

friends of the President and the companies and contributors supporting the President, and really wondering why this administration and the conservative leaders in this Congress will not allow us to discuss this.

I have gotten letter after letter from my Ohio constituents wondering why Vice President CHENEY still gets \$13,000 every month from the Halliburton Company, the company of which he was CEO 3 years before he was Vice President, a company that is still receiving millions, hundreds of millions of dollars in unbid government contracts.

Just last week I tried to offer an amendment to the \$87 billion appropriations that would have stopped some of the corporate tax evaders who have evaded taxes at the expense of the American citizens. The amendment would have banned corporate tax evaders, tax dodgers, from receiving any contracts on the reconstruction of Iraq.

We know that Halliburton companies have broken Federal law, yet we still give them these contracts and they still pay the Vice President of the United States, this is on record, pay him \$13,000 a month.

I will begin to share some of these letters.

Jill from Akron, Ohio writes, "It is a disgrace that our government is willing to spend billions on another country when the education system in our country is crumbling."

Dr. Steve in Hinckley writes, "The Iraq war has not made it safer. It has harmed relationships with key NATO allies as well as helped fuel more anti-American sentiment in the Middle East. This has to stop."

Francene from Akron, Ohio writes, "Please do not vote for additional funding for this war. It took lies and deceit to get us into this war, and we should back off now and let the United Nations help rebuild the mess in Iraq that Mr. Bush created." She is talking about the things that the administration told us that simply are not true: the weapons of mass destruction, the al-Qaeda connections, all of those things.

Terence of Avon Lake writes, "We need to hold the Bush administration accountable for their poor Iraq planning and nonexistent exit strategy. Please withhold the funds requested until they lay out an exit strategy from Iraq."

One of the things that Terence is talking about is the fact that a year or 14 months after President Bush said he wanted to attack Iraq, we still do not have body armor for our troops. One-quarter of our troops still do not have body armor, are not going to have it at earliest until December; and I am hearing from families who just cannot believe that we knew we were going to do this, yet we are not taking care of the troops. We are not supplying them with antibiotics. We are not supplying them with safe drinking water. We are not

supplying them with body armor, yet we are forcing them when they get leave, if they do, to pay for their own plane tickets home. Yet we are spending a billion dollars a week and a third of it is going to private contractors, many of them contributors to and friends of the President.

Eric of Akron writes, "I am dismayed this country can find billions of dollars to pay for an unnecessary and illegitimate war in Iraq but cannot find in its heart to solve some of the real problems this country and the world are facing. I am saddened and I am sickened. Very few of you in Congress and the Bush administration are really looking out for the people of this country."

Corky of Strongsville, Ohio writes, "It is time the American people hold the Administration accountable for lies in regard to Iraq. No more money or troops should be committed until a full investigation is conducted."

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. Is it proper decorum of the House to call the President a liar?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. If the gentleman's remarks were of that tenor, they would be out of order.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to say that. I was reading a letter and talking about the Bush administration. If I actually called the President a liar, I withdraw that. I do not mean to say that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, further parliamentary inquiry, there are slick ways to get around calling the President a liar and still doing it. I would object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) may proceed in order.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, is that time taken away from me during the parliamentary inquiry?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. No, the clock was stopped during the inquiry.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Deborah of Akron, Ohio, writes, "Please do not give \$87 billion to President Bush. He and his advisors did not plan well for the rebuilding of Iraq." I think she is talking about the Kevlar jackets, the body armor that simply was not planned, even the war was planned maybe more than a year and a half ago.

"Control of this project should be under the authority of the U.N. We should help but not by throwing more money after a very unsuccessful plan by the Bush team. Maybe the President should ask his rich friends for the money since they are the only ones benefitting big time from his tax cuts."

She is talking about the tax cut where millionaires get \$93,000 while 50 percent of people in my home State and the home State of the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) got zero dollars from that tax cut.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES W. FEE OF HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor a public servant, James W. Fee of Hutchinson, Kansas, and join with his family and community in mourning his recent passing. In his life, Jim loved his family, his community and his country.

Jim proudly served his country for nearly 50 years in the United States Navy, first aboard the U.S.S. Albany and then as captain of the U.S. Naval Reserve. His patriotism and allegiance to the principles of freedom were shared with all who would listen.

Jim's tireless commitment and devotion to his hometown was unrivalled. Throughout his life, Jim took a lead role in making certain his community was always an attractive place to call home. Without fail, Jim would report to his friends, family and colleagues upon his return home from travel, It was great to visit, but I could not wait to get home to Hutchinson.

Jim's actions equalled his words. His service as mayor of the city of Hutchinson and as a member of the Hutchinson City Commission was guided by the goal of doing the common good for the most people. His leadership and dedication to his church, his professional trade associations and his business interests were always marked with charisma, honesty and sincerity.

Jim was also, by every account, a successful businessman. Along with his brother Franklin and his father Frank T., Jim teamed to build the Fee Insurance Group into an industry-leading independent insurance agency. With a disciplined approach and a vision for success, Jim directed the agency for over a quarter century.

Most important to Jim was his family. He and his wife of nearly 50 years, Martha, raised five children, Jim, Jr., Stacy, Allen, Bob, and Dan, and devoted endless love and attention to 18 grandchildren.

Jim Fee personified the words of Abraham Lincoln, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man who lives in it so that his place will be proud of him." Jim Fee made his community, State and Nation a better place. He and his family can be proud of the life he lived.

I join his many friends and his admirers in extending my deepest sympathies to Martha and the Fee family.

#### A JOBLESS RECOVERY IS NO RECOVERY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of unemployed Americans.

The administration and our Republican leadership tell us that the economy is rebounding and that we are in an economic recovery, but to the hard-working Americans who are still looking for those jobs, the statistics do not amount to a hill of beans because they still cannot find work. To them, a jobless recovery is no recovery at all.

