

One glaring example of Bush corruption came when President Bush nominated a former lobbyist, David Safavian, as the Chief Procurement Officer for the Federal Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Safavian had limited experience with procurement when President Bush chose him for that powerful position. What he did have, however, were strong connections to powerful Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff. The two lobbyists, Safavian and Abramoff, shared clients at the firm where they worked in the early 1990s. Later, through his position at the GSA, Safavian helped Abramoff lease Federal property for office space. In exchange, Abramoff took Safavian on an expensive golf trip to Scotland.

□ 1030

Not surprisingly, Mr. Speaker, David Safavian was arrested last month for obstructing a Federal examination into Jack Abramoff's questionable business dealings with Washington Republicans. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Safavian was a multibillion-dollar Hurricane Katrina contract awardee.

Together, America, we can do better.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a fiscal conservative, and, more importantly, as a Member who believes in making the tough choices and tightening the belt of the Federal budget. Every American family knows that you do not spend money on big purchases unless you have a way to pay for it. Yet our Federal Government does this every day.

There are two ways to get our fiscal house back in order: we can raise taxes, as some of our colleagues across the aisle have suggested; or we can rein in government spending. Well, we Republicans believe that American families already pay too high a price in taxes, and we know that there are too many places where our bureaucracy is bloated and our programs are redundant and ineffective.

So rather than making the American taxpayers shoulder the burden of excessive Federal spending, I say we put the weight on ourselves, the Congress, and work our hardest to cut the fat out of the Federal budget.

I believe that government should tailor its spending to accommodate lower taxes, rather than tailoring its taxes to accommodate higher spending called for by the Democrats. Now is the time to treat our Federal budget as we would our household budget. We need to make the tough decisions.

WORRYING ABOUT THE REST OF AMERICA

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, that was an interesting speech, but it defies reality. If the government eliminated every general fund program, everything the government does except the Department of Defense, guess what? We would still have a deficit. We would still be borrowing money.

The Republicans are borrowing \$1.2 billion a day to run the government, and now they are the party of fiscal responsibility, and, oh, it is those poor working people they are concerned about. Except what they do not talk about is the tax cuts they are talking about, the ones that would cost \$70 billion and increase the deficit, flow predominantly to people who earn over \$300,000 a year, mostly over \$1 million a year, and to estates worth more than \$6 million. That is the hard-working families they are worried about, one-tenth of 1 percent of the people in America.

Well, I am worried about the rest of America who are getting screwed by these kinds of priorities.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC GROWTH POLICIES WORKING

(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, we are soon going to debate how we pay for the relief for the devastating hurricanes that hit our gulf coast. There are only three ways: Either, number one, we are going to raise taxes yet again on the American people; number two, we are going to pass debt on to our children; or, number three, we are going to moderate the growth of the Federal budget so that families do not have to moderate the growth of their budget.

Now, you have heard the Democrats claim that somehow the Republicans want to cut, slash, and burn the Federal budget. Since I have been on the face of the planet, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget. How much Federal Government do we need? And even if we offset all of this hurricane spending, what most people view as mandatory welfare spending will end up growing at 6.3 percent, instead of 6.4 percent.

Compassion for the poor is not measured by the number of government checks you print. It is measured by the number of jobs you create. Under tax relief policies and economic growth policies of this administration and this Republican Congress, we have created over 4 million new jobs so that families can go out and do their spending and create their American Dream.

TIME TO END IRAQ WAR

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today we mark another sad milestone in our involvement in Iraq with the announcement that 2,000 Americans have died.

It is time to end this war. This war was based on fiction: there were no weapons of mass destruction, no ties to al Qaeda, no imminent threat. We have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on this war. We are bankrupting our Nation.

Great nations, Mr. Speaker, sometimes make mistakes, as I believe we have done in this case. This war was a mistake. It is wrong; let us fix it. America can do better. Not one more dollar, not one more death.

ENDING FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as a State district judge for over 20 years in Texas, I presided over my fair share of frivolous lawsuits. I have seen firsthand the effect they have on small businesses and families.

The current tort system is costing Americans over \$200 million a year. Small businesses rank the cost and availability of liability insurance as second only to the cost of health care as their top priority. Both problems are fueled by frivolous lawsuits.

Frivolous lawsuits make small businesses and workers suffer. This year the Nation's oldest ladder manufacturer, family-owned John S. Tilley Ladders Company of New York, filed for bankruptcy protection and sold off most of its assets due to litigation costs.

Founded in 1855, the Tilley firm could not handle the cost of liability insurance, which had risen from 6 percent of sales a decade ago to 29 percent, even though the company never lost an actual court judgment. "We could see the handwriting on the wall and just want to end this whole thing," said Robert Howland, a descendant of the founder, John Tilley.

