

Department of Agriculture and the large beef producers do not want it tested. The \$27 billion meat packing industry does not want the possibility that private testing would challenge the Bush administration's position that mad cow disease is not a problem.

An article on the front page of today's Wall Street Journal details many of these responsible cattle producers' frustrations with the current Department of Agriculture policy. It recounted how David Luker, who owns Missouri Valley Natural Beef, wants to pay to test his beef in order to satisfy the demands of his customers. The USDA, however, will not allow it.

The USDA's laboratory refused to test his cattle, insisting that the beef supply is safe, and just take our word for it. When Creekstone Farms Premium Beef said it wanted to build its own laboratory to test for mad cow disease in order to get back into the Japanese market where all cattle are tested, the USDA responded by saying anyone testing without the USDA approval, which they will not give, would face criminal charges. What is wrong with this picture?

President Bush's friend and benefactor, "Kenny Boy" Lay, is walking around free after gross mismanagement of Enron, which devastated workers and cost American investors billions of dollars, yet the Bush administration is now prepared to press criminal charges against people who merely want to test to ensure that the beef they are producing is safe.

There are four testing firms in the United States that make rapid diagnostic kits that can tell in a matter of hours whether a cow is infected. These kits are widely used in both Europe and Japan where testing is pervasive, and as I mentioned in Japan, where it is universal. Yet here, the administration will not allow these tests to be used on American cattle. This is not just an issue about mad cow disease, which is admittedly rare, we think, and we hope will stay that way. It is an issue of consumer choice and consumer protection. This is an issue of treating Americans like grown-ups and supplying them with information they can count on regarding food safety.

If the administration was as concerned with the public interest as it is with special interest, we would have much higher testing standards in place at this point, and we would not be stopping responsible members of the industry from giving what many consumers want.

Mr. Speaker, food safety is a key ingredient for a livable community where our families are safe, healthy, and economically secure. I hope the public will be heard on this important issue as this year progresses.

BUSY TIME IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a busy 14 days here in Washington. We began with the President of the United States, according to the Los Angeles Times, explaining how the export of jobs is beneficial to the economy. Two days later, he was followed up by the chairman of the President's Economic Advisory Council, Mr. Gregory Mankiw, who explained to the other body that we have to face that in a global economy, it is inevitable that there will be a loss and shortage of jobs. I am not able to give the precise details of the reaction of the committee that heard that testimony.

And then thereafter the distinguished chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. Alan Greenspan, explained that even though we are hemorrhaging money, the deficit is growing, the surplus has disappeared, and we have to do something about it, that this legislative body is going to have to put its foot down.

Where, the question arose, should we end the tax cuts for the upper 1 percent in our American system? No, he said, not only was that probably good, but that it should be made permanent. Then pray tell us, Mr. Greenspan, where would this reduction come from? Well, it would come from looking into Social Security. It is time we realized that perhaps these benefits are excessive and that they are being paid out too early. Well, thank you very much, Chairman Greenspan.

My dear colleague, who is unfortunately not on the floor, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS), touted the benefits of the Leave No Child Behind Education Act, a bill that I thought was pretty important. It was explained to me by Members on my side of the aisle in both the Senate and the House, the same provisions that he described that were going to be so excellent. But the problem, we are underfunding the bill by \$8 billion a year.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I move to the recent problems in the western hemisphere, and I will include for the RECORD a number of statements about Haiti and what we ought to do about it.

The long and short, of course, is that we have an obligation to support the resolution introduced by the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) to determine what the truth is about Haiti and that we have an independent bipartisan commission on Haiti to find out whether we impeded democracy or indeed contributed to the overthrow of a democratically elected government; what were the circumstances that brought about the alleged resignation and what was the role of the United States Government in bringing about the departure; and to what extent did the United States impede efforts by the international community, and especially the Caribbean community, CARICOM, to prevent the overthrow of an elected government in Haiti.

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What was the role of the United States in influencing decisions regard-

ing Haiti at the United Nations Security Council, and was there U.S. assistance provided in the personnel or weapons for the forces that were used against Haiti?

