

not long ago about this very same issue, and I think it is a bogus issue, Mr. Falwell; and I would like to see your financial records and Mr. Robertson's and all other religious organizations' financial records who are criticizing us for wanting to reimport pharmaceuticals so Americans pay a fair price.

So please, all of you religious organizations who are concerned about this, as you say you are, let us see your financial records and let us know that you are not taking large amounts of money from the pharmaceutical companies to put out this kind of tripe.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the Member to address his remarks to the Chamber.

AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the decision to go to war is the most profound decision that any nation can make. It should be done, of course, judiciously and only with the utmost of care and only as a last resort. This is especially true of democratic republics such as ours, when the actions of the government must be with the consent of the governed.

In order for the governed to give their consent, that consent, of course, must be informed. And it is the responsibility of the government to inform its citizens in an honest and straightforward way with regard to the background and information that it has that causes it to make such profound decisions.

On January 23 of this year, the President of the United States in this room addressed the Joint Session of the Congress as well as the people of the United States. And in that address he made a number of assertions with regard to the state of Iraq and why it was important for us to engage that country in hostility. Among those statements he made was one with regard to the importation of processed uranium from Niger. The President said in his statement that the British Government had informed them that the Government of Niger was importing processed uranium, and that was in the context of Iraq's trying to develop a nuclear weapon.

Now, we know that the President had that information on a first-hand basis. He did not have to quote any information from the British Government. He had it on a first-hand basis because the Vice President of the United States back in March of last year went to the Central Intelligence Agency and asked them to conduct an investigation as to whether or not Iraq was importing processed uranium from Africa.

The Central Intelligence Agency then asked former Ambassador Wilson, who

had a long and distinguished career in the Foreign Service including positions in West Africa, asked Mr. Wilson if he would go to Niger to discover whether or not it was possible for Niger to export processed uranium to Iraq for the purpose of building a nuclear weapon.

Ambassador Wilson went there. He spent a considerable amount of time, something in the neighborhood of close to 2 weeks. He interviewed dozens of people. He came back and reported to the Central Intelligence Agency that he found no reason to believe whatsoever that any processed uranium has been exported from Niger. Why? Because the uranium companies there are owned by essentially European countries and the controls are very, very strict and rigid. He examined a number of people who were involved in the companies and their controls, as well as people in the Niger Government. He came away believing there was no way that processed uranium could be exported from Niger to Iraq.

He reported to the Central Intelligence Agency. The Central Intelligence Agency obviously then reported to the Vice President of the United States, who we can only imagine and expect reported to the President of the United States.

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Nevertheless, the President then came here before the House and said that Niger was exporting processed uranium to Iraq when the government, our government, the administration knew, based upon firsthand information as a result of a CIA-sponsored investigation, that that was not the case. In addition, though, now we know that is not the case because we have the report of Mr. Wilson and we have other information that can only compel us to conclude that the President was wrong in his statement; and, in fact, he has admitted he was wrong in that statement, blaming Mr. Tenet.

Also in that address before a joint session of the Congress, the President mentioned the presence of vast quantities of chemical and biological weapons that were also in Iraq, according to his statement to that joint session. He also said that there were delivery mechanisms that were in Iraq and that those delivery mechanisms could be armed very, very quickly with those biological and chemical weapons and they could be used to bring those weapons into conflict against countries in the surrounding region, including Israel, against others, and that this constituted a direct threat to the United States and to our allies.

It has been now nearly 3 months that we have been searching for chemical and biological weapons as well as the means to deliver them in Iraq, and we have found absolutely nothing.

Based upon these two sets of facts, one has to question, what else did the President say that was false and why did we go to war in Iraq? This Congress needs to initiate a full and complete

congressional investigation as to the causes surrounding our entry into that war and the prosecution of that war, and it must do so forthwith.

NEW LAWS FOR EDUCATION SAVINGS

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk tonight a little bit about the importance of a college education and some of the laws that this Congress has passed to encourage better savings for education.

Some of the concerns that we need to consider is the fact that individual students and their parents in the future probably are going to be have to be more responsible for coming up with a larger share of the funds for their kids' college education.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." As we move to a high-tech economy, that is certainly truer than ever. High school dropouts earn an average of \$360 a week, while high school graduates earn \$506. Two-year college graduates earn \$598 a week, and 4-year college graduates earn on an average \$796. Over a life of work, a college graduate can expect to earn \$620,000 more than a community college graduate, \$810,000 more than a high school graduate and a whopping \$1,115,000 more than a high school dropout.

In addition to dollars, education gives a person more options to do what they want to do in life. This is one of the reasons I tell young people who visit me to study hard. It is also why I started the LeGrand Smith Scholarship Fund for high school seniors from the 7th Congressional District of Michigan. Finally, it is why I have pushed for tax savings for parents and grandparents to save for their children's and grandchildren's education. Simply put, there is nothing that can brighten a young person's future more than education.

The cost of education, while still worthwhile given the earnings difference, it is very expensive. Under present trends, a child born today can expect to pay about \$125,000 for 4 years at a State university, about twice that much for a private university. There is a lot of Federal and State government scholarships, tax benefits, work study programs, subsidized loans and financial aid for people in college.

Congress has also created two tax-favored savings programs in recent years that help families save for education, and these two I think are important.

The Coverdell Education Savings Account allows eligible taxpayers to contribute up to \$2,000 a year. These contributions are taxable, but the accrued earnings when a person takes them out are not taxable. The accounts are flexible and can be used to pay for educational expenses in grade school, high school or college. They can be even