

law. Someone has suggested that we give all people illegally coming across our borders a cow, and then let the Agricultural Department keep up with them and do the job the immigration people refuse to do.

Our Federal Government needs to be just as concerned about the illegal people coming into the United States as we are about some sick cow coming from Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this ought not to be.

#### CRITICIZING DRUG LIABILITY PROVISION

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the first Vioxx lawsuit to reach trial is currently being played out in Texas. The case focuses on the needless death of Robert Ernst, a produce manager at Wal-Mart who also ran marathons and worked as a personal trainer. He took Vioxx for 8 months before he died of an irregular heartbeat.

As the New York Times reports today, it turns out that Merck and other pharmaceutical companies may have knowingly misrepresented the dangers of its drug, Vioxx, to doctors and patients and the public as a whole. Yet, while this trial is going on, this Congress is planning on protecting the pharmaceutical industry from such lawsuits.

On the right side of the screen, a family is fighting an injustice. On the left side of the screen, this Congress is mounting a rear-guard action to protect the pharmaceutical industry. If next week we plan on bringing up the medical malpractice legislation and have a blatantly beneficial provision for the pharmaceutical industry and only the pharmaceutical industry, I will introduce the Vioxx amendment to strip the bill of this provision.

#### USA PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week on the floor the House will consider the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act and all Members from both sides of the aisle will, 4 years after 9/11, have an opportunity to show the American people how seriously they take the ongoing threat of terrorism and how they would attempt to combat it.

The PATRIOT Act, as we all know, has been a political punching bag for many ever since its passage. Wild, fear-mongering accusations have abounded about the suppression of dissent and abuse of power, yet in the PATRIOT Act's 4-year history no such abuses have been documented. It has not infringed on anyone, except our terrorist enemies.

Unfortunately, too often, too many seem more critical of the actions of our

own troops than those of the terrorists. And comical as it sounds, such reckless, irresponsible, partisan rhetoric is invariably prefaced with, "I support the troops, but."

But you cannot, Mr. Speaker, you cannot support the troops, but compare them to Nazis. You cannot support the troops, but call their heroic work in Iraq a "grotesque mistake." You cannot support the troops, but say Saddam Hussein's torture chambers are still open, but under new "U.S. management." You cannot support the troops, but say, to score partisan points, that the war in Afghanistan is over, when those very troops are still in harm's way there.

Policy differences are healthy, Mr. Speaker, but words have consequences.

National security is more than just another political issue. Undermining the war on terror undermines the troops, emboldens the enemy, and endangers our young men and women in uniform.

As much as some would like to, we cannot pretend it is September 10 again. We cannot pretend the world is safe. Mr. Speaker, 9/11, Madrid, and London have proven that. Our only choice is to fight or surrender and, for 4 years, the American people have rallied behind our Commander in Chief, committed to fight this war until the last terrorist on earth is either in a cell or a cemetery.

The Democrat Party of FDR and JFK, like the Republican Party under Ronald Reagan and George Bush, understood the necessity of strong, decisive, and bipartisan foreign policy in a dangerous world. This week's agenda will provide all Members from both sides of the aisle the opportunity to affirm whether such bipartisan unity is still possible.

#### OPPOSING THE PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my opposition to the recent Republican proposals to privatize Social Security.

Privatizing Social Security is like tearing down the barn to fix the roof. It adds trillions of dollars to the national debt and does nothing to fix the long-term challenges facing Social Security.

The Republican privatization proposal hands future generations a triple burden: a reduction in guaranteed benefits, a hefty transition cost, and a Social Security system that is no closer to solvency.

This is a classic bait-and-switch maneuver, and American workers will not be fooled by trickery, political schemes to line the pockets of Wall Street bankers with their retirement savings.

This country has made a commitment to seniors and to current workers

alike that Social Security will be available upon retirement. We cannot go back on our word. Rural America in particular is counting on Social Security to be there when they need it.

As we prepare to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Social Security, I urge the President to take privatization off the table so that we might achieve a bipartisan agreement to strengthen Social Security for the long term and enhance the retirement security for all Americans.

#### CELEBRATING THE SUCCESSES OF FREE ENTERPRISE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the body's attention to a sheet of paper that the Committee on Ways and Means has produced for the membership this morning. It is the top 10 reasons the economy is strong.

The late Alex Haley used to say, find the good and praise it. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to pause and praise the free enterprise system and the wonderful men and women, the small business owners who have put their energy into building a strong economy. It is their work. They create the jobs, not us. It is government's job to create the environment and get out of the way and let free enterprise do what it does best.

The items, the 10 items on this list are so encouraging. Unemployment, near historic lows, 5 percent; 4.4 percent average GDP growth since June of last year; 3.7 percent growth in manufacturing output since June of last year.

The economy is strong. Free enterprise is doing its job. Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate that success.

#### KARL ROVE

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I just cannot help feeling remorse for what has happened to the truth in America.

For more than a week, the American people have known that Karl Rove was involved in the leaking of a covert CIA agent's name to the press. He damaged our national security and put an agent at risk. This is not the work of a patriot.

Of course, Rove did not admit to his treachery. Instead, the story has come out through reporters who are getting their information from Karl Rove's attorney.

Republicans, from the President on down, continue to say that they will not comment until they know all the facts. Here is an idea: President Bush should demand that Karl Rove come clean and tell the American people everything.

