

"outsourcing of jobs is good for the American economy and good for the middle class," especially the middle class in India, not Indiana. And they want to make credibility an issue?

In that report, they envisioned 2.7 million jobs being created in the United States. Then they had to walk away from it. And they want to make credibility an issue?

They also in that report cited manufacturing would now be defined as flipping hamburgers. And, again, they would like to make credibility an issue.

Since we have decided to make credibility an issue, I would like to say that not only does this administration have a big fiscal deficit; it has a huge credibility deficit.

Let me give some other highlights of the issue of credibility.

One month steel tariffs are on; the next month steel tariffs are off. There was \$3.5 billion in new police funding, and yet the President's budget cuts \$1 billion from the police funding. Prescription drugs one month cost \$400 billion, the next month, with nothing changed, not a single benefit, we send a bill to the taxpayers for \$550 billion. And they want to make credibility an issue.

Now, I am not the one to give advice to this administration, or unsolicited advice; but if the President or this administration thinks we are going to cut Social Security to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy, I got a bridge over the Tigris they can buy. Let me say this: the only people that think that is a good economic plan are pioneers and rangers who think cuts in Social Security is what this economy needs so we can pay for tax cuts for the well-off.

What we need is a President who wakes up every day and who rolls up his sleeves as he goes into the Oval Office and thinks about the American workers, their families, and their values, not somebody who, for a press headline, announces a manufacturing czar and 5 months later, 250,000 jobs later that have disappeared, has that position remaining unfilled. That is not an administration that every day sees the American family and its values at the center of what it does in the Oval Office.

I only wish that they would spend as much time thinking about the American family, their values, their children, their jobs, their health care, their security, and their retirement security as the focus they give to those on K Street and the lobbyists in this town.

On policy after policy this administration says one thing and they do another, and yet they have the gall to say credibility will be an issue.

So to quote one Senator: If they would like credibility to be an issue this election year, Democrats say, bring it on.

GREAT WORK BEING DONE BY THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION OF FORT DRUM, NEW YORK

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we hear so much information here in this House, and this evening is no exception. I wanted to pick up a little bit on the point that the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) made in his remarks here a few moments ago.

Mr. Speaker, of course both sides of the House have not only the right but they have the obligation to speak up when they believe things are not right. And it is an election season, so we are hearing a lot of political discourse and rhetoric. The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) got up and spoke very eloquently to that fact, that perhaps what we hear is not always aligned with what in fact is happening on the ground.

The gentleman from Nebraska spoke about his travels to Iraq and Afghanistan. And, indeed, just 2 weeks ago I took a trip to Iraq and Afghanistan. It was my second trip into the country of Iraq, but my first to the country of Afghanistan. And, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that as far as the talk we hear going on here on the floor of the House, yes, it is our right and indeed our obligation to speak out, but we know or at least we should know that words have consequences. And the words spoken here in this House do resonate around the country; and in fact they resonate around the world, and they are picked up frequently by our troops fighting for our freedom overseas.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would never question anyone's motives or question anyone's patriotism, but at the same time I just cannot help to point out how a few weeks going to Iraq and Afghanistan I did have the chance to see what was happening there on the ground. The 4th Infantry Division captured Saddam Hussein in December, and in an effort to minimize the importance of that singularly important feat, we will hear people say, well, it is not that important; it, in fact, does not make us any safer here at home. Mr. Speaker, let me say tonight that I firmly believe that that event was important and indeed we are safer here at home because that man is in custody. But, again, in an effort to minimize the importance of that event, we will hear the talk over and over again that it does not really matter.

The other thing we will hear is that we have not finished the job in Afghanistan. Well, Mr. Speaker, just like the gentleman from Nebraska, I want to take a minute tonight and talk about what I saw going on in the country of Afghanistan and the great work that is being done by the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York.

Mr. Speaker, General Austin in Afghanistan, the commander of the 10th

Mountain Division, spoke to us there as part of our briefing, and he shared a picture with us. He shared a picture with us that was so dramatic and so impressive that I asked their permission to bring it back and show it on the floor of the House, and we can see it here beside me.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I was anxious to share this picture with the whole country. This is a picture of what our guys in Afghanistan are doing to end the war on terror in that country, to reclaim that country for its people, and, in the end, make us safer here at home.

Here we see some of our young soldiers and a man that is being escorted into a helicopter. This man, I do not remember whether he was a Taliban or al Qaeda or just a member of one of the warlord tribes there, but he thought he was relatively safe on that house on a steep mountainside. He could see anybody coming up after him, and he was pretty comfortable there in his belief that there was no way he could be apprehended.

So sitting by his campfire one morning and taking his morning meal, he was visited by our troops from the 10th Mountain Division. They were able to encircle him and surprise him. And then to get him back to where he needed to be, they landed half a helicopter on his house. And we see him there being helped into the back of the helicopter to be brought back to face whatever charges awaited him.

Mr. Speaker, this is a dramatic photo, and it shows what lengths our fighting men and women will go to in order to end the conflict in Afghanistan. And I believe they are well on the way to ending that conflict. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I would go so far as to say as soon as the snow melts out of the passes in the mountains on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, we are very likely to see the beginning of the end for those groups who mean to harm our troops and harm innocent Afghan citizens and those individuals who want to prevent the return of civil society to Afghanistan.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know it is a little off the point from what we hear here on the floor of the House night after night after night, but in fact there are some good things going on in the world. Our troops are doing a masterful job on the ground both in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am proud of them. I am proud of our country.

