

gross domestic product to surge by 3.8 percent. It has created over 4 million jobs. The stock market has appreciated over \$6 trillion. There is a record percentage of homeownership; and, for the first time ever, over 50 percent of minorities own their own homes.

I appreciate President Bush's leadership. I look forward to more successes.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, next week, on November 15, senior citizens across America will have the opportunity to sign up for a benefit that is long overdue, and that is prescription drug coverage.

The initial sign-up date for Medicare part D runs from November 15, 2005, through May 15, 2006. Coverage starts January 1, 2006, so the sooner seniors sign up, the sooner they can start saving.

Here is what seniors should know about Medicare part D. It is available to all Medicare beneficiaries. The benefit is voluntary, so seniors will need to choose to sign up. They will have a choice of plans with a low monthly premium, and all Medicare-approved plans will cover both generic and brand-name prescription drugs and will be accepted at pharmacies close to home.

There are several ways seniors can sign up for Medicare part D. Watch the mail for information from Social Security and Medicare; call 1-800-Medicare, where trained staff can answer questions and help you sign up 7 days a week, 24 hours a day; or visit the Web site www.medicare.gov.

If our seniors have access to affordable prescription drugs, they will reap the benefits of modern medicine and live healthier lives.

GOP DOUBLETALK ON ENERGY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow some of the biggest names in the oil industry are coming to Capitol Hill to testify on why their companies are making record profits at the same time American families are struggling to heat their homes.

We are hearing some really big talk from Republicans. Why, if you were Rip Van Winkle, you might actually believe the Republicans were trying to do something about gas prices. Yet the tune they are singing now is really different from the tune they were singing back in the summer when they passed the energy bill. Back then, they were singing from the energy industry's hymn book.

The fact is, thanks to a Republican-backed energy bill loaded with tax-

payer subsidies to big oil to the tune of \$14 billion, American families are struggling with sky-high energy bills and oil companies are struggling for ways to count their cash.

Just an example: ExxonMobil recently reported that their profits increased by 75 percent in the third quarter, and so what do we do? We give them \$14 billion as taxpayer subsidies to help them run their business plan.

Americans are seeing a Congress that has done nothing to help them and do everything to help the oil companies.

Mr. Speaker, it is wrong to hand out money to energy companies who are making record massive profits and then cut funding for home heating assistance to our elderly. We need a change. We need new priorities. America can do better.

SOMETHING IS NOT RIGHT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, something is not right. When you look at the budget reconciliation act and you look at the terrible devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma and the impact in the Gulf region, and you see the impact on schools like Xavier and Dillard and Tulane and Loyola, and then Texas Southern University in Texas that has taken over 600 hurricane Katrina students, along with the University of Houston, and we are attempting to cause our students billions of dollars in aid in the Budget Reconciliation Act, something is not right. Something is not right when small and disadvantaged businesses cannot even participate in the rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. Something is not right when large corporations are blocking the opportunities for small businesses to be engaged.

The Budget Reconciliation Act is not a problem solver. It creates problems. How can you put the burden of the deficits created by House Republicans and others on the backs of students who are attempting to achieve an education? Something is not right when we are cutting billions of dollars of student aid.

REDUCING DEFICIT SPENDING FOR THE GOOD OF AMERICA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, once again, we continue to hear gross mischaracterizations of what it is that we are trying to do. Democrats and Republicans alike decry deficit spending. They say we have to balance the budget, both sides of the aisle.

We have come together with what I hope will be a bipartisan package at the end of the day that is designed to bring about 50-plus billion dollars in

spending reductions. We all decry the fact that mandatory spending is out of control.

What is it we are doing with this package? Well, for the first time in a long time, we are trying to rein in so-called mandatory spending. The reason is that we believe in growing our economy, not Federal spending; we believe in reducing the reach of government, not limiting the reach of individuals; and we believe in government's helping hand, not government's heavy hand.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that the day after tomorrow, when we look at this important legislation, that we do all that we can to come together and try to do what the American people want us to do, and that is reduce the size and scope and reach of the Federal Government.

REPUBLICAN RAID ON STUDENT AID SHOWS MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, parents and students should take note: College may soon get a lot more expensive if House Republicans get their way.

This week, they plan to bring a budget reconciliation bill to the floor that cuts \$14 billion in Federal student aid, the largest cuts in the program's history. Included are nearly \$8 billion in new charges that will raise the cost of college loans through new fees and higher interest for millions of American students and families.

For the typical student borrower already saddled with over \$17,000 in debt, these new fees and higher interest charges will cost up to \$5,800 more.

Financial barriers should never prevent a qualified student from going to college, and that is why America has long since made the commitment to help all Americans afford a higher education. Studies show that financial barriers alone will prevent over 4 million high school graduates from attending a 4-year public university over the next decade and prevent another 2 million from attending college at all.

Mr. Speaker, the wrong priorities in this Republican budget reconciliation will put college out of reach for millions of American students. It should be rejected.

\$10 BILLION FIX FOR MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT NOT INCLUDED IN HOUSE BUDGET RECONCILIATION

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, my community has the fastest growing senior population in the United States. I also have numbers of doctors that are telling me they can no longer afford to

care for their Medicare patients because of the Medicare reimbursement being so bad. We know that we have to fix this Medicare reimbursement for our doctors so they will continue to be able to afford to treat our senior citizens.

