

going to provide more services. And maybe we are going to deliver a little greater value. And, Mr. Speaker, if that means that a few dollars are saved in the process, well, I am all for that.

But consider the numbers involved here. Medicaid, with no reform, is going to grow at a rate of 7.3 percent over the next 5 years. With the reforms we put in place, Medicaid is going to grow at a rate of 7 percent over the next 5 years. We are talking about a miniscule amount of savings by adding some value to the program as it exists today. As a consequence, more patients will be served by this program.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know, because I sat in that markup for 3 days, I know right now it is popular to vilify the productive segment of American society. I have heard it done from every angle. There is angst, genuine angst over reinvesting in the productive segment of American society. We hear it all the time, why \$55 billion was given to people who really do not need it.

But, Mr. Speaker, those are the taxpayers. Those are the people who create the jobs. I know, because I was one three short years ago. That 38 percent tax rate I paid on my business allowed me to employ 50 people in my town of Lewisville, Texas. It allowed me to purchase equipment for my practice. But what do we hear out of the other side? They want that \$55 billion back, but that \$55 billion that we reinvested produced \$262 billion for the American Treasury this year in additional tax revenue. So they would have to double the tax and double it again to even approach the amount of money.

Well, this is the default position on the other side. This fall is not the time for Democrats to roll out positive agenda, said a House Democrat aide. That is a shame. We need their ideas. We need their enthusiasm. We need their energy. I look forward to this debate tomorrow. I think at the end of the day we are going to have a good product for the American people.

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

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

#### WHO NEEDS THE FIRST AMENDMENT?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, who needs the first amendment when we have the Republican Party? Their view is that the American people just do not need to know what their government is doing in their name. We just do not need to know that this country now has secret CIA-un prisons around the world where prisoners are sent or sentenced because they get no representation. After all, DICK CHENEY, our President of foreign policy, supports us looking and acting like Cold War countries we used to fear. We do not have any skills in building facilities to be ashamed of, so we rent those old Cold War prison camps in places where people went in and were never heard from again.

Republican leaders just do not think this is the kind of information the American people need to know. After all, we might talk about it. Someone might write about it. Someone might question why we want to behave like the Cold War all over again. But this time, we are on the other side. The American people would not know any of this except for The Washington Post reporting about prisoners and policies that sound more like the enemy than the good guys.

□ 1930

This did not sit well with DICK CHENEY and he let Republican leaders on Capitol Hill know it, behind closed doors of course, his favorite location. Almost immediately Republican leaders fell in behind the President of Foreign Policy and carried out their orders. Find the person who dared let America know what is really going on behind those closed doors.

Republican leaders intend to find out who let the American people know about the dirty little secret that the administration did not want us to know. It is detention at a whole new level where suspects simply vanish, and they did not want us to know. And we would not have known except for journalism's ability to report all the news thanks to the first amendment.

Why do they want to keep us in the dark? Because Americans would be appalled, because American know that we can fight and win a war without sacrificing the principles that made us America in the first place. America does not need a mask over its face to beat the people wearing masks over theirs. And America does not need secret prisons hidden in other countries as if that somehow that absolves us from responsibility. This kind of perverse policy says a lot about how out of touch this administration is, especially its President of Foreign Policy, with the values and strengths of America.

Do you think Americans will not be ashamed or that the world will not be appalled again by our actions? Did we not learn anything from Abu Ghraib? What will it take for this administration to stop acting in ways that cause the average American to shake his head and avert his eyes? What will it

take for this administration to realize that every time it deploys another deplorable policy, it puts our soldiers in Iraq and everywhere else at greater risk. What kind of arrogance and abuse?

This happened before in another Republican administration that became so flushed with power they forgot who they worked for. They too tried to hide black ops aimed at subverting political opponents and anyone who dared challenge their power. Nixon and his cronies almost got away with it except for the reporting of the same paper.

In the end, the corruption ate away at the pillars of the Republican power until it all came crashing down around them. A Vice President and a President resigned from office. The country was appalled by their conduct.

The first amendment of the Constitution was America's last defense against the Nixon administration and it is true again today. It is no wonder Republicans want to replace the first amendment with amendment 1-R. That is where one Republican will tell the American people what you are supposed to know and attack anyone who dares challenge them. Everything you need to know will come out only from the Republicans in power. That is what they want, government behind closed doors.

We used to recognize the rule of law and the Geneva Convention. Now we are at the point that we do not recognize America's strengths and values. Dare to challenge these Republicans and they will out you one way or another.

Prisoners are not the only ones vanishing under the policies and direction of the Bush administration, so is the truth. And the first amendment is America's last line of defense.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let the Republicans do away with the first amendment. It is our only hope in a democracy.

#### DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO SING THE SAME OLD SONG

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the majority that is committed to fiscal responsibility. The Democrats' needle is stuck in a groove and it is playing the same song over and over: Tax and spend.

Republicans have already passed a budget that cut \$100 million from the deficit. Democrats refuse to vote for this budget. In fact, over the last 3 years Democrats have tried to bust the discretionary budget in the appropriations process by over \$60 billion in additional spending. Along with the billions more in spending, Democrats also offered amendments totaling almost \$400 billion in additional taxes.

