ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize 10 one-minutes on either side.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PORTER GOSS ON BECOMING NEW CIA DIRECTOR

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well today to congratulate our Florida colleague and great friend, PORTER GOSS, on becoming the new director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

PORTER is one of the most decent, kind, humble men in this building, and his task before him is enormous. Seventy-seven Senators, including our own Florida Senators BOB GRAHAM and BILL NELSON, courageously supported the man who we know is such a decent human being, who will use his utmost ability to protect and defend the people of the United States.

PORTER GOSS and his wife Mariel have been solid citizens, great Floridians and now the Nation will know the kind of dedication he has shown to the pursuit of making America safe.

We are proud of you, PORTER. We are standing by you, and we know, at the end of your tenure here in Congress, Floridians salute you and Americans will get to know a great, great humanitarian, a great leader, and a terrific Central Intelligence Director.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members should avoid improper references to the Senate.

PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICA'S FUTURE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the last 4 years, Texas has seen our manufacturing economy decline, entire industries virtually disappear, jobs outsourced abroad and communities across the State struggle against the tide to balance their budgets and maintain viability.

All families in Texas have seen their share of the national debt increase by $36,536.

Republicans have tried to cut back on support for local police officers, supporting proposals that would slash funding for the COPS program which has put 5,937 police officers on the streets in Texas. They have drained the Superfund program, despite the 30 sites that endanger the health of families in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time to wake up and address the most important problems that we face.

Let us come together on a new economic plan for America. Working together, our New Partnership for America's Future will provide prosperity, national security, fairness, opportunity, community and accountability to the families of Texas.

MISERY INDEX LOW; PROSPERITY INDEX HIGH

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for years, the Misery Index has measured the good or bad impact of the economy on everyday Americans. The Misery Index is the combination of the unemployment rate and the inflation rate.

President George Bush has the lowest Misery Index of any President seeking re-election in 30 years. The Misery Index under President Bush is only 7.3 percent. Over 1.7 million jobs have been created just in the last year. President Bush's initiatives have given Americans economic growth and a freer and more secure country.

Mr. Speaker, given President Bush's good record on the economy, maybe we should give him credit for a prosperity index.

NEW BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Democrats unveiled a new blueprint for the future, our New Partnership for America's Future, a plan that will move our Nation in the right direction by promoting prosperity, national security, fairness and opportunity, as well as supporting our communities and demanding accountability.

I want to focus today on national security. Nevada has the highest percentage of National Guard troops deployed in Iraq, 40 percent of Nevada's National Guard. Over 1,500 Nevada National Guard and Reserve troops have been deployed overseas. These brave men and women are our next generation of veterans.

Republicans have not kept their promises to our current veterans, and I have no confidence that we will be able to do any better for these new veterans. Republicans refuse to end the Disabled Veterans Tax. Instead, they passed a plan that fails to cover over 5,000 disabled veterans in Nevada.

Democrats will keep our promises to our veterans and will keep America safe with a strong military, sound diplomacy, resources for our first responders and heightened security for our ports.

SUCCESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the House heard from the prime minister of Iraq, Dr. Allawi, and I think it is important to come and underscore some of the things that he told us this morning. The overriding message that Dr. Allawi gave this House is we are succeeding in the country of Iraq.

He said he had three messages for America. He first wanted to say thank you. He secondly pointed out that the world at large was better off because of the action taken by the United States of America. And finally, he wanted the world to know that they would get it right on the ground in Iraq.

He talked about the cost of freedom. In fact, he reminded us of what Harry Truman said a couple of generations ago, ''If you want peace, you better be prepared to fight for it.''

He told us that they have mourned, as we have mourned here at home.

Iraq is the battleground for those who oppose freedom. It is their last chance, and they will not succeed.

He did warn us that defeatism contributes to more violence on the ground in Iraq, and I think that is a message that we all can take home with us and remember these 40 days remaining before the election.

NATIONAL SALES TAX PROPOSAL JUST ANOTHER TAX CUT FOR THE RICH

(Mr. SANDLIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, the new minority report released today by the Committee on Ways and Means shows that the latest unfair tax scheme proposed by the majority will be one of the largest tax increases on working families in American history.

The new proposed national sales tax will result in the wealthiest 1 percent of American taxpayers receiving a $225,000 tax break per year, while working families will see an average yearly tax increase of $3,200 per year. This new national sales tax will punish the middle class and working families every single day.

Mr. Speaker, $100 of groceries will cost $130. A $20,000 pickup will be $26,000. Need a new TV? Mark it up 30 percent. And health care, a visit to the doctor for your children, or how about prescription drugs? Add 30 percent, Mr. Speaker.

The truth is, the new national sales tax proposal is just another scheme to give tax cuts to those that ship our jobs overseas, leaving the rest of us stuck with a bill and stuck with a new and unwelcome tax.

