

just 2 weeks ago that the President's principal economic advisor Mr. Mankiw, the same person who says it is good to export jobs, it helps the economy, predicted that the Bush tax cuts would produce 200,000 jobs a month. Of course, the President's former economic advisor, who was a little bit too honest about the cost of the war in Iraq, Mr. Lindsey, predicted the same thing last year and the jobs did not materialize.

Well, we are in the same situation now. They predicted 200,000. 21,000 were created. Now, were these jobs created because of tax cuts? Well, actually, no, because the 21,000 jobs that were created were government jobs. They were State and local government jobs. So the tax cuts had absolutely no impact on stimulating those governments to hire more people. That is for certain.

So, we now have 8.2 million unemployed Americans, 4.4 million Americans involuntarily working part-time. They would like to work full-time. They need to work full-time. They cannot find full-time work.

Three million private sector jobs have been lost since the beginning of the Bush 43 administration. That is the worst job creation or destruction record since Herbert Hoover in the 1920s. 3,000 manufacturing jobs lost last month, 2.8 million lost since the beginning of the Bush administration. But just today, the President was saying he is a radical free trader. There is nothing but free trade. The alternative to absolute free trade and exporting our jobs and our industrial and manufacturing base and impoverishing the working people of America is protectionism or isolationism.

Well, there is a pretty big ground between those two things. Some managed trade, something that would bring jobs or keep jobs of value here in America, might maintain our industrial and manufacturing and IT infrastructure, might not be a bad idea. But not to this President. His chief economic advisor says job exports are great. Yeah, they make a few people a lot of money: Corporate CEOs, some stockholders, but they sure do put a lot of Americans out of work and hollow out the wealth of this country long term.

Now, we saw the unemployment rate stay at 5.6 percent. Sounds pretty good except the reason it stayed there is because 392,000 people gave up looking for work. There is no prospect for them out there. So guess what? In the great world of George Bush and Mr. Mankiw, they do not count anymore. Americans who are unemployed who would like to work, but who are totally discouraged and give up looking for work, they do not count as unemployed in their world. This is pretty strange.

But the President says he has a solution to make his tax cuts permanent. That is, these unbelievably expensive tax cuts that would take place after the year 2010, now all the tax cuts he has already had which have put the country into the deepest fiscal hole in

our history, are not creating the jobs. His free trade policy is not creating the jobs. He wants more free trade, he wants more tax cuts.

Maybe it is time to think about real investments, investments in infrastructure. You create 47,500 jobs with every billion dollars you spend on roads, bridges, and highways. We have bridges and roads crumbling across America. But what has the President and the White House doing? They are stonewalling the highway bill. The highway bill has expired. And nothing is happening because they will not agree on an adequate bill. They say oh, no, we want a low-ball bill. We do not believe that building roads, bridges, and highways creates jobs.

No, it does not create jobs overseas, like Mr. Mankiw thinks are great, it does not make investors rich. It does not give them tax benefits. But it puts a heck of a lot of the people in the construction industry to work, and a whole lot of small businesses to work and a whole lot of communities with some wealth and money flowing through those communities, that would do something for this country. That would put people back to work.

He will not even extend unemployment benefits for those who cannot find work but want it. He says we cannot afford it. There are \$17 billion in the unemployment trust fund, paid in by employers and employees sitting there. He does not even have to borrow the money. He is borrowing the money for tax cuts for rich people. He does not even have to borrow the money to extend unemployment benefits for those Americans who want and cannot find work. He just has to authorize spending down some of the trust fund.

That trust fund this year is actually going to grow. It is going to grow. Of course, the money will be borrowed and given away in tax cuts to wealthy which will put people to work, he says, but it does not.

Now, just one last point on these tax cuts. One of the things he is really pushing for is a permanent extension of estates worth more than \$5 million from any taxation. He says that will really put people back to work in this country. That would be after 2010. That costs \$80 billion a year. Money drained out of the rest of the economy, drained from other taxpayers and Social Security to benefit a very, very small percentage.