While Rove continues to hide behind his attorney, a grand jury is investigating the matter. For some strange reason, Republicans claim that Rove has been vindicated. Something tells me that if Rove really believed he was innocent of wrongdoing, we would have already heard from him by now.

□ 1015

The silence from both Rove and the White House is deafening, while the truth continues to be obscured for political gain.

#### DEMOCRATS SHOULD CARE MORE ABOUT POLICY THAN POLITICS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week the minority leader told reporters that "it is essential for us," meaning Democrats, "to take down their numbers," meaning Republicans. And she went on to cite the reasons it is more important to tear down Republicans than offer an actual agenda.

It is obvious from these statements that the Democrat leader's main strategy is obstruction and politics. They care more about partisan spin and negative attacks than ideas and progress.

However, Republican policies are lowering the deficit created by recession and terrorist attacks. Republican policies have spurred the creation of a million jobs this year. Republican policies have allowed the economy to grow faster than any other industrialized country.

And Republican leadership, as opposed to decades of Democrat complacency, have led us into the national discussion on the future of our most important retirement program, Social Security.

The Democratic agenda has lost at the polls. If they cared more about working families than their poll numbers, maybe they would start winning elections again.

#### GOP SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN CONTINUES THE RAID ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

(Mr. CARDOZA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, the authors of the Congressional Republican Social Security privatization plan are not being straight with the American people. The Republicans claim that the plan that they introduced last month includes a lockbox that prevents the use of Social Security funds for other programs. This could not be further from the truth.

Under their privatization plan, Social Security's surplus cash would continue to go to the government, which would continue to spend it. Instead of a Social Security trust fund, account holders get Treasury bonds.

Even the bill's Republican author, the Social Security Subcommittee chairman, has acknowledged that under their bill the cash can still be used in the way it is now.

Over the last 4 years, the Republicans have raided \$670 billion from the Social Security trust fund to help pay for tax breaks. Despite their rhetoric now, the new Republican Social Security privatization scheme proves that they are up to their old tricks.

As we prepare for the 70th anniversary of Social Security next month, the American people deserve a plan that strengthens Social Security for future generations and stops the raid on the Social Security trust fund.

#### PROBLEMS IN LATIN AMERICA

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, problems now loom in Latin America as they did in the 1980s. Venezuela's Mussolini, Hugo Chavez, ordered 40 Russian military helicopters to station on his border with Colombia. And he is also taking delivery of over 100,000 AK-103 assault rifles to fight a new war.

His war may be in Central America. His agents are already funneling oil money to groups hostile to the United States and to free trade.

We in the Congress have a choice to make. We can either send exports to Central America or troops. Next week let us enact a free trade agreement with Central America to lock in democratic growth and stability, and let us make sure that President Hugo Chavez's Venezuelan agents find no fertile ground in America's back yard.

#### KARL ROVE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE LEAKING OF CIA AGENT'S IDENTITY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, whenever President Bush is asked to comment on Karl Rove's involvement in the leaking of a CIA agent's identity, the President says that he cannot comment because it is an ongoing investigation. However, if the President really wanted to know everything about Karl Rove's involvement, all he would have to do is call Karl Rove into the Oval Office and ask him. Rove's testimony before the grand jury was not private. Rove certainly could have explained his involvement so the President could then determine if Rove can be trusted as a senior national security advisor.

There is simply no reason for President Bush to delay any longer. The American people and our CIA agents around the world need to be able to trust those with top security clearances.

Two years ago, President Bush talked tough about this serious issue

saying, if there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is. Well, President Bush now knows Karl Rove was involved, and yet he says he wants to reserve judgment until after the investigation is completed.

If the President really thought this was serious, he would call Rove into his office and demand an explanation. It is time for President Bush to hold Rove accountable for his actions.

#### PASS A NATIONAL ENERGY BILL

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, as the conference between the House and Senate on the energy bill gets underway, it is long past due for Congress to pass a comprehensive energy bill. U.S. economic prosperity is closely tied to the availability of a reliable and affordable supply of energy. As the economy grows, so will the demand for energy. According to the Energy Information Agency, the United States, by the year 2025, is expected to need 44 percent more petroleum, 38 percent more natural gas, 43 percent more coal, 54 percent more electricity, and 54 percent more renewable energy.

Record increases in the prices at the pump and in overall energy cost underscore the long-term need to enact a comprehensive national energy strategy. So, Mr. Speaker, the time is now to do so.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we can always use a good laugh around here, but not when it is at the expense of the American people or the future of the Social Security. This is from Congressional Quarterly. It is so bizarre I couldn't make it up. The House version of the Republican Social Security surplus bill uses the Social Security surplus twice. First the government would borrow the surplus from Social Security's trust funds in exchange for special Treasury bonds, as it does now. And it would then direct the surplus back into individual accounts, but then borrow it back again in exchange for bonds that were put into people's private accounts.

The debt on the individual's accounts would appear in the government's budget. The debt to Social Security trust funds would remain off budget, as it is now. The surplus itself would be spent as part of the regular budget.

This is progress in the integrity of Social Security? This is some totally bizarre joke that is so confusing that they are hoping that they can snooker people into voting for it at 3 or 4 or 5 in the morning like they did the Medicare bill, which is now \$800 million over budget and providing precious little