These are just a few very important questions that kind of coincide with some destabilization efforts going on in Venezuela, where the democratically-elected President is undergoing a very serious set of difficulties, that it looks like, it is said, it is being reported, that the United States, believe this or not, is having a role and something to do with the destabilization.

I yield to the distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I just want to applaud the gentleman for his leadership over the years in terms of issues surrounding Haiti. Let me just conclude by asking a question. I know the gentleman does not have time to respond.

Presumably elections are going to be held in Haiti. Has Secretary of State Powell or the White House communicated to the gentleman when they anticipate those elections to be held? And if so, is there anything in the gentleman's knowledge that would impede President Aristide from returning from wherever he is and running once more for the President of that devastated, poor country with such a tragic history?

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the documents I referred to earlier.

MARCH 9, 2004.

TRUTH COMMISSION—THE RESPONSIBILITY TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT HAITI

DEAR COLLEAGUES: Today we will introduce a resolution calling for an independent commission to uncover the facts about the Bush Administration's involvement in the recent coup d'etat in Haiti. There are questions that Members of Congress need answered regarding this Administration's involvement:

1. Did the U.S. Government impede democracy and contribute to the overthrow of the Aristide government?

2. Under what circumstances did President Jean-Bertrand Aristide resign and what was the role of the United States Government in bringing about his departure?

3. To what extent did the US impede efforts by the international community, particularly the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries, to prevent the overthrow of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti?

4. What was the role of the United States in influencing decisions regarding Haiti at the United Nations Security Council and in discussions between Haiti and other countries that were willing to assist in the preservation of the democratically-elected Government of Haiti by sending security forces to Haiti?

5. Was US assistance provided or were US personnel involved in supporting, directly or indirectly, the forces opposed to the government of President Aristide, and/or United States bilateral assistance channeled through nongovernmental organizations that were directly or indirectly associated with political groups actively involved in fomenting hostilities or violence toward the government of President Aristide?

There are many more questions that must be answered. We believe this Administration has, in essence, carried out a form of "regime change," a different variation than it took in Iraq, but still regime change. Accordingly, we must uncover their actions. The American people and the international community deserves to know the truth, and the people of Haiti deserve a fair shot at democracy.

We call on all of our colleagues to support this resolution calling for a bipartisan independent commission. I apologize for the short notice; however, if you would like to be an original cosponsor of this bill or have any questions, please call Aysha House (Lee) at 225-2661. The deadline for original co-sponsorship will be 7:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LEE,
Member of Congress.
JOHN CONYERS,
Member of Congress.

HAITI: IMMEDIATE DEMANDS

—Freedom of movement and association for Pres. Aristide, and disclosure of the terms obtained by the U.S. for his stay in Bangui.

—Recognition that as Pres. Aristide was forced out through the improper use of force to compel him to leave Haiti, he should be free to return to Haiti as president to implement the OAS/CARICOM agreement he accepted, especially now that peacekeepers are in the country.

—Sanctions should be imposed against the leaders of the coup d'etat against Pres. Aristide, and their arrest should be ordered. Assurances should be obtained by the Congress that the U.S. intelligence community is not providing assistance to the insurgents.

—An investigation should be carried out by the GAO into the use of U.S. funds to train and establish opposition coalitions and opposition media committed to ousting Pres. Aristide from power and to rejection of the constitutionally mandated elections process in Haiti.

A delegation from the United States met twice today with overthrown Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Bangui, Central African Republic. Following the first meeting, President Aristide held a news conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then conducted a 30-minute phone interview in English with Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now.

The delegation includes Kim Ives from Haiti Progress and the Haiti Support Network, and Johnnie Stevens and Sara Flounders from the International Action Center. Ives, Flounders and Stevens are representing former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Also on the delegation are Brian Concannon, acting in the capacity of President Aristide's lawyer; and Katherine Kean, a friend of President Aristide.

