

The tax cuts that passed in 2001 and 2003 created 7.6 million new jobs. We don't need tax increases; but, unfortunately, the budget that the majority passed here does just that. It gets rid of all of that tax relief that created all of these jobs, and it gives the American people the largest tax increase in American history. I think it is wrong.

We on this side of the aisle, the minority, we believe in a different path: Balance the budget by controlling spending and keep taxes low. That's the way to go, Mr. Speaker.

AMERICAN PEOPLE CALL FOR CHANGE

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats in Congress have heard the call for change delivered by the American people last November. In just 3 months, we restored the necessary oversight of the administration and reformed the ethics rules of the House to lessen the influence of lobbyists and add transparency to the legislative process.

We answered the call for change in direction in Iraq and kept our promise to our Nation's veterans by voting to increase VA health care funding by \$11 billion.

We passed meaningful legislation that will help middle class families, lowering the cost of student loans and prescription drugs.

And although we won't be able to dig ourselves out overnight from the mountains of debt Congress and the administration built up over the past 6 years, the new Democratic Congress passed a budget that achieves balance in 5 years without raising a penny of taxes.

In short, Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the American people and changed the way Congress does business.

MINNESOTANS SAY: STOP RAISING TAXES

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

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday, 7,000 Minnesotans stood on the steps of the St. Paul capitol in our State for the purpose of standing for freedom. It was a beautiful, sunny, ebullient Saturday morning, and 7,000 hardworking Minnesotans took their time away from their families and away from their work to stand on the steps of our State capitol to say: Enough is enough, stop raising my taxes.

The last vote I took in this body prior to our recess had the Democrats calling for the largest tax increase in American history and the largest spending increase in American history.

The people in Minnesota, Mr. Speaker, asked me to come back to this body

to fight for their freedom and to fight for the ability to hold on to more of their hardworking income, and that is exactly what we intend to do.

cuts should not and cannot be allowed to expire.

□ 1030

DEFUSING THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the President is going to talk to the congressional leaders about Iraq. It is his way of trying to defuse the will of the American people. He is going to talk about his vision for a military victory in Iraq. He is going to talk about his military escalation and how well it is working.

He is not going to talk about the bombing in the Green Zone last week, or the fact that about 3 hours ago there were 127 Iraqis killed by a suicide bomber. And it is only early morning. There is plenty of time left in this day.

The President will say there are good days and there are bad days. In truth, there are only bad days, and worse days in Iraq.

The only thing worth talking about is protecting our soldiers by getting them out of the Iraq quagmire. That is the only discussion worth having, because setting a timetable is the only way to protect and defend the U.S. soldiers he keeps sending into harm's way.

Don't give him an inch, Mr. Speaker. Bring our troops home.

THE TAX CREDIT GAP

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, American families are leaving billions of dollars on the table each year by not claiming tax credits that help families pay for child care, to send their children to college, save for retirement, or work their way into the middle class.

Taxpayers claimed nearly \$83 billion in tax credits in 2004. But families missed out on over \$10 billion in unclaimed tax credits, according to a new estimate from the Joint Economic Committee. You can find this report on my Web site at maloney.house.gov.

The IRS can help close this tax credit gap by reporting on the characteristics of households not taking advantage of these credits. This will help us conduct better outreach to families who are missing out on credits that reward their hard work and help them get ahead.

BRING THE TROOPS HOME

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, during the break, I was home in my district in

Memphis, Tennessee, and I spoke to 40 soldiers who had been to the Middle East. They were being honored. I asked many of them if they wanted to return. Most, nearly all, said, "No. Why are we there and what are we accomplishing?"

I asked groups about their thoughts, and almost to a one, they said, "Bring the troops home; don't stay the course."

Mr. Speaker, I would submit to the President that he went to war under Donald Rumsfeld's opinion that you fight the war with the troops you have got.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President should support the troops with the bill that the Congress sends him. We have sent him a bill that supports the troops, supports the veterans and, yet, brings our troops home. We must end this foolishness in Iraq, the loss of American lives and the spending of our tax dollars in a country where we are not wanted.

HONORING SLAIN UTICA POLICE OFFICER THOMAS LINDSEY

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 12, 32-year-old Utica police officer Thomas Lindsey was shot and killed in the line of duty during a routine traffic stop in Utica, New York, my hometown.

