

debt is \$8.2 trillion. More than 25 percent, or \$2 trillion of that national debt, is owned by foreign countries. China owns \$300 billion of our public debt in bonds and Treasury notes. Our trade deficit with China is \$200 billion alone.

Between 1989 and 2003, the United States lost 1.5 million jobs to China. According to the Wall Street Journal, China plans to increase its military spending by 14.7 percent, the biggest increase in its defense budget in 4 years.

A U.S. Government report issued in July said China is building up its military to be able to project power beyond Taiwan. The Pentagon budget issued this January stated that in the future China will have the greatest potential to compete militarily with the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, China has taken proceeds from our trade deficit and budget deficit and used the money to fund its military buildup. America has done nothing to address the problem as our trade policy continues to give every advantage to China's state-owned companies who continue to take American jobs and sell cheap goods that American workers used to produce.

Mr. Speaker, I have joined with Republican DALE KILDEE of Michigan and other Members of Congress in both parties to sponsor legislation to say that trade should be fair. What is good for America should be good for China. And what is good for China should be good for America.

H.R. 4808, the Unfair Chinese Automotive Tariff Equalization Act, does not require U.S. tariffs on passenger cars to be raised or Chinese tariffs to be lowered. The bill simply states that until tariff rates are equal, no Chinese-made cars may be imported into America.

Mr. Speaker, right now if America sells cars in China, they pay a 28 percent tariff. But the United States tariff on Chinese cars will only be 2.5 percent. That is unfair and unacceptable. I hope that the House of Representatives will bring H.R. 4808 to the floor, and, by passing this legislation, say to the trade negotiators, both Chinese and American, all we want is fairness for the American workers.

Mr. Speaker, with that I yield back my time, but I will close by also saying that I pray to God that He will bless our men and women in uniform and their families, and I ask God to continue to bless America.

PRESIDENT'S GAP BETWEEN RHETORIC AND REALITY

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, just 35 days ago I attended the President's State of the Union address with other Members of Congress right here in this Chamber. And that night I was very

much pleased to hear the President talk about the importance of maintaining America's competitive edge in an era of increasing global economic competition.

This is an urgent issue facing our Nation and one on which I think there should be strong bipartisan support. In fact, many of us in this House have been working for some time on what we call an "innovation agenda" to ensure that America stays number one when it comes to international economic competition. Indeed, last fall House Democrats unveiled a blueprint for an innovation agenda.

So I was pleased with many of my colleagues to hear the President join this effort in the State of the Union address. He said this was going to be a priority. In fact, that night he told the American people, "Tonight I announce an American competitiveness initiative to encourage innovation throughout our economy and give our Nation's children a firm grounding in math and science."

He went on to talk about the importance of the No Child Left Behind Initiative and proposed an increase in training teachers for math and sciences.

Now, a few days after the State of the Union address, the President sent his budget to Congress. Now, we all know that the budget is what is a true reflection of the President's real priorities. That is where the American people have a chance to see whether the President's words at the State of the Union address are backed up by action. That is his opportunity to show that he means what he says. And I must confess, I was very disappointed with the President's budget and I believe the American people will be disappointed, too, because his rhetoric that night in the State of the Union in this Chamber was not matched by the reality of his budget.

He may correctly want to invest more in math and science, but if you look closely at his budget, \$115 million of the \$380 million investment is simply taken from other important education initiatives. It is a shell game. Out of one pocket, into another. And what is worse, if you look at the President's proposal for No Child Left Behind, which he talked about in his State of the Union address, this year it is \$15 billion dollars short of what this House and this Senate and the Congress and the President said they would provide. And that is cumulatively \$40 billion short of what had been pledged.

Now, what about higher education? Our students in this global economic competition have to be able to compete in a knowledge-based economy. Yet students and families are seeing across this country increasing tuition rates, making it harder and harder for them to pay for the tuition and making college out of reach for more and more Americans.

So what did the President and the Congress do? The day after the State of

the Union address, this House passed a budget reconciliation bill that cut \$12 billion on student aid, the biggest rate on student aid in the history of this country, passed by the Republican Congress. And with the stroke of a pen, the President signed that into law and made college more difficult for many millions of Americans to reach.

Now, the President also told us in the State of the Union address that to maintain our competitive edge we have to invest in scientific research, and he was right. But while he increased, rightly, his investment in the physical sciences, if you look at the medical research budget, it is flat. And in fact, if you look at 18 of the 19 institutes at the National Institutes of Health, they are cut. This violates sort of the first principle that doctors have in medicine: First, do no harm. Those cuts will harm our ability to maintain our competitive edge in the medical research area. We need to get serious.

I am proud to have joined with my colleague, Mr. INSLEE, to introduce a number of new provisions with respect to maintaining competitiveness, as well as others.

The President also told us what many of us already knew: that we are addicted to foreign oil. If you look actually at his proposals in this area, they are rather anemic. In fact, his budget cut our investment in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. And Americans may remember the spectacle just a few weeks ago when the President wanted to go out and visit the National Renewable Energy Laboratory only to discover before the great photo-op that his budget had cut funding for that, and 38 employees were laid off. So they had to scramble around to rehire those employees so the President could get his sound bite and his photo-op.

We have got to put aside the sound bites and the photo-ops. And instead of having the sound bite policy, we need a very sound energy policy. And again, many of us have worked on legislation in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I think the message is clear: You have to not just look at what people say but what people do. I urge the American people to recognize the gap between rhetoric and reality in the President's budget and see that there are alternatives that many of us have proposed.

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

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SECURE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our porous southwestern border is getting worse by the day and the number of illegal entries into the United States continues to grow at a ridiculously rapid rate.

