

deficit. That deficit shows that it is impossible to finance three wars with three tax cuts and expect a different result. Never before has anybody waged a war with a tax cut. What the result is, we have three wars going on, and we have three tax cuts, and we have \$521 billion in deficit.

The budget proposed by the President and the Republican majority repeats the same mistakes that resulted in a jobless economy and a wage and benefit recession for Americans with the lowest growth in wages in the last 30 years.

This budget, the \$2.3 trillion budget, continues the same failed economic policies that have given us 43 million Americans without health insurance, 2 million more Americans who have moved into poverty out of the middle class, only a growth of 1 percent in wages in the last 3 years, 2.5 million Americans have lost their jobs, and nearly \$1 trillion worth of corporate and individual assets have been foreclosed on.

During the 2000 Presidential campaign, President Bush declared he was against nation-building. Well, who knew that he was talking about America when he said he was opposed to nation building.

This budget and the President's vision are really the tale of two budgets: one for America and one for Iraq. We have spent nearly \$150 billion in Iraq on the occupation and war, but without promising America the same future we are now committing to Iraq. I am not against rebuilding Iraq, we need to do that, but I am against taking dollars away and not investing in the education, health care, and environment here at home that we need to do for Americans.

Take the area of health care. We have opened 150 clinics in Iraq and have provided 3 million Iraqis 100 percent prenatal and infant coverage. In America, 44 million Americans go without health care, 33 million Americans work without health care, and 10 million children do not have health care.

In the area of jobs, in Iraq there is universal job training. In America, in the President's budget job training programs have been either capped with no increase or zeroed out.

In the area of veterans, in Iraq, \$60 million was spent to train Iraqi veterans of former wars. In America, we are cutting veterans medical care by \$257 million.

In the field of education, in Iraq we have built 2,300 new schools, or rehabbed 2,300 schools. In America, Leave No Child Behind is underfinanced by \$8 billion. In Iraq, the universities are receiving \$99 million for higher education partnerships. In America, Perkins loans have been cut by \$99 million and Pell grants have been frozen for 4 years in a row while college costs have gone up 10 percent a year.

In the area of law enforcement, \$500 million is being spent in Iraq for a new

police force. In the United States under the President's budget, the police program, the COPS Program, is being cut by \$659 million.

In the area of housing, in Iraq we are spending \$470 million for public housing. In America, we have cut \$791 from public housing homeownership.

In the area of the environment, we are paying \$3.6 billion for new water treatment facilities in Iraq. In America, \$500 million has been cut for water treatment and our drinking water here in the United States.

As President Bush seeks reelection, think of this: after his vision for Iraq and what is happening here at home and our own economy, he can say he kept his commitments against nation-building. The problem is, it is in America that he is opposed to nation-building.

We need to invest here at home. We cannot have the tale of two budgets; the tale of two values; the tale of two sets of books, one for Iraq and one for America. Yet those are the wrong values for here at home.

The American people are the most generous people in the world. They have committed to doing something in Iraq. They have done it over the years in Germany and Japan after World War II. We did it by welcoming other Eastern European nations into NATO and into the EU, leading that effort.

We will continue to be the most generous people in the world, but we will not do it at the expense of the future of our children. We can do better. We do not need to make this an either/or choice. But we have an economic vision and balance that is put in place in the budget of this President and economic priorities and values that have literally left Americans today with less opportunities in education, less opportunities for health care.

Think of this: today, health care costs cost \$9,000 for a family of four, compared to \$6,500 just 3 years ago. It has gone up 30 percent. College costs have gone up 10 percent, and yet we have not increased our benefits.

We can do better for the American people. We need to do better.

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

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

#### MISTAKES ACCOMPLISHED

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the President held only his third public news conference in the evening when Americans could watch it. He was asked a question by one reporter: After 9/11, what would your big-

gest mistake be, what would you say, and what lessons have you learned from it?

Mr. Bush was surprised. He stopped, he paused, he hesitated. He said, I am sure something will pop into my head here in the midst of this press conference with all of the pressure of trying to come up with an answer, but it has not yet.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am joined tonight by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), who also spoke of this, and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY). We are not here particularly to criticize the President about this. We want to help the President learn from his mistakes; and we want to outline, each of us, a couple of mistakes tonight that I think the President could learn from, if he thought about them and if he tried to act on them.

Saturday marks the 1-year anniversary of the President's flying on to the aircraft carrier with the sign that his staff put up that said "Mission Accomplished." Karl Rove, the President's political guru, strategist, said recently he regrets using the "Mission Accomplished" sign; but nonetheless, it sort of galvanized the public to think about all of what this Iraq war has been about and what the Iraq occupation is about.

But I want to concentrate tonight, as we look at some of the mistakes that have been made by the White House, mistakes that, unfortunately, he has not thought about and talked about publicly to learn from, whether it is what he has done with Medicare, or veterans, shortchanging veterans, or the tax cuts only for the wealthy, the loss of jobs, the weakening manufacturing base, trade agreements and all of that.

But I want to talk tonight about how the soldiers have been equipped in Iraq. Only recently, I got a letter from a mother in Avon, Ohio, my district, informing me that her son serving in Iraq receives only one meal a day.

Now, much of the last year I have met with families of young men and women serving in Iraq, and those families have talked about not enough safe drinking water. That is why so many of our servicemen and -women have come down with dysentery. Many have talked about having to send food to their sons or husbands or sisters who are serving in Iraq, because the military has not equipped them and Halliburton and those private contractors have not fed them well enough.

Most seriously, and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is going to talk about this, as she has other nights, and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) also, how we simply have not equipped our soldiers with the right kind of body armor.

I met a young man on a plane one day who did reconnaissance for the military, just left, just had gotten home from Iraq. He was given one plate of body armor, everybody in his patrol