I guess it is hard to learn a new tune when the old one is playing over and over again in your head.

Republicans have recommended the termination of 98 inefficient and duplicative programs which would bring American taxpayers a savings of more than \$4.3 billion. Yet the Democrats continue to obstruct while singing the tax-and-spend tune. It is time to change the record.

The American people have repeatedly rallied against more taxes and more spending. It is time we listen to their song.

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

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

#### FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the end of Vietnam War and the 60th anniversary of the end of Second World War. It also marks the fifth anniversary of the Veterans History Project.

Five years ago Congress unanimously passed legislation that I authored creating the Veterans History Project. It was ushered through Congress with the help of Representative Amo Houghton, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and Senators CLELAND and HAGEL.

The idea behind the project is simple, to collect, preserve and share with current and future generations alike the stories and history of American veterans and those who supported them on the home front. The project spans from World War I to the present, covering both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It acts as both a learning tool and a living memorial to our Nation's veterans. Since its inception in 2000, the Veterans History Project's success has far exceeded our expectations. Despite modest funding, the Veterans History Project has an ever-increasing collection with more than 40,000 histories contributed by America's veterans, making it the largest oral history collection in the world today. Each story is unique, but taken together as a whole, the compilation puts a familiar face on the universal realities of war, courage and fear, horror and exhilaration, sorrow and triumph.

These collections include oral interviews, written, audio and video recordings, and authentic diaries, maps, letters and photographs. Thanks to the dedicated staff at the Library of Congress, where it is being housed, and the thousands of contributions from our

many veterans across the country, the Veterans History Project has captured the American spirit better than any history book ever could.

The project also provides a way for local veterans to connect with students, community groups and each other. Across the country teachers have used the project as an eye-opening history lesson for their students. Veterans have been able to meet with classes, sharing their experiences with students and having their stories recorded as part of the project.

Two of the biggest supporters of the Veterans History Project in my congressional district are Bill Bruning, a veteran and Patriotic Officer for American Legion Post 52 in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and Karen Schoenfeld. Karen teaches at a charter school in LaCrosse and includes the Veterans History Project in her class. Inspired by the veterans she and her class have met as part of the project, Karen wrote this beautiful poem that I would like to share. It is entitled "I Never Saw Your Face Before."

"I never saw your face before, I never knew your name. But now our paths have crossed, and I will never be the same.

"I never saw the flag before. Not really, not its soul. I only saw the stars, the stripes, a fabric on a pole.

"Now as I gaze upon our flag, I can see young faces, all called away from our proud land to other distant places.

"They did what they were called to do. They put their dreams on hold. They knew that others needed them. They did what they were told.

"And you, my friend, have taught me this, the sacrifices made. You helped me know what I have earned from the price that others paid.

"I've been in class, I've read the books. I've seen the movies, too. But now I know our freedom's price, all this I've learned from you."

This beautiful poem is a testament to the power this project has had in educating Americans about our bravest men and women.

The Veterans History Project is a salute and an ongoing memorial to these many brave individuals who have sacrificed to protect the ideals of this great Nation and those who continue that proud tradition of service today.

On this Veterans Day, I invite my colleagues in Congress, as well as all Americans, to participate in this nationwide effort to honor our veterans. Anyone can contact their Representative's or Senator's office for more information on the Veterans History Project, or you can contact the Library of Congress through their Web site at loc.gov.

On this Veterans Day may we all take time to thank the veterans in our life, perhaps do an oral history interview with them or find some other way to show them our gratitude.

May God bless our men and women in uniform wherever they may be serving our country today. May God bless our

veterans and their families and may God continue to bless these United States of America.

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

(Mr. KIRK 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 Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### THE RIGHT PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, after claiming that they believe in fiscal responsibility and balanced budgets, the Republicans in their years of control in Washington have created the deepest budget deficits in American history and spiraling national debt.

Now, after abandoning fiscal responsibility and borrowing to pay for tax cuts and to reconstruct Baghdad, Republicans say they must cut programs that primarily serve disadvantaged Americans in order to pay for reconstructing the Katrina-leveled gulf region. No other emergency funding required offsets.

They claim that they are going to get tough on Federal spending through the budget reconciliation process where they propose a cut over \$50 billion. They are getting tough all right, tough on the weak and needy, because this is where the cutting will be done: \$10 billion in Medicaid cuts to health services for poor children and long-term care patients, and increasing the costs of prescription drugs for those beneficiaries; \$844 million in food stamp cuts, eliminating nutrition and school lunch and breakfast benefits for hundreds of thousands of families and children; \$14 billion in cuts to student aid programs, raising the costs of college for students and their families through the increased interest rates and loan fees. And it cuts all discretionary spending programs, such as veterans' health care, by a 2 percent across-the-board cut.

I listened to some of my Republican friends yesterday who likened the increased spending to increasing a child's allowance, but the analogy does not work. These cuts are not the same as taking away an allowance which a parent gives a child for candy, ice cream, movies, books and incidentals. It is more like taking away the child's meals, not taking them to the doctor,