

the President's biggest fund-raisers, a place where the President a year ago said his tax cut policies were working, look at the prosperity of this company, the Timken Corporation closed its doors in Canton, Ohio, laying off 1,300 people.

The Bush economic record in Ohio: One out of six manufacturing jobs has disappeared, 177,000 manufacturing jobs in the State are gone, 200 jobs a day have been lost since President Bush took office.

The Timken Company sent out a press release 3 weeks ago, bragging about its quarterly sales of \$1.1 billion, saying it set some kind of record.

The Bush administration economic record over the last 4 years has been to ship jobs overseas, give tax cuts to large corporations; those large corporations have huge profits, then they lay off American workers. It is the same old story.

This economic policy is not working for my State of Ohio. It is not working for manufacturing. It is not working for working Americans. It is not working for our communities.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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 Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

MR. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

TIME FOR ACTION ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG IMPORTATION

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to act on legislation to permit prescription drug importation.

Drug companies are the most profitable businesses in America. The drug companies earn profit margins of over 18 percent. That is three times the average of Fortune 500 firms.

These companies are huge multinational juggernauts. In 2001, the 10 biggest U.S. drug companies reported profits of \$37 billion. That is more than the Federal Government spends each year on VA health care. It is more than the entire U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development budget. It is a full billion dollars more than the combined gross domestic product of Lebanon, Panama, and Yemen. That is not total revenue of the drug company; that is its profits.

So how is it the drug companies are able to do so well, even as other manufacturers and companies around this country are having trouble in many cases with staying afloat? By gouging American consumers, that is how.

Drug companies routinely charge American consumers, two, three, four, five, sometimes even ten times what they charge their customers in Canada and other wealthy countries. Medicine sold in Canada is the same safe, effective medicine, same manufacturer, same packaging, same drug, the same ones that our constituents buy at a neighborhood grocery store or drugstore in Elyria, Ohio, but it costs a fraction of the price.

Price data collected last fall by the Alliance for Retired Americans tells the story. Drugmakers charged Americans \$89 for Celebrex, an arthritis medicine; Canadians paid \$44. The drug industry charged Americans \$108 for the cholesterol medicine Lipitor, which happens to be made in Ireland; Canadians paid \$61 for Lipitor. Drug companies charged American women \$246 for Tamoxifen, the breast cancer drug; Canadian women paid \$44.

Our constituents paid 500 percent more for cancer medicine than Canadians paid, same manufacturer, same drug, same dosage. In fact, U.S. taxpayers helped develop that drug. But because the U.S. Government allows drug companies to charge any price they want for essential medicine, that is why these drugs cost so much more.

The best response would be for the American Government to stand up to the drug industry, but Republican leadership and President Bush have already rejected that common-sense policy. In fact, the Medicare prescription drug bill, written by the drug companies for the drug companies, and enacted last year and signed by the President, explicitly prohibits the Federal Government from negotiating on behalf of American consumers for fair prices for prescription drugs.

Think about that. Forty million Medicare beneficiaries ought to be able to get a great price because of the number of people that Medicare represents. Yet the Congress has prohibited negotiated prices. Since this Congress, the Republican leadership, will not allow the government to stand up

to the drug industry, we should at least allow our constituents to benefit from the tough stance taken by other nations.

A bipartisan majority in this House on this, both sides of the aisle, solidly supported legislation last year that would give our constituents access to prescription drugs imported from Canada and other nations. That vote was a declaration of independence from the powerful drug lobby and a real step forward for our constituents.

Two big drugstore chains in America have announced their support for importation of safe, effective drugs and affordable medicine. They see the tough choices that their customers in this country make every day. We should heed that call. Four States have already established drug importation Web sites, five local governments have set up importation programs, 20 additional States are considering importation as a way to respond to their constituents.

These public officials, Democrats and Republicans alike, are doing what they can because Republican leadership in this body and President Bush have failed to act, and continue to do the bidding of the drug companies.

Seniors in Ohio and throughout the country continue to go to Canada for a better deal on prescription drugs. They know a full deck of discount cards does not offer a discount comparable to the fair prices charged to our neighbor country to the north. Their continued grass-roots fight against the drug companies is a cry for help.

We should answer that call. This Congress should send to the President's desk a responsible, bipartisan drug importation bill before the Fourth of July recess. The President should wear himself of drug company money and influence and sign that bill. America needs a declaration of independence from the drug companies. Let us get it to the President's desk before July 4.

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

(Mr. HENSARLING 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 Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER 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 New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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