America's unemployed have this administration to thank for an economic recovery that has produced few jobs and has little impact on their lives. Sure, the administration will tell us that job creation is its number one priority. In fact, over the past year, the President has gone on a nationwide public relations tour touting his tax cut in front of backdrops that proclaimed "Strengthening America's Economy" and shout "Jobs, Growth and Opportunity."

The truth of the matter is, however, that any growth produced by the administration's economic policies has come at the expense of jobs or Congress' opportunity to create them.

Let us take the administration's catch-all solution for any of our economic woes, tax cuts. The administration said that our economic recovery would be fueled by consumers who spent the extra money. Unfortunately, an income tax cut does not help unemployed workers without an income. They do not feel the economic recovery.

To this argument, the administration is sure to say, wait a minute, we also gave businesses tax cuts to expand and create jobs. Well, our businesses did not take their advice. Instead, they invested in technology and innovation, and in doing so, they increased productivity and can now produce more products without producing more jobs.

In fact, a recent Department of Labor study determined that our high unemployment levels are due not just to layoffs, but primarily to the lack of new hires in expanding businesses. So tax cuts for businesses have provided little relief for unemployed workers.

Our trade policies have also been truly devastating for the American worker. By implementing fast-track trade negotiating authority and permanent normal trade relations for China, we have seen American jobs go out on a fast track out of this country. I would remind my colleagues that 3 years ago, we were promised that trade with China would lead to an increase in American jobs and exports. Well, certainly, we were not told that, 3 years later, our main export to China would actually be American jobs, about 1 million of them to be specific.

Frankly, we have given American businesses little incentive to keep their jobs in this country. In ratifying a flurry of free trade agreements, we have made it increasingly difficult for American products to compete with their inexpensive foreign competitors. We have left many American businesses with few choices other than to move production, and jobs, offshore.

Additionally, too many of our service sector businesses are outsourcing their jobs to cheaper foreign labor. Today, we already have 400,000 jobs outsourced to a country like India. That number is bad enough, but even worse is a recent study indicating that over 3 million of these jobs will likely be outsourced over the next 10 years.

This country has already felt the tremendous pain of losing almost 3 million jobs. We need to take action now to encourage private sector business to keep these much-needed jobs at home.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate in this country stands at 6.1 percent. The sad news, however, is that that number does not even take into account the thousands of Americans who have looked for work but have now given up. Labor force participation, the percentage of Americans who are either working or looking for work, is only 66 percent. It is at the lowest level since 1991.

We need true job creation in this country, not the administration's idea of job creation through permanent tax cuts, tort reform and more free trade legislation. That kind of trickle-down job creation will not work any better than their trickle-down economics.

Instead of their faulty economic policies, we need to stimulate the economy directly by aiding our cash-strapped States so that our law enforcement and teachers can keep their jobs. We should create jobs through public works programs that will employ our skilled workers while repairing America's crumbling roads and bridges. This is the kind of economic stimulus needed in our country. This is the kind of economic stimulus that creates jobs on the ground.

The administration tells us to be patient, the economy is growing and the jobs will come. Unfortunately, however, recovery based on increased productivity only lessens the chance for job creation because to create jobs the economy must grow faster than productivity, and it does not seem likely that our sputtering economy will be meeting these expectations in the near future.

So, here we are, with record-level trade deficits brought on by record-level tax cuts that will not do a thing for most of the American people hurting the most. And it is a shame, particularly because we had a choice. The administration could have pursued economic policies in the best interests of both our country and America's unemployed workers. Instead, they pursued economic policies in the best interest of their campaign and reelection efforts, and the unfortunate result is a jobless recovery, or if we ask our unemployed workers, no recovery at all.

#### WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IS RAMPANT

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of the serious concerns I have about wasteful spending practices by the United States Government. Waste, fraud and abuse is rampant.

Financial management, for instance, at the Department of State is a problem. Although it accounts for billion of dollars annually in appropriations and possesses over \$20 billion in assets, it usually cannot determine how much its programs cost or how much money it has. An audit revealed that the State Department owes \$3.5 million on past orders that have never been delivered, a revelation which the Department's accounting books failed to reflect. One contract billed the Department for \$92,000 in insurance premiums for a policy that never existed.

The financial management service at the Department of Treasury could not produce details on many outstanding checks, and in one case, caused a \$3.1 billion overstatement of its cash position. The Inspector General reviewed 24 individual cases of government purchase on credit cards at the same department. The investigation revealed that purchases were unsupported and unjustified, and while none of those were large, had large price tags, they concluded that the system is more than moderately subject to fraud, waste and abuse.

Last November, the GAO investigators created a fictitious graduate-level school they called Y Hica Institute for the Visual Arts, purportedly located in London, and received student loans on behalf of fictitious students, including one name which was the same as the chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate Government Affairs Committee.

Employment Training Administration's accounting system for grants is consistently poor. For example, transfers of Workforce Investment Act funds are not even noted on the agency's books.

The Department of Labor Inspector General estimates that the IRS overcharged the Unemployment Trust Fund by \$174 million in fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

\$238 million in funds were found that the States no longer needed on projects that should have been redirected to other projects. Of this amount, \$54 million was idle for 16 years on a freeway project in Connecticut that had never even started.

The Environmental Protection Agency awarded \$700,000 on a contract without knowledge of the work the recipient was going to perform. The work plan did not have clear objectives, milestones, deliveries or outcomes.

The Inspector General of the EPA audited a sample of 116 assistant agreements awarded by the Office of Air Radiation and the Office of Water. In 79 percent of these projects, using over \$100,000, project officers could not document the costs or document cost reviews of the proposed budgets. In 42