KEEPING THE PROMISES OF THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago the American people made a choice. It was a choice between decades of a tax-and-spend Congress that believed America prospered when Washington had more of what people earn and a new Republican majority that believed that America prospers when the American people are able to keep more of what they earn.

That change has made all the difference in America today, welfare reform, the advances on traditional moral values. And every single year of the Republican majority, including again later today, this Republican majority has cut taxes on working families, small businesses and family farms.

The choice 10 years ago was clear. Another choice is just around the corner, between a party that believes that America prospers when government prospers and another party who believes that when the American people have more of what they earn to keep, that our Nation prospers as well.

Join us today as we cut taxes again and keep the promises of the Contract With America.

THE NEED TO APPOINT HOUSE CONFEREES TO DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to express my concern about House and Senate conferencing on the Defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2005. I am concerned that the House has not appointed any conferees to the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the House passed the Defense Authorization Bill on May 20 of 2004, and the Senate passed their version on June 23. Fast forward 3 months to today. It is now September 23. Next week marks the end of the fiscal year, and the House will adjourn for the elections in less than a month.

I would also like to remind all of us, Mr. Speaker, that the House and Senate finished the conference report agreement on the fiscal year Defense appropriations bill in July.

The reason for my concern should be obvious to all of us. Our country is at war. Large numbers of brave men and women remain in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan. I recognize there are contentious issues in both of the versions of the bill, but confronting these types of issues is our job, and we are quickly running out of time.

The bill is a life-and-death matter. It impacts service members' safety, their readiness and personal and financial health. More than anyone else, they have earned the right to a government that is a responsible steward of their safety and their well-being.

215TH BIRTHDAY OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the oldest Federal law enforcement agency in the United States, the U.S. Marshals Service. Tomorrow, they will be celebrating their 215th birthday.

I can tell my colleagues that the Marshals Service has enriched the history of the Third Congressional District of Arkansas. We all grew up hearing the stories of the brave marshals as they brought the most dangerous outlaws in the country to justice. We have seen the movies, read the books and all tried to copy their noble behavior.

Since 1789, they have admirably protected and carried out the orders of the Federal court system. From taming the wild West to capturing those who threaten our freedom today, the Marshals Service has consistently upheld their commitment and dedication to their country. I am honored to have the opportunity to acknowledge and thank them for their outstanding service to the United States of America.

BE AFRAID

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today, we had hoped to hear a realistic assessment of Iraq, but unfortunately, although the voice was different, the words were the same. We just heard the administration's Iraqi administrator say what the administration says over and over again: Be afraid.

With no plan to win the peace and no grasp on the magnitude of the chaos in Iraq, the administration relies on fear and photo ops to divert attention, trying to get Americans to forget the deception, incompetence and outright failure this administration used to turn the country upside down. They cannot stop what Americans see and read, so they try to preempt it, using the two words that define this administration: Be afraid.

Be afraid is their answer to the economy, the war, the deficit, the people without health care and Iraq in complete chaos.

Be afraid is what they say, but what they mean is, be afraid of them. Do not forget to vote on November 2.

REPUBLICAN PARTY 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY FREEDOM CALENDAR

(Mr. COX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, this is the 150th anniversary of the Republican Party. Over a century and a half from the abolition of slavery to the establishment of women's rights to the freeing of millions of people in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and in Iraq, the Republican Party has been the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

So that all of us can learn more about the achievements of this fundamentally American institution, the House Republican Policy Committee has published the 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar. Each day, a civil rights milestone in the history of the Republican Party is listed. Yesterday was the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. President Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation sparked howls of protests from Democrats in Congress and across the country, but it was based on legislation passed in this Congress just 2 months before. Every single Republican voted for freeing the slaves, and every single Democrat voted against it.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one of 365 civil rights firsts that can be found in the Republican Freedom Calendar available at policy.house.gov.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT EXTENSION

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time independent voice of the people of west Texas, I rise to urge my colleagues in Congress to move forward with meaningful reforms to our national energy policy.

Driving across the long west Texas highways, one cannot help but notice the towering wind farms that have cropped up in the area I represent.

□ 1130

Unfortunately, further wind energy development is completely halted because Congress has yet to extend the production tax credit for renewable sources of energy.

We had the opportunity to extend the credits with the 2002 energy bill and now the latest energy bill has stalled in Congress. Because of unwillingness to move back to the negotiating table, my constituents are forced to forgo further wind energy development in their counties. This means fewer jobs are created in the area. Counties and schools have to give up additional tax revenue and the U.S. is put further behind in our goal to produce more renewable energy.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for folks in Congress to get serious about energy in America and immediately pass the extension for the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit. It is the economically