

the organization to expand health care services across county lines and improve access to health care for citizens throughout northeast Georgia who previously had to drive to Gainesville for most of their primary health care services.

Today, Northeast Georgia Health System is a major provider of health care services for 20 counties in northeast Georgia. It has over 3,500 employees and one of the largest and most active volunteer programs in the State. The system now includes a free-standing mental health, alcohol, and drug abuse treatment facility, two long-term care facilities, a satellite cancer center in Stephens County, a hospice service and two hospital campuses with a total of 418 acute inpatient beds. Other major services that have been added under John's leadership include the Ronnie Green Heart Center and Stribling Heart Clinic for advanced heart care, the only comprehensive cancer care service in the region; a strong network over 14 primary care centers located in eight counties; a neonatal intensive care service; and a comprehensive physical rehabilitation institute.

Fortunately for northeast Georgia, John has always understood that to truly impact the health of the community, services cannot be contained within the walls of the hospital. His vision for a healthier community coupled with a heart for people who depend on NGMC for health care services paved the way for a strong relationship with the Hall County Health Department. In the late 1970s, working with the health department, NGMC implemented a midwifery program to extend prenatal care to indigent patients who did not have resources to access private providers of services.

John's vision for a healthier community has resulted in numerous other innovative outreach initiatives. In the early 1990s, NGMC lead a collaborative community effort with local schools, the health department, the Junior League, and other service organizations to generate funds for a mobile health unit to provide basic health care screenings and services to people who had limited resources to access other traditional health care services. NGMC has continued to fund and help staff this service since its inception.

Through the Medical Center Foundation, health initiatives operated by other community service organizations have been supported. More than \$300,000 was raised to help fund construction of a free medical and dental clinic for persons who have no resources for care. Since completion of the clinic, the medical center has continued to help fund clinical supplies through the indigent care trust fund for volunteer physicians, dentists, and nurses who staff the clinic. Funds have also been raised for numerous other health-related community benefits, such as the Meals on Wheels program for provision of meals to homebound

seniors, the SafeKids Playground at Fair Street Elementary School in Gainesville, automatic external defibrillators for emergency response vehicles in Hall County, and the Challenged Child Organization.

Northeast Georgia Health System is the lead agency for SafeKids since 1997 and currently works with 21 community agencies to develop and fund initiatives to decrease the rate of accidental injuries to children. The SafeKids Coalition has received numerous State and national awards and was recently recognized as National Coalition of the Year.

John's vision for high-quality health care services and his heart for the people who depend on Northeast Georgia Health System have unquestionably made an impact on the community and the health and quality of life in Hall and surrounding counties. I commend Mr. John A. Ferguson as a man who has served our community well and commend him to his retirement.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING  
REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a)  
OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO  
SOME DAY CONSIDERATION OF  
CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS RE-  
PORTED BY THE RULES COM-  
MITTEE

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-428) on the resolution (H. Res. 536) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE PRESIDENT'S BALLOONING  
CREDIBILITY DEFICIT

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 addressing the Republican Governors Association fund-raiser on Monday evening, the President, in a much-touted speech, decided to question the Democratic front runner's credibility. This speech, it was touted, was to launch the President's reelection campaign; but it began with the theme of questioning the front runner of the Democratic Party's credibility.

Let me just start off by saying it is a good thing that the White House is not made of glass. I think it is very interesting that the President decided that the credibility of our front runner was in question, when after only 3 years of governing, this is a President who has America stuck in a jobless economy and an endless occupation.

Now, the President could have spoken about his foreign policy record, but all that offers is a growing and expensive prospect of endless occupation. He could have spoken of his leadership on

the economy, but all he could point to is an economy that is not producing jobs. So the President decided that it was his right in a speech the other night to the Governors to lead off with a discussion of credibility.

I think the credibility gap of the administration at this point is a good thing, given that his budget will widen the deficit gap. The deficit he has created will not be as lonely now that he has a credibility deficit that continues to grow.

The President wants to question the consistency of our potential nominee's record, yet within 18 months he flip-flopped on steel tariffs. This is a President who wants to question credibility, yet in a book recently published by Paul O'Neill, his former Treasury Secretary, he questioned the legitimacy of a second tax cut he was going to propose because, he said, "Haven't we done enough for the top end?" Yet he went out there and accused Democrats of class warfare for asking the very same question he had asked, Had the first tax cut not done enough to take care of the top 1 percent?

After 3 years, his economic record is \$3 trillion added to the Nation's debt and 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, and yet he wants to run this election on credibility.

He went to Ohio to talk about the importance of manufacturing jobs to the economy, given that 2 million manufacturing jobs have been lost in America since 2000. His budget, 3 years in a row, has cut the manufacturing extension program, which helps small manufacturing businesses compete in the world market. And he wants to talk about credibility?

His economic report of last week praised outsourcing of jobs to India. This is a President who wants to talk about credibility? It was his economic report that cited 2.7 million new jobs would be created this year in the United States. In less than a week, before the ink was even dry, he needed to retract that, because the economy will not produce 2.7 million jobs. And this is an administration who wants to make credibility an issue?

On the issue of foreign policy, regardless of what your position is on the war, we went to war on the notion of dealing with weapons of mass destruction, and now we have a report questioning whether weapons of mass destruction were ever in Iraq, which was the legitimacy and the principle of going to war. Yet this is an administration that would like to make credibility of our nominee the issue in this campaign.