This is voodoo economics at its worst, as his dad would have said.

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

(Mr. BURTON 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 California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

JOBS, ECONOMY, AND TAXES

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, it has been said by some that the American economy is in chaos and decline. I come to the floor today to counter such nonsense with the facts. After the shocks of the recession and the tragedy of 9/11, the economy has experienced 60 consecutive months of job growth and during that time has added a total of 364,000 new jobs to the economy. In point of fact, the unemployment rate is currently lower, lower than the average unemployment rate during the 1970s, the 1980s and even the 1990s.

Since 2001, the U.S. economy has grown more than twice as fast as the economies of Europe and Japan. Our economy is in better shape and growing faster than any member of the G-7 group of industrialized nations. America is the largest exporter in the world and the main source of economic growth in the world. Productivity growing at 4.1 percent annually over the last 3 years is at an historic high. The economy is expected to grow faster from 2003 to 2004 than any other year in the last 20.

Mr. Speaker, the number of Americans working today stands at 138.3 million, the highest number in the history of this Nation, higher even than the number of Americans who were working in January of 2001. And most Americans are prospering like they never have before, with family net worth hitting a record high of \$44.4 trillion. This is in part because the home ownership rate stands at 68.5 percent also an historic high.

I cite these figures not because I believe there is nothing that can or should be done to further promote economic growth and job creation, but instead, to provide some perspective on how the media and the other side of the aisle are misrepresenting and misportraying the facts concerning the state of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, the truth is most Americans are not fond of the pointless debate over when the recent recession began or who was responsible for it. This debate does nothing to lower the unemployment rate. It is an exercise in political histrionics.

We are now experiencing economic recovery and that is something most Americans do care about. What matters to them is how to maintain and sustain and expand that recovery. To sustain this recovery, I believe we need to simplify the Tax Code. We need to reduce the burden of frivolous lawsuits on our economy. We need to pass an energy bill to ensure an affordable and reliable energy supply. We need to streamline regulations and paperwork

requirements on small businesses that are the driving force for job creation in this country. And we need to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, Congress is beginning the effort to tackle the budget deficit, which I believe has been primarily caused by out-of-control spending and should be solved by controlling the growth in spending. We could balance the Federal budget within 5 years if we held increases in Federal spending to 2 percent a year. Inside the Beltway I know, to some that is an unthinkable sacrifice, but how many families, how many businesses had to limit their spending by similar amounts during the last few years? What we must not do is pass legislation that would make this economic recovery come to an abrupt halt.

We should not take the easy way out of our budget problem by raising taxes. The tax cuts for families and small businesses created this economic recovery and raising taxes would put the breaks on this economic recovery.

SAFETY FOR AMERICANS FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING ACT

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, today I announce the introduction of legislation called the Safety for Americans From Nuclear Weapons Testing Act. Let me describe the history and the events that have led me to the introduction of this legislation.

Our country began open-air testing of nuclear weapons in 1951. Between 1951 and 1992, over 1,000 weapons tests took place, over 100 above ground and over 800 below ground as well.

Now, what is interesting about this is the government told the citizens of this country that the testing was safe. And I, like a lot of people in Utah, have roots in southern Utah, and my relatives live in southern Utah. They said it was safe too.

□ 1945

I remember my dad telling me how people would wake up and watch the sky light up in the morning from the tests.

People in southern Utah take a back seat to no one when it comes to their patriotism and their support of a strong national defense. What is unfortunate in this story is that the government lied. They lied to the people in southern Utah. They lied to anyone who was down wind of the fallout from the nuclear testing. In fact, the government knew they were putting people at risk. They kept that information quiet. It was not until the early 1980s that documents in the Pentagon were declassified that showed that in fact the government only conducted the testing when the wind blew the fallout in the least populated direction, which happened to be southern Utah.

