

costs are up more than \$1,200, and energy costs are up 40 percent. Despite the Republican rhetoric, their actual record is clear. Why should Americans expect anything different from them in the future?

THE WAR ON TERROR, CONTINUED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. I would say to my colleague that the misery index, inflation and unemployment, when added together is the lowest it has been in the last series of Presidents, even going back to Jimmy Carter. So I think the Bush administration is doing a good job.

But this morning, Mr. Speaker, I am observing the third anniversary of 9/11. This is the third year since Islamic terrorists hijacked four passenger planes and killed 3,000 innocent Americans. We all know that. We will never forget those who perished on that day and our prayers are forever with them and their families. In the 3 years since September 11, we have overthrown terrorist-friendly regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have killed thousands of terrorists, frozen their assets, dismantled potential weapons of mass destruction and coordinated a worldwide war on terror. We will never forget the sacrifices made by our military men and women and their families in this war on terror.

Yet despite our successes, Mr. Speaker, we still face a mortal danger. The world was reminded of the threat posed by Islamic terrorists when 90 people were killed in two simultaneous plane crashes that are suspected to have been blown up by Chechen bombers. And just a week after these planes crashed, Chechen thugs took over a Russian school and killed over 300 Russians. Nearly half of the 340 dead were children. These terrorists kept hundreds of children, along with parents who were bringing them in for their first day of school, in a sweltering gymnasium where the heat was unbearable. To make matters worse, these terrorists refused to allow deliveries of food and water. For 3 days they did not let these innocent people use the bathroom. For 3 days they threatened them constantly with death. Mr. Speaker, they made good on their promise.

We must ask ourselves, what kind of depraved animal attacks innocent women and children, holds them hostage and treats them with complete contempt as human beings? We learned 3 years ago that these terrorists are perfectly willing to kill women and children.

A recent article in Atlantic Monthly revealed that certain Muslim clerics and al Qaeda justify the murder of defenseless women and children in their worldwide jihad. The same article also reported that al Qaeda wants to kill 4

million Americans. This is what we are dealing with, a ruthless, remorseless force that will stop at nothing to accomplish their final end, the death of the West. This is yet another example of these Muslim terrorists using bloodshed to influence elections.

A survivor of the Russian terror told a newspaper that she asked the militants why the captives were taken. They replied, "Because you vote for your Putin." Another freed hostage said a terrorist told her, "If Putin doesn't withdraw forces from Chechnya and doesn't free our arrested brothers, we'll blow everything up."

A few months ago, al Qaeda bombed a Spanish train in the hopes of overthrowing the pro-American government. They accomplished their goal. Somehow I doubt the Russian people will react in the same way. They are in mourning, but all indications are that they will rise to fight this terror with resolve and determination. President Putin admitted to the Russian people that he has been weak against the threat of terror. Russia has been dealing with Chechen terrorism for nearly a decade. Yet the recent school murders may have finally served as a wakeup call.

President Bush extended his deepest sympathy to the Russian people and we do as well. Now we welcome the Russian government to our international fight against these terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of months ago, President Putin revealed that Russian intelligence services learned that Saddam Hussein while he was in power was planning attacks on American interests abroad and on America itself. This information still did not persuade the Russian leadership to fully support our international war on terror, but now President Putin and the Russian people understand what is finally at stake.

Some nations and politicians have been reluctant to join us in our war on terror, but no one is safe from these terrorists. Their faith is uncompromising and their violence is unreasoning. They proudly proclaim that they love death. Mr. Speaker, if we have learned anything from the lessons of September 11 and 3 years of our war on terror, it is this, we must kill them where they are before they reach our shores. And if they are so willing to die for their twisted cause, then we must be willing to accommodate them.

NEW OVERTIME RULES THREATEN PAY CUT TO MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an impending pay cut to middle class families. As my colleagues here in the Congress know, the House

voted last week on a bipartisan basis to stop a new policy that President Bush has put in place to change the definition of who qualifies for overtime pay.

For years it has been clear that in certain types of work you would earn time and a half pay for every additional hour you work if it is more than 40 hours in 1 week.

Overtime pay is not a minor thing to these families. It often accounts for more than 25 percent of middle class families' paychecks.

It helps foremen, assistant managers, journalists, registered nurses, and workers who perform relatively small amounts of supervisory or administrative work. It helps salespeople who perform some amount of work outside the office, chefs, nursery school teachers, workers in the financial services industry, insurance claim adjusters, funeral directors and embalmers, law enforcement officers, athletic trainers and many others from all different parts of the workforce.

