

We have a good idea on how much a deployment like this would cost. \$2.5 billion a year. But, you know what? That is less than 4 percent of the minimum \$70 billion a year we are currently spending covering the health care, education and the different costs for illegal immigrants.

We already know how long it would take to get these troops on line and end this nightmare. One week. That is how long it took NORTHCOM to place 70,000 National Guard and regular Army troops on the Gulf Coast in response to Katrina, and we are still railing about how that took too long. One week.

If the burden of the National Guard is too heavy, we can ask our governors to loan the Nation's 15,000 State defense forces to help. We can call up the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol.

We have laws in place, thanks to changes we made in the 108th Congress. Title 32, Section 9, U.S. Code now allows our governors to call out their National Guard for homeland security missions such as this at 100 percent Federal expense.

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Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona has supposedly made such a call on the Department of Defense. Her State legislature voted earlier this week to force her to follow up on that request.

Mr. Speaker, we need every Member of the House to urge their Governor to deploy all necessary forces to combat this invasion. We need the President to order the Department of Defense to fund this mission at 100 percent, and we need new legislation forcing the issue if action is not forthcoming. We can solve this problem if only Congress has the will.

THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my 1-minute and I want to repeat, because so many Members and people from all over the country went to the great celebration of the life of Coretta Scott King, her words: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and you win it in every generation."

And clearly we have a failure in this generation. If you would take a look, as President Carter said, at the faces of the Katrina victims: the faces of the poor, old, black and white, poor, infrastructure not in place. Thousands of people died because of the inefficient government. The report that was released, "A Failure of Initiative," was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, which criticized the

poor preparation for the response to Hurricane Katrina. We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to mass destruction in the gulf region, particularly in New Orleans. The loss of lives, the loss of homes. But those were just a few problems which were revealed. But the sad fact is that those conditions exist today. Six months later those conditions still exist. The question I ask now is whether the Bush administration is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man made or natural disaster.

There is no question that the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina. The sad thing is, and I want to repeat, that it continues to fail the victims of the storm today. I am calling on the people's House. The Congressional Black Caucus leadership has put together a comprehensive bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that would lead to the recovery of the gulf coast region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation, some of the points made in the committee's report and one that we made today in our press conference.

This devastation stands today, 6 months later. The region of New Orleans looks like a hurricane disaster, bombed-out area. It sends a serious indictment that we can spend \$6 billion a month in Iraq, and yet we cannot solve the problems right here at home.

Where is the leadership in this House? Where is the leadership in the other body? And where is the leadership in the Bush administration? And I am starting with the top, the President, George W. Bush.

And I thank God that when we had our disasters in Florida that we had another administration that we worked with, the Clinton administration. I did not deal with the FEMA that was inept. Because we have had fires in Florida, we have had tornadoes in Florida, we have had hurricane after hurricane in Florida; but we dealt with a different administration, an administration that was willing to come to the community, that one piece of paper, if it was not filled out, we were able to get services. And how do you get that piece of paper? Well, we controlled that piece of paper.

God help us. God help America. And will the people in the people's House speak up for the people in the gulf region.

(1) The failure of a complete evacuation of New Orleans;

(2) Levees protecting New Orleans were not built for the most severe hurricanes, leading to a breach in the system;

(3) The collapse of local law enforcement and lack of effective public communications led to civil unrest and further delayed relief.

These are just a few of the problems which reveal that the government was not adequately prepared for a disaster of this proportion. The question that I ask now is whether the government is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man-made or natural.

There is no question the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina.

The sad thing is that it continues to fail the victims of the storm still today.

Along with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, we are urging the Bush administration to support our hurricane relief bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that if passed into law, would be a great first step towards the recovery and restoration of the gulf coast region.

GENERAL MESSAGE POINTS FOR CBC PRESS CONFERENCE

The House Select Committee Report on Katrina, "A Failure of Initiative," is a scathing indictment of the incompetence of the actions of the Bush Administration and the federal government.

Unfortunately, almost six months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region, the incompetence of the Bush Administration continues everyday to the detriment of the 1.5 million people who were displaced.

Natural disasters will continue to occur and we are not prepared to handle them. Man-made disasters may happen unexpectedly, and we clearly are not prepared to handle them either.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been active legislatively and we have been in regular contact with the people of the Gulf Coast region. We are in the planning stages of scheduling another visit to the region and holding a hearing in Washington around our legislation and related topics. We will also be holding the people in decision-making positions, like the President, Secretary Chertoff, the FEMA director, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Congressional leadership in the House and Senate accountable for their actions.

WASHINGTON, DC.—With respect to the House Select Committee Report on Hurricane Katrina, Congresswoman Corrine Brown made the following statement:

I would like to begin with a quote from Coretta Scott King: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

My colleagues and I in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Asian Caucus, were utterly disappointed upon reading the report, "A Failure of Initiative," which was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, and criticizes the poor preparation and response to the hurricane.

We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to the massive destruction of the Gulf Coast region, particularly New Orleans. The numerous warnings, inadequate planning and apathy in preparing the region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation are some of the points made in the Committee's report.

Unfortunately, the government's botched response has ruined the lives of millions of Americans, who are now forced to go without the most basic human needs. In the report, The Select Committee identified failures at all levels of government which led to the destruction of the region.

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

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

SIMPLIFIED USA TAX

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to focus on an issue that is critical to the survival of America's manufacturing base and the stabilization of American growth and job creation.

