

mother, and a great supporter of this institution.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats continue to want to raise the taxes on the hard-working Americans, or when they keep proposing, as they did this year, over a \$1 trillion increase, or close to \$1 trillion, \$890 billion increase, to be precise, on the already, I think, large deficit, thank God the President, though, has released the President's agenda that we are all familiar with, which outlines a plan to clean up this mess of just waste, fraud, and abuse that exists and is rampant here in Washington and that has always been rampant here in Washington.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) eloquently mentioned some issues that should concern all Americans as to how Washington wastes America's taxpayers' money. I am reminded of all of the cases, case after case, of fraud, waste, and abuse that continue to happen, including money that is just absolutely lost in this huge bureaucracy.

In 1999 the Army, for example, took an inventory of its assets and found that, check this out, 56 airplanes, 32 tanks, I do not know how you lose 32 tanks, and 36 Javelin-command launch units for which it had no record, had no records for them. That same year, GAO identified more than \$3 billion in inventory that the Navy had "lost in transit." How do you lose \$3 billion of inventory in transit? The GAO also found \$400,000 in computer purchases that the Department of Education had not recorded in the property records. By the way, 200,000 of those computers could never be located.

Yet, I repeat, the Democrats insist on raising the taxes on the hard-working Americans, because there is not enough money. There is not enough money if you want to lose more money, if you want to throw away more money, if you want to splurge more money; but there is clearly more than enough money to do what we need to do here, as long as we get a little bit more responsible.

I commend the President for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs alone has identified more than 5,500 possible cases of individuals who may be defrauding the Veterans Administration by receiving benefits intended for veterans, these are benefits that are intended for benefits, but for people who are dead. Mr. Speaker, 5,500. Fourteen thousand, almost 14,000 incarcerated veterans have been paid about \$100 million, and these are not small sums, \$100 million in benefits that they were

clearly not eligible for. And yet the Democrats insist on coming up with proposal after proposal and budget after budget that raises the taxes of the hard-working Americans in this country. To do more of this?

Over \$100 million, another \$100 million in improper payments of missed Medicare beneficiaries who rely on them. Over the last 4 years, by the way, for example, the Department of Agriculture has spent \$5.13 billion in improper payments, improper payments intended to go to food stamp beneficiaries. Yet, the Democrats say, there is not enough money, and they insist on trying to raise the taxes on the hard-working Americans of this country.

Mr. Speaker, that is why, with a number of my colleagues, we have come up with the Washington Waste Watchers to not only highlight the fact, not that Washington has enough money, but that we have too much money, and that there is not enough accountability. We commend the President for his steps in the right direction, and we are going to continue to let the American people know where their money is being spent and, in many cases, misspent. And, no, we are not going to support raising taxes. We are going to support changing the culture up here from a culture of waste, of fraud, and abuse to a culture of fiscal responsibility.

WASHINGTON WAR WATCHERS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days the House Committee on Appropriations will take up the \$87 billion that the administration has requested for Iraq and Afghanistan. This is the second down payment on top of the first \$75 billion that has been requested. Secretary Powell and others in the administration recently said this is a down payment, and that they will be back in 6 months from now with an additional request on top of the \$160-some-odd billion we spent on these two operations, for more money for reconstruction of both Afghanistan and Iraq. This funding contains a \$20 billion request, taxpayer financed, for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Back in April I introduced a bill called the American Parity Act, which required that for every dollar we invest in Iraq's health care, education, and transportation and infrastructure we also invest here at home. Today we have 102 cosponsors.

Now, I think everybody that has signed on to this agrees that the same values that we hold for Iraq, we must pledge for all Americans. The same goals we envision for Iraq's future, we must envision for America's future. Unfortunately, to date, we have had two priorities, two sets of values, two sets of books, one for Iraq and one for

America. I did a T-shirt the other day which I brought down to the floor showing all of the investments we had planned for Iraq and all the cuts here at home we had planned in the corresponding areas.

Now, two colleagues before me who are part of my freshman class from the other party talked about waste, fraud, and abuse. I would like to bring to their attention, and I have the same sense that if we were able to cut some of the waste, fraud, and abuse, we could fund other initiatives dealing with the uninsured in this country.

But to point to some waste, fraud, and abuse: in the President's request for Iraq, there is \$3.6 million for 600 radios and telephones at \$6,000 each. I highly recommend that maybe we should hear the word Radio Shack. If you cannot get a telephone for less than \$6,000, you may want to consider Radio Shack.

We have also in the request \$2.5 million for pickup trucks at \$33,000 apiece. Has anybody ever heard of zero percent financing by GM, Ford, or Chrysler? You can get a pickup truck for less than \$33,000. Mr. Speaker, \$100 million to hire 500 people at \$200,000 a person to investigate crimes. Mr. Speaker, \$20 million to finance 200 election experts, election experts for 6 months at \$100,000 per expert. Now, I come from Chicago. I think I can get a ward committeeman to do it just slightly cheaper than that.

So if we are interested in waste, fraud, and abuse, I recommend maybe we take a look at what we are recommending as a first down payment of what will be a total bill to the American taxpayers for \$60 billion in the area of waste, fraud, and abuse.

If I may take some more time, they did not want to mention the \$5.6 billion for the new electric grid in Iraq. Yet here in America, what did we get for that? The blackout. And how much is invested in America's electric future, in our energy future, in a massive investment here? Zero. We could create 100,000 jobs. We do not mention that when it comes to waste, fraud, and abuse.

In the area of health care, we are talking about \$150 million more for a new children's hospital in Basra. Yet, in that same week, we had a report that there are 10 million uninsured Americans. And what is the initiative? We cut the funding for the children's health insurance program. We have 44 million uninsured Americans, and not a single bill on the floor to insure the uninsured Americans.

In the area of police, there is \$4 billion planned for the Iraqi police, and yet what do we do? We cut the 100,000 police program here in the United States practicing community policing at \$1 billion. Mr. Speaker, \$5 billion for water, drinkable water in Iraq and wetlands restoration and irrigation; yet we have frozen the funds for the Corps of Engineers, and we do not fund any cleanup and improvement in the Great

Lakes of America where 40 million Americans get their daily drinking water. I am interested in the area of waste, fraud, and abuse; and I would like to talk about it.

In the area of veterans, we have a \$6 billion cut here at home for our veterans for their health care and other benefits, and yet what do we plan? To rebuild Iraq's national army.

So when it comes to waste, fraud, and abuse, I would hope my colleagues would join me on the floor and talk about some of the waste, the fraud, and the abuse that will go on in the \$60 billion reconstruction project the American taxpayers are being asked to pay and foot the bill for, while 3.1 million Americans have lost their jobs, 5 more million Americans have lost their health insurance, \$1 trillion worth of corporate assets are foreclosed on, and 5 million Americans have walked out of middle class into poverty; and that has been the net result over the last 3 years in economic stewardship.

□ 2000

THE COST TO AMERICANS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to speak tonight on the issue of prescription drugs and what Americans pay relative to the rest of the industrialized world.

I want to call all Members' attention, if you have not seen this yet, get a copy of today's USA Today and read the lead story. And if you missed it today we are going to try and put this on our Web site, so Members may go to my Web site at Gil.house.gov; and we will have this on by sometime tomorrow afternoon.

And we will have the charts, because this is the most compelling article, I think, that I have read so far because it tells the story, it tells the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in terms of what Americans pay and the sad and pathetic excuse by the FDA about how unsafe this is. It is just outrageous. It is the Food and Drug Administration.

This estimate is 1 million. We have had estimates that as many as 10 million Americans next year will buy their drugs from another country.

Now, what my vision is is not that people will buy their drugs from other countries, but once you open up markets and you begin to use tamper-proof, counterfeit-proof packaging, you will be able to buy those drugs from your local pharmacy and take advantage of market forces to bring the drug prices down.