But the Bush administration has changed all of that and 6 million middle class families are now at risk of losing their overtime pay.

Democrats in Congress have been leading the fight to stop the President and to stop the pay cut, but the leaders in Congress and the White House are doing everything in their power to see that we do not win.

The whole issue is a very curious thing.

The President looked out at our economy, at the mounting job losses, at the declining real wages and the rising costs of health care and college tuition, and he saw trouble. He believed that the threat to the middle classes was that they were earning too much overtime pay, and he ordered the Department of Labor to devise a scheme that would allow employers to force their employees to work the overtime hours but not receive the overtime pay.

It was not a popular plan. The Department of Labor received tens of thousands of comments from the public opposing it. Lawmakers received calls and letters and e-mails from our constituents opposing the plan. In fact, the department had to revise its proposed changes to try and, quote, make it fairer. Their first plan would have taken overtime pay away from 8 million families. This plan takes it away from 6 million. It still is not fair and it is not the answer to what ails our economy.

But even though the plan was unpopular, the President knew he could count on his friends in Congress to withstand the public opposition.

Late last year, the Senate, in a bipartisan vote, voted to stop the President's plan, and the House cast a procedural vote to support the Senate's provision. But when the final bill made it out of Congress and went to the President, the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate had stripped the bill of the amendment that would have blocked the President's overtime pay cut.

That is where we are again.

Last week, on a bipartisan basis, the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, which went into effect on August 23. It was a pretty big vote for a controversial issue: 223 voted against the President, including 22 Republicans, and 193 voted for the President's plan, all Republicans. Now the Senate is going to take up the issue.

But already aides to House leaders like Majority Leader TOM DELAY have indicated publicly that they will not let this amendment stay in the final bill that goes to the President for signature. Even though the majority of the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, the President's allies are here to prevent the majority will of the House from prevailing.

Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with the current leadership in this Congress? They do not respect the will of the majority.

You know, sometimes it works just the other way. Take the vote on Medicare last year, one of the most controversial pieces of legislation to come before this body. The President's plan was crafted and designed for the drug companies and the insurance companies, even though it was supposed to be for seniors to help them pay for the high cost of valuable prescription drugs. But the Medicare bill does nothing to slow the rising prices of prescription drugs for seniors.

When the bill was brought to the House floor in November last year, those of us who opposed the bill were winning. When the clock ran out and the time was up for the vote to be ended, we were winning. The Medicare bill was going to be defeated. But the Republicans had another idea.

□ 1245

They refused to bring the vote to a close. Twenty minutes went by, a normal time for a vote. We were winning. An hour went by; we were winning. Two hours went by; we were still winning. By this time, early in the morning, the President had been woken up to make phone calls, to help in the feverish effort to twist congressional arms. One Congressman said afterwards that he had been offered a bribe by a congressional leader for his vote, a matter that is still under investigation by the FBI and the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Finally, after nearly 3 hours, one of the longest votes to be held in the history of Congress, the President's allies turned enough votes; and they proceeded to pass the drug companies' Medicare bill by a slim majority. And that bill is now law.

Whether it is protecting overtime pay of the middle class or protecting seniors from the drug companies' Medicare law, or countless other issues, the current leaders in Congress do not respect or honor the majority here in the Congress who support these measures. They will not respect the will of the

majority of Americans who are represented by those Members of Congress, over half of the country expressing their view that they do not want that law to go into effect, whether it is to cut overtime pay or whether it is the phony prescription drug bill that does not provide the benefits that our seniors need and have come to expect.

This is one of the many things that is wrong with the way the House of Representatives is being run under the current leadership, and it is one of the things that must change come this November.

The House and Senate should respect the will of the majority of its Members on these issues of overtime pay and middle-class prescription drug benefits.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Glorious things are said of You, Lord God, before the nations!"

This weekend from the pulpits, choirs and cantors across this Nation rang out the freedom of worship enjoyed by the American people.

Now, as the work of the 108th Congress ensues this week, may freedom of speech be modeled in the House of Representatives.

May respect for parliamentary law, civil debate and good order be strengthened in the legislative branch of government here and in other democratic countries around the world.

In modeling such behavior, we give You glory, Lord, and become a sign of Your glory to other nations.

Guide the work of Your people, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr.

BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BORDALLO 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 bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1368. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

S. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution representing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 9:25 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 361.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments S. 2634.

Appointments:
Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP).

Around the Globe Commission.
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 11:55 a.m.: