

In Iraq, we have rehabilitated 2,700 schools, trained 36,000 secondary teachers. What do they do in America? They cut \$806 million from our schools and education programs, \$6 billion from our Pell grants and other higher education programs.

We funded 3,100 community development projects in Iraq; yet the community development project investment fund here in the United States, cut by \$250 million.

We are investing in Iraq and trying to provide Iraq a future that we are denying the American people. I have no problem. We made a decision on Iraq. We have an obligation, but we do not have an obligation to cut back on America's future. There is no choice in the sense of American children and their future playing second fiddle to those who are in Iraq.

If you go through American history, every President in the middle of a war has thought about how do I make sure America is stronger when we come back from that war and it ends? Abraham Lincoln, in the middle of the Civil War, thought of the land grant college systems. President Roosevelt during the middle of World War II thought of the GI bill and passed it 11 months before the war came to an end. President Eisenhower, on the heels of Korea, funded the Interstate Highway System that built America and made it what it is today. President Kennedy, during the struggles of the Cold War and Vietnam, envisioned a man on the moon.

What does this President and what does this Congress offer America during the middle of the war on terrorism? Cuts in education, cuts in health care, cuts in our Corps of Engineers, cuts in our development and investments here in America.

Every President, every Congress thought about America after the war, thought about how we built a brighter future. They thought about not only what we did overseas, but how we were going to do it here at home and make sure that every American had a brighter future. Only this President and this Congress, because of their careless and reckless policy of trying to fight two wars and fund it with two cuts that has added \$4 trillion to the Nation's budget.

Today we are thinking about cutting \$806 million from our education investments, cutting \$6 billion from our investments in higher education, eliminating investments in America's Amtrak system, cutting back our investments in the Corps of Engineers' program which invests in all of our infrastructure projects like what happened in New Orleans. No other President and no other Congress has thought of a future in which America is less after the war than it was before the war.

What is going on now? Families are facing an energy crisis where energy is now running about \$3 a gallon. Home heating costs are going to go up 50 percent this winter. Inflation has increased at its fastest rate in 15 years.

Hundreds of thousands of fellow citizens have lost everything in the gulf coast. Health care costs are running up at close to 15 percent, nearly four times inflation. Educational costs and higher educational costs are running at about a 10 percent annualized increase over inflation.

These are difficult times, and these times are when people look to their fellow citizens and their community and their government. What is this Congress doing? Rather than building up America, this Congress is cutting back on the investments we need to make America a stronger place tomorrow.

We can do better than we are doing today. We can make a change in the right choices for America. We should find ways to balance the budget without doing it on the backs of our children.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to change its tune. It is time for Congress to begin to represent the people's interests and the people's House rather than the special interests.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. SCHMIDT. 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 gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CINCINNATI, OHIO, NATIVE MARINE CAPTAIN TYLER SWISHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a brave soldier who died in Iraq nobly defending our freedom and in the service of our country. Marine Captain Tyler Swisher was killed in a roadside bomb attack near Al Amariyah in Iraq on Friday, October 21, 2005.

Tyler is remembered as someone who overcame so many obstacles in his life. He was a small child, and as a child he struggled with a learning disability, but he would take on his school work with a gritty style of persistence, and he succeeded. He devoted himself to his work. Tyler's tough and determined style was something that he exhibited throughout his life.

In high school his small frame just hovering over 100 pounds did not keep him from doing what he loved, playing football, and while he spent much of his time at Mariemont High School on the sideline, he was still in the game.

He joined the Marines because he loved his country. He soon loved the Marines and chose to make it his career. He loved his country so much, he chose to serve not one, but three tours of duty in Iraq, just as in his youth he would not quit. He was so proud to be a Marine, but more proud to be an American. He really loved his country.

My community continues to be blessed with people like Tyler who unselfishly give their time and, in some cases, their life so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear.

He loved his family. Tyler is survived by his wife Stephanie; his daughters Ashleigh and Madison; and a son Jacob; and his parents, who live in Pierce Township. All of us mourn Tyler's loss, and we are grateful, eternally grateful, for his braveness and his valor and his valiant service to our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me tonight and each and every night to pray for his family in their time of need. May Tyler rest in peace.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim my time out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

IRAQ AND THE REPUBLICAN DISSENTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned that Harriet Miers has withdrawn her nomination to the United States Supreme Court. The stated reason had to do with executive privilege for legal advice she had given to the President that she did not want to reveal, but I do not think you need to be an expert tea leaf reader to see that public support for Ms. Miers' appointment, particularly among conservatives, was scarce, actually absent. As a result, Ms. Miers decided to step aside.

Perhaps there is a lesson here that we can apply to another initiative, an initiative of the White House that is rapidly losing public confidence. Two-and-a-half years into the Iraq War, it could not be clearer that the President's policy is one with tragic consequences. It is time for the President to admit his mistake and change his course. Over 2,000 of our brave soldiers are dead. That is 2,000 too many.