

America can make our communities healthier, cycling can be a dramatic opportunity for economic development for thousands of small businesses, and it is, after all, the most efficient form of urban transportation ever devised.

It is an opportunity for us, in a small but important way, to reduce our energy dependence on foreign oil from unstable regions, to improve air quality, and to reduce the traffic congestion that is costing American families dozens of extra hours that they cannot afford every month.

I urge my colleagues to join our bipartisan Bicycle Caucus; to support robust transportation funding that includes things like safe routes to school and enhancements; and integrate cycling into your life and your community. We will be healthier, happier and the country will be better off.

BROADCAST INDECENCY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, families are tired of having to cover their children's eyes and ears every time they turn on the television. Many parents' standards of common decency are repeatedly offended and their parenting is undermined by the onslaught of indecent material on television and radio. Frankly they have been outraged recently by the examples of filth permitted on the airwaves by the FCC. Just as the majority leader said yesterday, if the industry cannot police itself, Congress must step in.

The FCC has been entrusted with enforcing our Federal decency laws and should be expected to do so. There are plenty of laws on the books regarding this matter and the FCC just needs to enforce them. Today the Committee on Energy and Commerce will mark up a bill which allows the FCC to enforce tougher penalties on broadcasters for violations of the law. The privilege of conducting business over the airwaves should always be conditional on their willingness to adhere to standards of common decency.

Broadcast airwaves belong to the American people, not to the networks. It is time for Congress to defend and protect America's parents and children and pass a tough bill to ensure decency on the airwaves.

THE PRESIDENT'S CREDIBILITY DEFICIT

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has decided to make credibility an election year issue. Yesterday the Vice President announced if the Democratic policies had been pursued over the last 2 or 3 years, we would not have had the kind of job growth that this economy experienced.

Really? What a fascinating take. In the last 3 years, \$3 trillion have been added to the Nation's debt and 3 million Americans have lost their jobs. And they want to make credibility an issue. Since 5 months when he announced the creation of a manufacturing czar, which has not been appointed, 250,000 additional manufacturing jobs have been lost. And they want to make credibility an issue.

They have an economic report that says outsourcing is good for American workers. And they want to make credibility an issue. It is a fascinating take on the economy. Today we have a jobless economy with a wage recession in America. In fact, flipping hamburgers is now a manufacturing job in America. And they want to make credibility an issue.

Mr. Speaker, the President and the Vice President think everything is just fine in America. What we need is a new direction to put American workers, American families and their values at the center of our agenda and for somebody to wake up every morning thinking about their jobs, their children and their future.

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AT CALIFORNIA COURT RULING REQUIRING CATHOLIC CHARITY TO COVER BIRTH CONTROL IN EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at a recent decision by the California Supreme Court. This decision requires a Catholic charity to cover birth control in its employees' health insurance plans despite the church's position on contraception. This decision infringes on the principles of any faith-based charity choosing to help all the needy and not just those of a similar faith. As a result of this decision, society as a whole suffers. Faith-affiliated charities frequently provide help and hope to the least among us without religious discrimination, but this decision is a step backward. We are left to wonder what effect it will have on the social ministry of these organizations. Some may be forced to choose between adhering to their beliefs and serving those in need.

This decision represents an intentional, purposeful intrusion into a religious organization's practice of its religious tenets and sense of mission and it could reach far beyond Catholic charities and affect other faith-based hospitals and charities throughout the country.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S POLICIES ARE CREATING JOBS AND SPURRING THE ECONOMY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Bush took office 3 years ago facing the challenge of managing a recession that began under the prior administration. Soon other factors bogged down our economy, including the attacks of September 11, corporate scandals and the ensuing stock market decline. Despite all of these negative events, President Bush and the Republican Congress have worked together to strengthen the economy in America. Due to the President's policies of tax relief, we have seen an increase of 366,000 jobs. And, according to the American Shareholders Association, the stock market is on pace to generate an astonishing \$6.3 trillion of new resources since October 2002 for America's families. Additionally, unemployment has fallen below the average of each of the last three decades.

However, more work is needed which the President has outlined. We must make tax relief for all taxpayers permanent, reduce regulation, ensure affordable health care for families and small businesses, and enact a sound national energy policy.

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

THE NOBLE MISSION OF THE 39TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the brave men and women of the 39th Brigade combat team as they deploy to Iraq. The 39th Brigade includes National Guardsmen from 10 States but is mostly made up of Arkansas National Guardsmen, including the Russellville-based 206th Field Artillery Unit.

Last weekend I had an opportunity to visit with many of the soldiers of the 39th Brigade during their colors casing ceremony at Fort Polk. They are some of America's finest. They are a diverse group, including doctors, teachers, lawyers, people from all walks of life, men and women who are ready to put their Guard training and professional skills to work establishing democracy in a country where oppression was once the norm.

Mr. Speaker, their mission is noble and of great importance. I ask my colleagues to remember them and their families in their thoughts and prayers as we continue to support our troops and their efforts to fight terror and bring back democracy to Iraq.

THANKING THE PRESIDENT FOR IDENTIFYING AMERICA'S PRIORITIES IN HIS BUDGET

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