

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, it is long past the time since this Congress should be passing legislation to create a universal single-payer system of health care in the United States. This past week we saw General Motors cut \$1 billion a year in health care expenses for 750,000 auto workers and retirees. People who have worked every day of their lives and made a contribution to this society are suddenly finding their health care benefits drastically reduced.

Over 40 million Americans do not have health insurance. Millions more cannot afford to pay health insurance because they are finding premiums, copays, and deductibles rising. It is time that the government stepped in dramatically to create a single-payer system. It is time that we realize that health care is a basic right in our society. It is time that we saw that we are already paying for universal health care. We are not getting it. One out of every four dollars goes for the activities of the for-profit system, for corporate profits, advertising, marketing, the cost of paperwork, 20 to 30 percent.

It is time that we stood up for the American people and for the health of our people and passed H.R. 676, a universal single-payer health care system.

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FISCAL SANITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, as a fiscal conservative, I rise today in relief that the Democrats have not been able to have their way with the Federal checkbook.

In fact, if they would have had their way with spending, a new report by the House Committee on Appropriations released yesterday shows they would have increased spending by more than \$60 billion over the past 3 years.

Before our Nation faced the challenges of the recent hurricanes, our Nation was on track to produce more and our government was spending less. In fact, last year Congress held nonsecurity discretionary spending to a 1 percent growth rate, far below inflation and the previous 5-year average growth of 6 percent. And last year, Congress held nonsecurity discretionary spending to a 1.4 percent growth rate, less than inflation and a major reduction from previous years.

Democrats, on the other hand, have no plan to reduce the deficit. While they complain about budget deficits, they propose billions more in new spending. Their only answer is to raise taxes in order to have more money to spend. That is not good for the family checkbook or the American economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my Democratic colleagues to join me in restor-

ing fiscal sanity. In 1997 the House passed a deficit-reduction bill with 153 Democrat votes that saved billions. They should join us in a similar move now.

DISTORT THE TRUTH WEEK

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is Republican “tort reform week” in the House of Representatives. However, I think a more appropriate name would be “distort the truth week.”

Two bills on this week’s House calendar, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act and the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act unjustly slams the courthouse doors in the face of injured plaintiffs.

And why are we voting to shut the doors of courthouses to legitimate plaintiffs? So the Republican Party can give a gift to special interests and the fast food industry and the NRA. It is time to put a stop to this charade. If the goal is to prevent frivolous lawsuits, then punish the lawyers who file them. But if the goal is to give unscrupulous food companies and gun dealers free reign to make their products more dangerous, then by all means I urge my colleagues to support both bills.

However, my goal is to protect the American people, to ensure safe business practices in food production and in the gun industries and to preserve the integrity of our judicial system. That is why I am voting “no” on both the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act and the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

RESPONSIBLE SPENDING

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, if the Democrats were in charge, as they would like, they would increase our spending this year by tens of billions of dollars. In fact, over the last 3 years Democrats have attempted to bust the discretionary budget by more than \$60 billion.

Where would we find the money for their additions for this astronomical amount? You know the answer because it is their answer to every single problem, higher taxes.

However, Republicans are looking for savings from other programs, not raising taxes on hard-working Americans. Being fiscally responsible is the only answer, not just spending more money. We have an obligation to the American people to restrain spending. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle had their way, they would spend billions of dollars on programs that sound perfectly wonderful; but, frankly, that

is what would be fiscally irresponsible and immoral.

My Republican colleagues and I realize the importance of fiscal restraint and financial responsibility, and we are working to find a solution that will not bury our children and grandchildren under mounds of debt. I urge my colleagues from across the aisle to join us in this responsible and moral initiative.

APRIL FOOL’S DAY COMES EARLY TO HOUSE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, April Fool’s Day has come early to the United States House of Representatives. The Republicans are in charge. They control everything, and in the last 5 years our debt has increased 60 percent to \$8 trillion. That is \$27,000 for every American. Well, not for every American, only for working Americans because the rich are exempt from taxes.

What they are talking about here, the hard-working Americans, the only people who got a pay raise last year, the people who earn over \$1.3 million a year.

Madam Speaker, 99 percent of the people in this country had their real incomes go down last year, but not that group. That is who the Republicans want to protect here. It is trickle-down economics. They say we need it now more than ever. How else are we going to recover from Hurricane Katrina? They want to give the wealthiest among us, the top one-tenth of 1 percent, the millionaires, tax breaks, and they will trickle-down on America.

Well, the people of the Southeast have been trickled down upon. And, in fact, some of them drowned because of the incompetence of these people.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN DORN

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, a great South Carolinian, in fact a great American, William Jennings Bryan Dorn, passed away at the age of 89 on August 13, 2005. He represented the citizens of my district from 1947 to 1974, 13 terms, 26 years.

His list of accomplishments is long and impressive. Before coming to DC, he served as the youngest member of both the South Carolina House and the Senate, and was a proud veteran of World War II. During his service here on Capitol Hill, Dorn became chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and a strong advocate of military personnel. He worked on several

pieces of legislation, primarily the GI bill, which has enabled countless veterans to get a college education.

