

Carolina has a great deal to offer including friendly people, a hardworking and highly skilled workforce, excellent institutions of higher education, and a beautiful landscape.

I wish Smiths Aerospace great success in all its future endeavors.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican budget reconciliation. I believe this process has nothing to do with reconciliation. Instead, we have an ideological devastation of the future of families, children, students, the poor, and the elderly in this country.

It would look at these cuts: education, \$14 billion; nutrition, \$844 million in food stamp cuts; Medicaid, \$10 billion; veterans, not addressing the real needs of veterans in this country; foster care, \$577 million; SSI and TANF, \$8 billion; child support, \$5 billion.

These cuts that are being asked for by the Republicans in the reconciliation are a direct result of their policies, policies that are giving tax breaks to corporations, tax cuts to the very wealthy, a \$1-billion-a-day war, and a borrow-and-spend fiscal policy that the Republican Party has instituted.

The backbone of this Nation is its families. The door of opportunity has to remain open for all families. There is always room at the inn.

I urge a "no" vote on the reconciliation.

THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT RULING ON PARENTING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, like millions of parents across the country, we were shocked last week by the ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This ruling denies parents their right to have a say in the content their children are taught in school. In its decision, the Ninth Circuit said, "We hold that parents have no due process or privacy right to override the determinations of public schools as to the information to which their children will be exposed while enrolled as students."

Mr. Speaker, parents, not schools and certainly not the courts, hold the primary responsibility for educating their children, especially when it comes to more sensitive subject matters like sexual, moral, or religious instruction. But the Ninth Circuit, the same court that ruled the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional, would strip parents of this fundamental role in their own children's lives.

Last week we addressed an errant court ruling on eminent domain and private property rights. Should this ruling stand, we will need to correct this wayward court yet again.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION WILL NEGLECT THE POOR TO HELP THE PRIVILEGED FEW

(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, this week House Republicans will once again demonstrate why the American people no longer have confidence in them to lead this Nation.

At a time when college tuition is skyrocketing, House Republicans propose to cut over \$14 billion in student loan funding, increasing the cost for college for American families by \$5,800.

At a time that the number of families with no health insurance is growing, House Republicans propose slashing Medicaid by \$12 billion, forcing our Nation's most vulnerable to either pay more themselves or lose the health services they need.

At a time that the majority talks about values, House Republicans propose decimating Federal funding for child support enforcement, allowing deadbeat parents to avoid their responsibility.

And at a time when our national debt sets daily records, House Republicans propose to actually increase the deficit by more than \$100 billion, using these cuts to ensure tax cuts for the wealthiest.

That is what a Republican majority means for our country. Together, America can indeed do better.

THREATS POSED BY IRAN

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address Iran's growing threat to our allies in the Middle East and to America's national interests.

The Iranian president recently said Israel should be "wiped off the map." This malicious language must not be ignored, especially considering Iran's long-standing support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah, and its unlawful nuclear ambitions.

Terrorist groups supported by Iran are operating today in Gaza, the West Bank, and Iraq, undermining the region's quest for democracy and threatening the lives of innocent civilians.

Iran's radical government seeks to develop nuclear weapons. If Iran gains nuclear capabilities, millions of innocent Israelis, as well as our allies in the Middle East, will be jeopardized and our hopes for Middle East peace will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, we must not abandon Israel, leaving them to stand alone against this imminent threat. The

United States must lead, with our allies, in eliminating Iran's support for terrorist groups and requiring Iran to fulfill nuclear nonproliferation agreements.

THE REPUBLICANS' PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote an article that appeared last Friday in the Chicago Sun-Times by religion writer Kathleen Falsani under the headline "Bush Administration's Moral Compass Is Lost."

She wrote, "... this week, as Republican leaders try to force a monstrous \$50 billion budget cut designed allegedly to offset the mounting costs ... of hurricane-related aid through Congress, it is clear that the Bush administration's moral compass ... has been lost. The proposed budget cuts, part of the so-called 'budget reconciliation,' would have devastating effects on the poorest, most vulnerable Americans, while allowing tax relief for the rich."

She goes on to say, "Maybe Republican leaders should consider proposing an open season on the homeless or the resurrection of debtors' prisons while they're at it. Is this the kind of leadership the majority of voters that, according to the pollsters at the time, cast their ballots in 2004 based on 'moral values' had in mind? Is this what faith-based 'compassionate conservatism' looks like? Is our Nation more moral, more secure, or spiritually healthier than it was a year ago? And to address my fellow Christian voters," she said, "has the Good News been advanced in any way? No, absolutely not."

America can do better.

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AMERICA'S ECONOMY GROWING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, it was reported that U.S. productivity grew at the fastest clip in more than a year, signaling a steady growth of the economy. Non-farm business productivity surged at a 4.1 percent annual rate. The increase exceeded economists' expectations and was almost twice that of the prior quarter.

This has caused a gauge of inflationary pressure to drop. When productivity rises smartly, employers can raise and boost wages without fueling inflation. Increasing productivity helps us compete with China so that we can export more to China.

