

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 turn out 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 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.

Mr. President, thank you, sir. We need you, with the stroke of a pen, please reinforce the Border Patrol. Help our local law enforcement authorities defend the peace and prosperity of the United States or our way of life may, indeed, change.

Thank you, Mr. President. The American people are way beyond the tipping point in frustration and outrage at the unprotected borders and this flood of illegal immigration, and we are very grateful to you, sir, for stepping up to protect our borders.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Members are advised to address their comments to the Chair and not to the President.

A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I want the previous speaker to know that I think I can get a Members tour for both of us to the White House if my friend wants to join me sometime. I will get back with the gentleman from Washington on that.

I want to say in Iraq this weekend, it was a historic and very significant day: over 60 percent voter turnout to adopt a new constitution; less violence than ever before on the election compared to June; greater participation by everybody, including the Sunni minority.

It is my hope that the constitution will pass and that in December we will have an election and the new government will take hold. And under that new government, their troops, of which we have trained 177,000, can start taking a bigger role in the war and then our troops can step back and draw down.

Last weekend was very significant. It is too bad the press is begrudgingly only covering good stuff when it comes to Iraq, but do not let the day go by without realizing its significance. A great election, great participation, less violence, a significant step towards democracy.

CANCELLATION OF LIBERAL RADIO SHARE ON AN UNBAL- ANCED ARMED FORCES NET- WORK

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, today our troops abroad have very few choices when they turn on their radios. If they are looking for political talk on the Armed Forces Network, all they get is the conservative spin machine from Rush Limbaugh. That was all supposed to change on Monday when lib-

eral radio talk show host Ed Schultz's show was set to debut.

However, 15 minutes before our soldiers could finally hear a differing opinion, the Pentagon abruptly cancelled the show. Ed Schultz's producer received a call from a Pentagon official informing him that the show would not be debuting on AFN.

Why exactly is the Pentagon keeping our troops from hearing differing opinions? Could it be that the Pentagon is a little embarrassed by the staging of a Presidential teleconference last week? We see the same staffer that informed Schultz of his cancellation was the same woman seen coaching American troops last week in what was supposed to be an unscripted conversation with our troops in Iraq. Schultz was critical of that stage show.

President Bush says our troops are fighting to bring democracy to Iraq. It would be nice if our own troops could exercise some of that freedom.

ANTI-TERRORISM INSURANCE

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

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, our leaders are telling us on both sides of the aisle that terrorism is here to stay. If they believe that, if they know that, then why are we not preparing for it?

Anti-terrorism insurance passed this House after 9/11 and put this country on a stronger economic foundation, and it is set to expire this January. Businesses in my district are telling me that if their policies have expired since September, they cannot find coverage anywhere in the United States of America; they are seeking insurance in England.

Part of homeland security, part of being prepared or not is putting our economic policy in shape. And an important part of homeland security is anti-terrorism insurance. It is important to the economic foundation of this country. It is important to combating terrorism. We need to extend it. We need to do it now. The program expires in January.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 554.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 494 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 554.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 554) to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity, with Mrs. MILLER of Michigan in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 554, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act of 2005.

The food service industry employs some 12 million people, making it the Nation's largest private sector employer. This vital sector of our economy has recently come under attack by lawsuits alleging it should pay monetary damages based upon legal theories holding it liable for the overconsumption of its products.

H.R. 554, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act, would correct this disturbing trend. Introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER), this legislation would generally prohibit frivolous obesity- or weight gain-related claims against the food industry. It would, however, allow obesity-related claims to go forward in several circumstances, including cases in which a State or Federal law was broken and as a result a person suffered harm. Under H.R. 554, cases could go forward in which a company violates an expressed contract or warranty.

Also, because H.R. 554 applies only to claims based on weight gain or obesity, lawsuits could still proceed if, for example, someone gets sick from consuming tainted food.

This legislation passed the House of Representatives during the 108th Congress in the form of H.R. 339 with a large bipartisan vote of 276 to 139.

According to a recent Gallup Poll, "Nearly nine in 10 Americans oppose holding the fast-food industry legally responsible for diet-related health problems of people who eat that kind of food on a regular basis . . . those who