

BEING LESS CRITICAL OF THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes I think Democrats are a little too critical of President Bush. Now, it is true that he took a huge surplus and turned it into the largest fiscal deficit in American history; that is true. It is true that he promised Americans that he would protect seniors, and the next day gave Americans the largest Medicare premium increase, essentially a tax increase, in American history, of 17 percent. It is true that he has the largest loss of jobs, over 2.5 million jobs, since Herbert Hoover.

But now some Democrats have even criticized the President for refusing to take his physical and thereby squandering \$1 million of flight training when he served in the National Guard. I think we need to put that in context. If he continued to fly, he may have crashed the plane.

We need to be a little less critical of this President.

EXPRESSING ALARM ABOUT AMERICA'S SHRINKING FLEET

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concerns about our country's security. A report from the American Shipbuilding Association, the ASA, was recently released that gives alarming figures about our Navy's shrinking fleet and our vulnerability to China.

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The report shows that by 2010, China will have twice as many submarines as the United States. And that is not all. Assuming that we build six ships a year, the Chinese fleet will surpass the size of the U.S. fleet by 2015.

Further, a Chinese general was quoted as saying the Chinese Navy is being designed with the direct objective of being able to "neutralize" a U.S. aircraft carrier.

China's threat is real. And yet, just last month, the Navy submitted a proposal to the Secretary of Defense that dramatically reduces our shipbuilding program.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. Further cuts will not only be devastating to our shipbuilding industry, they will make us vulnerable to threats like China.

ASA's report says it best: "Ignoring the Navy's requirement will serve as the precursor to the end of America's reign as a sovereign superpower."

DEMANDING THE TRUTH

(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, The New York Times today says: "U.S. Conceding Rebels Control of Regions of Iraq. Pentagon is not certain when central areas can be secured."

Iraq has come to that. From the day the President launched his crusade, we feared that casualties would mount, and they have. One thousand brave Americans have died.

The marker somehow brings it more in focus for the American people. As if 999 would not, or if even one death in this war is not tragic enough.

One thousand soldiers killed in Iraq, over 6,000 wounded and maimed, tens of thousands of Iraqis killed and injured; and the American people still do not know why.

The President has changed his reasons for going to war so often that we have lost sight of another casualty. The truth has fallen alongside of those brave U.S. soldiers.

We cannot bring them back, but we can honor them by demanding the truth on the 2nd of November. It is coming, Mr. President.

2005 REPUBLICAN FREEDOM CALENDAR CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, what we are fighting for in Iraq is what we have always fought for here in America. We are fighting for freedom.

This year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party. Over a century and a half, from the abolition of slavery to the establishment of women's suffrage, to the freeing of millions of people from slavery and the Soviet Empire, Afghanistan, and in Iraq, the Republican Party has been the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

So that all of us can learn more about the civil rights achievements of this distinguished American institution in its 150th anniversary year, the House Republican Policy Committee has produced this 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar. Each day of the year the calendar lists an important milestone in the Republican Party's history of advancing freedom.

Thirty-five years ago yesterday, America mourned the death of one of the world's greatest civil rights champions, Senate Republican Leader Everett Dirksen. It was he who authored the 1960 Civil Rights Act, and it was he more than any other person who was responsible for passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, including defeating a 14-hour Democrat filibuster in the Senate.

The 2005 Freedom Calendar is available both in published and electronic form on the Internet at policy.house.gov.

BUSH ECONOMIC POLICIES NOT WORKING

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, \$422 billion: a new record deficit for the United States of America, yet another record for the Bush administration, eclipsing last year's record of \$375 billion. But only inside the Washington Beltway or inside the Bush White House is this considered proof positive that his economic policies are working.

Working how? We are going to spend every penny of the Social Security surplus and replace it with IOUs. We are going to finance the entire Government of the United States outside the Department of Defense with borrowed money. We are going to add 10 percent to the national debt in one year, indebting another generation and a generation after that to work to pay off this profligate spending.

They say their policies are working. Working how? For whom? The very few wealthy people who have reaped the benefit of the huge tax cuts, while the rest of America is being given the tab.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution, (H. Res. 756) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 756

Resolved, That the following named Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Stenholm.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST ANDRE WARD

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a deep sense of pride to honor the outstanding achievements of Olympic boxer Andre Ward of Oakland, California. Andre won the gold medal in the light heavyweight boxing final in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, making him Oakland's first Olympic gold medalist since 1968.

Andre began boxing at the age of 9. After learning the basics of boxing from his father, Andre began training with his godfather and current coach, Virgil Hunter. Within one year, Andre won his first tournament, and at age 14 began a winning streak that spanned 6 years and roughly 90 fights. During

that time, Andre would go on to win two U.S. national championships along with several other major national tournaments.

