

Nothing illustrates that more clearly than the provision in this budget resolution that would increase the federal debt limit for the fifth time under President Bush.

This President and this Congress have squandered the fiscal discipline of the 1990s and created a legacy of deficits and debt that will erode the standard of living of our children and our grandchildren. This is a record-setting Administration, but they are the wrong records. We have seen the federal budget deficit set a record in dollar terms, we have seen the national debt rise to a record level, and we have seen our trade deficit and our indebtedness to the rest of the world rise to a record level.

The President likes to talk about how fast the economy is growing and how successful his policies have been in stimulating an economic recovery from the 2001 recession. But the American people are saying "what economic recovery?" and, "when am I going to see any benefits from this President's economic policies?" Mr. Speaker, we should listen to the American people and we should adopt economic policies that promote the economic well-being of all Americans—not just those at the very top of the economic ladder.

The President's FY 2007 budget and the House budget resolution do not do that. Instead they perpetuate economic policies that have produced a legacy of deficits and debt that leave us unprepared to deal with the budget challenges posed by the retirement of the baby-boom generation and that weakens the future standard of living of our children and grandchildren.

Economic policy over the past 5 years has not served the interest of the typical American family. The resilience of the American economy has allowed it to recover from the 2001 recession, but we are still experiencing the labor market effects of the most protracted jobs slump in decades. Job creation has lagged far behind what is typical in a strong economic recovery, there is still evidence of hidden unemployment, and the benefits of productivity growth have been showing up in the bottom lines of companies rather than in the paychecks of workers. Finally, there is a growing gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in this country as income and earnings disparities have widened.

Yes, workers have become more productive—they produce more and more in each hour that they work. But they haven't been getting rewarded for that productivity. Average hourly earnings have not kept up with inflation for the past 2 years and they barely kept even the year before that. Median family income has failed to keep up with inflation every year under President Bush.

Those who are already well-to-do are doing very well in the Bush economy. But the typical American family is struggling to make ends meet in the face of high costs for energy, health care, and a college education for their children.

This budget resolution does not address any of these problems. In fact, it makes things worse. An analysis by the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee shows that budget cuts in programs that provide payments for individuals are concentrated among lower-income families, while the tax cuts that have already been enacted go overwhelmingly to those at the top of the distribution. More than a third of the costs of spending cuts for

families go to those in the bottom 20 percent of the distribution (families that together have only 3 percent of aggregate income). Meanwhile those at the top get nearly three-quarters of the benefits from the tax cuts. This analysis relates to the budget resolution originally brought to the floor a month ago, but the essential character of the plan has not changed.

With policies that have turned a \$5.6 trillion 10-year budget surplus into a deficit over those same 10 years of at least \$2.7 trillion, this Administration and this Congress have turned the United States into a Nation of debtors, relying on the rest of the world to finance our budget deficits and the rest of our excessive spending. Last year we had a current account deficit of \$805 billion. That is the amount of money we had to borrow from the rest of the world to finance our trade deficit and international payment imbalance.

Foreign governments are holding large quantities of our public debt, putting us at risk of a major international financial crisis if they should decide that the benefits of holding dollars are no longer worth the risk.

Mr. Chairman, future prosperity depends on increasing our national savings and making wise investments; it depends on being ready for the retirement of the baby-boom generation and the pressure we know that will put on the budget. But how is the other side preparing us for that future—with more deficits and more debt. They want to make the tax cuts that have gotten us into this mess permanent, and they have no realistic plan for controlling spending or bringing revenues into line with the amount we need to spend to defend the country and take care of the needs of our citizens. We need a better plan.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in solidarity with Jewish Americans from Maine to Hawaii to celebrate the designation of this May as the first ever Jewish American Heritage Month.

On Thursday April 20th, President Bush proclaimed that May would be Jewish American Heritage Month. I was a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 315 when it unanimously passed the House of Representatives on December 15th, 2005, urging the President to do just that. Now for the first time there will be a national month recognizing the 352-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture.

As a first generation Jewish American, I have witnessed firsthand Jewish immigrants who have come to this Nation in order to create a better life for themselves, their families, and future generations. Since the first Jews settled here over 300 years ago, Jewish Americans have made endless contributions to our country through technology, the economy, entertainment, academia, politics, art, medicine, military service, and more. Like other important immigrant communities, the Jewish experience in the United States represents the ideal of freedom and the promise and opportunity of America.

