

prevent another attack from occurring on American soil. But last week's London bombings remind us that we are still in the middle of a fierce battle. Our safety depends on our intelligence and law enforcement officials having the tools they need to track terrorists and to prevent terrorism, at home and abroad. Indeed, this is not the time to let down our guard.

□ 1030

**SUPPORT THE FLAKE-BLUMENAUER AMENDMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOCK AND DAM EXPANSION IS JUSTIFIED**

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we heard earlier today that there is a need to have a massive investment in the lock system in the Mississippi River to avoid having product move up and down in trucks. That is not the issue.

The problem that we are facing now is that more and more of the grain and other agricultural product are being shipped by truck and rail because it needs to get to locations not served by the Mississippi River system. This has been shown by the Congressional Research Service and the National Academy of Science.

The bill that is coming before us for a vote next week would be the Nation's most expensive waterway project and would siphon off 10 to 15 percent of all core construction funding for years, perhaps decades, to come, for an area where the barge traffic is actually going down.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the amendment that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and I are offering that would allow the project to go forward only if the minimum standards that make it economically viable are, in fact, met over the next 3 years.

**TAXES AND BUDGET**

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, since President Bush took office in January 2001, America has seen a recession that began before the administration was really up and running, the worst terror attacks in the history of the world, scandals that rocked the Fortune 500 companies and our financial markets, a war in Afghanistan, a war in Iraq, and the highest energy prices in recent memory.

We have faced enormous economic challenges that should have devastated the United States; but, instead, we have seen 4 years of economic growth, the best housing market in American history, all more evidence that tax re-

lief benefits the economy. And getting the government off the backs of the taxpayers actually helps our economic engine.

The 2001 tax cuts and the 2003 cuts on capital gains and dividends have been the linchpin to our economic rebound. Federal tax receipts are up this year. State tax receipts are up this year. The economy is turning around, and we have reduced the deficit by \$100 billion this year alone, all the work of tax relief and tight budgets, what we as Republicans believe, what we are fighting for, and they work.

**TRUTH, TRUST, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, truth, trust, and accountability should be the defining characteristics of the American Presidency.

President Bush's press secretary, in October of 2003, Scott McClellan, told the White House press corps and, through them, the world at large that Karl Rove and two other high-level administration officials had assured him that they were not involved in outing CIA covert agent Valeria Plame. He said that unequivocally.

Now we find that Karl Rove has sat back in timid silence while he has watched two reporters go through the costly, torturous experience of legal prosecution, all to protect his identity.

Mr. Speaker, the 41st President of the United States, George Bush, for whom the CIA headquarters is named, said that what Karl Rove did was an act of treason. Mr. Speaker, it is time to hear from the President of the United States.

**STOPPING THE SPREAD OF TERROR**

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the pledge made by Prime Minister Tony Blair. He said that we must "defeat terror and emerge from this horror with our values, our way of life, our tolerance and respect for others undiminished." I support that pledge.

The attacks on London show that the war on terror is not over, nor is it confined to a specific geographical domain. Securing our homeland is only one facet of the war. Spreading democracy in the savage lands where terrorism is allowed to propagate is another.

In the face of terrorism, a united front is one of the strongest weapons. A terrorist network that believes a nation so tested will fold under pressure of a few horrific acts may capture its attention, but will not achieve its submission. The terrorists who attacked Great Britain have underestimated the

resolve of an alliance that shares the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Those of us who thought the threat of terrorism receded with time now look no further than the horror visited on our closest allies. Complacency only allows the waves of terror crashing over the Western World to cause erosion. None of us in either country should be content to live under this constant threat. We must instead insure ourselves against such terror by allowing democracy to spread and flourish.

**VETERANS HEALTH CARE**

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap, but health care is very expensive; and for the last 5 years, the Bush administration has offered our veterans empty rhetoric while denying them access to needed health care.

As veterans groups and Democrats fought to increase the veterans budget for the last 3 years, the Republican majority and the White House have been in deep denial. But I get weekly reports, and I bet you do too, from my veterans rep who tells me that people's treatment has been delayed, denied, people who cannot even get in the door for 6 months.

Now, 2 weeks ago, the administration admitted, well, I guess we need another \$1 billion for health care for veterans this year. Today they said it is \$3 billion more; but they say, oh, you know, we just could not have known, we could not have anticipated there would be veterans coming home from Iraq or Afghanistan who are wounded and injured and need services. They did not know there was a war going on. And they also said they could not anticipate the aging of the World War II and Korean veterans. They did not build that into the budget. They just did not know.

But they had a chairman on that side for a couple of years who told us he did know. He told us we needed more money, and they fired him from that job. At least a few Republicans are standing up for what is right.

**TIME FOR KARL ROVE TO COME CLEAN**

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I guess the Republican leadership is now condoning Karl Rove's behavior, but think about what the previous President Bush said about this.

On September 30, 2003, and I am quoting President Bush, this is the current President Bush, "If there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is, and if the person violated the law, the person will be taken care of."

Well, that was nice talk then, but now it appears that it was all talk. The

Republican leadership has no problem condoning Karl Rove's behavior and his leak. On Monday we learned that Karl Rove leaked Valeria Plame's identity, an act that Bush's father called treasonous.

