

transported throughout our Nation. This is a serious gap in our homeland security, and it could have been prevented. For 4 years my Democratic colleagues and I have tried to increase funding for port security to shore up this serious security gap. And every single year the Republican majority has opposed our efforts.

What are they waiting for?

Are House Republicans waiting for biological or chemical agents to come through our ports to be used against Americans before they finally choose to act?

We simply cannot afford to wait any longer. It's time for House Republicans to join Democrats in supporting the funding necessary to secure our ports.

IMMIGRATION REFORM ACTION NEEDED NOW

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, when I look at the current state of our border security, I join my constituents in their concern. Violence at the U.S.-Mexico border is at an all-time high, going on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

We have read in the news about a shoot-out on the border between U.S. law enforcement and a gang of drug smugglers, some of whom were dressed in Mexican military uniforms. Amazingly, several weeks ago we discovered a tunnel 2,400 feet long going under the border. Inside that tunnel were found 2 tons of illegal drugs. These are just a few examples of a flawed and broken immigration policy.

The House has taken an important first step with its passage of H.R. 4437, but this is just the first step. In the weeks and months to come, I call on my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, Members of the House and Senate, to listen to their constituents, listen to the American people, listen to the law enforcement agents and the Border Patrol agents. We are all on the front lines of this issue, and we all share the responsibility. Every day of inaction is a day we can't afford.

IN SUPPORT OF REFORM OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET PROCESS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with grave concern for our children and the deficit that Congress and this administration are passing on to them. How much is it? It depends on whether you rely on the President's budget or his financial report. The budget showed the deficit at \$319 billion in 2005, while the more realistic financial report showed it at \$760 billion, more than twice as large.

To make a long story short, the financial report of America uses a clear-

er, more understandable picture of Federal finances. Beyond that, the Blue Dog Coalition calls for a reform of the congressional budget process so that accrual budgeting is fairly considered in formulating Federal budgets.

Finally, I urge consideration of the Blue Dog call for honest budgeting, which builds on the Blue Dogs' fiscally sound 12-point plan, including caps on discretionary spending, PAYGO rules, that any spending increases be paid for with a revenue cut, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and other budget reforms.

These are dire economic times, Madam Speaker. We need to get our fiscal house in order. I urge my colleagues on the Budget Committee to consider the financial report, and I urge all of my colleagues to adopt the Blue Dog call for honest budgeting.

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EXERCISING FINANCIAL RESTRAINT

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

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, our constituents did not send us to Congress to create debt and pass it on to our children and grandchildren. Yet it is estimated by the end of the fiscal year 2006, we will have a Federal budget deficit of \$337 billion. There are many variables affecting this number, but government spending is out of control, bottom line.

In the coming weeks, we will debate the fiscal year 2007 Federal budget, and we will be faced with a choice to continue spending at the same level or make tough decisions to rein in spending. We cannot continue to fund everything, because if we do, we won't be able to support anything.

Later this morning, the Republican Study Committee will introduce an alternative budget. This budget allows us to renew our purpose of fiscal restraint, paying down or national debt and balance the budget. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Budget Committee, Republicans and Democrats alike, because spending should not be a partisan issue.

TIME TO GET THE BUDGET STRAIGHT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, in a couple of days we will be taking up the budget, and as people talk about fiscal responsibility, this chart is the chart they are talking about.

This chart shows the deficit over the years, how President Clinton took a \$290 billion deficit and converted it into a \$238 billion surplus, and as soon

as this President came in, there has been a complete collapse.

As you talk about the budget, remember this chart. When President Clinton left office, we had a projected surplus of over \$5.5 trillion. Now we have for those same 10 years a projected deficit of \$3.3 trillion. The war, \$300 billion, that is .3. Katrina, \$200 billion, that is .2. An almost \$9 trillion deterioration in the deficit.

And we didn't create any jobs. When they talk about economic improvement, this is the number of jobs created since Herbert Hoover, by administration. This administration, the worst since Herbert Hoover.

We need to get our economy straight. We need to get our budget straight, and we can do it if we take the same kind of initiatives we took in the 1990s.

GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS

(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, I rise today to shine some light on the good economic news that continues to roll in. This is further proof that Republican pro-growth policies of low taxes are working for the American people.

The economy grew at an annual rate of 1.6 percent in the final quarter of last year. January's unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent, which is the lowest monthly rate since 2001, and lower than the average rate in the seventies, the eighties and the nineties. There have been 29 consecutive months of job gains. The economy has created over 2 million jobs over the past 12 months. Economists are now predicting that growth will clock in at an amazing 4.5 percent in the current January to March quarter.

In order for this good news to last, Congress must fight its urge to spend too much and continue to foster a positive environment for the economy for it to thrive.

A FUNDAMENTALLY INCOMPATIBLE STRATEGY ON EDUCATION

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, if we want to maintain our edge in the global economy, we should fully fund the President's competitiveness agenda proposed in his 2007 budget. Regrettably, however, the promise of a more competitive American workforce is simultaneously undermined by his other budget proposals to freeze Pell grants for the fifth year in a row and recall the Federal portion of the Perkins loan revolving fund.

This hypocrisy builds on the Republican record on student aid: \$12 billion in cuts to loan programs; failure to extend the tuition deduction; and a 3-