As my colleague from Indiana pointed out earlier, the chart on the front talks about how much more Americans pay than the consumers in other coun-

tries. I have often said I am willing to subsidize the people in sub-Saharan Africa, I do not think we ought to have to subsidize the starving Swiss. It is time for them to pay their fair share for the cost of prescription drugs. The surest way to do that is to open up markets so you will see prices level around the world. And Americans will pay a lot less.

How much less? Well, the Swiss pay 58 percent less than American consumers. In Great Britain they pay 60 percent less. In Canada they pay 67 percent less than American consumers. In France they pay 102 percent less than American consumers. And in Italy, 112 percent. Now these are not backwater countries, ladies and gentlemen. These are industrialized countries that have regimens similar to ours.

If you go to the inside of USA Today it even gets better because they list some of the prices. I have shown my charts and I have had people say, Oh, well, that is from some goofy group, or, You cannot accept that. Well, these are not my charts anymore. These are charts that were done with research by USA Today.

When you look at the price differentials, it is exactly what my charts have shown. And that is, for example, on the drug Coumadin, which my 87-year-old father takes, it is a blood thinner, I have a package right here that we bought in Munich, Germany. It is Coumadin, it was developed at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Schools as a rat poison, but Coumadin can be bought in Canada, 10 milligrams, 100 tablets, for \$43.58. That same package in the United States sells for \$99.99.

Tamoxifen, we have talked about that before here on the House floor. In the United States this particular package that they bought was \$61.99. The same package of the drug in Canada sells for \$9.04. That is more than six times as much.

Members, the time has come for us to take real action.

I want to congratulate others in the House who helped lead the fight so that at least the House now has gone on record that this is unacceptable. More importantly, we have sent a message not only to the pharmaceutical industry but to our own FDA. The FDA does not work for them; they work for us. It is time for the Senate, the Members in the other body to do the same thing, to send the message that the status quo is not acceptable.

Americans are voting with their feet. They are voting with their feet to buy prescription drugs. But remember, Members, next November they are going to vote for us or our opponents based on how we voted on issues like whether or not we will have affordable drugs here in the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. May I remind Members that it is not in order to encourage the other House to take a certain action.

THE COST OF REBUILDING IRAQ

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, we heard some amusing speeches earlier about the new Washington Waste Watchers, the gentleman from Texas and some other Republican over there. I guess that their vision does not extend too far.

First of all, the Republicans control the White House, every agency of the Federal Government, the House and the Senate. If there is waste, fraud and abuse, well then, they should take care of it. But they are too busy asking the American people to borrow \$87 billion to build Iraq in the vision of the neoconservatives in the White House that put this failed policy on us and pursuing this adventure.

Right here, here it is. The gold-plated guide to war profiteering in Iraq, otherwise known as the Coalition Provisional Authority Request to Rehabilitate and Reconstruct Iraq. Most of it has nothing to do with reconstructing Iraq or war damage that we caused.

Now, there is an argument that could be made that we should repair war damage. But these are things that the Iraqis never had, they have not had ever. We are talking about, well, they have 50-year-old steam boilers, so we have got to spend \$6 billion on their electric grid. Guess what? The lights are blinking out here in the eastern United States and on my coast a couple of summers ago, the West Coast, because we are underinvesting here.

The President can ask to borrow \$6 billion not only to rebuild the little bit of damage we did, but to give them a state-of-the-art system. The American people will pay for that for 30 years. How much is he asking to invest in the United States of America? A big goose egg.

Yeah, I guess the eye on Waste Watchers on Washington does not go to waste watchers in the war profiteering and the rebuilding of Iraq.

Let us take up a couple of other subjects. \$1 billion will be borrowed by the American people at the request of the President and Republican Congress to train the police in Iraq. Certainly and arguably, we should have a trained police force. But it is extraordinarily expensive because they say, Well, first off, they have to build a facility to train them outside the country. They cannot train them in Iraq.

The French, they offered to train the Iraqi police in Iraq for free. But, God forbid, those French, we should accept anything from them. They are a lot