Aristide's press conference today and his meeting with the U.S. delegation constituted a remarkable turnabout from the day before when the delegation was barred by the Central African Republic government from meeting with Aristide. Following the refusal to give the delegation access to meet with the ousted Haitian president, a press release entitled "Aristide Under Lock & Key" circulated around the world. Thousands of individual activists and organizations submitted the press release and statement to local media throughout the United States in a high-visibility emergency mobilization to tell the truth. The Central African Republic officials have made it clear that their country is under severe pressure from the United States and France.

The Curtain of Silence that has surrounded President Aristide since the February 28/29 coup has now been significantly opened as a consequence of this political intervention. The world, and especially the Haitian people, has been anxious to hear from President Aristide. It is precisely for this reason that the U.S. State Department and the French Foreign Ministry have applied so much pressure to the Central African Republic to prevent him from having access to the media, and to his attorneys, friends and supporters.

The delegation arranged for President Aristide to be interviewed by Pacifica Radio's Democracy Now. Amy Goodman of Democracy Now introduced today's interview with these words:

"Moments before the Democracy Now! interview, Aristide appeared publicly for the first time since he was forced out of Haiti in what he has called a US-backed coup. The authorities in the Central African Republic allowed Aristide to hold a news conference after a delegation of visiting U.S. activists charged that the Haitian president was being held under lock and key like a prisoner. The delegation included one of Aristide's lawyers, Brian Concannon, as well as activists from the Haiti Support Network and the International Action Center, representatives of former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Shortly after they arrived in Bangui on Sunday, the delegation attempted to meet with Aristide at the palace of the Renaissance. The CAR government rebuked them.

"Shortly after, the country's foreign minister held a press conference in Bangui. Armed men threatened journalists in the room, warning them not to record the minister's remarks. Mildred Aristide, the Haitian First lady, was brought into the room, but was not permitted to speak. The CAR foreign minister told the journalists that President Aristide would hold a news conference within 72 hours. Hours later, Aristide was allowed to address journalists.

"In his interview on Democracy Now!, Aristide asserted that he is the legitimate president of Haiti and that he wants to return to the country as soon as possible. He details his last moments in Haiti, describing what he called his 'kidnapping' and the coup d'etat against him."

In his press conference and in the direct meetings with the delegation, "President Aristide was very forceful about the fact that he was kidnapped, and that his government is being replaced by a U.S.-sponsored government of occupation," said Sara Flounders of the International Action Center. President Aristide also said that "only his return to Haiti can bring peace, and he stated that the people who carried out this campaign against his government are internationally recognized criminals.

"President Aristide said that he had been lied to by the U.S. ambassador, who assured him that he was being taken to a press conference to talk with international and Haitian media. He was instead forced onto a plane and taken out of the country in a U.S. coup d'etat," according to Flounders. "President Aristide also pointed out the irony that Haiti, which only has 1.5 doctors for every 11,000 people, now has seen the closing of its primary medical school and that school is now being used to house U.S. Marines and other foreign soldiers."

President Aristide expanded on this point both in the press conference and in his interview on Democracy Now!: "In my country, after 200 years of independence—we are the first Black independent country in the world—but we still have only 1.5 Haitian doctors for every 11,000 Haitians. We created a university, we founded a university with the faculty of medicine that has 247 students.

Once U.S. soldiers arrived in Haiti after the kidnapping, what did they do? They closed the faculty of medicine and they are now in the classrooms. This is what they call peace. This is the opposite of peace. Peace means investing in human beings, investing in health care, respect for human rights, not violations of human rights, no violations for the rights of those who voted for an elected President, and this is what it means. . . .

How can you imagine that you come to me, you want to be in peace, and you close my university and you send out 247 students of medicine in the country where you don't have hospitals and you don't have enough doctors. God, this is an occupation. When you protect killers, when you protect drug dealers like Guy Philippe, like Chamblain, when you protect the citizens of the United States in violating the law of the United States, Mr. Andy Apaid is a citizen of the United States, violating the Neutral Act, the way with this act will destroy our Democracy, and once we do that, then this is an occupation." (quotation from Democracy Now!)