While Washington continues to explore initiatives to restrain outsourcing and level the playing field for U.S. employers in the international trading system, it is imperative that we maximize the Federal Government's most potent economic tool, tax policy, to promote growth.

In order for U.S. employers and businesses to remain competitive in the 21st century's global market, Congress must create a Tax Code that serves as a source of support to American companies rather than as a hindrance.

I recently introduced legislation, the Simplified USA Tax, or SUSAT, to help untangle the web of red tape that individual and corporate taxpayers have to navigate every year. My proposal includes a new and better way of taxing businesses that will allow them to compete and win in global markets in a way that exports American-made products, not American jobs. I have studied this issue and I believe that, if enacted in America, this innovative approach to business taxation will set the worldwide standard and create an opportunity for the United States to thrive.

In fact, many of the provisions included in my bill were recommended by the President's advisory panel on Federal Tax Reform as part of their Growth and Investment Initiative.

Under my proposal all businesses, incorporated or not, are taxed alike at an 8 percent rate on the first \$150,000 of profit and at 12 percent on all amounts above that small-business level. Additionally, all businesses will be allowed a credit of 7.65 percent payroll tax that they pay under the current law. One of the most pro-growth elements in SUSAT is that all costs for plant and equipment inventory in the U.S. will be deductible in the year of purchase.

There is broad-based support for expensing in Washington. Recent data show that orders for capital goods were on a steady decline from early 2000. However, when Congress passed "bonus depreciation," an initiative that I worked on with my colleague, Mr. WELLER from Illinois, as part of the 2002 and 2003 tax bills, the trend was immediately reversed and orders for goods steadily rose.

Every economic principle and every piece of data tells us that immediate expensing must be a major component of any tax reform package. It has the highest bang for the buck, about \$9 of

growth for every \$1 of tax cut. It has bipartisan appeal, and it directly translates into greater competitiveness and better paying jobs.

Another key component of SUSAT which will make American businesses more competitive is border adjustability. SUSAT would end the perverse practice, unique among our trading partners, of taxing our own exports. The absence of some type of border tax adjustments for exports of American-made goods places our businesses, particularly manufacturers, at a major disadvantage.

Any entrepreneur will tell you that whether a product is taxed at the corporate level or through a consumption tax paid at the register, the burden will fall largely on businesses, which includes the employees and shareholders. So when our trading partners rebate the taxes paid to their businesses and we do not, it necessarily means that we are at a disadvantage.

Under SUSAT, all export sales income is exempt and imports are taxed at a 12 percent rate. In turn, all companies that produce abroad and sell back into U.S. markets will be required to bear the same tax burden as companies that produce and sell from here in the United States. This policy will finally take away the bias in favor of imports built into our current tax structure, which, in my view, has contributed to our record trade deficit, which continues to increase at a breath-taking rate.

Mr. Speaker, we noticed that on Monday the WTO rejected an appeal of an early ruling which found transition rules repealing the export subsidy known as FSC/ETI. This decision requires us to come back and look again at fundamental reform. Not only are our products at a disadvantage in the global marketplace; the EU now has a legal right to impose sanctions on American products, giving them an even greater competitive disadvantage. Monday's decision makes tax reform even more timely and even more essential.

The other underlying absurdity in our Tax Code is that we currently condition territoriality on foreign subsidiaries reinvesting profits in foreign countries instead of repatriating the profits for investment in the United States. I authored a provision with Senator ENSIGN that made it into the tax law that effectively allowed the repatriation of over \$300 billion in foreign profits that have come back into the United States and have been reinvested into our homeland.

Anyone who has any doubts that U.S. companies have an incentive to keep money abroad has just to look at those figures. Until we change our current structure, the foreign companies will continue to reap the economic benefits of our tax laws' backwards incentives.

The time has come for us to move forward on fundamental tax reform, and I challenge my colleagues in the House and on the Ways and Means

Committee to move forward on this issue to engage the Treasury. At a time when we need to make sure we are doing everything to make our economy competitive, now is the time to move forward on tax reform.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEDICARE PART D IMPLEMENTATION, MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT, AND COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

Ms. HERSETH. 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 gentleman from South Dakota?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a problem of potentially catastrophic proportions. It is not a matter of foreign policy or national security, and it is not natural disasters like this past summer's hurricanes or the ongoing drought in States like my home State of South Dakota.

No. This is a man-made disaster. This debacle is of government creation and, in particular, legislative irresponsibility. This is a crisis that we, as elected representatives, have an obligation and a duty to address. I rise to discuss the crisis facing our community pharmacists, particularly those who serve rural communities.

As I mentioned on Tuesday of this week, of all the health care professionals struggling with the implementation of the new Medicare drug benefit, pharmacists appear to be the most negatively affected. This past weekend I spent several hours meeting with health professionals from South Dakota communities, small and large, to discuss their ongoing efforts to implement the new Medicare prescription drug benefit.

These meetings proved incredibly beneficial to me and to my staff, and I have scheduled more of them in the near future. I encourage my colleagues to take the time to sit down with those administering the program in their districts. It is important that you hear from them first hand. But because of the urgency of this issue, I feel compelled to share with you now some thoughts on the crisis facing rural and community pharmacists.

Here is what is happening: PHARMACIES large and small receive no or inadequate compensation for the time they spend filling prescriptions. This is particularly troubling for those serving