

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.

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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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the President asked this Nation to fly the flag for our troops over the Fourth of July holiday. But while the Nation supports the active duty men and women in uniform serving in harm's way, the President is shortchanging the soldiers who are now serving and will be veterans in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I serve on the appropriations subcommittee most ably led by the ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS), who has led the battle of pointing out the underfunding of the Veterans Administration for health care. We now see it is a fact.

Both the Republican leadership in the House and the Senate made a quick fix. The Democrats have said this fix is not enough, claiming that we will have a greater shortfall as the veteran soldiers from Iraq come home.

If you truly want to honor those serving, you have to pledge to honor them in the future. Fully funding veterans health care is the most patriotic way we can honor our troops, all of whom will some day be veterans.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS—GIVE VETERANS BETTER HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, this morning in "CQ Today" we see: "Shortfall in Veterans Funds Widened."

The chairman of our committee says, well, we have to find the right number somewhere; we have to find the right number.

Well, I tell you, we had a process where we had the right number. The veterans service organizations through this Independent Budget said exactly what was needed and what we should have both for this year and for the coming year. But did we listen to them? No.

The Democrats on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Democrats on this floor tried to amend the appropriations bills so we would get the money that veterans need. They were voted down by a strict party-line vote: all the Democrats voting for the veterans, all the Republicans voting against.

We are at war, Mr. Speaker. The way that we win a war is to make sure that the troops when they come home have sufficient funding for health care. I have a thousand veterans on the waiting list at my veterans hospital in San Diego. The brave young men and women who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will have a high probability of having post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

Will they get the treatment they need? No. Will they have to wait a year for a dental appointment? Yes.

Let us support our troops by supporting them when they come home with proper VA health care funding.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which a vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1220) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1220

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2005, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) **AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.**—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) **COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) **NEW DIC RATES.**—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) **OLD DIC RATES.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) **ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.**—The dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(b) of such title and paragraph (1) of section 1311(f) of such title (as redesignated by subsection (e) of this section).

(7) **ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.**—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(8) **DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) **BASE FOR INCREASE.**—The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 2005.

(2) **PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42

U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2005, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(3) **ROUNDING.**—Each dollar amount increased pursuant to paragraph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) **DESIGNATION CORRECTION.**—Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to that section.

SEC. 4. CODIFICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT PROVIDED IN PUBLIC LAW 108–363.

(a) **VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**—Section 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "\$106" and inserting "\$108";

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "\$205" and inserting "\$210";

(3) in subsection (c), by striking "\$316" and inserting "\$324";

(4) in subsection (d), by striking "\$454" and inserting "\$466";

(5) in subsection (e), by striking "\$646" and inserting "\$663";

(6) in subsection (f), by striking "\$817" and inserting "\$839";

(7) in subsection (g), by striking "\$1,029" and inserting "\$1,056";

(8) in subsection (h), by striking "\$1,195" and inserting "\$1,227";

(9) in subsection (i), by striking "\$1,344" and inserting "\$1,380";

(10) in subsection (j), by striking "\$2,239" and inserting "\$2,299";

(11) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking "\$82" both places it appears and inserting "\$84"; and

(B) by striking "\$2,785" and "\$3,907" and inserting "\$2,860" and "\$4,012", respectively;

(12) in subsection (l), by striking "\$2,785" and inserting "\$2,860";

(13) in subsection (m), by striking "\$3,073" and inserting "\$3,155";

(14) in subsection (n), by striking "\$3,496" and inserting "\$3,590";

(15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking "\$3,907" each place it appears and inserting "\$4,012";

(16) in subsection (r), by striking "\$1,677" and "\$2,497" and inserting "\$1,722" and "\$2,564", respectively; and

(17) in subsection (s), by striking "\$2,506" and inserting "\$2,573".

(b) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Section 1115(1) of such title is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$127" and inserting "\$130";

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "\$219" and "\$65" and inserting "\$224" and "\$66", respectively;

(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking "\$86" and "\$65" and inserting "\$88" and "\$66", respectively;

(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking "\$103" and inserting "\$105";