

choices to be named later. He manages \$20 billion in assets, a \$3.9 billion annual budget and has successfully led this command through major transformational changes in force structure and in organization.

General Tanzi is a command pilot with over 4,055 hours in various types of planes. He has been honored with numerous awards and decorations, including two Distinguished Service Medals, two Legion of Merit Awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal.

General Tanzi is a native of New Hampshire and a graduate of Ohio State University. And although he has been stationed throughout the United States in his tenure in the military, we in Utah claim him and his family as our own. Since the year 1993 through 1999, when he was the Commander of the 419th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force in Utah, he has maintained a home in Utah only minutes away from that base.

We warmly welcome General Tanzi and his wife Deb and their new son, Anthony, back home to Utah on a permanent basis. For, indeed, the Air Reserve Command's loss will be my State's gain.

General Tanzi's contributions to our Nation's security, his years of sacrifice on behalf of others, his superior leadership have paved the way for Air Force Reserve excellence and innovations for generations to come.

MEAN-SPIRITED CUTS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, earlier tonight, I was asked by a reporter if perhaps I and other Members were upset that this close to Christmas and on a weekend night that the House was still working and the year was dragging on. And I said, no, that did not bother me a bit; I would be happy to work all night and through the holidays. But what bothered me was the substance of what we are working on and why we are still here.

It can be distilled down to three simple reasons: We are here because the Republicans have a package of mean-spirited cuts they want to make just before Christmas. They want to hack \$14 billion out of student financial aid; billions of dollars out of food assistance, school lunch, food stamps; dump the Medicaid burden for underinsured or uninsured people back onto the States; cut foster care; and cut long-term care. And they say they have to do that because of the deficit.

But then they have bated it with tax cuts for the wealthy. That is the present they want to put under the tree before we leave. They want to push through, after the \$50 billion in cuts in student financial aid, food assistance, medical assistance, foster care and long-term care, they want to give tax cuts to the wealthiest among us.

Disproportionately, their cuts will go to people who invest for a living and earn over \$300,000 a year. They have a theory that values investors over wage and salary earners. It is called trickle-down economics. What they say is, if we enrich those people, those who earn over \$300,000 a year, particularly those who earn over \$1 million a year, if we give them more tax cuts and if we borrow money to give them tax cuts, they will trickle down on the rest of America and put people to work. They will float their yachts on a sea of red ink, and they will hire people to wash the yachts and cut the lawn, and therefore, America benefits.

Unfortunately, they would increase the deficit even after their mean-spirited cuts. So that is their pre-Christmas agenda: To stick it to the working families and the struggling and the young in America so that the wealthiest among us, who are already doing quite well, will have yet a merrier Christmas.

And then they have one last thing: They want to drill in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The entire Congress is being held captive by one Senator from Alaska. He is going to stick that on one bill or another before he lets Congress go home.

Substitute for a comprehensive energy policy for the United States of America, something that might free us from the oil companies and OPEC, something that might break through into the 21st century in terms of new technologies, they want to push through drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge.

So that is their troika: Cuts to Americans in need and Americans trying to make better of their lives; tax cuts for those who are already doing phenomenally well; and then, finally, yet another gift to the oil industry, on top of the subsidies they provided in the energy bill.

It is a pretty sad policy, but perhaps they will at least give a lump of coal to every American to put in the fireplace to try to keep warm because they cannot afford their natural gas or electric heat or their oil for their furnace this year.

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

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

UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE NATION BUILDING

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the Pentagon, 3 days ago, issued a directive which should be of great concern to any traditional conservative. The Washington Times on its front page reported it this way: "The Pentagon yesterday announced a landmark change in the use of combat troops, elevating stability missions, commonly called nation-building, to an equal status with major combat operations."

Conservatives used to be opposed to world government. Conservatives used to believe in the United States of America rather than the United States of the New World Order. Conservatives used to oppose turning the Department of Defense into the Department of Foreign Aid.

Probably well over half of what we have spent in Iraq is just pure foreign aid, building roads, power plants, water systems, new schools, railroads, ports, new prisons, training their police and military, and giving free medical care, among other things.

President Bush, when he campaigned in 2000, in many speeches came out strongly against nation-building. We have so many needs in this country, especially with our aging clean water and wastewater systems. We also have a national debt that will soon reach \$9 trillion. We simply cannot afford to build or rebuild nations all over this world.

Georgie Ann Geyer, the nationally syndicated columnist, wrote a couple years ago: "Critics of the war against Iraq have said since the beginning of the conflict that Americans, still strangely complacent about overseas wars being waged by a minority in their name, will eventually come to a point where they see they have to have a government that provides services at home or one that seeks empire across the globe."

But this is not primarily about Iraq. It is about whether we want a Department of Defense or a Department of Foreign Aid. We are not going to be able to pay all of our military pensions, civil service pensions, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the new prescription drug benefit, the 44 million private pensions we have guaranteed through the PBGC, in just a few years with money that means anything if we do not stop all this nation-building around the world.

I have nothing at all against anyone from any other country, but the first obligation of the U.S. Congress should be to the American people. The first thing that is said about anyone who opposes spending mega billions in other countries is that he must be an isolationist. But the isolationist charge means the person who says it is resorting to childish name-calling rather than a discussion on the merits.

Our interventionist foreign policy has caused great resentment and animosity against us all over the world.