

Last, I would like to say the President of the United States, George Bush, is unfairly being portrayed in the press as standing in the way of this research progressing. The truth is embryo stem cell research is perfectly legal in the United States today. The debate is who is going to fund this research.

Many of us feel that this research should be funded by private dollars and not funded by the American taxpayer because, number one, it involves the destruction of a human embryo, a human life, and, number two, it is quite unclear if it will ever have any clinical significance. Indeed, some groups, I must say, are engaged in what I believe is deceptive communications on this issue. A case in point I will cite is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The JDRF claims that embryo stem cell research is the most promising research. Their lobbying packet contains in its table of contents "embryo stem cell research, stem cell research, our best hope for a cure." However, JDRF had a \$80 million research and education budget. They only spent \$3 million on embryo stem cells, which is 4 percent of their budget, but, Mr. Speaker, they spent \$15 million, four times as much, 20 percent of their budget, on adult stem cell research.

Why is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation saying that embryo stem cell research has the most potential but they are spending four times as much money on adult stem cell research?

The truth is we have a multi-billion dollar biotechnology industry in America today, and they are spending nothing on this research. The advocates for this research are clamoring to get the American taxpayer to pay for it. In my opinion, that is an insult to the legacy of Ronald Reagan, asking the Federal Government to pick up the tab for something of questionable value, when private industry would reap huge benefits if it really had the potential it did have.

I think President George Bush is making the right move, and we need to support him in this decision.

#### COMPARING CONGRESS TO THE MOVIE "GROUNDHOG DAY"

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. Lately around this Congress I feel like it is Groundhog Day. I never knew that Bill Murray became a consultant to the Republican Conference. As you know, in the movie Bill Murray's character relived the same day over and over again, and here in Congress we are doing the same.

Take the energy bill that we were just debating so eloquently here. The same bill, nothing has happened to the

bill, same bill we took up back in November, H.R. 6. The only thing different is a new number. That is the only thing that is different about this energy bill. It never moved in the Senate, the President has not gotten behind it and gotten it passed or anything. Yet we take up again.

Here are some the things Congress has done just the same, while the American people face higher costs for college education, health care, energy costs, and their pay stubs are not getting any better.

H.R. 4280, medical malpractice bill, same as H.R. 5. We took it up in March of 2003. Nothing happened, but we took it up again.

H.R. 4281, the Association Health Plan bill, the same as the H.R. 660, which originally was taken up in June of 2003, but no action in the Senate.

H.R. 4409, the teacher training bill, the same as H.R. 2211 which we took up in July 2003, but no action in the Senate.

H.R. 4411, the graduate studies bill, the same as H.R. 3076. We took it up in October of 2003, no action in the Senate.

Ironically, there is nothing new here in the Republican plan. Somehow they have decided that motion is better than action, that rather than doing something it is better to look like you are doing something.

As the American people struggle to make ends meet, as they struggle to meet the challenges of trying to send their kids to college, they used to be able to do it with one job, now they need two to educate their children, as the American people struggle to deal with health care costs that have gone up by one-third. It used to be \$6,500 for a family of four, now it is \$9,000 for a family of four. What do we do? Take up bills that have gone nowhere and are going nowhere, just so it looks like this body is doing something, while you face constant challenges trying to meet the needs and requirements of your family.

Today, the Labor Department reported that consumer prices increased by nearly one point last month, the sharpest increase since January 2001. Since 2000, health care insurance premiums have increased from \$6,500 to nearly \$9,000. College tuition has on average increased by \$1,200 a year the last 3 years in a row. In my home State of Illinois, the average graduate from the State university graduates with a diploma and, on the other side, \$15,000 of debts. Who knew on graduation day you get your first Visa bill? Care costs have increased by \$2,000, and average yearly gasoline costs by \$1,000.

What does the Congress do, the People's House? We take up legislation that we have taken up before that is going nowhere and going nowhere fast. It is Groundhog Day here in this Congress. We have lost nearly 1.5 million private sector jobs since 2000, and family incomes have declined on average 1,500.

The average American household now carries \$9,000 in credit card debt and \$17,000 in overall household debt. The squeeze has resulted in 1.6 million households declaring bankruptcy in 2003, a 33 percent increase since 2000. The administration's budget, while these challenges are facing the American families, has cut job training, underfunded Leave No Child Behind, the education initiative by nearly 9 billion, and cut housing and home ownership programs.

The American people, in my view, deserve better. Rather than revisiting last year's failed energy bill, we should be working to reduce the cost of energy prices today and natural gas prices. We should be working to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We should be working to ensure that we increase the Pell Grant, college assistance, the Perkins loans, and ensure that we pass a Higher Education Reauthorization Act.

But we are not going to do that. So what we are going to do is take up medical malpractice, which we took up before, but it is going nowhere. We are going to take up the energy bill that failed to go anywhere, just so you have the impression we are doing something here.

It is Groundhog Day, and Bill Murray has now become a member of the Republican Conference. The American people cannot afford for us to repeat the same mistakes until we get it right, nor should they have to.

Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." From this day forward, we should choose to govern.

#### NOTHING CONSERVATIVE ABOUT WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the biggest news story concerned a car bombing in Baghdad which killed 13 people. Almost all major news outlets reported that immediately following this bombing there was a large anti-American demonstration by Iraqi citizens. They somehow were blaming the bombing on the U.S. and they burned an American flag.

A few weeks ago, just before the release of the Iraqi prison pictures, CNN released a poll of 3,000 Iraqis. That poll found that only 19 percent of the people of Iraq view us as liberators, while more than 70 percent viewed us as occupiers.

CNN found that 78 percent of Iraqis had an unfavorable view of the U.S.

Even worse, at about that same time in another poll taken before the release of the prison pictures, the survey found that 82 percent of Iraqis had an unfavorable view of the U.S. This poll was taken by the Coalition Provisional Authority, our own government. In other words, our own poll. It said 82 percent of Iraqis had a bad opinion of the U.S.