

wake-up call not only to President Bush but also to Republican leaders in Congress that our Nation needs a real economic stimulus plan.

You cannot actually fix a problem until you admit a problem. And, unfortunately, President Bush is still in denial that the economy needs fixing.

CLINTON NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER UNDER INVESTIGATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in front of the grand edifice known as our National Archives, where this Nation's records and a good bit of its written history is kept, are these words: "What is past is prologue." And yet today, in the wake of last night's wire service and subsequent press reports, perhaps that should be amended to read, "What is past is purloined" or "What is secret is stolen."

Mr. Speaker, press accounts today indicate that former National Security Adviser Sandy Berger is the focus of a criminal investigation dealing with the theft of classified documents in the care of our National Archives. It seems that former National Security Adviser Berger, at the direction of former President Clinton, was sent to the National Archives to review documents that might be germane to the mission of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission examining the events of 9/11 and the security situation and intelligence situation which our country confronts.

Mr. Speaker, according to press accounts, former National Security Adviser Berger took copies of some documents. By some accounts he stuffed them into his pants, into his pants pockets, and he left the National Archives with secret material.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in a rather pathetic effort at defense, Mr. Berger's attorney said that his client's actions were inadvertent. I thank my colleague from Kansas for handing me the unabridged dictionary of the English language from which I will read today: "Inadvertent: Unintentional, not attentive, heedless of, pertaining to, or characterized by a lack of attention." Inadvertent.

That is curious. The former National Security Adviser inadvertently putting classified documents into his pockets; inadvertently leaving the archives with classified material? Oh yes, his legal counsel went on to say that our former National Security Adviser was sloppy. Sloppy? Inadvertent? No, Mr. Speaker, there was a purpose to what Mr. Berger did. What was Mr. Berger, Mr. Speaker, trying to keep from the American people and from the 9/11 Commission?

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, before any report is released, we should find out exactly what documents were taken and exactly what those docu-

ments indicated. This is not an inadvertent act. This is not an act of sloppiness. It is an act that is criminal, and it carries with it not only consequences for Mr. Berger, I daresay it carries with it, sadly, perhaps even deadly consequences for the United States.

It is not sloppiness that led to a lack of security. It is not an inadvertent act. There are purposes behind those who would attempt to shield the truth, and those purposes need to be determined and the American people need to be aware of what action was taken or what action was not taken by those who served in positions of trust, by those who purport to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

And, even at this time of year, where inevitably the call from the left will be that this is some effort to politicize what has transpired, Mr. Speaker, this is too important for politics. This is national survival.

No, what is past is prologue. And, Mr. Speaker, I pray it is not prologue to yet another attack.

ECONOMIC GOOD NEWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot about how bad the economy is, but I want to tell my colleagues that there is a lot of good news out there about the economy. Since last August, we have created 1.5 million jobs. There are more new housing starts than ever before in the history of our Nation. More minorities are owning homes than ever before in the history of our Nation. More people today in America are working than ever before in the history of our Nation. The economy is strong. In fact, wages are at their highest point higher than ever before in the history of our Nation.

We have heard a lot of gloom and doom about how the President is not paying attention to the economy. Well, he has had a lot to overcome. In fact, in 1999, we had the tech bubble burst. The NASDAQ dropped by more than half its value. November 2000 the recession technically started, both before President Bush was sworn into office. Those were tremendous impacts on our economy. We had to overcome that. Then, on September 11, 2001, a fact many Democrats forget, our economy was dealt a severe blow. In fact, we lost hundreds of thousands of jobs across the Nation. In Wichita, Kansas, alone we lost 13,000 aerospace jobs following September 11, 2001.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have passed tax relief and it has strengthened our economy, but we can do much better than that. In fact, when we look at the barriers to bringing jobs into America, we see that it is not about wages, that it is not about overhead, it is not about something that CEOs or employees or

small business owners can control. Most of the barriers to bringing jobs into America were created right here on the floor of the House of Representatives over the last generation.

It started back in the 1960s, when we started piling regulation and more taxes on businesses and individuals. We started burying into the cost of building products regulations, trade policies, taxation, and medical costs. So now we have come up with a plan, the Republicans have come up with a plan to deal with these issues and help change the environment so we can bring jobs into America. In fact, we have been dealing with this for about 7 weeks.

We have broken the barriers into eight categories. Six of these categories we have confronted right here on the floor of the House, and we have passed 25 pieces of legislation. We started out with health care security. We passed legislation to help lower health care costs. Then we moved to bureaucratic red tape termination, and we passed legislation that would help cut the red tape in America and lower the cost of doing business. We then went on to lifelong learning, to prepare the workforce for the jobs we will be bringing back into America.

We then dealt with energy self-sufficiency and security. We should not be paying \$2 a gallon for gasoline when we have billions of barrels of oil on reserve, and when we have a bad economic policy where we cannot build a refinery even if we could get more oil in; or we cannot distribute it properly or bring down the cost of natural gas. So we addressed that bill during the energy self-sufficiency week with the energy bill.

We then moved on to spurring innovation through research and development so that we can continue the innovation that has been the real strength of this country over the years.

And last week we dealt with trade fairness and opportunity. We passed another free trade agreement with Australia. This week we are going to pass one with Morocco. And these are bringing down the barriers that keep us from bringing jobs into America.

So this week we are dealing with tax relief and simplification, a very important issue because our tax system buries cost into our products. U.S. corporate tax rates are the second highest in the industrialized world, after Japan. America's corporate tax rate is higher than even socialist welfare States, like France and Sweden. Our competitors, such as Germany and Russia, see the value in lowering their corporate tax burdens, and that is just what they are doing.

One study estimated that a 40 percent marginal corporate tax rate, including Federal and State taxes, has the effect of raising the cost of U.S. labor by \$1.43 an hour. So our employers are taking on these costs that they have no control over, but Congress does, and it is time we pass legislation