A 5½-year veteran of the Utica police force, Tom served for more than a year with an elite squad tasked with handling special assignments. Tom was the kind of guy that, as a teenager, he traveled to Mexico one summer just to build churches. And prior to his tenure as a Utica police officer, he served our Nation honorably as a U.S. Marine as an embassy guard.

As a former district attorney, I had the distinct privilege of working hand in hand with the dedicated men and women of the Utica Police Department. This loss affects those brave men and women and their families hardest of all.

Tom put his life on the line in the Marines and as a police officer, and he paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect his country and the community. Losing someone like Tom is a great tragedy, but in this tragedy there is a lesson. We must learn from the way Tom lived his life and his commitment to public service, his community and his country.

My prayers are with Tom's mother, Carmella Lindsey-Schisler, his girlfriend, Lisa, and his family and coworkers.

I hope everyone can take a moment today to thank the men and the women in their local police departments who serve them so well.

ORWELLIAN DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Orwellian democracy is alive and well here in Washington. Our friends on the other side seem to think that if they just say something, it is true.

Talk about the budget. We have heard this morning that they are going to balance the budget without raising taxes. Funny thing is, the budget that they passed will do this: Between 2010 and 2011 their budget will raise taxes on ordinary income from 35 to 39.6, capital gains from 15 percent to 20 percent, dividends from 15 percent to 39.6 percent, estate tax, 0 percent to 55 percent. Child tax credit goes from \$1,000 to \$500, and the lowest tax bracket goes from 10 percent to 15 percent. \$400 billion in new taxes.

Mr. Speaker, they may be saying one thing, but they are doing completely the opposite. They may be able to fool themselves, but they won't fool the American people.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF LIVIU LIBRESCU

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank God for Mr. Liviu Librescu.

Monday was Holocaust Remembrance Day, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Liviu Librescu was a teacher for 20 years at Virginia Tech. He was a husband and a father, 76 years of age, and a Holocaust survivor.

On Monday, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, he blocked the doorway to a classroom to protect the students in that classroom from almost certain death. And in so doing, he sacrificed his life. He survived the Holocaust and made the ultimate sacrifice. He gave his life so that others could live. Thank God for him.

May God bless his family and all of those who have suffered at Virginia Tech.

DEMOCRATS TAKE IRAQ IN A NEW DIRECTION WHILE PRESIDENT BUSH THREATENS TO VETO NEW COURSE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the new Democratic Congress has made good on its promise to change the direction of the war in Iraq while providing critical funding for our veterans and our wounded soldiers. Yet, the President is still threatening to veto a final conference report when it comes out of this Congress.

Why would the President veto a bill that requires Iraqis to take control of their country by meeting key security, political and economic benchmarks the President himself established?

Why would he veto a bill that provides greater protections for our troops

and our veterans than what was originally requested by the President?

The supplemental provides 1.7 billion more for military health care, which includes facility upgrades at Walter Reed and other hospitals that require renovation. We also provide an additional \$1.7 billion for veterans health care to ensure that they have access to quality care. The veterans I have met with from New Jersey have told me that this is one of their top priorities.

I have been opposed to the preemptive war in Iraq from the beginning because the administration has failed to explore diplomatic solutions. And therefore the stay-the-course strategy is wrong. And I hope that the President will sign and not veto this bill.

PRESIDENT BUSH SHOULD LISTEN TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GATES WHO SAYS CONGRESS' TIMELINES ARE USEFUL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as the President prepares to meet with congressional leaders today to discuss the emergency supplemental, he should listen to his own Secretary of Defense, who said that Congress' timelines have been useful in forcing the Iraqi Government to make compromises that have been elusive in the past.

While traveling in the Middle East, Defense Secretary Gates said yesterday, and I am quoting, "The debate in Congress has been helpful in demonstrating to the Iraqis that American patience is limited. The strong feelings expressed in the Congress about the timetable probably have had a positive impact in terms of communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment."

And that is what Democratic Members of this House have been saying for weeks. It is time to hold the Iraqi Government accountable and pressure them to meet the President's own guidelines.

If President Bush refuses to listen to this Democratic Congress and leaders that he is meeting with today, it would be nice if he would at least listen to his Defense Secretary, who is saying that our efforts to change the direction of the war in Iraq are having a positive effect.

□ 1040

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.