

budget hawks. Tomorrow we are set to slash up to \$50 billion from essential investments in America in order to cut taxes for the wealthiest 1 percent. To pay for those tax cuts, we are cutting health care, education, community investments, heating assistance, and nutritional programs. American taxpayers all the while are being asked to carry \$445 billion invested in Iraq's war. In Iraq we have built and renovated 110 primary health care centers, vaccinated 3.2 million children, but right here this budget by the Republicans is cutting \$10 billion from Medicaid.

In Iraq we have rehabilitated 2,700 schools, trained 36,000 secondary school teachers. In America, we are cutting \$806 million from public school funding and college assistance by billions of dollars. We have funded 3,100 community development projects in Iraq, but this Congress is cutting \$250 million from community development block grants.

Madam Speaker, it is our duty to rebuild Iraq, but Iraq's future should not come at the expense of America's. This Congress should be working to leave America stronger in the future, not weaker.

#### REGULATING GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTITIES

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that may come before the floor of this House next week. It is the regulations of GSEs, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These were institutions that were created by Congress with the main purpose of providing liquidity in the mortgage market and also to provide affordable housing for lower income families.

Unfortunately, over the years they have left their mark, and they have been plagued by multiple accounting scandals.

I commend the chairmen, Chairmen OXLEY and BAKER, for what they are doing, drafting legislation to address it; but unfortunately the bill does not go far enough. The crux of the problem is that there is no limit to the size of their portfolio, their balance sheets, the amount of debt they have. Right now it is around \$1.5 trillion, \$1.7 trillion in debt on their financial sheets. A failure in the system would mean that the savings and loan scandals of a few years ago would pale in comparison.

I will conclude by quoting Allen Greenspan who testified that without restrictions on the size of the GSE balance sheets, we put at risk our ability to preserve safe and sound financial markets in the United States. We must do more to regulate and rein in our GSEs.

#### PENTAGON'S SPIN MACHINE AND THE CANCELLATION OF ED SCHULTZ'S SHOW

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

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, according to its own mandate, the Armed Forces Network is supposed to provide political programming that is characterized by fairness and balance, and should provide "reasonable opportunities for the presentation of conflicting views on important controversial public issues."

Now, the Bush administration's Pentagon has ignored that mandate, choosing to air Rush Limbaugh as its only daily political programming. This is the same man who spent weeks condoning and trivializing the abuse, torture, and rape of Iraqi prisoners. Should this be the only political voice that our soldiers hear daily around the world?

On Monday, our soldiers were finally supposed to hear a differing voice, liberal radio talk show host Ed Schultz. However, the Pentagon called to inform Schultz minutes before his debut that they were pulling his show. Why? They did not give him an answer. Schultz tried to explain this decision to his listeners, saying on Monday that the Pentagon does not want dissenting voices or any other kind of speech unless it is going to be promotional for them.

Madam Speaker, perhaps more than anyone else our troops abroad deserve to hear all political opinions from home. Remember, this is a democracy.

#### DEMOCRATS AND THE \$61 BILLION BARGAIN BUDGET

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, if Democrats had their way, Americans would be forced to pay higher taxes to cover the billions of dollars of excessive government spending proposed by Democrats every year. Yesterday, while opposing tax cuts for hard-working American families, Democrat Leader NANCY PELOSI conveniently forgot that her party has proposed to increase the Federal budget by \$61 billion in only 3 years. If \$61 billion is a vision of fiscal restraint, this is an obvious misinterpretation of the facts.

As Democrats search for ways to spend more taxpayer money, House Republicans are working hard to decrease the deficit and eliminate frivolous government programs. Yesterday, we announced a plan to terminate 98 unnecessary programs and save taxpayers more than \$4.3 billion. House Republicans will continue to work for fiscal discipline because, if left up to Minority Leader PELOSI, the budget would be at least \$61 billion larger as Democrats

continue their worn-out policies of tax and spend.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### WATER OBJECTIVES

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the turmoil surrounding the Katrina aftermath and some of the winds of change here in Washington, DC, obscures the fact that every 15 seconds a child dies needlessly and hundreds of millions of people worldwide are sick from waterborne diseases. But a small bright spot is emerging for the United States leadership potential on this issue. I commend Senator FRIST for his personal concern and leadership in the other body and bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by Democratic leader Senator REED. In the foreign ops bill there is \$200 million in the Senate version dedicated for water objectives, a significant increase given that we are currently only spending \$8 million in the entire continent of Africa.

We await floor action on our bill out of the House International Relations Committee, the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, where Congress can act to pull together the pieces for a global water strategy. It is easily within our power to meet our commitments to extend safe drinking water and sanitation to over a billion people in need.

#### SPENDING REDUCTIONS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, if House liberals had their way, last year we would have spent \$7.4 billion more on social programs, and here we are in the middle of a war on terrorism. We are facing new expenses with that war. We are working to rebuild after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the Democrats are saying, spend more, spend more.

Madam Speaker, the American people need to know what that means. When they say spend more, it means the American people are going to turn over more of their hard-earned money. Republicans in this House, from our newest Members to our leadership, are talking about how to reduce spending. Democrats are either staying quiet and hoping to avoid this subject or simply ignoring the bottom line and calling for increases in their pet projects. Their leadership consistently fails to do anything but complain and is not endorsing spending reductions.

Enough is enough. If the liberals in this body had their way, right now we would be spending \$60 billion more.

#### UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1