

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?

□ 1615

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

(Mr. KELLER) heard testimony from government, medical and other witnesses about the cost of prescription drug abuse, the benefits afforded by these drugs, and how best to balance these two. But more must be done to ensure in striking this balance that we enforce the law, that we educate people about how to avoid such addiction, and more treatment specifically targeted towards such addiction.

Prescription drug abuse presents special problems for the government, the medical community, and the pharmaceutical industry. On the one hand these powerful and dangerous drugs, with as great a capacity for addiction and abuse as heroin and cocaine, even though they have that potential, there are many ways for these drugs which have legitimate uses to fall in the wrong hands. Supplies of the drugs can be stolen from pharmacies and manufacturers and then sold back in the black market; doctors may intentionally or unintentionally over prescribe the drugs to patients, leading to addiction and abuse; or patients themselves may obtain illegal quantities of the drugs by shopping for multiple prescriptions and filling them at multiple pharmacies.

On the other hand, these drugs have legitimate medical uses and may give the only possibility of relief for patients suffering from severe chronic pain. Many cancer patients rely on OxyContin and similar drugs.

But however difficult it may be to strike a balance, we must find a way to further enforce the laws so we do not have this exploding abuse of these drugs that are crippling many families and individuals and leading to the death of many others.

Prescription drug abuse is a very serious problem. According to the most recent study conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA, in 2002, over 1.9 million Americans aged 12 or older had used OxyContin alone for nonmedical, in other words illegal, purposes. Prescription drug abuse is far more widespread than cocaine, heroin or ecstasy abuse. Only marijuana is more widely abused by Americans. The problem is particularly acute among our young people. For example, among 12- and 13-year-olds, more children abuse prescription drugs than even marijuana.

One of the first things that became clear to me during the hearing is that the Federal Government needs to obtain and share better information on how these drugs are falling into the wrong hands. One newspaper reported that the top 12 OxyContin prescribers under Medicaid in Florida wrote prescriptions totaling over \$15 million. While that is a very large number, it does not include all of the non-Medicaid prescriptions. The government has no practical way of keeping track of who is prescribing these drugs, in what amounts, and to whom.

A number of States and many of my colleagues have proposals for setting

up a computerized database to keep track of these drugs. While some may raise privacy concerns about such a database, if we do not get this information to law enforcement, we will never get a handle on the problem.

Second, there are simply too many ways for these drugs to fall into the wrong hands. As the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) noted at the hearing, it is possible for children to go on the Internet and order OxyContin or other opiates without going to a physician. Even when children do not do that, they can often get the drugs by raiding their parents' medicine cabinets or getting them from their friends. We need more effective regulations and education to cut down on these very real and dangerous routes of drug diversion.

I am encouraged by the recent decision of the DEA to explore putting hydrocodone combination drugs, which are based on another drug similar to oxycodone, on Schedule II to reflect their real potential for abuse. I hope the DEA, FDA and other agencies will continue to reexamine their strategies to find more effective ways to combat this problem.

Finally, while it is clear that there are widely diverging opinions about what kinds of conditions these drugs are prescribed for, it is equally clear that the more uses the government approves, the more abuse we will have. There is a great deal of debate about whether OxyContin should be prescribed for moderate as opposed to severe pain. We will see this debate in connection with nearly every powerful drug because there will always be those who wish to push the envelope and approve the drug for more and more people, thus creating more and more potential for addiction and abuse.

Those of my colleagues who consider themselves sympathetic to so-called "medical marijuana" should take heed of this. While many of its proponents claim that marijuana would only be used medicinally, it is also used by many others for less serious conditions.

HONORING JOE LAMANTIA, JR.

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend and constituent Joe LaMantia, Jr., for being named the 2004 Border Texan of the Year. This is an honor given only to those whose record of service in south Texas is a model for all Americans. The award is given in conjunction with Hidalgo County's annual Border Fest, a heritage and cultural festival that celebrates the uniqueness and diversity of south Texas.

I can think of no one more deserving of this award than Joe LaMantia, Jr. Joe is a first-generation American with deep roots in South Texas. Following

in his father's footsteps, Joe began his successful agricultural career in south Texas in Carrizo Springs. His agriculture operation consisted of pecan orchards, vegetables, and a cow-calf operation, plus a vegetable and fruit farm operation in Mexico and Chile. In 1965, he moved his family to the Rio Grande Valley to continue their agricultural business.

Due to the unpredictability of agriculture, the LaMantias made a transition into the beer distribution business as wholesalers of Anheuser-Busch products. That was the beginning of the LaMantia family-owned and operated business of L&F Distributors. The company began in 1977 in McAllen, Texas, with 11 employees. I witnessed a fast learning curve by the LaMantias. Today, L&F Distributors has grown to employ over 600 individuals in 22 counties in the great State of Texas.

Despite the demands of a growing and successful business, Joe has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life in his community. In 1974, Joe was appointed by Governor Dolph Brisco to the board of the Texas Department of Corrections. He was reappointed in 1983 by Governor Mark White, and served as the vice chair for over 10 years.

During his tenure, Joe saw firsthand the problems facing the Texas border region, specifically poverty, crime and high unemployment. He recognized that education was the key to improving these challenges faced by the community. A champion of educational opportunity, Joe established one of the first scholarships for women athletes at the University of Texas Pan American, the Ann LaMantia Anheuser-Busch Outstanding Woman Athlete Scholarship.

□ 1630

The scholarship was named in honor of his wife of 30 years, Ann LaMantia, who passed away in 1983. Ann LaMantia served on the board of regents at Pan American University and, like her husband, was committed to higher education for the students of south Texas.

Since her passing, the LaMantias have continued to be dedicated to providing college scholarship opportunities for local students. Under Joe's leadership, L&F Distributors formed a partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund in 1994 and in 8 years has raised over \$5 million and awarded over 2,600 scholarships to students in south Texas. In 2002, L&F Distributors was recognized by the national organization as the largest contributing Anheuser-Busch distributor to the HSF.

That same year, the LaMantias created a local educational nonprofit organization, the South Texas Academic Rising Scholars (STARS) Foundation, which provides scholarship awards to students in south Texas to attend the college of their choice. Joe serves as the founder and chairman of the board of directors, and in less than 17 months STARS has managed to raise over \$2