

In fact, there are \$12 billion worth of unfunded requirements for the military, including nearly \$2 billion of important force protection initiatives. And the administration says it will wait until next year to request a new supplemental, which could amount to over \$50 billion. The question is, why did not they not include this in their regular fiscal 2005 defense budget?

I think the American people deserve answers. The American people also deserve answers about urgent health problems here at home, health care and the rising costs of prescription drugs. The American people deserve to know the truth about the new Medicare prescription bill law. I have been having town meetings throughout my district with seniors, and they are outraged at the new Medicare law because it falls far short of what they expected, of what they need, and what they deserve.

The new law does nothing to reduce the cost of drugs, and it actually raises costs for seniors with less than \$5,000 a year in prescriptions.

□ 2015

It jeopardizes existing health benefits for retirees. The new Medicare prescription drug law was a huge victory for the pharmaceutical industry because it fails to require the government to negotiate drug prices on behalf of seniors, and it continues to make reimportation illegal.

Seniors are still prohibited from ordering prescription drugs from Canada at a fraction of the cost for those same drugs here in the United States. In the last 9 months, Springfield, Massachusetts, has already saved \$2 million by buying prescription drugs from Canada for their city's employees and retirees.

So instead of working to improve the Medicare prescription drug bill, we recently learned that the administration has chosen to hide the truth that the Medicare law would cost \$139 billion more than the Congressional Budget Office's prediction. We need to work together to pass a prescription drug law that will allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug costs on behalf of America's seniors, that will allow Americans to pay lower costs for drugs in Canada.

I have to tell my colleagues, whether I am talking to seniors who are Republicans, seniors who are Democrats, or seniors who are Independents, they do not get it. They understand that if you do not buy prescription drugs for all the 40 million recipients of Medicare, then it is probably not going to be a good deal for seniors; and they want this bill changed.

EARTH DAY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, with the approach this week of Earth Day, that will soon be followed by a

flood of American planners coming into our city for their annual conference, I think it is an appropriate time for us to step back and think about what the Federal Government can do to make a difference for our environment.

With the help of those people who are involved with the planning community looking in the long term, there are a number of things we can do that are simple, commonsense, that will make our communities more livable, enhance the environment and, at the same time, create real value for American families.

The most important single step that we could undertake would be just for the Federal Government to model the behavior that we expect from the rest of America, whether it is local government, business, or individuals.

A simple proposition: let us have the Federal Government clean up after itself. In just one area, that of the Department of Defense, we do not know how many millions of acres are polluted with military toxins and unexploded ordnance. The estimates range from 10 million acres to 50 million acres or more; and at the rate we are going, it is going to take us hundreds of years to meet the Federal Government's obligation to clean up these messes; and at the rate we are going, frankly, we are creating more problems than we are cleaning up.

At a time when we are contemplating this next year giving the Department of Defense over \$1 million a minute, it would seem to be a simple environmental expedient to give the men and women in uniform the tools to be able to do what they are equipped to do and what they want to do, which is leave the environment better than they found it. As the largest manager of infrastructure in the world, as the largest creator of Superfund sites in the United States, it would seem only right.

I have been profoundly impressed by the ability of men and women in the armed services to identify these problems; and when given the tools and the resources, they can solve any problem. Look what has happened in Iraq in terms of moving forward. I think our only problem there is we have not given the right tools and the right instruction, placing them in harm's way. We do not have to do that in the battle to clean up after the environment.

There is another simple step that can be taken and that is just for the Federal Government to be more environmentally sensitive to the way that it locates and manages its facilities, whether it is the post office which ought to obey local land use laws and zoning codes or it is the General Services Administration with over 300 million square feet of office scattered across the country. If the Federal Government, as the largest landlord, landowner and employer in the country, models best practices, the environments in our communities, large and small, would be better.

We have before us, pending final resolution, a transportation bill that has passed both the House and the Senate, albeit at different levels; and sadly, there were a few items that got shoehorned into the transportation bill at the last minute in the House, a few bridges to nowhere, so to speak; but the vast majority of that legislation provides an important environmental framework for protecting land, for repairing crumbling infrastructure, to be able to strengthen communities and put thousands and thousands of people to work by Labor Day in every State across the country.

When it comes to energy, we are watching in our service stations every day it seems like that prices are going higher, \$2, \$2.25 a gallon. The American public understands that simple, commonsense, fuel efficiency improvements that have been mandated in the past, that this Congress and administration have refused to embrace for the future, would make a huge difference. Simply improving our fuel efficiency to the same level as American companies are doing to compete in the European market would enable us to save more gasoline than we would recover from the arctic wildlife refuge which most Americans know is the last place we ought to be drilling, rather than the first.

I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that Congress, in the weeks ahead, would focus on simple, commonsense steps to improve the environment. That is the single most important thing we can do to keep our commitments to Americans on Earth Day, making our communities more livable, our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

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

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

DOSAN AHN CHANG HO POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1822 would designate that a United States Post Office in the Koreatown section of my district would be renamed the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office."

Los Angeles is the home to the largest Korean American population in the country. In fact, more people of Korean heritage live and work in Los Angeles than any place outside of Korea. LA's Koreatown neighborhood is the epicenter of that community, and the economic and cultural wealth of this area are testaments to the achievements of Korean Americans.

It is fitting to mark these achievements by naming this post office after