Rove's actions were an outrageous abuse of power, but the longer President Bush allows him to remain on the job, the more it looks like the President is condoning activity that his own father called treasonous. It is amazing to me that the Republican leadership is now willing to come to the floor and say that that is okay. It is outrageous.

Listen to what the previous President Bush said: "Don't let this stone-wall continue on the part of the White House."

It is time that Karl Rove come clean. It is time that the President force him to resign.

#### ECONOMY AND JOBS

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Bush's economic growth plan passed by Republicans in Congress, I am very pleased to relay even more good news about America's expanding economy, growing jobs gains, and shrinking Federal deficit.

First, our economy grew at 3.8 percent in the first quarter. This is the 14th consecutive quarter of growth and one of the strongest growth performances in years. Secondly, a recent Congressional Budget Office report shows yet another decline in the Federal deficit due to this economic growth. The deficit is down about \$100 billion. More good news. The unemployment rate has now declined to 5 percent, the lowest level since that tragic day on 9/11.

Over the last 2 years, more than 3.7 million new jobs for the future have been created in America. These encouraging reports show once again that the tax relief for families and small businesses which President Bush and the Republican Congress passed is paying dividends: more jobs, higher incomes, and a lower deficit.

#### THE BUSH LEGACY: LARGEST NATIONAL DEBT IN HISTORY

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today the administration is telling us that the Federal budget deficit for this year will not be as large as they were predicting it would be back in January. Some are taking this as evidence of some type of supply-side miracle, but nothing could be further from the truth.

As analysts at Goldman Sachs have pointed out today, this year's large increase in tax receipts stems from temporary factors that are unlikely to be repeated, and some short-term im-

provement does not change the big picture.

The Bush administration has given us a record: the largest national debt in history, over \$7 trillion; and they have raised the ceiling, the debt ceiling three times. This breaks down to each citizen's share being over \$26,000. And they still have a record trade deficit, another record: the largest in history.

The administration may have another excuse to ignore the long-term structural budget problems of this Nation, but the American people deserve to know the truth: \$7 trillion, a debt that our children will have to pay.

#### TIME FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO CLEAN UP ITS HOUSE

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, raising questions about national security is not partisanship; it is patriotism.

Now that we know that Karl Rove, the Deputy Chief of Staff at the White House outed a CIA agent, Republicans have begun to try to forgive the unforgivable, to explain the unexplainable. And to suggest that Karl Rove was simply trying to set a news story straight as a reason for outing a CIA agent is unacceptable.

CIA agents operate in secret so they can protect America from its enemies, from terrorism here at home. When their identity is revealed, not only are they put at risk, but America is also put at risk.

Whether Karl Rove violated the law or not is a question for the special prosecutor; but the White House said they had a higher standard, and it is the standard that should be enforced with Mr. Rove.

Former CIA agents have said that if this is not treacherous, it might very well be treasonous. Either way, it is time for the White House to clean up its house.

#### FUNDING FOR VETERANS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the cornerstone at the Department of Veterans Affairs from the time of Abraham Lincoln has read: "To care for them who shall have borne the battle, their widows, and their orphans." Why can this administration not keep that promise?

Veterans who have served our country and are now coming home, and the World War II, Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf War vets who are aging, are lined up, over 50,000 currently waiting to get into the system. Our doctors and nurses are stressed out.

We know we need \$1 billion additional funds for veterans health care. We seem to be able to find money for everything else in the world, but the

administration cannot get it right, or does not want to get it right on veterans care. A couple of weeks ago they said they did not need any more money. Then, yesterday, they said, oh, wait, maybe we need \$300 million, when their own chairman that they took off the committee 2 years ago, robbing him of his distinguished career here in public service to veterans, told us we needed \$1 billion, and they ripped him off the committee.

That is really wrong. It is not meeting our commitments to those on whom our freedom rests. And do my colleagues know what? It is having a major impact on our ability to recruit in our Guard, Reserve and Army, because they do not believe that this country will keep the promise that we have had enshrined since Lincoln . . . to care for those who have borne the battle.

□ 1045

#### VETERANS HEALTH CARE SHORTFALL

(Ms. HERSETH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern shared by many of my colleagues this morning regarding the veterans affairs health care budget shortfall.

I am afraid this shortfall is further evidence that the misgivings many Members of Congress, veterans, and veterans service organizations have had about the VA health care budget have been justified.

The bottom line, in recent years veterans health care has not been given sufficient consideration when it comes time to write the budget. Providing the benefits earned by veterans, yesterday's heroes and today's, is part of the Federal Government's responsibility to provide for the common defense, a responsibility that should direct our funding priorities.

The necessity to reprogram \$1.27 billion to the medical services account for fiscal year 2005 and possibly up to \$1.7 billion, not factoring in \$600 million for enrollment fees and increased co-payments that will not be accepted by Congress, over the President's request for fiscal year 2006 is an obvious signal that VA health care is not suitably funded to meet the needs of our veterans.

However, this is not the first indication that the problem existed. It is not a problem that has crept into the system in the last few months. It is a problem that has existed for many years. I am pleased that we are now working to solve the shortfalls of fiscal year 2005 and 2006 and to ensure effective methodologies that can produce reliable projections regarding adequate levels of funding in the future.

#### HONOR OUR TROOPS

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1