

transported throughout our Nation. This is a serious gap in our homeland security, and it could have been prevented. For 4 years my Democratic colleagues and I have tried to increase funding for port security to shore up this serious security gap. And every single year the Republican majority has opposed our efforts.

What are they waiting for?

Are House Republicans waiting for biological or chemical agents to come through our ports to be used against Americans before they finally choose to act?

We simply cannot afford to wait any longer. It's time for House Republicans to join Democrats in supporting the funding necessary to secure our ports.

IMMIGRATION REFORM ACTION NEEDED NOW

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, when I look at the current state of our border security, I join my constituents in their concern. Violence at the U.S.-Mexico border is at an all-time high, going on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

We have read in the news about a shoot-out on the border between U.S. law enforcement and a gang of drug smugglers, some of whom were dressed in Mexican military uniforms. Amazingly, several weeks ago we discovered a tunnel 2,400 feet long going under the border. Inside that tunnel were found 2 tons of illegal drugs. These are just a few examples of a flawed and broken immigration policy.

The House has taken an important first step with its passage of H.R. 4437, but this is just the first step. In the weeks and months to come, I call on my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, Members of the House and Senate, to listen to their constituents, listen to the American people, listen to the law enforcement agents and the Border Patrol agents. We are all on the front lines of this issue, and we all share the responsibility. Every day of inaction is a day we can't afford.

IN SUPPORT OF REFORM OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with grave concern for our children and the deficit that Congress and this administration are passing on to them. How much is it? It depends on whether you rely on the President's budget or his financial report. The budget showed the deficit at \$319 billion in 2005, while the more realistic financial report showed it at \$760 billion, more than twice as large.

To make a long story short, the financial report of America uses a clear-

er, more understandable picture of Federal finances. Beyond that, the Blue Dog Coalition calls for a reform of the congressional budget process so that accrual budgeting is fairly considered in formulating Federal budgets.

Finally, I urge consideration of the Blue Dog call for honest budgeting, which builds on the Blue Dogs' fiscally sound 12-point plan, including caps on discretionary spending, PAYGO rules, that any spending increases be paid for with a revenue cut, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and other budget reforms.

These are dire economic times, Madam Speaker. We need to get our fiscal house in order. I urge my colleagues on the Budget Committee to consider the financial report, and I urge all of my colleagues to adopt the Blue Dog call for honest budgeting.

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EXERCISING FINANCIAL RESTRAINT

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, our constituents did not send us to Congress to create debt and pass it on to our children and grandchildren. Yet it is estimated by the end of the fiscal year 2006, we will have a Federal budget deficit of \$337 billion. There are many variables affecting this number, but government spending is out of control, bottom line.

In the coming weeks, we will debate the fiscal year 2007 Federal budget, and we will be faced with a choice to continue spending at the same level or make tough decisions to rein in spending. We cannot continue to fund everything, because if we do, we won't be able to support anything.

Later this morning, the Republican Study Committee will introduce an alternative budget. This budget allows us to renew our purpose of fiscal restraint, paying down or national debt and balance the budget. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Budget Committee, Republicans and Democrats alike, because spending should not be a partisan issue.

TIME TO GET THE BUDGET STRAIGHT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, in a couple of days we will be taking up the budget, and as people talk about fiscal responsibility, this chart is the chart they are talking about.

This chart shows the deficit over the years, how President Clinton took a \$290 billion deficit and converted it into a \$238 billion surplus, and as soon

as this President came in, there has been a complete collapse.

As you talk about the budget, remember this chart. When President Clinton left office, we had a projected surplus of over \$5.5 trillion. Now we have for those same 10 years a projected deficit of \$3.3 trillion. The war, \$300 billion, that is .3. Katrina, \$200 billion, that is .2. An almost \$9 trillion deterioration in the deficit.

And we didn't create any jobs. When they talk about economic improvement, this is the number of jobs created since Herbert Hoover, by administration. This administration, the worst since Herbert Hoover.

We need to get our economy straight. We need to get our budget straight, and we can do it if we take the same kind of initiatives we took in the 1990s.

GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine some light on the good economic news that continues to roll in. This is further proof that Republican pro-growth policies of low taxes are working for the American people.

The economy grew at an annual rate of 1.6 percent in the final quarter of last year. January's unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent, which is the lowest monthly rate since 2001, and lower than the average rate in the seventies, the eighties and the nineties. There have been 29 consecutive months of job gains. The economy has created over 2 million jobs over the past 12 months. Economists are now predicting that growth will clock in at an amazing 4.5 percent in the current January to March quarter.

In order for this good news to last, Congress must fight its urge to spend too much and continue to foster a positive environment for the economy for it to thrive.

A FUNDAMENTALLY INCOMPATIBLE STRATEGY ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, if we want to maintain our edge in the global economy, we should fully fund the President's competitiveness agenda proposed in his 2007 budget. Regrettably, however, the promise of a more competitive American workforce is simultaneously undermined by his other budget proposals to freeze Pell grants for the fifth year in a row and recall the Federal portion of the Perkins loan revolving fund.

This hypocrisy builds on the Republican record on student aid: \$12 billion in cuts to loan programs; failure to extend the tuition deduction; and a 3-

year-long impasse over renewing the Higher Education Act.

Madam Speaker, calling for deep cuts in access to higher education while advocating a competitive workforce is a fundamentally incompatible strategy. Where Congress dropped the ball, colleges are taking the lead in providing tuition assistance to disadvantaged students through matching grants and need-based discounts. We should be encouraging more universities to follow suit, instead of discouraging colleges and aspiring students through misguided cutbacks.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to keep this in mind as we take up the budget resolution in the weeks ahead.

WINNING THE WAR AGAINST METHAMPHETAMINE ABUSE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, last night, Congress voted to give our law enforcement officials a strong tool to fight the epidemic of methamphetamine abuse. I was proud to support this legislation because I have seen the havoc meth can wreak on our children, our families, and our communities.

The 11th District of Georgia, which I represent, has felt the full consequences of this growing epidemic. In fact, one of the largest methamphetamine busts recently took place in metropolitan Atlanta. We cannot ignore what has happened in the basements and tool sheds of suburban America, because methamphetamine abuse is threatening the health and safety of all of our citizens.

As a physician, I know the harm it causes the human body, and as a parent and a grandparent, I know the devastation it can bring to our children and to our families.

Congress has taken a bold step forward toward fighting and winning the war on methamphetamine abuse. When President Bush signs this legislation into law, we will have truly made a difference in the safety of our communities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in praising this hugely important legislation.

BUSH BUDGET AND HEALTH CARE: NO SOLUTIONS, ONLY MORE PROBLEMS

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, the President's budget is bad policy and bad medicine for Americans. It fails to reduce the costs of health care and prescription drugs and it fails to reduce the number of uninsured Americans. It is simply unacceptable that the President continues to ignore these

pressing needs, but it is inexcusable that the President plans to make our health care problems even worse.

The President would inflict more pain on American seniors by slashing Medicare funding. His budget cuts \$36 billion from Medicare payments to hospitals and home health providers over the next 5 years, which would severely limit seniors' access to much-needed health care and would force some seniors to pay more in premiums for that health care.

The Bush budget also cuts vital funding for medical research, research needed to discover health care cures for the future. Although the National Institutes of Health is responsible for much of our country's medical advancements, the President proposes real cuts in that budget for the second year in a row.

This is not a blueprint for fixing America's health care system. Instead, it can destroy it. Congress should reject this blueprint.

INTRODUCING CONTRACT WITH AMERICA RENEWED

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, with record deficits and a national debt at nearly \$8 trillion, it is time to level with the American people: we are not living within our means here in Washington, D.C.

Today, House conservatives will unveil our budget proposal for 2007. We are calling it Contract With America Renewed. Contract With America Renewed is a balanced Federal budget based on the budget passed by the House of Representatives in 1995 and was part of the Contract With America.

Now, while not every Member of the Republican Study Committee endorses every proposal in this budget, House conservatives believe that this Republican Congress should return to our 1994 roots of fiscal discipline and reform.

By enacting the Contract With America Renewed, we will balance the Federal budget, cut wasteful government spending, end outdated programs, while we protect Social Security and the President's tax cuts and provide for the national defense. We will do all of this while we actually reform entitlements to meet those obligations for future generations.

The American people know that unbridled government spending threatens our future and our freedom. They long for leaders who tell it like it is and are honest about the choices we face. The men and women of the Republican Study Committee who will unveil the Contract With America Renewed today are such leaders and these are such choices.

PORT SECURITY: ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A WASHINGTON REPUBLICAN COVERUP

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, the Bush-Dubai ports contract was a bad deal for national security when it involved six American seaports. Now it turns out the company would operate 22 U.S. ports far more than the President said were included in the deal.

My friends, America is not secure. The majority of the voters in my home district in Missouri are appalled. They don't understand why U.S. companies cannot operate all the ports.

Just yesterday, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff said that handing over American ports to a Dubai company would give the U.S. a better handle on security at U.S. terminal operations. I don't know the Secretary personally, so I don't know whether or not he was serious. I do know this: American security should not be outsourced.

The only way to increase port security at our docks is to actually screen every single container that comes into the U.S. Democrats support fully funding port security to make sure that terrorists are not allowed to smuggle dangerous chemicals into our Nation. Only 6 percent of the cargo that is coming into the ports is screened. America can do better.

COMMEMORATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate International Women's Day. As cochair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, I am proud to be a part of a daylong shadow program working side by side with Iraqi women and members of the Transnational Assembly. In fact, my guest is here in the Chamber, Dr. Faiza Babakhan, who represents the National Assembly.

In just 11 days, we will mark the third anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq. While U.S. involvement in Iraq in the past 3 years has caused much controversy in our country, we can all agree that increasing Iraqi women's rights and political representation should be a priority.

Through the continued collaboration of American and Iraqi women in government, we can advance women's rights and women's issues around the world. But today we must also acknowledge the violence and human rights issues that affect women in places like Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and in Guatemala where murders of women have gone unpunished for many years.