Just yesterday, a study released by the Pew Hispanic Center said that the population of illegals is growing by 500,000 a year. This is because of the lack of border security in this country. Our government's failure to slow this illegal action is fueling financial crisis to American taxpayers, especially those in the 24 counties along the 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico.

The costs that come along with this are draining local communities as they struggle to find money for health care, education, and other social service costs associated with caring for illegal individuals. Unfortunately, the people that pay for this illegal activity are American citizens, not illegals. Americans pay the price for illegal immigration. Americans always pay.

Unrestricted illegal immigration throughout Texas and the entire United States drains local cities of money that should be used elsewhere. About 20 percent of health care costs, 20 percent of education costs, goes to those illegally in the United States. They take from America and do not contribute to these expenses.

There is more, Mr. Speaker. In California, San Diego County spends \$50 million a year in the arrest, jailing, and prosecution and defense of illegal immigrants for crimes committed after they enter the United States.

The University of Texas at El Paso has a study that found the following: Treating illegal immigrants in hospitals accounts for nearly one quarter of the uncompensated costs at border county hospitals in our country. Cochise County, Arizona spend tens of thousands of dollars picking up trash left at campsites by these illegals. Prosecuted and jailing illegals costs this county an additional \$5 million a year. And 25 percent of Cochise County's budget is paid to health care for the uninsured. Most of those people are illegally in the country.

Our out-of-control border is not only affecting the taxpayers, it is also affecting local law enforcement officials. According to the USA Today, in 2004 there were 1.14 million arrests along the U.S.-Mexico border. There are not nearly enough Federal detention centers to house all of these individuals; therefore, some are captured and then let go. Others are put in local jails, and once again, the taxpayer and local communities are left to foot this bill.

I have been down to the Texas-Mexico border and I have spoken firsthand

with numerous sheriffs in our communities. They are struggling and they need more help from the Federal Government. We have a policy in this country that we capture individuals who are illegally here and then release them. This catch-and-release policy defies common sense.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 10,000 FEMA trailers sitting in Hope, Arkansas that have never been used. They were not used in hurricane recovery because FEMA has some ridiculous policy that those trailers cannot go to flood-prone areas, so they were never used for individuals who had to evacuate because of Katrina and Rita. So why don't we take those 10,000 trailers down to the Texas-Mexico border and when we capture people illegally in the United States, why don't we put them in those trailers and house them there until they can be deported?

Mr. Speaker, the violence along our southern border continues to increase and violent confrontations between drug smugglers and law enforcement officials is at an all-time high. Local Texas sheriffs have come to expect violent resistance when they encounter drug smugglers and human traffickers. Not to mention our sheriffs are out-gunned, out-numbered, and out-financed by these outlaws. Drug cartels and coyotes, those individuals who smuggle other individuals into this country for money, have gone so far as to hire contract mercenaries from other countries to bring drugs and people across to the United States, across our borders.

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According to the Washington Times, in the past 5 months the U.S. Border Patrol has detained 42,000 illegals who were convicted criminals or persons wanted for crimes committed at our borders. Last year, Homeland Security reported that 140,000 detainees apprehended at the border had criminal records at the time of their arrest.

Mr. Speaker, we must fight harder against the insurgent uprising at our borders and become more vigilant than we already are. Three groups enter our land illegally: those drug dealers, terrorist operatives and citizens from other countries. The illegals and drug cartels are only becoming more ruthless and defiant every day. That is because lawlessness on our border breeds more lawlessness.

Mr. Speaker, Third World countries protect their borders better than we do, the most powerful Nation on Earth. The failure of this Congress to act quickly on correcting our country's broken borders trickles down to the communities we all represent. We must enforce existing laws, as well as pass new ones that stop this lawlessness. We cannot ignore the facts and the key word is "illegal." It is illegal entry that we must stop.

Congress and America must have the moral resolve to protect the dignity of

our country. Send the word. We will secure our borders. That is just the way it is.

IN SEARCH OF A COMPETENT CONSERVATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Emmanuel) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of months and years, the American people have seen what has happened from Iraq, to Medicare, to port security, the economy and Katrina, and the government and this administration's response.

In the 2000 election, President Bush said he wanted to run as a compassionate conservative, and when you look at what has happened and the chaos that is caused by this administration in every one of those areas, forget just compassionate conservative, I would settle for a competent conservative at this point.

The response by this government in every one of those areas that created the kind of chaos that has happened, just take Iraq, for example, just as recently as this weekend. You have our ambassador saying that Iraq is on the beginning of a civil war. Joint Chiefs said that things are actually going well, and Secretary Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense, said, nothing to worry about, our problem is the press does not accurately report. So either we are on the brink of a civil war, everything is going well, or the American press is actually to blame for what is happening in Iraq.

We have actually sent troops to battle without enough Kevlar vests. We have sent troops to battle with Humvees and turn our men and women into scrap metal collectors. When we had to oust Iraq from Kuwait, we sent a half a million troops; yet, to occupy Iraq, 138,000 troops. And Paul Bremer, the President's personal ambassador there to run the country, asked the Secretary of Defense, asked the President for more troops, and nobody responded.

What is the Republican Congress's response to that? Not a single question, not a single hearing, never asking a single question. This is the hear no evil, see no evil Congress. No oversight. Out of the \$480 billion appropriated, \$10 billion cannot be accounted for, and nobody's asked a single question or had a single hearing, and, in fact, they have opposed oversight to war profiteering commissions like we had in World War II.

So this Congress on Iraq, see no evil, hear no evil, stay the course, do not ask any questions, do not understand how we got to a situation where there is a failure on the intelligence, a failure to adequately supply our troops who are fighting valiantly, and they deserve a civilian leadership that is up to the kind of valiant leadership and