I believe this success is due to the tax cuts enacted by President Bush. The Bush policies have caused the

gross domestic product to surge by 3.8 percent. It has created over 4 million jobs. The stock market has appreciated over \$6 trillion. There is a record percentage of homeownership; and, for the first time ever, over 50 percent of minorities own their own homes.

I appreciate President Bush's leadership. I look forward to more successes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MEDICARE PART D

(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, next week, on November 15, senior citizens across America will have the opportunity to sign up for a benefit that is long overdue, and that is prescription drug coverage.

The initial sign-up date for Medicare part D runs from November 15, 2005, through May 15, 2006. Coverage starts January 1, 2006, so the sooner seniors sign up, the sooner they can start saving.

Here is what seniors should know about Medicare part D. It is available to all Medicare beneficiaries. The benefit is voluntary, so seniors will need to choose to sign up. They will have a choice of plans with a low monthly premium, and all Medicare-approved plans will cover both generic and brand-name prescription drugs and will be accepted at pharmacies close to home.

There are several ways seniors can sign up for Medicare part D. Watch the mail for information from Social Security and Medicare; call 1-800-Medicare, where trained staff can answer questions and help you sign up 7 days a week, 24 hours a day; or visit the Web site www.medicare.gov.

If our seniors have access to affordable prescription drugs, they will reap the benefits of modern medicine and live healthier lives.

GOP DOUBLETALK ON ENERGY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow some of the biggest names in the oil industry are coming to Capitol Hill to testify on why their companies are making record profits at the same time American families are struggling to heat their homes.

We are hearing some really big talk from Republicans. Why, if you were Rip Van Winkle, you might actually believe the Republicans were trying to do something about gas prices. Yet the tune they are singing now is really different from the tune they were singing back in the summer when they passed the energy bill. Back then, they were singing from the energy industry's hymn book.

The fact is, thanks to a Republican-backed energy bill loaded with tax-

payer subsidies to big oil to the tune of \$14 billion, American families are struggling with sky-high energy bills and oil companies are struggling for ways to count their cash.

Just an example: ExxonMobil recently reported that their profits increased by 75 percent in the third quarter, and so what do we do? We give them \$14 billion as taxpayer subsidies to help them run their business plan.

Americans are seeing a Congress that has done nothing to help them and do everything to help the oil companies.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong to hand out money to energy companies who are making record massive profits and then cut funding for home heating assistance to our elderly. We need a change. We need new priorities. America can do better.

SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, something is not right. When you look at the budget reconciliation act and you look at the terrible devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma and the impact in the Gulf region, and you see the impact on schools like Xavier and Dillard and Tulane and Loyola, and then Texas Southern University in Texas that has taken over 600 hurricane Katrina students, along with the University of Houston, and we are attempting to cause our students billions of dollars in aid in the Budget Reconciliation Act, something is not right. Something is not right when small and disadvantaged businesses cannot even participate in the rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Something is not right when large corporations are blocking the opportunities for small businesses to be engaged.

The Budget Reconciliation Act is not a problem solver. It creates problems. How can you put the burden of the deficits created by House Republicans and others on the backs of students who are attempting to achieve an education? Something is not right when we are cutting billions of dollars of student aid.

REDUCING DEFICIT SPENDING FOR THE GOOD OF AMERICA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, once again, we continue to hear gross mischaracterizations of what it is that we are trying to do. Democrats and Republicans alike decry deficit spending. They say we have to balance the budget, both sides of the aisle.

We have come together with what I hope will be a bipartisan package at the end of the day that is designed to bring about 50-plus billion dollars in

spending reductions. We all decry the fact that mandatory spending is out of control.

What is it we are doing with this package? Well, for the first time in a long time, we are trying to rein in so-called mandatory spending. The reason is that we believe in growing our economy, not Federal spending; we believe in reducing the reach of government, not limiting the reach of individuals; and we believe in government's helping hand, not government's heavy hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that the day after tomorrow, when we look at this important legislation, that we do all that we can to come together and try to do what the American people want us to do, and that is reduce the size and scope and reach of the Federal Government.

REPUBLICAN RAID ON STUDENT AID SHOWS MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, parents and students should take note: College may soon get a lot more expensive if House Republicans get their way.

This week, they plan to bring a budget reconciliation bill to the floor that cuts \$14 billion in Federal student aid, the largest cuts in the program's history. Included are nearly \$8 billion in new charges that will raise the cost of college loans through new fees and higher interest for millions of American students and families.

For the typical student borrower already saddled with over \$17,000 in debt, these new fees and higher interest charges will cost up to \$5,800 more.

Financial barriers should never prevent a qualified student from going to college, and that is why America has long since made the commitment to help all Americans afford a higher education. Studies show that financial barriers alone will prevent over 4 million high school graduates from attending a 4-year public university over the next decade and prevent another 2 million from attending college at all.

Mr. Speaker, the wrong priorities in this Republican budget reconciliation will put college out of reach for millions of American students. It should be rejected.

\$10 BILLION FIX FOR MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT NOT INCLUDED IN HOUSE BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, my community has the fastest growing senior population in the United States. I also have numbers of doctors that are telling me they can no longer afford to