

friends of the President and the companies and contributors supporting the President, and really wondering why this administration and the conservative leaders in this Congress will not allow us to discuss this.

I have gotten letter after letter from my Ohio constituents wondering why Vice President CHENEY still gets \$13,000 every month from the Halliburton Company, the company of which he was CEO 3 years before he was Vice President, a company that is still receiving millions, hundreds of millions of dollars in unbid government contracts.

Just last week I tried to offer an amendment to the \$87 billion appropriations that would have stopped some of the corporate tax evaders who have evaded taxes at the expense of the American citizens. The amendment would have banned corporate tax evaders, tax dodgers, from receiving any contracts on the reconstruction of Iraq.

We know that Halliburton companies have broken Federal law, yet we still give them these contracts and they still pay the Vice President of the United States, this is on record, pay him \$13,000 a month.

I will begin to share some of these letters.

Jill from Akron, Ohio writes, "It is a disgrace that our government is willing to spend billions on another country when the education system in our country is crumbling."

Dr. Steve in Hinckley writes, "The Iraq war has not made it safer. It has harmed relationships with key NATO allies as well as helped fuel more anti-American sentiment in the Middle East. This has to stop."

Francene from Akron, Ohio writes, "Please do not vote for additional funding for this war. It took lies and deceit to get us into this war, and we should back off now and let the United Nations help rebuild the mess in Iraq that Mr. Bush created." She is talking about the things that the administration told us that simply are not true: the weapons of mass destruction, the al-Qaeda connections, all of those things.

Terence of Avon Lake writes, "We need to hold the Bush administration accountable for their poor Iraq planning and nonexistent exit strategy. Please withhold the funds requested until they lay out an exit strategy from Iraq."

One of the things that Terence is talking about is the fact that a year or 14 months after President Bush said he wanted to attack Iraq, we still do not have body armor for our troops. One-quarter of our troops still do not have body armor, are not going to have it at earliest until December; and I am hearing from families who just cannot believe that we knew we were going to do this, yet we are not taking care of the troops. We are not supplying them with antibiotics. We are not supplying them with safe drinking water. We are not

supplying them with body armor, yet we are forcing them when they get leave, if they do, to pay for their own plane tickets home. Yet we are spending a billion dollars a week and a third of it is going to private contractors, many of them contributors to and friends of the President.

Eric of Akron writes, "I am dismayed this country can find billions of dollars to pay for an unnecessary and illegitimate war in Iraq but cannot find in its heart to solve some of the real problems this country and the world are facing. I am saddened and I am sickened. Very few of you in Congress and the Bush administration are really looking out for the people of this country."

Corky of Strongsville, Ohio writes, "It is time the American people hold the Administration accountable for lies in regard to Iraq. No more money or troops should be committed until a full investigation is conducted."

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. Is it proper decorum of the House to call the President a liar?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman's remarks were of that tenor, they would be out of order.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to say that. I was reading a letter and talking about the Bush administration. If I actually called the President a liar, I withdraw that. I do not mean to say that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry, there are slick ways to get around calling the President a liar and still doing it. I would object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) may proceed in order.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, is that time taken away from me during the parliamentary inquiry?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No, the clock was stopped during the inquiry.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Deborah of Akron, Ohio, writes, "Please do not give \$87 billion to President Bush. He and his advisors did not plan well for the rebuilding of Iraq." I think she is talking about the Kevlar jackets, the body armor that simply was not planned, even the war was planned maybe more than a year and a half ago.

"Control of this project should be under the authority of the U.N. We should help but not by throwing more money after a very unsuccessful plan by the Bush team. Maybe the President should ask his rich friends for the money since they are the only ones benefitting big time from his tax cuts."

She is talking about the tax cut where millionaires get \$93,000 while 50 percent of people in my home State and the home State of the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) got zero dollars from that tax cut.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES W. FEE OF HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor a public servant, James W. Fee of Hutchinson, Kansas, and join with his family and community in mourning his recent passing. In his life, Jim loved his family, his community and his country.

Jim proudly served his country for nearly 50 years in the United States Navy, first aboard the U.S.S. Albany and then as captain of the U.S. Naval Reserve. His patriotism and allegiance to the principles of freedom were shared with all who would listen.

Jim's tireless commitment and devotion to his hometown was unrivalled. Throughout his life, Jim took a lead role in making certain his community was always an attractive place to call home. Without fail, Jim would report to his friends, family and colleagues upon his return home from travel, It was great to visit, but I could not wait to get home to Hutchinson.

Jim's actions equalled his words. His service as mayor of the city of Hutchinson and as a member of the Hutchinson City Commission was guided by the goal of doing the common good for the most people. His leadership and dedication to his church, his professional trade associations and his business interests were always marked with charisma, honesty and sincerity.

Jim was also, by every account, a successful businessman. Along with his brother Franklin and his father Frank T., Jim teamed to build the Fee Insurance Group into an industry-leading independent insurance agency. With a disciplined approach and a vision for success, Jim directed the agency for over a quarter century.

Most important to Jim was his family. He and his wife of nearly 50 years, Martha, raised five children, Jim, Jr., Stacy, Allen, Bob, and Dan, and devoted endless love and attention to 18 grandchildren.

Jim Fee personified the words of Abraham Lincoln, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man who lives in it so that his place will be proud of him." Jim Fee made his community, State and Nation a better place. He and his family can be proud of the life he lived.

I join his many friends and his admirers in extending my deepest sympathies to Martha and the Fee family.

#### A JOBLESS RECOVERY IS NO RECOVERY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of unemployed Americans.