

the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We must support and adequately fund programs like the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which works with the Russian Federation and the states of the former Soviet Union to dismantle nuclear warheads, reduce nuclear stockpiles and secure nuclear weapons in Russia; and we must replicate this successful program in other troubled countries like North Korea and Iran, because not every country will proactively choose to give up its nuclear program. In the long run, negotiating with other countries will keep us much safer than scaring them into submission.

□ 2000

The Bush doctrine of arrogant nuclear proliferation has been tried and it has failed. It is time for a new national security strategy.

SMART security defends America by relying on the very best of America, not relying on her nuclear capabilities, but our commitment to peace and freedom and our capacity for multilateral leadership. SMART security is tough, SMART security is pragmatic and patriotic. SMART security is smart and it will keep America safe.

CONGRATULATIONS ON RETIREMENT OF REVEREND PATRICK SHANNON

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight congratulating Reverend Patrick Smith Shannon on his retirement from the Ministry after 41 years of service. Reverend Shannon presided over three different churches in the congressional district I represent in western Georgia, including the LaGrange First United Methodist Church in Troup County from 1968 to 1971, the Villa Rica United Methodist Church in Douglas County from 1971 to 1977, and the Smyrna United Methodist Church in Cobb County from 2001 to 2004.

Although Reverend Shannon is retiring from an active Ministry, he will never retire in his unwavering service to God. Blessed with a loving wife, Patricia, two children, Tim and Heidi, and four grandsons, Reverend Shannon's journey through life has yielded countless stories and life experiences which he has used to share the wisdom of Christ and the value of faith.

He went to Young Harris College, to Georgia State University, and obtained a Masters of Divinity from Emory in 1965. Born in Thomasville, Georgia, and raised in East Point, Reverend Shannon is a true Georgian to the very core.

Reverend Shannon is a servant of God, blessed with the gifts of teaching, compassion, and Ministry. He values

the unity and fellowship of the traditional community church, where he reaches out to Christians and non-Christians of every age group. I am fortunate to have had the privilege of attending a few of Reverend Shannon's services at the First United Methodist Church in Smyrna, and have always found them to be inspirational. He is a true gift to the city and to the State of Georgia. We will cherish and appreciate him for years to come.

On behalf of the constituents of Georgia's Eleventh Congressional District, I appreciate Pat Shannon's service to our spiritual community, and I wish him many new journeys in his retirement.

MIDDLE CLASS SQUEEZE

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to bring attention to how priorities of our hard-working American families are being crushed under this administration's policies.

When President Bush first took office, he had a \$236 billion budget surplus, there had been 22 million jobs created in the previous 8 years under President Clinton, and this country was experiencing the biggest drop in child poverty in our history. But what has changed in the past 4 years since Bush took office? Well, today there are 8.2 million Americans who are looking for work, and unemployment rates in many parts of our country are at a higher rate, almost 30 percent higher, than they were 4 years ago. And in my district alone, embarrassingly, some rates are as high as 9 percent. Plus, today's job market has lost economic value and too many positions that are being created are only part-time.

What this administration has not said when it talks about jobs it has created is that 90 percent of these new jobs since August 2003 are in industries that pay an hourly wage that is less than the national average. About 1.3 million of these jobs make an average wage of \$15 an hour. That is 40 cents less than the national average. And it is an embarrassment that our own Federal minimum wage has not been increased. Imagine a family trying to survive on making \$5.15 an hour, and that wage has not gone up for many years.

Clearly, it is not the struggling middle class families benefiting from the Bush administration's economic policies. Take a look at California. There have been 214,000 people who have lost their jobs in my State, and 346,000 were in manufacturing jobs alone, good paying jobs that left. Plus, the jobs that are being created in California are paying less than the jobs that are being lost and are less likely to even offer health benefits.

At a time when American families are struggling to pay for health care,

when they are struggling to send their kids to college and get food on the table, we are sending billions of dollars to the very wealthy, 2 percent of our population.

Let us not also forget that the cost of gasoline has increased by 62 percent under the Bush administration. Californians will spend \$2.35 billion more for gas this summer. That means per family \$210 just for driving around in the summer. Gas in my district is now being sold at \$2.39 a gallon. But instead of doing things to help working families, the Republican-led Congress spent last week debating energy bills that will do nothing to help working families cope with these outrageous energy costs, including trying to negotiate lower gas prices.

This administration even said that because of the bill's passage last week on so-called energy relief, our gasoline prices will actually go up by 3 cents. The administration would rather try to hide its relations with the oil industry than seek real productive ways to help our consumers. In California, gas prices went up faster than the Federal Trade Commission anticipated they could and companies rolled in the dough. Exxon Mobile reported a 125 percent increase in profits for the first 3 months of this year.

When the Bush administration claims they are concerned about the financial pressures of middle-income families, I would ask them, what are they doing to address the fact that the price of gasoline has increased 62 percent under this administration? Across the board, Americans are spending more on food, on health care, on education and gas. President Bush has done nothing to change his economic policies to consider the real needs of the American public.

Let us start fighting for a real plan that is just, that is Democratic.

IRAQ WATCH

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

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, it was approximately a year ago, in fact I think it was better than a year ago now, that myself, a number of my colleagues, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), and, of course, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) took to the floor to express our concerns about what was transpiring in the Middle East, with a special focus on Iraq. We have done that on a rather regular basis over the course of the past year, and we have come to call this hour the "Iraq Watch," where we have a discussion among ourselves for the benefit of those that are viewing our conversation through C-SPAN.