Mr. Speaker, let us put an end to frivolous lawsuits that are ruining the American Dream.

PRIORITIZING CUTS IN FEDERAL COVERAGE OF HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I note that the majority party is considering a number of actions to cut spending, including actions to cut back child health care under Medicaid and including actions to cut back SSI payments to disabled Americans.

I wonder if some of those same Members of Congress would be willing to eliminate Federal coverage for health care for Members of Congress before

they reach down to the low-income groups in this society and cut their health care. It seems to me that if you are going to start by cutting health care benefits anywhere, we ought to start right on this floor, with the people who work here.

FREEDOM IS WINNING,
TERRORISM IS LOSING IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it has been asked in some shrill tones this morning on the floor of this Congress, 2,000 American casualties in Iraq, and what do we have to show for it?

Well, I would offer very humbly, what we have to show for it is a dictator behind bars, a terrorist haven vanquished, 100,000 Iraqis in uniform with another 100,000 yet being trained in the next year, millions freed from tyranny, national elections in January, and, as the headlines today attest, a constitution ratified in a new, free, and democratic Iraq. That is what we have to show for it.

Because of the ongoing sacrifices of the American soldier, those at their post and those in glory, and their families, freedom is winning, terrorism is losing in Iraq.

CAPTAIN JAMES R. JONES

(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 to pay tribute to Vietnam War hero Captain James R. Jones, who gave his life for his country. This past weekend, I had the pleasure to award the late Captain Jones the Purple Heart for his bravery and courage.

Captain Jones was an extraordinary man. Born in Surry County, North Carolina, in 1939 to Buster and Myrtle Jones, Captain Jones received degrees with honor from J.J. Jones High School in Mount Airy, A&T College in Greensboro, and a dentistry degree from Howard University. Upon his graduation in 1964, he was commissioned as a captain under the ROTC program and subsequently entered military service.

In 1967, he was assigned to a small dental clinic at an outlying base in Vietnam. Sadly, his care would never be received. The aircraft he was on board crashed soon after takeoff and caught fire. Everyone on board perished. Captain Jones is remembered today for his commitment to his fellow man and his country.

Mr. Speaker, Captain James R. Jones is to be commended for his bravery, his fierce determination, and his patriotism. His self-sacrifice should be a testament to us all.

BEING BITTER AND ANGRY

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, "Together We Can Do Better." That is the new motto of the Democrat Party. Well, you can judge the future by their past, and let us see how they did in the past.

Social Security, take an issue. What was their solution? Still waiting. No solution. Hello Democrat Party, put it on the board. You did not like our solution? What is your better solution?

Taxes? You do not like tax cuts. The government knows how to spend your money better than you do. And when tax revenues went up \$94 billion because of our tax cuts creating new jobs, what did the Democrats have to say? We just do not like tax cuts.

Fiscal responsibility. Now they have a chance. We know in the Committee on Appropriations they have offered \$61 billion in spending increases in the last 3 years. Now is their chance to show "we did not mean it." They can do better.

9/11, what was their response? Whining and pining and hand-wringing, saying, Why do they hate us? That is what we must find out.

Iraq, well, let us turn Iraq over to Cindy Sheehan. She should run our foreign policy.

Together we can do better? I think they ought to look at "together we can be bitter, bitter and angry."

DEFENDING CRITICISM AGAINST
DEMOCRATS

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I do not want the gentleman from Georgia to wonder all day about some of these things, so I have one answer and one correction.

Our response to 9/11, the gentleman's memory seems to be failing him, was to vote virtually unanimously with only one dissent to invade Afghanistan and put an end to that regime. I am sorry we were not able to catch Osama bin Laden. But I have heard few distortions as great as to say that our response to 9/11 was whatever he said. In fact, we all but one on this side voted to go to war in Afghanistan. Now, that may seem a triviality to him, but it seems to me that that was a very useful response.

Secondly, the gentleman wants to know what is our answer to Social Security. It is very simple: put the money back. If Social Security receives every dollar which has been paid into Social Security and the interest that it is legally entitled to receive on that, it is fully funded until sometime in the 2040s.

Now, having spent some of the Social Security surplus for the war in Iraq,

for tax cuts for the very wealthy, the President now says, Well, those are just IOUs. We do not have the money.

But here is my answer: put the money back. If you just put the money back into Social Security, we will be okay.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 2419, ENERGY AND WATER
DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2419) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Messrs. HOBSON, FRELINGHUYSEN, LATHAM, WAMP, MRS. EMERSON, Messrs. DOOLITTLE, SIMPSON, REHBERG, LEWIS of California, VIS-CLOSKY, EDWARDS, PASTOR, CLYBURN, BERRY, and OBEY.

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1461, FEDERAL HOUSING
FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 509 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 509

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1461) to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee