

DRUG SMUGGLERS USE FAKE GOVERNMENT TRUCKS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the drug smugglers have gotten smarter. They now disguise vehicles they are using to smuggle drugs into America to look exactly like Texas State transportation trucks. They mask them with official decals and even license plates; thus, making it easier to bring drugs into the United States.

Even though this criminal activity is highly organized, at least 11 drug dealers have been captured bringing thousands of dollars worth of drugs into our country using these fake State vehicles.

But when the U.S. Attorney prosecuted these criminals, they received relatively light sentences. Some people received only fines. One received 24 months in prison, far less than the 11- and 12-year sentences that Border Agents Ramos and Compean received when they were prosecuted by the same U.S. Attorney for wounding a drug smuggler on the border.

The U.S. Attorney's weak prosecution of drug smugglers is disturbing. The U.S. Attorney's Office seems to be more interested in prosecuting border agents than it is in prosecuting the real criminals that bring drugs into our country. The overwhelming message here is that a measly fine is just a cost of doing business: the drug smuggling business in America.

And that's just the way it is.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, within the last month, the American people have seen just how misplaced President Bush's priorities are when it comes to addressing the needs of hardworking Americans.

Earlier this month, the President vetoed a bipartisan bill that would have provided 10 million children private health insurance through the SCHIP program. The bill cost an additional \$35 billion over the next 5 years, and would have allowed us to receive 4 million more uninsured children. Instead, the President suggested a mere \$5 billion increase, which would lead to more than 800,000 children losing their health insurance coverage.

Contrast that with the President's announcement last week that he was requesting an additional \$189 billion in emergency funds over the next year for the war in Iraq, which was \$42 billion higher than originally thought.

Fortunately, most Americans, Senators and Governors have caught on to the President's misplaced priorities. But Republicans here in the House continue to blindly follow this President. And just as they refused to join us last

week in standing by these 10 million kids, House Republicans will most likely sign off on the President's war funding request without ever asking a single question.

PRAYER BAN OVERTURNED

(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, since the American founding, acknowledging God has been at the center of American experience. Today, for example, Congress opened our day in prayer. And thanks to the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the Indiana General Assembly can open in prayer again.

In November of 2005, U.S. District Judge David Hamilton ruled that opening prayers in the Indiana House of Representatives could not mention Jesus or endorse a particular religion. Then-House Speaker Brian Bosma appealed the decision; and yesterday, in a 2-1 opinion, the court overruled that decision.

I commend the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and I particularly rise to commend the tenacious and principled leadership of Republican minority leader Brian Bosma. Because of his efforts, Hoosiers can continue our long tradition of acknowledging God in the public square and in the well of the people's State House.

DEMOCRATS EXERCISE FISCAL DISCIPLINE

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, this summer the Democrat-led House completed work on all 12 appropriations bills that fund the Federal Government for the upcoming year. Each bill restores fiscal responsibility, ensures that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, and was passed with bipartisan support. Our bills will not add money to the Federal deficit because we kept our promise to adhere to pay-as-you-go rules.

Yesterday, financial watchdogs, including the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, the Concord Coalition and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget praised the new Congress for our strict adherence to the PAYGO rules.

Contrast that praise with the Bush administration's record of turning record surpluses into record deficits. President Bush has borrowed more money from foreign nations than all 42 of his predecessors combined.

Yet the President threatens to veto our appropriations bills because he says they are excessive. Does he really oppose important investments in veterans health care, pay raises for active duty soldiers, funding for more cops on our streets, and funding for life-saving medical research?

Americans need to send a message to President Bush to get his priorities right.

NOT MUCH ACCOMPLISHED

(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, an analysis of the accomplishments under Democrat control here in Congress for the 110th Congress has shown that not much has been accomplished. Let's take a look at it. There have been a thousand votes taken this year. When you look at those thousand votes, only 106 bills have been signed by the President. What are those bills? Well, 46 were naming of post offices, public buildings and bridges. Not much accomplishment there. And 44 bills were noncontroversial. Some were actually Republican bills. They had strong bipartisan support.

Fourteen of these bills were reauthorization of existing law that the Republicans developed and were just continuing. And two substantial, serious bills that passed this House, the FISA bill and the Iraq supplemental, passed without one member of the Democrat leadership supporting it.

That is all that has been accomplished, and I think the American people need to know. Lastly, not one appropriation bill has been sent to the President and the fiscal year is already over.

OUR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, the Children's Health Insurance Program is one of the most effective government programs of the last decade. For an investment of just \$3.50 a day, we can ensure health care for that child who would otherwise fall through the cracks because their family makes too much for Medicaid but can't afford private health insurance.

This small cost is significantly less than the cost we all bear when uninsured children fail to receive preventative care and end up in our emergency rooms. Yet the President and about 10 of his Republican House supporters are all that stand in the way of covering 10 million American children.

Our bipartisan legislation will allow children who are already eligible for the program to see the doctor of their family's choice so they don't have to resort to an emergency room for their primary care.

Madam Speaker, it is time for our Republican colleagues in this body to join us in ensuring that all American children have a healthy start in life. The future success of our Nation depends on the health and well-being of our children. It is time for the obstructionists to get out of the way. Let's get the job done.