Through educational programming, Jewish American History Month will help raise the awareness of a people, their history and contributions. It will help combat anti-Semitism, a phenomenon that is on the rise and that unfortunately still exists in our Nation. At no time in recent history has the need for this observance been greater. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) most recent Hate Crimes Statistics, 67.8 percent of criminal incidents motivated by religions bias stemmed from anti-Jewish prejudice.

The lessons from the Holocaust have taught Jewish Americans that we must never turn a blind eye to terror or discrimination. It is necessary to combat hate wherever it exists. As a Jew I cannot sit idle while genocidal atrocities continue to unfold in Darfur, Sudan. I was proud to witness American Jewish organizations found the Save Darfur Coalition in June 2004 to mobilize a coordinated interfaith response to the ongoing humanitarian disaster. I hope every American will lend their support to this critical effort.

I look forward to the celebrations that will take place each May for years to come and I encourage everyone to help make this inaugural year's observance memorable by developing educational and celebratory programs in your communities.

And I wish you a happy Jewish American Heritage Month.

SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of the efforts being undertaken by the National Security agency to monitor and track terrorists, I commend to the attention of my colleagues the excellent piece by Mort Kondracke in today's Roll Call.

Mr. Kondracke rightly notes that the NSA's interception of international terrorist communications is both legitimate and vital to the Global War on Terror.

[From the Roll Call, May 18, 2006]

IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT MENACES U.S. ABILITY TO FIGHT TERRORISM

(By Morton M. Kondracke)

Enough already! It's harmful enough that ideological conflict and partisan politics are preventing this country from solving its long-term challenges on health care, fiscal policy and energy. Now, it's threatening our national survival.

I do not exaggerate. Bush-hatred has reached such intensity that CIA officers and other bureaucrats are leaking major secrets about anti-terrorism policy and communications intelligence that undermine our ability to fight Islamic extremism.

Would newspapers in the midst of World War II have printed the fact that the U.S. had broken German and Japanese codes, enabling the enemy to secure its communications? Or revealed how and where Nazi spies were being interrogated? Nowadays, newspapers win Pulitzer Prizes for such disclosures.

In Congress and in much of the media, the immediate reaction to news that the National Security Agency was intercepting international terrorist communications was

not to say, "Good work—and how can we help?" Rather, it was to scream about a "domestic spying" scandal, as though Richard Nixon were back in the White House and tapping the telephone of Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean.

And the reaction has been much the same to USA Today's story last week that the NSA "has been secretly collecting the phone call records of tens of millions of Americans" in a program that "reaches into the homes and businesses across the nation by amassing information about the calls of ordinary Americans."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee, reacted by asserting that "these are tens of millions of Americans who are not suspected of anything but we're just going to collect their phone information for the heck of it. Where does it stop?"

Similarly, Newsweek's cover this week blares "Spying On Your Calls"—no question mark used—and implies that the Bush White House could be tapping everyone's telephones.

In fact, what seems to be happening, though the details are secret, is that most long-distance phone companies have given the NSA their billing records identifying what numbers are calling what other numbers, when and for how long. Names are not included. And the NSA—not for the heck of it but to protect us from attack—is using the records to track terrorist networks and calling patterns. If a known terrorist in Pakistan calls a number in Los Angeles, I want the government to know what numbers that person calls. Don't you?

Certainly, the government will find out the names of people in a terrorist calling chain. If it wants to tap a domestic phone, it needs a warrant and, unless officials are lying through their teeth, it is asking for them.

The NSA call logs also apparently are being mined to establish patterns of terrorist-related communication—the use of pay phones, duration of calls, times of communication, etc.

But all this scarcely constitutes "reaching into homes and businesses across the nation." If the government is snooping into the business of anyone except terrorists (or drug dealers, Mafiosi and child pornographers, whose names and numbers also can be easily obtained with a subpoena), it is wasting its time and our money.

The phone companies that are cooperating with the government ought to be congratulated for participating in the war on terrorism—as they would have been in WWII. Instead, they are being hauled before the Senate Judiciary Committee as though they were criminals. And trial lawyers are circling like vultures to make them pay zillions for alleged privacy violations.