The residents of the Ninth Congressional District of California, the entire State of California, and our Nation commend Andre Ward, not only for these extraordinary achievements, but also for the dedication and the perseverance he has demonstrated in working towards his goals. His commitment and determination have made it possible for him to realize this dream of winning an Olympic gold medal, and his success is truly an inspiration to all of us. We salute this phenomenal young man.

ECONOMY SUFFERING UNDER BUSH ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, George Bush is running for reelection on a platform that our economy is in good shape. Well, this is a sham.

Today, 8 million Americans are looking for work; 8 million Americans are looking for work. The unemployment rate is 30 percent higher than it was when he took office.

So what is he doing about it? He continues to encourage and reward sending good jobs overseas, while creating low-paying jobs right here at home and, at the same time, changes overtime policies to cheat millions of workers out of overtime pay.

What he ought to be doing is investing in our infrastructure, making sure that our Nation gets roads, highways, bridges, sewer systems, waste water treatment plants; our clean water systems are upgraded, are enlarged, are made better. Because, I say to my colleagues, those jobs pay a livable wage. Those jobs leave behind improvements for our communities and our country. That would increase the jobs in this country.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION UNDERFUNDS HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 3 years since the 9/11 attack on our Nation. Are we safer than we were before 9/11? Are we safe enough? The 9/11 Commission has done its job; now it is time for Congress to do ours.

Homeland security is still pitifully underfunded. Our police and firefighters are struggling to cope with the dual responsibilities of homeland security and traditional public safety in law enforcement.

The Bush administration has foolishly underfunded first responders and port security. The administration has failed to include a single dollar in its budget for rail or transit security.

First responders in southern Nevada tell me that we must direct more resources to those on the frontline on our war against terrorism: police, firefighters, hospital personnel. Given the President's plan to transport thousands of shipments of deadly radioactive nuclear waste across the country, it is imperative that the President plan to protect these proposed mobile Chernobyls from the possibility of a terrorist attack. Yet we have done nothing to ensure that our rail lines are safe.

Republican leadership has failed to come forward with a meaningful homeland security plan. They failed to address the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, and they failed to provide for the needs of our first responders.

This Congress needs to act now in order to protect the people of this great Nation.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES FOR RUSSIA

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to do today in the House of Representatives, as we do every day; and we will undoubtedly talk about a number of matters of great importance. But as we do, we should not forget that thousands of miles from here, thousands of families are mourning the loss of their children, their husbands and wives in Russia to a brutal and horrible terrorist attack.

I would ask this House to think about that as we go about our business, to extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences, and our steadfast determination to assist our friends in stamping out this horrific kind of attack. Whatever the political grievance, whatever the disagreement there can be, there must be no excuse for this sort of barbarity.

Our hearts go out to our friends, and we share in their profound sadness in Russia.

POLITICS OF HOPE VERSUS POLITICS OF FEAR FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Vice President of the United States said yesterday, "It is absolutely essential that 8 weeks from today on November 2nd, we make the right choice, because if we make the wrong choice, then the danger is that we'll get hit again." The words of the Vice President, Vice President CHENEY.

That is absolutely outrageous. It is unreal. It is unbelievable.

My fellow Americans, I want you to know that this administration will say anything, even do anything to stay in power. They will deceive, they will

mislead, and they will steal. They will not tell the truth. There should be a sense of righteous indignation all across America, in the American media.

The Vice President of the United States is preaching the politics of fear. He is trying to scare the American people. We can do better, much better, with the politics of hope. For we are one people, one America, one family, one House. The American family. The American House. Shame on you, Mr. Vice President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Members should not address the Vice President in personally offensive terms.

EXPRESSING INDIGNATION RESULTING FROM COMMENTS OF VICE PRESIDENT

(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 would make one announcement this morning before I begin my 1-minute and ask for the leadership of consciousness and fairness of this House, the Republicans, to bring the extension of the assault weapons ban to the floor of the House and allow democracy to prevail.

I too offer my sympathy to the people of Russia for the loss of their loved ones. That is why I stand this morning to claim outrageously my indignation over a most hateful comment, if you will, that has been offered by the second-in-command of the United States of America. To suggest that the American people will make a choice, and if they make a different choice from the present leadership of this government, then we are sure to have a terrorist hit, is something beyond my comprehension. It is beyond my comprehension to debate the very serious issue of lives lost on 9/11, now some few days away; to suggest that by voting that you are going to bring about a hit on the innocent American people.

I would hope that in the course of this debate, the American people will make the right choice, and that choice is to recognize that people who have dignity and respect for the Constitution, JOHN KERRY and JOHN EDWARDS, are really the ones that should be elected; and anyone who wants to play in the field of divisiveness suggesting that we be hit because you make an election choice should be unelected.

ARE WE SAFER NOW THAN 4 YEARS AGO?

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