Kim Ives, who is with the Haiti Support Network and is a journalist with the newspaper Haiti Progres, is a member of the delegation and had an opportunity to speak to President Aristide in Creole during the meeting following today's press conference. Ives states that Aristide's account of the events of February 28-29 stand in sharp contrast to the account given by Colin Powell and other U.S. officials to the Washington Post on March 3. The U.S. "Story" was that Aristide was ready to leave the country and that they simply facilitated his departure at his request. Colin Powell and other U.S. officials later said that Aristide's assertion that he had been the victim of a U.S. coup were "absurd" and "not true."

Ives stated, "The Washington Post and other U.S. media coverage gives the impression that the sequence of events leading to Aristide's departure at 6 a.m. on February 29 began around 4 or 5 a.m. when Aristide allegedly called U.S. officials and asked for their assistance in leaving the country. President Aristide told me that in fact 'armed Americans and diplomats' came to his residence the day before—that is, on the evening of February 28. Aristide reported that U.S. officials told the 19 security guards that have functioned as a presidential security detail that they should abandon their posts. These 19 security guards were on assignment from the Steele Foundation and are mostly former members of the U.S. Special Forces. They were told by U.S. officials that they 'wouldn't be protected, the gig was up.' President Aristide asserts that these Steele Foundation security guards basically obeyed the orders from their former employers (the Pentagon). They were flown by helicopter on Saturday night away from the presidential palace, leaving Aristide with no armed protection."

A recent Miami Herald article on the subject reported that another 25 reinforcement security guards from the Steele Foundation, who were supposed to arrive Saturday, February 28, received a call Friday night telling them that the U.S. would block their deployment.

Mr. Ives also stated that "President Aristide was told by U.S. Ambassador James Foley that the U.S. officials and armed forces would take him to a press conference with the international and Haitian press, where President Aristide could make his case. President Aristide agreed to go on the condition that he could speak to the media, and also that his home would be protected from any attack or looting. The fact is, the press conference never took place and his home was looted almost immediately after he left.

"President Aristide was instead driven to a plane. Upon arriving at approximately 5 a.m. on February 29, he found his 19 security guards already there. They were all flown—including the one-year-old child of one of the guards—to the Central African Republic. After spending 20 hours on a plane flying to a destination unknown to them, the security guards were then flown back to the United States. The trip prevented them from revealing the details of the coup until after Aristide was out of Haiti and in the Central African Republic.

"In the course of the discussions with President Aristide, it became clear that the timing of the coup coincided with several international developments that could have shifted the relationship of forces in the Haitian government's favor. While the U.S. government escalated pressure on Aristide to resign in that last week, the government of South Africa had sent a planeload of weapons that was set to arrive on Sunday, February 29. Venezuela was in discussions about sending troops to support Aristide. There was also gathering international support and solidarity for the maintenance of constitutional democracy in Haiti. African American leaders were receiving increasing media attention as they denounced the efforts towards a coup. Two prominent U.S. delegations, one led by members of the Congressional Black Caucus and another led by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, were set to arrive within days. We can see that there were various converging influences of aid about to come. This accounts in large part for the timing of the coup, it explains why the U.S. had to rush in and remove Aristide," concluded Ives.

Johnnie Stevens of the International Action Center stated, "Today, as a consequence of strong international pressure, the people of Haiti and the rest of the world have had a chance to hear President Aristide refute the lies and slanders of the U.S. government and its henchmen from the former Haitian military who are behind the coup. We believe that the U.S. has tried to muzzle or silence President Aristide, not simply to stop one man from speaking out. The goal is to discourage the people of Haiti from continuing the growing struggle demanding President Aristide's return. It is really an effort to muzzle, silence and pacify the people in order to impose U.S. regime change."

Stevens continued, "The people of Haiti have been a source of inspiration for two centuries. Their struggle for freedom, independence and sovereignty is part and parcel of the struggle of oppressed people everywhere. We must continue to do everything in our power to stand up against the racist designs of the Bush administration."

In his interview with Democracy Now! President Aristide was asked if he planned to return to Haiti. His response: "If I can go (to Haiti) today, I would go today. If it's tomorrow, tomorrow. Whenever time comes, I will say yes, because my people, they elected me."