As for myself, I'm sticking with AT&T as a long-distance carrier because (according to news reports), it did cooperate. If I had Qwest, which reportedly refused, I'd cancel.

Is there a potential for abuse in the NSA spying program? There is. For instance, it would be all too easy for officials to ask the NSA to trace the phone records of the winners of those odious Pulitzers—James Risen of The New York Times and Dana Priest of The Washington Post—in an effort to uncover their sources in the name of "protecting secrets" and "fighting terrorism."

The Senate Intelligence Committee, when it quizzes former NSA Director Michael Hayden in his CIA confirmation hearings Friday, should establish that the terrorist surveillance programs have not been abused, although there is no evidence of it.

To the extent he can do so without giving away secrets, Hayden also should tell the committee and the country why these pro-

grams are so essential and what the legal basis for them is.

If the administration believes, as officials often have said, that the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is obsolete in the age of super-computers and terrorism, it ought to work with Congress to rewrite the law. Skirting it won't work anymore.

But the fundamental problem infecting much of Congress, the media and the political class especially those, left of center—is that they are consumed with loathing for President Bush and all his works and are prepared to do anything to undermine him, even if it makes the country less safe.

Yes, Republicans tried to destroy former President Bill Clinton over sex and politics. But now Democrats what to destroy Bush so badly that they are willing to undercut national security.

Everyone in Congress (and the CIA) should see the movie "United 93" as a reminder of what we are up against, Muslim fanatics will not only try to destroy the Capitol, but also explode a nuclear bomb, if they can.

And, people also should heed the warning delivered by Princeton University professor Bernard Lewis, one of the nation's foremost scholars of Islam, before the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life here last month.

Lewis, now 90, cast the struggle with Islamic extremism in WWII terms—it is 1938, he said, and "we seem to be more in the mode of Chamberlain at Munich rather than of Churchill."

Osama bin Laden and other would-be Hitlers, he said, consider the United States "an effete, degenerate, pampered enemy incapable of real resistance." It's part of the pattern that we fight among ourselves as much as against our enemies. This is more than serious. It's dire.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 through 2011:

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Chairman, it's time for Congress to start making tough choices. Projected growth in mandatory spending threatens to crowd out all other spending and choke our economy unless we act now. Over the next 75 years, Medicare's unfunded liabilities amount to a staggering \$30 trillion—more than 5 times as much as Social Security's. We're on a fiscal path that we simply cannot sustain, presenting our children and grandchildren with a legacy of enormous debt or stifling tax increases.

There are difficult decisions that have to be made, but we must be responsible, tighten our belts, and live within our means. I applaud the RSC for its work on this budget alternative, and urge its passage.

HONORING THE 16TH ANNUAL DC BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day Weekend, May 26–29, is the 16th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC.

DC Black Pride is an exciting 4-day event complete with dynamic workshops, receptions, cultural arts activities, small and large nightclub events that culminates in the world's largest Black Pride Festival at Metro Center, on the site of Washington, DC's former Convention Center. Many consider DC's Festival one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations. The Festival consistently draws more than 30,000 people to the Nation's Capital. Attendees come from every major urban area in the United States as well as from Canada, Great Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Caribbean and South Africa. The Black Pride Festival features activities for the entire family including performances by national recording artists, 200 exhibition booths, book signings from noted writers, participation from national and local health organizations, and arts and crafts.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD), the celebration's organizing body, chose the theme "Fire 2006" to encourage the Black Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) people to "get fired up" about their health and wellness, to strengthen the Black LGBT Community, and to encourage Black LGBT people to live their lives with pride.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., a nonprofit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors coordinates this annual event. BLGPD's 2006 Board consists of Clarence J. Fluker, President; James Hawkins, Vice President; Janisha Gabriel, Secretary; Lisa Washington, Treasurer; the following Members at Large: Ramon Gardenhire, Shanika Whitehurst, Sterling Washington, Ray Daniels, Donovan Anderson, Courtney Snowden; and these Members Emeritus: Earl Fowlkes, Eric E. Richardson, and Cheryl Dunn who lead BLGPD in its mission to build knowledge of and to create greater pride in the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community's diversity while raising funds to ameliorate and prevent health problems, especially HIV/AIDS, in this community.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 16th Annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States Citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under