

In Iraq, we have rehabilitated 2,700 schools, trained 36,000 secondary teachers. What do they do in America? They cut \$806 million from our schools and education programs, \$6 billion from our Pell grants and other higher education programs.

We funded 3,100 community development projects in Iraq; yet the community development project investment fund here in the United States, cut by \$250 million.

We are investing in Iraq and trying to provide Iraq a future that we are denying the American people. I have no problem. We made a decision on Iraq. We have an obligation, but we do not have an obligation to cut back on America's future. There is no choice in the sense of American children and their future playing second fiddle to those who are in Iraq.

If you go through American history, every President in the middle of a war has thought about how do I make sure America is stronger when we come back from that war and it ends? Abraham Lincoln, in the middle of the Civil War, thought of the land grant college systems. President Roosevelt during the middle of World War II thought of the GI bill and passed it 11 months before the war came to an end. President Eisenhower, on the heels of Korea, funded the Interstate Highway System that built America and made it what it is today. President Kennedy, during the struggles of the Cold War and Vietnam, envisioned a man on the moon.

What does this President and what does this Congress offer America during the middle of the war on terrorism? Cuts in education, cuts in health care, cuts in our Corps of Engineers, cuts in our development and investments here in America.

Every President, every Congress thought about America after the war, thought about how we built a brighter future. They thought about not only what we did overseas, but how we were going to do it here at home and make sure that every American had a brighter future. Only this President and this Congress, because of their careless and reckless policy of trying to fight two wars and fund it with two cuts that has added \$4 trillion to the Nation's budget.

Today we are thinking about cutting \$806 million from our education investments, cutting \$6 billion from our investments in higher education, eliminating investments in America's Amtrak system, cutting back our investments in the Corps of Engineers' program which invests in all of our infrastructure projects like what happened in New Orleans. No other President and no other Congress has thought of a future in which America is less after the war than it was before the war.

What is going on now? Families are facing an energy crisis where energy is now running about \$3 a gallon. Home heating costs are going to go up 50 percent this winter. Inflation has increased at its fastest rate in 15 years.

Hundreds of thousands of fellow citizens have lost everything in the gulf coast. Health care costs are running up at close to 15 percent, nearly four times inflation. Educational costs and higher educational costs are running at about a 10 percent annualized increase over inflation.

These are difficult times, and these times are when people look to their fellow citizens and their community and their government. What is this Congress doing? Rather than building up America, this Congress is cutting back on the investments we need to make America a stronger place tomorrow.

We can do better than we are doing today. We can make a change in the right choices for America. We should find ways to balance the budget without doing it on the backs of our children.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to change its tune. It is time for Congress to begin to represent the people's interests and the people's House rather than the special interests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, NATIVE MARINE CAPTAIN TYLER SWISHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a brave soldier who died in Iraq nobly defending our freedom and in the service of our country. Marine Captain Tyler Swisher was killed in a roadside bomb attack near Al Amariyah in Iraq on Friday, October 21, 2005.

Tyler is remembered as someone who overcame so many obstacles in his life. He was a small child, and as a child he struggled with a learning disability, but he would take on his school work with a gritty style of persistence, and he succeeded. He devoted himself to his work. Tyler's tough and determined style was something that he exhibited throughout his life.

In high school his small frame just hovering over 100 pounds did not keep him from doing what he loved, playing football, and while he spent much of his time at Mariemont High School on the sideline, he was still in the game.

He joined the Marines because he loved his country. He soon loved the Marines and chose to make it his career. He loved his country so much, he chose to serve not one, but three tours of duty in Iraq, just as in his youth he would not quit. He was so proud to be a Marine, but more proud to be an American. He really loved his country.

My community continues to be blessed with people like Tyler who unselfishly give their time and, in some cases, their life so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear.

He loved his family. Tyler is survived by his wife Stephanie; his daughters Ashleigh and Madison; and a son Jacob; and his parents, who live in Pierce Township. All of us mourn Tyler's loss, and we are grateful, eternally grateful, for his braveness and his valor and his valiant service to our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me tonight and each and every night to pray for his family in their time of need. May Tyler rest in peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim my time out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

IRAQ AND THE REPUBLICAN DISSENTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned that Harriet Miers has withdrawn her nomination to the United States Supreme Court. The stated reason had to do with executive privilege for legal advice she had given to the President that she did not want to reveal, but I do not think you need to be an expert tea leaf reader to see that public support for Ms. Miers' appointment, particularly among conservatives, was scarce, actually absent. As a result, Ms. Miers decided to step aside.

Perhaps there is a lesson here that we can apply to another initiative, an initiative of the White House that is rapidly losing public confidence. Two-and-a-half years into the Iraq War, it could not be clearer that the President's policy is one with tragic consequences. It is time for the President to admit his mistake and change his course. Over 2,000 of our brave soldiers are dead. That is 2,000 too many.

The threat of terrorism has not diminished at all. We have lost respect and credibility with allies around the world. The insurgency remains as strong as ever and is further animated with every day that the American occupation continues.

We are pouring about \$1 billion a week into this fiasco, and, by the way, the original rationale for fighting this war, weapons of mass destruction, turns out to be based on fabrications and deceptions.

What is the President waiting for? How much worse does it need to get? How many more casualties must we endure?