Once again, I want to point out the dramatic aspect of this photo. Think of the risk that that pilot is taking to apprehend that individual and bring him to justice, the loadmaster in the back of the aircraft that essentially landed that half a helicopter on that man's roof. I can imagine the surprise of this individual as he was brought into United States custody.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CYPRUS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last week, peace negotiations finally resumed over the 30-year Cyprus conflict. After reaching the end of the road last March, thanks to what was described at the time by officials close to the negotiations as intransigence on the part of Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, the Turkish-Cypriot leader finally agreed to return to the negotiating table with Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos. The framework by which the two are now negotiating is a plan written by the U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. While the Secretary General's proposal serves as a starting off point, it should by no means serve as the final agreement to finally unify the nation of Cyprus.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, I visited Cyprus for the first time. And while I believe it is critical for a unified Cyprus to join the European Union later this year, I also believe that the framework agreed to between the two sides must lay the foundation for a democratic government to thrive for many years to come.

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Unfortunately, there are parts of the Annan plan that makes it virtually impossible for an established government to function. In fact, there are sections of the plan that would make the island country less democratic than it was after an agreement imposed against Greek Cypriots during the Cold War back in 1959.

Mr. Speaker, the Annan plan in my opinion is undemocratic. Under the plan, a parliamentary system would be created with two legislative bodies, a

Senate and a Chamber of Deputies. The Senate shall be composed of 48 members with a requirement that half of those Members, 24, come from Cyprus and the other half come from the Turkish Cypriot side. Keep in mind that the Turkish Cypriot minority only makes up 18 percent of the islands. The Annan plan gives that 18 percent equal footing with the 82 percent of the Republic of Cyprus population. How is that democratic?

Then in addition to that in the Chamber of Deputies, the Annan plan says it too shall consist of 48 members elected on a proportional basis, but both the Turkish Cypriot side and the Republic of Cyprus side are guaranteed a minimum of one-fourth of the seats. And the significant advantage for the minority does not end there. The Annan plan states that laws be enacted by a majority vote in each of the houses as long as at least one-fourth of the senators from each of the two component states comprises the majority vote in the Senate. This means that the 18 percent holds a virtual veto over any legislation being passed.

Mr. Speaker, if we compare the Annan plan to our own government here in the United States, let us say that the Democrats and Republicans each held 50 seats in the Senate, something that actually happened a few years ago. You remember how difficult it was for both sides to govern. If fact, it created a position in which one Republican, JIM JEFFORDS, actually left the Republican Party in order to become an Independent. Now, if just being 50-50 is not hard enough, imagine if the U.S. Senate could not pass any legislation without one-fourth of the Republican side agreeing with the Democratic side, or vice versa. There is no way we could govern under those conditions.

How can we expect Cyprus, a country which has been torn apart for almost 30 years, to govern under these same circumstances? I do not mean to be critical of U.N. Secretary Annan. He has done a fantastic job of trying to meet the unrealistic threats of Turkish leader Denktash. Furthermore, the government of Cyprus has consistently agreed to negotiate within the frame of the U.N. proposal.

The Annan plan is a good draft, but that is all it is. It is critical that not only the United Nations but also the Bush administration and the State Department realize that in its current form the Cyprus government would not be able to govern. These concerns, as well as several others, must be addressed before any real peace agreement can be reached.

I want to conclude by saying again, the Annan plan was supposed to be a basis for negotiations and everyone agrees that is certainly the case, but it should not be the final outcome. I am afraid that our own administration, the Bush administration, the State Department, are trying to put pressure on the Cyprus government that they have

to agree to the Annan plan just the way it is and that no changes can be made. That is not only unfair, I think it leads to an unworkable situation in the long run. We have to realize that as much as the Annan plan is a good basis for negotiation, it should not be the end result because if it were, I think in the long run it would actually be to the detriment to the future government of a united Cyprus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HARRIS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GADDAFI DELIVERS HISTORIC 90-MINUTE SPEECH

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, a group of seven Members of Congress just finished leaving the airplane at Andrews Air Force Base from a 3-day trip to Libya, the second trip that I have led there in 30 days. This trip is one that will go down in history as one of the most historic events that was documented in that country that has been a problem for us over the past 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I was asked by the chairman of the People's Congress of Libya to give a speech at the opening session 2 days ago, which I did. Senator BIDEN is giving a speech there today. Along with my speech and speeches from the French, the Egyptians, the head of the European Parliament, Colonel Gaddafi rose to the podium and spoke for 90 minutes. He gave what will go down in history, I am convinced, as a speech that will equal the tearing down of the Berlin Wall and the event that had Boris Yeltsin standing alongside the tank outside of the Moscow White House proclaiming that communism was dead because in this 90-minute speech Gaddafi, who has been someone that we have not had any type of relationship with, whose country has admitted to completing the bombing of Pan Am 103, Gaddafi, in front of the 600 people assembled in the auditorium and 100 nations that were in attendance, renounced the actions of Libya over the past 25 years.

He admitted to his people that they had been involved in funding terrorist organizations from the IRA in Ireland to the PLA, to the Sandinistas, to other terrorist groups around the world. He admitted that they were involved in crimes, and they had done things for other groups. He rose to the occasion to tell his people that he had come to the conclusion it was time for Libya to abandon these people who no longer were needing of the support of