ALL HAT AND NO CATTLE

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, "This economy of ours is strengthening, and that's positive," is what President Bush has said.

"Outsourcing is just a new way of doing international trade, and that is a good thing."

The President says the economy is strengthening, that we are creating the

jobs. This is the newspaper headline today from the Youngstown Vindicator. In the City of Youngstown Ohio, the unemployment rate is 16.6 percent. In the City of Warren, the unemployment rate is 14 percent.

This President's economic policies are not working, yet we get rhetoric from this President. The economy is actually getting worse, not better, it is not strengthening, it is struggling.

Just yesterday, we had a field hearing for the No Child Left Behind funding issue. A recent study came out and said the State of Ohio needs an additional \$1.5 billion a year in order to get every single child in our State across the finish line and proficient in all the needed areas; \$1.5 billion a year to do this.

The President goes on about tax cuts and how these tax cuts are stimulating the economy, which they are not. He is cutting necessary funds for education, Pell Grants, public health, worker retraining, all of the areas that we need funded in order for us to move our economy forward and make the proper investments. Instead of economic politics, we get election year politics.

One of the issues one finds mind-boggling, quite frankly, in a recent article that says "Bush all hat and no cattle when it comes to small business," this President has told us that he is for small business and that these tax cuts are going to help small business. We already talked about how that is not true.

I want to share with the American people some of the cuts that this administration is making in small business assistance. The President's budget entirely eliminates the Micro Loan Program funded within the SBA; reduces government guarantees from 75 percent to 50 percent on the SBA 7(a) loan program; reduces funding for Small Business Development Centers; and slashes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership from \$106 million to a paltry \$39 million.

Where is this manufacturing czar that we have been promised from Labor Day? I have shared that before. On Labor Day, the President of the United States came to the State of Ohio, and he goes to Richfield, Ohio, one of the wealthiest suburbs in the State. He passes up Cleveland, he passes up Youngstown, he passes up Akron, Steubenville, Toledo, Lima, all the areas that have suffered a complete erosion of manufacturing jobs, where the unemployment rate is 14 to 17 percent.

We are getting no money or very little money for our No Child Left Behind program. And all these investments the President said he wants to make, we are getting a bunch of hot air from this administration.

Quite frankly, something needs to be done, because we get the rhetoric that says his economic policies are working. We are trying to get talked into an economic recovery that is jobless.

All you have to do, Mr. President, is come to Youngstown, Ohio and you

will find out your economic policies are not working.

A TALE OF TWO BUDGETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days, the House Committee on the Budget will introduce and start to mark up a budget for the United States. This budget is being drafted by the majority, reflective of the President's budget submitted in early February.

I thought it would be an opportune time to discuss and go over the review of this budget and the economic policies that have resulted from the President's past budgets here at home, with also the type of priorities that have been claimed for the people of Iraq, and compare, in my view, the tale of two budgets.

What we have here, which I think would be a rude awakening for the American people, is what has resulted here at home for the people of the United States and their jobs, their healthcare, their education, their housing, versus what we are doing in Iraq. If you really go through it, what you really have is the tale of two budgets, of two economic programs.

I think the American people would be surprised to find out that of the \$87 billion we voted on last year for the funding of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and for rebuilding the communities of Iraq and Afghanistan, that is more than the combined investment in the United States in the areas of education, job training and employment, the money in one shot for Iraq. Remember, that does not count the \$70 billion we spent on the first stage of the war with Iraq.

The \$87 billion spent in Iraq and Afghanistan for the war part, as well as for the rebuilding of their healthcare system, their job training, their physical infrastructure, roads and bridges and water system and water treatment, that is more than the entire combined investment in the United States for education, job training and employment services.

To me, the reason we have a \$3 trillion debt, additional debt on the books, nearly 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, as well as 43 million Americans without health insurance, 2 million more Americans who have gone from the middle-class to poverty, and nearly \$1 trillion worth of bankruptcies, both corporate and individual, is we do not have an economic policy and focus coming from the administration.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if I could interrupt my friend for a moment, the gentleman indicated the total amount that we have already expended in terms of our intervention in