In the Senate reconciliation that they are introducing, they have a \$10 billion fix so we could help the doctors, so they can continue to take care of our senior citizens. In the House version, they are saying they are not going to include the \$10 billion, and the doctors are going to have to take care of themselves.

But the misery about this and the hypocrisy is the Republican leadership is telling the doctors, Don't worry about it. We're not going to put it in the budget reconciliation so that you can continue taking care of senior patients. We're going to put it in Labor-HHS.

Well, we have already passed Labor-HHS, and there is no \$10 billion for the doctors.

So that means that we are perpetrating a fraud on the doctors, the patients, and the seniors in this country, and we need not to do that.

THE RIGHT RECONCILIATION FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Republicans hope to jam through a reconciliation the day before Veterans' Day, including \$54 billion in cuts. He talked about a helping hand? Doubling the origination fee for student loans, cutting \$14 billion in student loans is a helping hand for the next generation of Americans? Cutting foster care, school lunches, Medicaid, not to reduce the budget deficit but to make room for \$70 billion of tax cuts for people who earn over \$300,000 a year. That is what they are doing.

We should reconcile a few things around here. Let us reconcile their hypocrisy. Let us reconcile their purported support for the troops and our vets with the fact that the budget is inadequate to provide promised benefits, and they are doing nothing about that in the budget reconciliation.

Let's have some reconciliation and do things that are right for America.

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 505

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the House International Relations Committee will hear a resolution of inquiry into the White House Iraq Group.

A White House task force was organized in August of 2002, 7 months before the invasion of Iraq, with the objective of marketing a war in Iraq to the Congress and the American people. The group consisted of advisers to the

President and Vice President, including Rove, Libby, and Rice.

According to the Washington Post, the White House Iraq Group produced white papers that provided "gripping images and stories," and used "literary license" with intelligence; I might add, intelligence that was later proved false. These memos served as the basis for talking points for the President and his advisers.

The intelligence used in the White House Iraq Group's white papers included the false claim that Iraq had sought uranium from Niger, as well as the claim that the high-strength aluminum tubes Iraq purchased from China were to be used for the sole purpose of building centrifuges to enrich uranium.

This White House Iraq Group was putting out lies to the American people. The Congress needs to find out what happened. Tomorrow, we can find out in International Relations.

Support House Resolution 505.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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.

SUPPORTING THE ACCESSION OF ISRAEL TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 38) expressing support for the accession of Israel to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 38

Whereas Israel has been trying to join the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) since 2000, when it met the OECD's membership requirements relating to industrial and per-capita product criteria;

Whereas in March 2005, OECD Secretary-General Donald Johnston stated that expanding the OECD's membership to include more countries is vital if the group is to remain a forum for discussing global economic policies;

Whereas in 2004, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom and then Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu sent a joint letter to the foreign and finance ministers of the 30 member countries of the OECD, stating that Israel's involvement as a non-member country in the OECD's various committees is increasing, and that Israel meets the economic and institutional criteria required to join the OECD;

Whereas in October 2004, then Israeli Finance Minister Binyamin Netanyahu stated that joining the OECD was of strategic im-

portance for repositioning Israel's economy from an emerging market to a developed one, adding that membership in the OECD would attract foreign investment;

Whereas in August 2004, the Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority was invited to become a full member of the OECD Environment Policy Committee, the first committee that Israel has been invited to join as a full member;

Whereas Israel was asked to take part in the OECD's Insurance and Commerce Committees;

Whereas in March 2005, Israel was formally accepted as an observer on the OECD's Financial Statistics Committee, allowing experts from the Bank of Israel and Central Bureau of Statistics to participate in the committee's meetings;

Whereas the World Bank ranks Israel among the 25 countries in which it is easiest to do business;

Whereas Israel's tax burden, encompassing income and property taxes, customs duties, value-added taxes (VAT) and national insurance, is much lower than in most OECD member countries;

Whereas membership in the OECD could enhance Israel's status on the global market and within international financial institutions, lowering the risk factor on foreign loans to Israel;

Whereas Israel's economic and technological standing could potentially benefit OECD member countries in the science and technology, including high-technology, sectors;

Whereas in 2003, the World Economic Forum ranked Israel 20th out of 102 countries in its Growth Competitiveness Index, and the World Economic Forum's Technology Index ranked Israel 9th, before Canada (11th), Norway (13th), Germany (14th), the United Kingdom (16th), and the Netherlands (18th); and

Whereas Israel is carrying out far reaching economic reforms based on the OECD's recommendations with respect to taxes, labor, competition, capital markets, pension funds, energy, infrastructures, communications, and transport: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) Israel shares the commitment to democratic government and the market economy that is the foundation of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

(2) Israel meets the OECD's membership requirements and has been an active participant as a non-member country in various OECD activities, such as adherence to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises; and

(3) the United States Government should support and advocate the accession of Israel to the OECD, including through coordination of efforts with Mexico, Great Britain, and other countries supportive of Israel's membership in the OECD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 38.