Now, a lot of people say, Wait a minute. We used to have those above-ground tests, but now they are below ground. This is an underground test right here. This was in 1970. This was an underground test. The dust and debris went 10,000 feet into the atmosphere. So the notion that underground testing is in and of itself safe, I think a picture is worth more than a thousand words.

Now, what happened in Utah is rates of cancer are much higher than elsewhere in southern Utah. Ultimately, the government admitted culpability when Congress passed something called the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, which provided monetary compensation to individuals who happened to be living in certain counties that received high amounts of fallout from nuclear testing. Yes, the government ultimately did admit its culpability.

Why am I talking about introducing this legislation today? Because Congress in the past year has taken some actions that are taking us down the path to renewal of nuclear testing of the Nevada test site. Since 1992 there has been a moratorium on testing. Congress voted in the last year to remove what is called the Spratt First Amendment which prevented development of new nuclear weapons. Congress also in its appropriations process voted to move ahead in funding of the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons. And development of a new generation of nuclear weapons to me means we are going down the path to additional nuclear testing. That is why I have introduced this bill.

Now, you can say that this bill is important just because of its impact in the West and particularly in Utah, but this is not just a Western issue. This is a national issue.

It turns out when we studied one of the significant isotopes from previous testing, Iodine 131, and showed the concentrations in each county; every county in the lower 48 States had concentrations of Iodine 131. Interestingly enough, if you look at this map, you will notice you have some counties up here in New York and Vermont that had higher concentrations than some counties in southern Utah. This once again from the National Cancer Institute demonstrates that fallout from nuclear testing is a national issue. It should be an issue of national concern.

That is why I have introduced today the Safety for Americans From Nuclear Weapons Testing Act. Let me describe what the act does. First of all, it would require before any testing happens that the Federal Government conduct a full national environmental policy act review to assess health, safety and environmental impacts prior to conducting nuclear weapons testing. It requires congressional authorization prior to the possible resumption of nuclear weapons testing as well. If those steps are completed, it would require 1 week's public notice prior to any test, and it is going to require much more

extensive monitoring for potential releases of radiation beyond the Nevada test site. It would require the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor radiation levels. But it is not just going to be the government that will be doing the monitoring because the legislation also provides for a grant program for universities, particularly across all the hot zones demonstrated by where Iodine 131 had gone, so we will have independent third-party monitoring to look for radiation releases as well throughout the country.

The legislation says that if any radiation travels beyond the Nevada test site, then the U.S. must cease further nuclear weapons testing until Congress would vote to reauthorize such testing.

The legislation creates the National Center for the Study of Radiation and Human Health. It would be a regional consortium of universities that will study the health effect of radiation exposure, radiation-linked illnesses, and other related research illness. Finally, the legislation requires the National Cancer Institute to provide human dose estimates for Americans for all radionuclides and all human organs produced by previous weapons tests. And a report would be provided to Congress and the public within 3 years. In fact, only one isotope has been studied by the National Cancer Institute.

It is an important bill for all this country. I encourage my colleagues to join me for providing safety for Americans from nuclear weapons testing.

RESPONSIBLE BUDGET NEEDED

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, last month the President submitted to us his 2005 budget. This week, later this week, in the Committee on the Budget we are going to have a hearing on and mark-up that budget. Unfortunately, it is a 402-page document with one huge credibility problem. We are in the middle of a war, and yet it includes no war funding. It is a 5-year budget, but almost 80 percent of the cost of the President's new tax plan does not go into effect until after the 5 years after this budget. It finances a \$519 million increase to veterans programs by shifting costs on to the veterans that this budget purports to help. It does that through the health insurance enrollment fees and co-pays on prescription drugs to the very veterans that we are supposed to be helping.

It gives homeland security the largest increase of all the agencies, as it should; but it takes \$800 million away from our local firefighters and our local police officers at the same time it says it is going to help these first responders. These are the first line of defense. These are the first responders,