that we should borrow money to finance their tax cuts. He is willing to say we should borrow money from the Social Security trust fund to finance those tax cuts for wealthy people. But now, astoundingly, he says there is not enough money in Social Security to pay benefits. So he just recommends a couple of little things. First, we cut cost-of-living adjustments for seniors. Well, Social Security is already under-adjusted for the cost of living of seniors. They have huge increases, in pharmaceutical, medical costs and other things, and the 2.1 percent they get does not reflect their real cost of living and many saw their Medicare or their insurance go up more than their puny increase in Social Security. But Mr. Greenspan does not know any of those people. He has never talked to them. He is not aware of them. They do not belong to the same clubs that he does.

But he also said in his let-them-eat-cake mode that we should just increase the retirement age a little bit more. We are already phasing it up to 67. If Mr. Greenspan had to work for a living, work hard like a logger or a mill worker or many other professions in this country or was in a profession where he could not work forever, unfortunately he can as long as George Bush reappoints him, he would realize that it is a problem if you increase the retirement age further beyond 67. Many Americans cannot physically work that long to collect their benefits and many others will not have the opportunity to work that long. But Mr. Greenspan is not concerned about those people. It is more important to borrow the money from the Social Security trust fund, to bankrupt the system in the future to finance tax cuts for the wealthy, and that is George Bush's priority, too.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). 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.)

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MACEDONIAN PRESIDENT BORIS TRAJKOVSKI

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness in my heart as we mourn the loss of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski. He was a moderate leader who helped unite his ethnically divided country. He was killed on Thursday when his plane crashed in bad weather conditions in mountainous southern Bosnia.

President Trajkovski was a great friend of the United States. He led the efforts to establish relations with the United States and attended the National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington a number of times where he became friends with many Members of Congress and many individuals in the administration. He was a man of great faith. His great faith drove him to be a man who led reconciliation throughout his region of the world.

President Trajkovski was inaugurated as the second President of the Republic of Macedonia on December 15, 1999. Prior to that, Mr. Speaker, he served as deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and as chief of the cabinet of the mayor of the Kisela Voda municipality in Skopje from 1997 to 1998.

Since taking office in 1999, President Trajkovski was active on the international level, giving numerous speeches at international forums, such as the World Economic Summit in Davos, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the South East European Cooperation Process, and addressed the parliaments of several countries. He was dedicated to greater cooperation between states on behalf of the Republic of Macedonia.

President Trajkovski participated in numerous international conferences on conflict resolution, religious tolerance, religious freedom, and served as president of youth work in the United Methodist Church in the former Yugoslavia for over 12 years.

President Trajkovski was widely respected in Macedonia for his neutral stance in the former Yugoslav Republic, where tensions persist between Macedonians and the country's ethnic Albanian minorities after a 2001 war. He had called for greater inclusion of ethnic Albanians in state bodies and institutions.

He has many friends, Mr. Speaker, throughout Europe and the entire world. Macedonia is a good friend and partner to the United States and plays an important role in its support of U.S. and NATO operations in Kosovo.

This loss will certainly be felt throughout the international community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Trajkovski family and the Macedonian people. The United States has lost a great friend.

GREENSPAN WEIGHS IN ON ECONOMIC POLICY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to succeed the gentleman from Virginia who has a strong commitment to human rights. His talk today underscored that commitment to human rights in our country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to start with a couple of facts. Under the Bush tax plan, a millionaire in this country got a \$93,000 tax cut, for someone on the average making \$1 million in this country. Alan Greenspan, the President's guy on the Federal Reserve, yesterday said in order to pay for our budget deficits, we are going to have to cut Social Security and cut Medicare. Of course that is what he thinks, an investment banker, a Wall Street banker, someone who has enjoyed, and whose friends have enjoyed, these huge tax cuts and wants to continue enjoying these huge tax cuts, who does not much rely himself on Medicare or Social Security now or in the future.

But, again, the fact a millionaire gets a \$93,000 tax cut and because so many millionaires have gotten such huge tax cuts under the Bush plan over the last 3 years, Alan Greenspan is right, I suppose, if that is the way you think of this, that in order to pay for those millionaires' tax cuts, we are going to have to cut Social Security and Medicare. This Congress and this President have made a series of choices. They have chosen to give tax cuts to people in our society who need them the least, people making \$1 million, \$10 million, \$20 million, \$50 million, \$100 million, people who are billionaires. We have made a choice. They have given tax cuts to that group of people, the people who need it the least, the most privileged in our society, the 1 percent wealthiest people in our country; and because they have gotten tax cuts, according to Alan Greenspan, Congress will need to cut Social Security, cut Medicare, cut spending on education, cut spending on environmental enforcement, cut spending on assisting local and State governments, cut Medicaid, all the things that happen as a result of that.

This is all, Mr. Speaker, in the context of what this President and Alan Greenspan have done with our economy. We saw in the 1990s the creation of more than 20 million jobs, well, well, well over 100,000 jobs a month. In fact, close to 200,000 jobs a month were created during the 1990s. Since President Bush took office, we have seen the loss of 3 million jobs. In my State of Ohio, one out of six manufacturing jobs has simply disappeared, likely never to return. So the Bush answer to this, not much different from his father's answer to the kind of economy that caused him to be voted out of office, the President's answer to this is twofold. It is more tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our society and so-called trickle-down economics. Hoping that those tax cuts will encourage them to invest and maybe they will provide some jobs does not seem to be working.

And the other part of his plan is more trade agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement; we have got one with Australia coming down; the Singapore, Chile, the Central American Free Trade Agreement coming up; the Free Trade Area of the Americas, which will double the size of NAFTA, quadruple the number of low-income workers, those trade agreements that hemorrhage jobs and ship jobs overseas.

