

zero toward the end of the decade, roughly the surplus during that decade will be about \$780 billion. So we are going to borrow the entire surplus collected to pay the benefits of retired Americans; of course, not Mr. Raymond, he is not too worried about it, but other Americans, and we are going to give that as a tax break to people who have estates worth more than \$25 million.

Isn't that great? And they say this is about small business and family farms. No, it is about feeding those who have given so generously to you. This is the contributor class that we are talking about here, and the contributor class is awfully generous and has been incredibly generous to George Bush over his political career and extraordinarily generous to the Republican majority here in Congress.

So, it is not too much to ask that they should pass a bill that gives them a \$762 billion windfall, hands the bill to working Americans, and they hope to stay in power. A very sad day for the United States House of Representatives.

PUERTO RICO'S BORDER WAR

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, more news from the front. The border war continues, and today this dispatch comes from the weakest 272 miles on the second border of our Nation.

This could be a postcard from that front, snapshots of illegals all across the beaches here running ashore, coming from this boat called a yola. We see here a Blackhawk helicopter.

This invasion started in one Caribbean island and lands on another Caribbean island. This boat is packed with hundreds of illegals. They ride the waves that carry them to a new existence in these primitive boats. They wash ashore on the most advanced country in the world, a superpower.

Mr. Speaker, this looks like a naval invasion from World War II in one the Pacific islands.

This boat was spotted by the Border Patrol, and even though there may be 100 or 150 individuals that are illegally entering Puerto Rico, only 10 to 12 of them will actually be arrested. Sometimes the Border Patrol is not this lucky and doesn't find any of these individuals.

I have spoken to border agents who patrol Puerto Rico, and they have arrested individuals. Recently they arrested an individual of Middle Eastern descent. He was actually swimming ashore. And when he was questioned about what he was doing on American soil, he replied with answers like, "Allah is great," and, "Bush is the devil," and that is all he would say.

Stories like this prove the same warfare that let us conquer the Japanese

islands in World War II is in play on our shores. It was called island hopping back in World War II, when the American marines would go from island to island getting ever closer to the Japanese homeland. Island hopping.

But after marines were sent to capture an island in the Pacific, they would move on to the next island, getting closer, and it worked, and it worked in the Pacific. But now this strategy is being used against the United States, and the invasion of Puerto Rico poses a national security issue, 272 miles of a border that needs to be protected.

But another island is being targeted first by these island-hopping invaders. It is called Mona Island. That is also a part of the United States, part of Puerto Rico. It is right here, Mr. Speaker, next to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and then you see this little island called the Mona Island, very close to Puerto Rico.

This island is inhabited basically by a bunch of botanists, for lack of a better phrase, and they are investigating whatever nature resources there are there. It is a 25-mile nature preserve. And the biologists and naturalists that are there aren't the only people there. It is a breeding ground for illegals.

You see, what happens, Mr. Speaker, illegals stop off at Mona Island. They are Cubans, Chinese, Dominicans, Middle Easterners, South Americans and any other illegals from around the world.

They land on Mona Island, the first island-hopping stop in their Caribbean trip, and then they move over to the mainland of Puerto Rico. They make their way to Puerto Rico, where, at any given time, there are only four Border Patrol agents on patrol for 272 miles of border or coastline.

Then when illegals get to Puerto Rico, once they land, what they do is they find someone to sell them a fake American driver's license, pretend to be a U.S. citizen, and then catch an airplane to the heartland of America.

Mr. Speaker, we are being invaded by land and by sea. The obligation of the U.S. Government is to protect its citizens. That is the number one obligation of this government. We must protect our citizens from invasion from all foreign nations by any means. The border war includes the American held island of Puerto Rico and Mona Island.

Mr. Speaker, while we are sending more Border Patrol and National Guard to our southern border, we are losing ground in Puerto Rico. This island hopping must stop.

Why aren't we using the resources of the Coast Guard to protect our coasts from this unlawful invasion into Puerto Rico? There is a concentrated effort by other nations to infiltrate our national borders. It also happens to be illegal.

The government must have the will to protect our borders like we protect the borders of other nations throughout the world. Meanwhile, the battle

for the border continues on the homeland, the second front.

That's just the way it is.

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

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

SUPPORT THE DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace Mr. PALLONE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if you live in Toledo or Dayton or Youngstown, or if you live in Mansfield, Ohio, or Hamilton, Ohio, or Lima, Ohio, you know that the Federal Government's trade policies are undermining American manufacturers. And if you live in Marion or Portsmouth or Springfield, Ohio, you know that our trade policies are encouraging the spread of abusive sweatshop practices.

China is the world's sweatshop leader, with repressive labor policies resulting in wage suppression of as much as 85 percent. We all know that American workers can compete in a global economy on a level playing field, but no one can compete with prison labor, child labor or sweatshop labor. The result, a U.S. trade deficit with China that breaks records year after year, an increasing loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs to China. In my State alone, in Ohio, 42,000 jobs have been lost to China since the year 2001. Much of that job loss has been as a result of China's unfair trade practices. Yet America's trade agreements are actually encouraging the development of new sweatshops.

All of us in this body supported the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement because Jordan's labor protections were seen as meeting international standards. But the New York Times reported just last month that in the few years since the Jordan Free Trade Agreement took effect, lax enforcement and an abusive guest worker system have made Jordan the new haven for some of the world's most brutal sweatshops.

