

So in closing, it just seems to me that people who are pushing for giveaway after giveaway, or runaway spending, and who then come in and complain about the deficit is a bit, it seems to me, like a herd of cattle standing around a lake complaining that the water does not taste all that fresh. For those of us who are fish that are trying to have clean water, it is just a little difficult to have people plopping stuff in the water that is just tough to swallow.

WTO NEGOTIATIONS ON U.S. AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, at the present time we are conducting some talks, WTO negotiations, involving the European Union. I would like to call attention to some figures that I think most people are not totally aware of.

First of all, if you compare the United States economy with the European Union, the United States economy is \$11.7 trillion annually and the European Union is \$9.4 trillion. So they are pretty comparable. The import tariffs we have on goods coming from the European Union into the U.S. are 12 percent, and tariffs on U.S. goods going into the European Union are 30 percent.

So we have comparable economies and yet a tremendous disparity in tariffs. This led to an agricultural trade deficit of minus \$6.3 billion last year, which was the biggest deficit that we had with any entity that we were trading with for agriculture.

On export subsidies, the European Union provides \$3 billion and we provide \$31.5 million, so they are roughly 100 to 1 on money they spend on subsidizing their exports to other countries. As far as farm subsidies per acre are concerned, the United States subsidizes agriculture at \$38 per acre with the European Union at \$295 an acre. So this is a tremendous discrepancy.

One other set of data I wish to point out is that we have had two cases of BSE, or mad cow disease, in the United States. The European Union has had 189,102 in the European Union in the last 10, 15 years. Yet the European Union excludes our exports of beef into the European Union, our pork, our genetically modified crops, such as corn, and also poultry. So we are really having a very difficult time with the European Union when you look at all these figures.

Currently, we are having some preliminary WTO talks where we are looking at some ways to try to fix world trade, and I want to point out a couple of things.

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First of all, we are proposing that the United States reduce farm subsidies 60 percent, which would mean that we

would drop our subsidies from \$19 billion a year to roughly \$17.5 billion a year, and at the same time we are proposing that the European Union reduce agricultural subsidies to 83 percent, which would be a decrease from \$80 billion down to \$15 billion. That is a big drop, but still the European Union would be subsidizing double what the United States does. The European Union has rejected this offer at the present time.

I think it is important that people realize what happens in the next round of WTO talks will have great implications for the next farm bill which will be written in 2007 and go into effect in 2008. We are apt to see a move toward conservation types of payments, away from traditional types of payment.

We will have to be concerned about developing countries like Brazil. Brazil has land valued at \$250 to \$500 an acre. They have enough rain and topsoil to produce two crops a year. Their labor is 50 cents an hour. They can pretty well bury us if we do not provide some subsidy for our agriculture.

Lastly, I would like to issue a warning. We saw what happened to our petroleum industry. We found we could buy a barrel of oil from OPEC a few years ago for \$10 a barrel. We began to get more and more from OPEC. Finally, we are pretty well dependent on foreign sources of oil. We cannot afford to let this happen to our agricultural economy. Certainly changes are in order, but I think it is important we proceed cautiously because we do not lose our food supply to foreign sources, which would be even more devastating than losing our oil supply to sources abroad.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleagues this evening to talk about Children's Health Month. It is very important for all families in our Nation, and certainly an issue that concerns all of us on both sides of the aisle.

While the rhetoric of the House often echoes through these walls about cuts and people being harmed, it seems to me that is the only part of the discussion that we are taking away. Little offers are made in terms of what is needed.

What we do often hear is discussions of who is paying. Should individuals pay, insurance companies be taxed more, businesses be given tax cuts, perhaps health savings accounts, association health plans, or just have the Federal Government take over? But this should not just be an issue of who is paying, for although that is important, and how much we are paying is impor-

tant, really much of this comes down to what we need to have is an open discussion of what we are paying for.

According to the National Center of Health Statistics, 83 percent of children in this country under 18 years of age have excellent to very good health. That is good news.

Now 17 percent of America's children are in less than favorable health, either to mild or severe levels. We have to make sure we do all we can to help these children have a better health future and help the rest remain healthy. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 6.3 million uninsured children, over two-thirds of all uninsured children in America, are currently eligible either for Medicaid or for the State health insurance programs, but they are not enrolled. There are many opportunities. I know the State of Pennsylvania, where I represent the 18th Congressional District, really has very good services and insurance for children of a low income level but we need to make sure that we expand enrollment and get those kids beyond. For those who are uninsured or underinsured but beyond the level of Medicaid, there are several things that we should be looking at to make sure that they get the health care they need to maintain their health to prevent higher expenses for emergency care.

But what this means is not just more discussions on we are cutting money out of Medicaid or other aspects. Look at what has happened to the growth of Medicaid. In 1995, and this is for all ages, Medicaid spent \$150 billion. We are now up to \$300 billion. About half of Americans are covered by some level of Federal insurance or health care. But the system is growing, and the concern is it is growing out of control.

While we are looking at such things as how do we pay for Hurricane Katrina's outcome in this devastated gulf region, how do we take care of so many needs, is it fair to just continue to say to the American people we are going to continue to spend more without finding ways of eliminating waste and fraud and abuse?

Let me give an example. The New York Times wrote recently about an amount of some \$4.4 billion in Medicaid fraud in that State. One dentist billed for over 980 procedures in one day. Clearly these were patients that were actually being seen. Another company used van rides for supposedly disabled people, billing those rides to the government. But these people when followed by a reporter clearly were not disabled. They walked around just fine. There is example after example after example.

I believe the American taxpayer wants to make sure that this waste, this fraud, this abuse is removed from the health care system. But it is not just a matter of that. When it comes to our children, we also have to make sure the system works with these programs in ways that optimize the health and outcome.