The President pledged in his recent budget \$3.5 billion in new money for police and firefighters to help communities here in the United States, but his budget cuts \$1 billion for police and firefighters. But he would like to make credibility an issue.

His plan to halve the deficit by 2009 is an "accounting fiction" to Goldman Sachs. But he would like credibility to be the issue.

He said the Medicare bill would cost \$400 billion. Within 3 weeks after the ink was dry, the report came out that it would cost \$550 billion to taxpayers; \$150 billion in errors in addition to the \$400 billion for the prescription drug bill. And he would like to make credibility an issue?

He promised to clean up the Great Lakes, but he cut water quality funds by \$400 million. Yet he would like to make credibility an issue in this campaign?

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On policy after policy, this administration says one thing and does another to benefit its corporate and special interests. If we are going to make credibility an issue in this campaign, to quote one Senator, bring it on.

#### BUSH ECONOMIC POLICY NEEDS TO BE CHANGED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, all of us now are familiar with the economic report of the President of the United States. It is the report put out by the chief economic adviser for the President. It is signed by George Bush on page 4, signed by the chairman of the President's top economists in the country, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Greg Mankiw. We have heard lots of media coverage that in this report the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors says outsourcing is a good thing; that an economic concept that they learned in graduate school called comparative advantage means if you can make something cheaper overseas, you ought to close down the American plant and make it overseas. They said outsourcing is a good thing, while a State like mine in Ohio has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs.

They go on to predict we will create in this country under the Bush economic plan 2.6 million jobs this year. They also promised 3 million jobs a couple of years ago. We have actually lost manufacturing jobs in this country because of the Bush economic plan.

The response to every economic problem is more trickle-down economics, cut taxes on the wealthiest Americans hoping it trickles down and creates jobs. That has not worked. Their other answer is more trade agreements, expanding NAFTA to Central America, the so-called Central American Free Trade Agreement, expand NAFTA to the rest of Latin America called the Free Trade Area of the Americas. None of that is working.

We are seeing loss of jobs. In the district of the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) or the district of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), we are seeing continued shipping of jobs overseas, continued

outsourcing, as the President applauds in his Council's report, continuing hemorrhaging of jobs all over the world.

But something that was also in this report which is even more amazing, the President has not been able to figure out how to stem the tide of economic job loss. We created in the Clinton years 25 million jobs. We have lost in the Bush years 3 million jobs, a huge portion of them manufacturing jobs. No President since Herbert Hoover has actually lost jobs during his administration, a record that George Bush is now competing with.

The President, because he cannot seem to figure out how to create manufacturing jobs, the President in his report is saying regarding manufacturing jobs, maybe we ought to consider changing the definition of manufacturing jobs. They said the definition, and this is in the President's report signed by the President on page 4, the definition of a manufactured product is not straightforward. When a fast-food restaurant sells a hamburger, for example, is it providing a service job, which is what we always thought, or, according to the President, is it combining inputs to manufacture a product? So these fast-food workers at \$6 and \$7 an hour, maybe we are going to call them manufacturing jobs. I am not making this up; this is in the President's report. They said manufacturing if someone is engaged in the mechanical, physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances or components into new products.

So we have the \$6-an-hour high school student in McDonald's standing there. First he unwraps the bread, which is like something you would do in a factory building cars. He unwraps the bread, puts the bun down, and takes the hamburger. He has to change chemically the hamburger. We would call that cooking it, but under the new-speak of the President's report, he is going to chemically change the hamburger so instead of being raw, it is now chemically altered or cooked. Then there is the cheese. If it is a cheeseburger, it is an even more complicated manufacturing process. The worker needs to chemically change the cheese. We would call it melting, but in the new-speak, we call it chemical change of the cheese. That cheese is then put on the burger. Next he has to unwrap the lettuce head and put lettuce on the hamburger. Next he slices the tomato. All of these manufacturing components are going into this new hamburger.

Mr. Speaker, my point is the President's answer to what are we doing about loss of manufacturing jobs in this country is to reclassify manufacturing and say that these service jobs that pay \$7 an hour, instead of the \$20 an hour that workers in my district make, or workers at Goodyear in Akron building tires were making, instead of \$20 an hour with pensions, with good health care benefits, we are now

going to say we lost those manufacturing jobs, but we have other manufacturing jobs at McDonald's. And I do not mean to leave out Burger King, Arby's or some of the other fast-food restaurants that are actually manufacturing their hamburgers.

Mr. Speaker, I think we see the ludicrousness of this. This country has to change its economic policy and change its direction. We need to say no to this trickle-down economics which give the tax breaks to the wealthiest people in the hope that they will create some jobs. That is not working. We have to say no to trade agreements that are shipping jobs overseas.

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

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

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

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

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) missed Wendy's, an Ohio-based company, in his speech.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address one of our Nation's oldest and most difficult narcotics problems, prescription drug abuse. Prescription drug abuse has been a problem for decades, but recently a new generation of morphinelike painkillers called oxycodones has caused a wave of addiction and overdoses. The drug OxyContin, which is an oxycodone-based drug, has produced the greatest amount of publicity, but numerous similar drugs, such as Percocet, Percodan and Tylox, have also been abused.

Last month the Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, which I chair, held a hearing on prescription drug abuse in Winter Park, Florida. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the former chair of the subcommittee and a man with a long record of effective leadership on these issues, requested the hearing in response to a series of OxyContin-related deaths in central Florida.

At the hearing the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and I, joined by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) and the gentleman from Florida