On a more personal note, before he died I had an opportunity to spend some time with Representative Dorn and his family, a memory I will always cherish.

To the Dorn family, our prayers are with you as you grieve, and I thank you for sharing such a man of integrity with us.

WHAT IS PRESIDENT BUSH WAITING FOR?

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, what is President Bush waiting for? It is now blatantly clear that the President's main political adviser, Karl Rove, and the Vice President's Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby, leaked a CIA agent's identity to the press.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago at the beginning of the investigation, the President said, "If there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is."

Today all the President will say is he will not comment on it until the investigation is over. If the President really wanted to know exactly how Rove and Libby were involved, he could walk down to their offices and demand that they answer him honestly.

There is simply no reason for President Bush to delay any longer. The American people and our CIA agents around the world need to be able to trust those with top security clearance. Let us not forget that both Rove and Libby continue to hold these clearances despite the ongoing investigation and all of the evidence pointing to their heavy involvement.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the President to take action. There is an ethical cloud hanging over the White House. It is unlikely that firing these two men will remove the cloud, but it is certainly a beginning. Instead of an administration of neo-cons, we apparently have an administration of just plain cons.

PREVENTING FISCAL DISASTER

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, we must ensure that a great natural disaster of this generation does not turn into a great fiscal disaster for the next.

To pay for Federal hurricane relief, there are only one of three places that the money can come from: Raising taxes on the American people, passing even more debt on to our children, or to actually reduce the growth of Federal spending by reforming programs and prioritizing spending.

Democrats want to raise taxes and thus destroy jobs. They want to inflate the Federal budget and thus decimate the family budget.

They accuse us of being fiscally irresponsible, but every time we pass a budget, they offer a substitute that spends billions and billions more. They claim our budget policies hurt the poor, but we instead have reduced the ranks of the poor by helping create 4.1 million new jobs so families can increase spending on housing and health care. Compassion for the poor is measured by the number of jobs you create, not the number of government checks you write.

FLAWED REPUBLICAN BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is obvious what the Republican talking points are today. If the Democrats were in charge, how we would increase spending and increase the debt. Well, guess what, Democrats were in charge and what happened, we ended up, after President Clinton left, with \$5 trillion in surpluses, surpluses as far as the eye could see.

We had not the deficit, but actually a surplus in the yearly budget of \$236 billion. And what has happened since? Madam Speaker, we are \$8 trillion in debt. From \$5 trillion surplus to \$8 trillion in debt.

What happened to all those projected surpluses every year? Oh, the Republicans said that by 2005 we would have a \$269 billion surplus in the budget. Forget it, it is \$319 billion in debt.

So what are we talking about when we say fiscal responsibility? And how are they going to do it now, never mind the \$200 billion for the war in Iraq, let us not charge for building Baghdad, let us cut spending so we can offset rebuilding Biloxi.

HISTORIC IRAQI ELECTIONS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, over the weekend an historic day occurred in Iraq. Millions of Iraqis took another step toward democracy and turned out to vote for a new constitution.

While the final results will not be known until the end of this week, the large turnout of voters and the significantly fewer security incidents are, therefore, a sign that Iraq is on the way to democracy.

Close to 63 percent of the country's 15 million registered voters cast ballots, which is significantly more than turnout in the U.S. presidential elections.

Violent incidences were far less this election than in January. Perhaps contributing to the low levels of violence

was the presence of Iraqi security forces themselves. These forces were up 35 percent since January to almost 200,000.

Finally, after years of oppression under Saddam Hussein, Iraqis were able to hold a truly fair, open election. Saturday was indeed an historic day.

HELPING THE WEALTHIEST FEW

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, 6 weeks ago all Americans saw the human face of poverty in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. President Bush vowed after the botched Federal response that the Federal Government would do everything it could to help those displaced in the gulf coast and to finally address the issue of poverty.

Well, 6 weeks later and the House Republican majority is already forgetting about America's most vulnerable. This week Republicans plan to cut Medicaid, higher education, food stamps, and possibly the earned income tax credit. These are programs that have helped the most vulnerable in our Nation.

Republicans will claim that their budget reconciliation bill is fiscally responsible and will cut the deficit, but that is simply not true. This budget actually raises the deficit, gives more tax breaks to the wealthy and makes matters worse for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. It only took Republicans 6 weeks to forget the images of Hurricane Katrina. They are once again putting the priorities of the wealthiest few ahead of working class Americans. It is now clear that Republicans learned absolutely nothing from Hurricane Katrina.

PROTECTING OUR BORDERS

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the President of the United States for speaking out so forcefully yesterday with Secretary Chertoff and reiterating that they are determined to protect our borders and to prevent or stop the uncontrolled flood of illegal immigration into this country.

This is a law-and-order issue. I just returned from a visit to the Rio Grande River, and you do not need to go to Baghdad to see the war on terror. Nuevo Laredo is essentially a ghost town. Laredo is under siege. The largest inland port in the United States, Laredo, is in a state of war. It is besieged by narcoterrorists who are equipped with the very best weapons and best equipment.

The sheriff and the local authorities are outgunned and overmatched. Our Border Patrol is outgunned and overmatched.