So when we see Alan Greenspan say we have got to keep giving tax cuts to millionaires but to pay for them we are going to have to cut Social Security and Medicare, that is the same thing that George Bush is saying when he continues this economic policy. Again, this economic policy is twofold. It is tax cuts for the most privileged people in our society, the people who need it the least; and trickle-down economics and trade agreements that hemorrhage jobs, that ship jobs overseas.

It is simply not working. We have lost 3 million jobs. In fact, George Bush will likely, we do not know in the next 10 months for sure, but likely will be the first President since Herbert Hoover to actually have lost jobs during his time in office. That has not happened. The jobs he is losing are some of America's best jobs. They are manufacturing jobs. They are jobs that have sent kids to college, allowed people to buy a home, allowed people to have a middle-class life-style. If we continue this trickle-down economics and we continue these trade agreements that ship jobs overseas, we will continue this loss of jobs, and we will never see our economy come back the way it should and bring us the kind of country that we are used to having.

That is why Alan Greenspan's comments really do hit home, that he wants to continue this tax policy, continue trickle-down economics. It just means the choice that he is making, the choice that President Bush is making, the choice that Republican leaders in Congress are making is that in order to pay for these tax cuts, this Congress is going to have to cut Social Security and Medicare. It is the wrong choice. It is the wrong idea for America. It is a violation of American values, our family values that help our families send our kids to college and build the kind of life-styles and the kind of lives for our children that we so desire.

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

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

IN HONOR OF THE CAREER OF DR.
JOSE HINOJOSA

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend, a university professor, a renowned expert and the dean of the school of politics in south Texas, Dr. Jose Hinojosa. For a generation, Dr. Hinojosa has been the compass for anyone who hoped to navigate a political career in south Texas. Successful politicians, mayors, county judges, State senators and representatives and, yes, Members of this body, myself included, are all proud alumni of the Dr. Hinojosa school of public service.

Dr. Hinojosa, after 26 years of service, has decided to retire. As a political science professor at the University of Texas Pan American, he is nationally recognized for his knowledge and expertise in the regional politics of south Texas. For Dr. Hinojosa, political science is not merely an academic exercise. It is about empowering the community he so dearly loves, the Mexican American community. To that end, Dr. Hinojosa established the School of Public Administration at the University of Texas Pan American. He knew that electing Hispanic leaders was only step one of the empowerment process. He helped build the intellectual infrastructure and knowledge base to make newly minted public officials successful in the art of governing.

Dr. Hinojosa is a native of Jim Wells County and the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Teodulo Hinojosa of Palito Blanco, a lovely community in central Texas, which is adorned with bluebonnets and many other wildflowers during the spring time. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&I University, Kingsville, which is now Texas A&M University at Kingsville. He received his doctorate in government and international studies from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Hinojosa has taught at many prestigious institutions, including the University of Texas Pan American, the University of Texas at Austin, Ohio State University, and Notre Dame. He has been called to the service of Governors and Presidents. He served on the National Advisory Council for Ethnic Heritage Studies during President Carter's administration and on the Job Injury and Interagency Council Advisory Committee under Texas Governor Mark White.

However, his greatest contributions have been felt in his home, south Texas. Dr. Hinojosa is an outstanding teacher, whether to students enrolled in a political science course or to candidates for public office. His enthusiasm for public service and for the democratic process is infectious and he has inspired thousands of people, young and not so young, to participate in our democracy. His voice, even after a bout with throat cancer costing him the use of his vocal cords, has always been a call to action. From the difficult days of segregation after World War II to today, Dr. Hinojosa has maintained an

unshakeable faith in the people of south Texas. One only has to visit the Rio Grande Valley to see the progress that Dr. Hinojosa has fostered and cultivated since the first Hispanic county judge was elected in Hidalgo County in 1970. Today, the Lower Rio Grande Valley is one of the four fastest growing and most dynamic regions in the country.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Hinojosa has decided to retire. He will be sorely missed in the halls of college campuses and the halls of government; but I know that his wife, his children, and grandchildren have great plans for him.

□ 1430

Dr. Hinojosa has taught us well, and the number of Hispanics seeking to win Federal elected positions will continue to skyrocket thanks to him.

In conclusion, I ask all Members of Congress to join me in commending Dr. Jose Hinojosa for his exceptional career and contributions to the great State of Texas and our Nation.

MILITARY RETIREES ARE
WAITING; LET US FINISH THE JOB

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let everyone know of a bill I have introduced that will eliminate what we call the Disabled Veterans Tax and to provide immediate concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation to all deserving disabled military retirees.

H.R. 3730 is called the Immediate and Full Repeal of the Disabled Veterans Tax Act of 2004 and does exactly what the title says. It eliminates the years of waiting before all disabled military retirees receive all the retired pay and compensation they have earned and deserve.

Last year, our Nation's veterans waged a long and determined campaign to eliminate this Disabled Veterans Tax. As my colleagues know, we did take a step that some say was a legitimate compromise but I call an insult to our veterans. That law makes veterans with a disability rating of 50 percent or more wait 10 years before their tax is completely eliminated. A great number of those veterans are elderly and unfortunately may not live to see the day that they get their full compensation.

Even worse, fully two thirds of America's disabled veterans have been left behind and will continue to be taxed as before, nearly 400,000 of our veterans. Despite the actions of Congress, the Disabled Veterans Tax is alive and well.

Some of the veterans left behind include a veteran of the Kuwait theatre who had below-the-knee amputation after being hit by a drunk driver while jogging near the Pentagon to maintain