Senator BYRON DORGAN and I have introduced the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act to end sweatshop profiteering. The bill bars the importation, the exportation or the sale of goods made with prisoner sweatshop labor. In other words, if a product is made by child labor or by forced prison camp labor, you can't import it into the United States, you can't sell it in the United States.

The bill charges the Federal Trade Commission with enforcement, and

gives manufacturers, competitors, retailers and shareholders a right to hold violators accountable. The bill prohibits Federal Government agencies from buying goods made with prison or sweatshop labor.

We cannot afford to continue to turn a blind eye to these abuses. Sweatshop imports are a moral crime. They violate the values of our families, of our faith and of the history of this country. They are a moral crime against the working men and women, and, I am afraid, working children of the developing nations.

Sweatshop imports are economic suicide for our country. As we import sweatshop goods, we export American jobs, we weaken the bargaining position of U.S. workers fighting for wages with which they can actually support their families.

The heart of America's economy has always been a vigorous middle-income consumer class. Henry Ford knew that. That is why he paid his workers a wage that would allow them to buy the cars that they made, to share the wealth they create, to buy the cars that they made.

By driving U.S. wages down, we weaken the American consumer market, we undercut our greatest economic power, and we lose jobs in so many of our communities. And when we lose jobs in places like Marion, Ohio, and Zanesville, Ohio, we hurt our communities, we hurt our families, we lay off police officers, we cut back on the fire department, our classrooms get larger as teachers get laid off. It hurts our communities, and it is wrong for our country.

I ask my fellow Members of the House to please support the legislation that I mentioned tonight, the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act.

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

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

AGREEING TO TALK TO IRAN UNCONDITIONALLY

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim my 5 minutes at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by recent news that the administration has offered to put an end to our 26-year-old policy of refusing to speak with the Iranians. While this is a positive move, I am still concerned about the preconditions set by the administration before it will agree to begin talks.

Unfortunately, the main U.S. precondition is that the Iranians abandon

their uranium enrichment program. But this is exactly what the negotiations are meant to discuss. How can a meaningful dialogue take place when one side demands that the other side abandon its position before the talks begin?

Is this offer designed to fail so as to clear the way for military action while being able to claim that diplomacy was attempted? If the administration wishes to avoid this perception, it would be wiser to abandon preconditions and simply agree to talk to Iran.

By demanding that Iran give up its uranium enrichment program, the United States is unilaterally changing the terms of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. We must remember that Iran has never been found in violation of the Nonproliferation Treaty. U.N. inspectors have been in Iran for years, and International Atomic Energy Agency Director ElBaradei has repeatedly reported that he can find no indication of diversion of source or special nuclear material to a military purpose.

As a signatory of the Nonproliferation Treaty, Iran has, according to the treaty, the "inalienable right to the development, research and production of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination."

□ 1845

Yet, the United States is demanding that Iran give up that right even though, after years of monitoring, Iran has never been found to have diverted nuclear material from peaceful to military use.

As my colleagues are well aware, I am strongly opposed to the United Nations and our participation in that organization. Every Congress I introduce a bill to get us out of the U.N., but I also recognize problems with our demanding to have it both ways. On one hand, we pretend to abide by the U.N. and international laws, such as when Congress cited the U.N. on numerous occasions in its resolution authorizing the President to initiate war against Iraq. On the other hand, we feel free to completely ignore the terms of treaties, and even unilaterally demand a change in the terms of the treaties without hesitation. This leads to an increasing perception around the world that we are no longer an honest broker, that we are not to be trusted. Is this the message we want to send at this critical time?

So some may argue that it does not matter whether the U.S. operates under double standards. We are the lone superpower, and we can do as we wish, they argue. But this is a problem of the rule of law. Are we a Nation that respects the rule of law? What example does it set for the rest of the world, including rising powers like China and Russia, when we change the rules of the game whenever we see it? Won't this come back to haunt us?

We need to remember that decision-making power under Iran's Government is not entirely concentrated in

the President. We are all familiar with the inflammatory rhetoric of President Ahmadinejad, but there are others, government bodies in Iran, that are more moderate and eager for dialogue. We have already spent hundreds of billions of dollars on a war in the Middle East. We cannot afford to continue on the path of conflict over dialogue and peaceful resolution. Unnecessarily threatening Iran is not in the interest of the United States and is not in the interest of world peace.

I am worried about pre-conditions that may well be designed to ensure that the talks fail before they start. Let us remember how high the stakes are and urge the administration to choose dialogue over military conflict.

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

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

IRAQ AND THE PATH TO WAR

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, stop the presses; we found Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Or at least that is what some Members of Congress would have the American public believe. They stake this claim on an unclassified portion of an intelligence report that addressed the finding of 500 weapons shells of old, inert chemical agents from the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. The shells had been buried deep within the ground near the Iranian border and forgotten by Iraqi soldiers.

Yesterday, intelligence officials made clear that these deactivated shells were not the so-called weapons of mass destruction that the Bush administration used as the basis for going to war in Iraq. Mr. Speaker, a few weapons shells from a two-decade-old war does not a weapons of mass destruction program make.

No matter how you slice it, no matter how you package the story, Saddam Hussein simply didn't have a weapons of mass destruction program in Iraq; yet, there are those who would stop at nothing to prove they existed. It is as if finding the weapons of mass destruction would somehow validate an unjust and unnecessary war that has been mismanaged from the day it was first shamefully conceived.

Mr. Speaker, do a few weapons shells from a two-decade-old war justify the 2,511 American soldiers who have been killed in Iraq? Do they justify the more than 18,000 soldiers who have been wounded forever? How about the countless others who have been traumatized