

over \$800 billion potentially back into our economy for American jobs and helping people with their career.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, there are two things that I have stressed in my time in Congress, and they are national security and economic security. My friend pointed out that on September 11 incredibly insane people flew three airliners, used them as missiles, flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. National security is critically important to our future. Fighting and winning the war on terrorism, which our brave young men and women are doing every day, is happening because of the commitment of America, the patriotism of these fine young men and women; and our commitment and our support of them is crucial for the future of our young people.

Economic security comes from education, childhood, families, middle school, high school, secondary, post-graduate. Economic security allows us to maintain the financial integrity of this Nation. Financial integrity and the things that go with it enable us to equip our military which liberates countries like Iraq and Afghanistan from terrorists, thugs and murderers.

So those are the two important issues.

To give you some firsthand information and experience from my district, we have seen how important this is. In August of this year, we had the largest single layoff in North Carolina's history. As this tragedy occurred and many people were dramatically, drastically and terrifyingly affected, retraining, education through the community colleges, through high schools, through other means, has been pointed out how important it is, and this majority and this administration has stepped in to provide the help and the guidance in every possible way that we can so these folks could be retrained so that they could be skilled for new careers.

A wonderful example is a lady named Barbara Price who worked at Pillowtech. She went back to school and I remember meeting with her at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College and hearing her describe how all of a sudden she is a 57-year-old mom who was having her high school students, who were extremely proud of her ambition, her willingness to go back to school, but they were helping her with her homework. They were encouraging her to adapt, to learn and to get these new skills.

So that is just one of many, many examples where lifetime learning continues. We are retraining for next generation, highly skilled jobs.

The question becomes, what are those jobs going to look like? Well, my answer is simply that America, with the ingenuity, the resources and the talented people we have, we can create those 40 percent of new jobs which have not yet been created, and that is what this majority is working to do with in-

centives, with tax cuts, with letting people keep more of their own money. Just a few of the ways that we can help do this.

In education, we are working with all of our schools, trying to find out how do we keep young people in school today. Because manufacturing jobs are not available when people drop out of school early. We have a program with the Dell Computer Company called Dell Techno, targeting at-risk and other young people in middle school, giving them the encouragement and also the excitement they need to see the connection between education, learning and earning. It has been very successful.

They come to school after hours. They learn how to take a computer apart, put that computer back together with the latest technology. After completing the course, they own that computer; and they can take it home and increase their skills.

BizWorld, teaching entrepreneurship and financial accountability. Teaches youngsters how to strive for making jobs, creating jobs, not just taking a job, teaching them the basic skills of creating a product, marketing that product, selling it and taking the profits, which not only are not a bad word but that is an imperative, taking the profits and expanding and making jobs, not taking jobs.

Congressional scholars bringing the remarkable assets of the Library of Congress into their high or middle school or college. Giving teachers additional tools. Because the way to show appreciation to these hard working teachers is, again, to give them the flexibility, the tools, the assets and resources they need.

Technology is not the only answer. We need stronger families. We need discipline in schools. We need the kinds of things and the cooperation that we have talked about tonight. This is the kind of America that we envision for our children and our grandchildren, an America that is learning, that is earning, that is taking the greatest that we have and expanding it, creating, maintaining and expanding freedom, opportunity and chances for others to enjoy the blessings that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) and all who have participated tonight, and I thank all of my colleagues who are interested in lifelong learning.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). Earlier this evening, remarks in debate included improper references to the Vice President. The Chair endeavors to take initiative to admonish such improper references to the President or the Vice President, to acknowledge candidates for those offices, or to Senators contemporaneously with their utterance.

Although in this instance no contemporaneous initiative was taken, the

Chair nevertheless is constrained to remind all Members that remarks in debate may not engage in personalities toward the Vice President. Policies may be addressed in critical terms. But personal references of an offensive or accusatory nature are not proper.

#### ARE YOU BETTER OFF TODAY THAN YOU WERE THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

□ 2230

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a pleasure to be here tonight along with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus as we begin to look at a very critical issue, and it can be simply titled: Are you better off today than you were 3 or 4 years ago?

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 7 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but comment on the comments that were just made by my Republican colleagues. As I listened to them very carefully, I was struck by, and I know it is their good intent to make America better, but one of my colleagues talked about how he had lost jobs in his district and how he now is trying to figure out ways to make sure that people who may have lost their jobs will be in a position to get jobs in the future. I think that is a very noble objective.

But the one thing we must keep in mind is that there are millions of people who have lost their jobs since January of 2001, and it is nothing like being in a position where you have lost your job. No longer are you able to buy tennis shoes for your children, no longer are you able, in many instances, to put food on the table. And if you were in Baltimore, no longer were you able to afford to take a vacation to Disney World, let alone a faroff distant land.

So when I listened to my colleagues, I could not help but ask myself the question, What have we done and what have they done to make sure that this country does not hemorrhage jobs? And then I heard the astounding argument that I did not think I would be hearing again since our President made it not long ago, in that there is something right about outsourcing jobs; that is there is something right about, according to my colleagues on the other side, about being able to make a call in Maryland for a Maryland service and possibly ending up with an operator