Look, you do not have to take my word for it. The White House would like you to believe that opposition to the war exists on the fringes only, but the fact is that 66 percent of our people, two out of every three Americans, has a negative opinion of the way the President has handled Iraq. Apparently included in that two out of every three are former members of the administration and Bush family loyalists.

Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, who served as Colin Powell's Chief of Staff at the State Department, recently went public with his misgivings. He talks about a dysfunctional national security policymaking process, with decisions made secretly by a Cheney-Rumsfeld cabal that was given free rein by a President who, as Wilkerson put it, "is not versed in international relations and not too much interested in them either."

The latest issue of *The New Yorker* magazine features a profile of Brent Scowcroft, a close friend and adviser to the President's father and mentor to Condoleezza Rice. Scowcroft was considered the hawk of the first President Bush's national security team, but in this article he is frank about his disillusionment with the current Iraq policy. He notes that you cannot impose democracy by force, that the Iraq War is breeding terrorism, and that Saddam did not represent a threat to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring the troops home, and I feel even more strongly on this point after traveling to Iraq a few weeks ago.

There is no shortage of ideas for possible exit strategies. For example, there are at least four good proposals right here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and on the other side of the Capitol, Senator KERRY and Senator FEINGOLD have offered specific plans.

I held a hearing just last month where a broad range of experts discussed ways we could end the occupation while keeping Iraq secure and helping its people rebuild their country.

There is an important conversation going on about these issues. It would be nice if the President joined in, but to immediately insist that we stay the course is at this point irresponsible, insulting and demeaning to the American people.

I know this President does not like to admit his mistakes, but maybe it is time to eat a little crow. I think a little bruised pride is a small price to pay if it means more Americans will not have to die.

Mr. Speaker, let us return Iraq to the Iraqi people and our soldiers home to their families.

LIMITING THE GULF REGION REDEVELOPMENT TAX BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, every American was touched by stories of the people of the gulf region who lost so much as a result of the recent hurricanes. The American people have responded with overwhelming compassion with record donations of cash, food and clothing, and Congress, too, has a role in helping the people and the region to rebuild.

However, as Congress begins its work on the hurricane tax incentive package to help the gulf region rebuild, it needs to recall its long history of limiting the benefits of redevelopment tax breaks to certain businesses.

Regardless what section of the Tax Code is used to spur reinvestment and revitalization in the gulf region, Congress has limited the businesses that receive certain tax benefits. The history of targeting Federal tax breaks to certain businesses ought to continue.

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This limitation makes sense, particularly in light of the tight budgets facing our Nation today. Congress's history of limiting Federal redevelopment tax benefits goes back more than 20 years.

Federal law pertaining to tax exempt benefits of small bonds prohibits tax benefits from being extended to "any private or commercial golf course, country club, massage parlor, tennis club, skating facility, including roller skating, skateboard, and ice skating, racquet sports facility, including any handball or racquetball court, hot tub facility, suntan facility or racetrack." Congress does not want to give money to the gambling industry to rebuild when we should be doing it to help the poor and the needy.

In the accompanying Senate committee report, the committee expressed concern with "the use of small issue industrial development bonds, IDBs, to finance a variety of types of facilities, from private recreational facilities to fast food restaurants, that generally may be less deserving of a Federal credit subsidy than other types of facilities."

A few years later, in Public Law 99-514, Congress qualified redevelopment bonds and expanded the list of businesses that would be prohibited from receiving tax benefits to include any private or commercial golf course,

country club, massage parlor, hot tub facility, suntan facility, racetrack or other facility used for gambling, or any store the principal business of which is the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption off premises.

When the Enterprise Zone tax structure was enacted, Congress once again prohibited the benefits from being extended to certain businesses following the limits laid out in 26 U.S.C. Sec. 144, which I will include for the RECORD.

Just as Congress expressed concern about allowing Federal tax benefits to flow to less deserving businesses more than 20 years ago, Congress today should again be concerned about the same issue as it works to assemble the Gulf Opportunity Zone tax package.

As Congress considers cuts to Medicaid, food stamps, the student loan program, foster care, child support, and other programs to offset the cost of hurricane recovery, we must be sure that tax incentives only go to worthy businesses. Federal tax dollars need to be focused on those who truly need the government's help like the poor, vulnerable, and elderly.

I believe fair-minded Americans would support tax incentives to spur business reinvestment along the hurricane-ravaged gulf coast to help victims there rebuild their lives; but I also believe the American people would draw the line, as Congress has historically done, in using taxpayer dollars to assist businesses such as massage parlors, casinos, golf courses, and liquor stores.

Allowing gambling conglomerates, for example, which are reporting billion-dollar record profits to take advantage of tax breaks does not make sense. Gambling operators do not need any incentive to rebuild and according to press reports, have already vowed to come back "bigger and better" than before the hurricane.

Particularly when faced with tough budget choices, Congress ought not abandon its history of limiting tax benefits to more deserving businesses. Regardless of what section of the Tax Code is used to spur business investment in the region, bonds, Enterprise Zone tax credit zone, expensing and depreciation or any other tax incentive, Congress should target the limited Federal resources available to more deserving businesses.

Mr. Speaker, giving tax breaks to massage parlors, casinos, liquor stores and golf courses while we cut Federal programs for the less fortunate cannot be explained to the American people. Congress must be sure these tax benefits of the gulf rebuilding package do not go to massage parlors, casinos, liquor stores, and golf courses.

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However, as Congress begins its work on the hurricane tax incentive package to help