

pieces of legislation, primarily the GI bill, which has enabled countless veterans to get a college education.

On a more personal note, before he died I had an opportunity to spend some time with Representative Dorn and his family, a memory I will always cherish.

To the Dorn family, our prayers are with you as you grieve, and I thank you for sharing such a man of integrity with us.

WHAT IS PRESIDENT BUSH WAITING FOR?

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, what is President Bush waiting for? It is now blatantly clear that the President's main political adviser, Karl Rove, and the Vice President's Chief of Staff, Scooter Libby, leaked a CIA agent's identity to the press.

Madam Speaker, 2 years ago at the beginning of the investigation, the President said, "If there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is."

Today all the President will say is he will not comment on it until the investigation is over. If the President really wanted to know exactly how Rove and Libby were involved, he could walk down to their offices and demand that they answer him honestly.

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 clearance. Let us not forget that both Rove and Libby continue to hold these clearances despite the ongoing investigation and all of the evidence pointing to their heavy involvement.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the President to take action. There is an ethical cloud hanging over the White House. It is unlikely that firing these two men will remove the cloud, but it is certainly a beginning. Instead of an administration of neo-cons, we apparently have an administration of just plain cons.

PREVENTING FISCAL DISASTER

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, we must ensure that a great natural disaster of this generation does not turn into a great fiscal disaster for the next.

To pay for Federal hurricane relief, there are only one of three places that the money can come from: Raising taxes on the American people, passing even more debt on to our children, or to actually reduce the growth of Federal spending by reforming programs and prioritizing spending.

Democrats want to raise taxes and thus destroy jobs. They want to inflate the Federal budget and thus decimate the family budget.

They accuse us of being fiscally irresponsible, but every time we pass a budget, they offer a substitute that spends billions and billions more. They claim our budget policies hurt the poor, but we instead have reduced the ranks of the poor by helping create 4.1 million new jobs so families can increase spending on housing and health care. Compassion for the poor is measured by the number of jobs you create, not the number of government checks you write.

FLAWED REPUBLICAN BUDGET PRIORITIES

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is obvious what the Republican talking points are today. If the Democrats were in charge, how we would increase spending and increase the debt. Well, guess what, Democrats were in charge and what happened, we ended up, after President Clinton left, with \$5 trillion in surpluses, surpluses as far as the eye could see.

We had not the deficit, but actually a surplus in the yearly budget of \$236 billion. And what has happened since? Madam Speaker, we are \$8 trillion in debt. From \$5 trillion surplus to \$8 trillion in debt.

What happened to all those projected surpluses every year? Oh, the Republicans said that by 2005 we would have a \$269 billion surplus in the budget. Forget it, it is \$319 billion in debt.

So what are we talking about when we say fiscal responsibility? And how are they going to do it now, never mind the \$200 billion for the war in Iraq, let us not charge for building Baghdad, let us cut spending so we can offset rebuilding Biloxi.

HISTORIC IRAQI ELECTIONS

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, over the weekend an historic day occurred in Iraq. Millions of Iraqis took another step toward democracy and turned out to vote for a new constitution.

While the final results will not be known until the end of this week, the large turnout of voters and the significantly fewer security incidents are, therefore, a sign that Iraq is on the way to democracy.

Close to 63 percent of the country's 15 million registered voters cast ballots, which is significantly more than turn out in the U.S. presidential elections.

Violent incidences were far less this election than in January. Perhaps contributing to the low levels of violence

was the presence of Iraqi security forces themselves. These forces were up 35 percent since January to almost 200,000.

Finally, after years of oppression under Saddam Hussein, Iraqis were able to hold a truly fair, open election. Saturday was indeed an historic day.

HELPING THE WEALTHIEST FEW

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, 6 weeks ago all Americans saw the human face of poverty in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. President Bush vowed after the botched Federal response that the Federal Government would do everything it could to help those displaced in the gulf coast and to finally address the issue of poverty.

Well, 6 weeks later and the House Republican majority is already forgetting about America's most vulnerable. This week Republicans plan to cut Medicaid, higher education, food stamps, and possibly the earned income tax credit. These are programs that have helped the most vulnerable in our Nation.

Republicans will claim that their budget reconciliation bill is fiscally responsible and will cut the deficit, but that is simply not true. This budget actually raises the deficit, gives more tax breaks to the wealthy and makes matters worse for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. It only took Republicans 6 weeks to forget the images of Hurricane Katrina. They are once again putting the priorities of the wealthiest few ahead of working class Americans. It is now clear that Republicans learned absolutely nothing from Hurricane Katrina.

PROTECTING OUR BORDERS

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the President of the United States yesterday with Secretary Chertoff and reiterating that they are determined to protect our borders and to prevent or stop the uncontrolled flood of illegal immigration into this country.

This is a law-and-order issue. I just returned from a visit to the Rio Grande River, and you do not need to go to Baghdad to see the war on terror. Nuevo Laredo is essentially a ghost town. Laredo is under siege. The largest inland port in the United States, Laredo, is in a state of war. It is besieged by narcoterrorists who are equipped with the very best weapons and best equipment.

The sheriff and the local authorities are outgunned and overmatched. Our Border Patrol is outgunned and overmatched.