

INCREASING DEBT AND OVERPROMISING

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wore my Adam Smith tie this morning because today we are going to talk about some ways that might help us give discipline to ourselves on how much money we spend and how much overpromising we do.

Two areas. One, I am from a farm in Michigan. That is where we usually try to reduce the mortgage so our kids have a little better chance. In this Chamber and in the Senate and the White House, what we have been doing for the last 20 years is increasing the debt. Every year for the last 20 years the debt subject to the debt limit has been going up. Plus, we have been overpromising in Medicare, Social Security. The unfunded liability is a huge burden on our children.

So, hopefully, today we can join together to help give ourselves discipline on overspending by changing the law.

ECONOMY

(Ms. KILPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, just 3 short years ago when this administration took over, there was \$236 billion surplus, 22 million jobs had been created, and the country was experiencing its lowest drop in poverty in a decade. Now, all those trends have reversed themselves.

Today the unemployment rate is 30 percent higher. 8.2 million people are looking for work, and more jobs are disappearing in our country every day. Outsourcing, sending good manufacturing jobs out of our country.

I am from the State of Michigan. We have lost over 200,000 jobs and 136,000 of those in the manufacturing sector. Something must be done. We must take care of American citizens first. People are paying more for their food, for their clothing, for their gasoline. We have got to do something about this.

Let us invest in America and American families. Health care is a debacle. We can fix that. America needs new leadership. Make sure you get out and extend your right.

BEAUFORT FAMILY TREE FARM SERVES AS A NATIONAL MODEL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Burris family of Beaufort, South Carolina, upon receiving the 2003 South Carolina Environmental Awareness

Award for their Cypress Bay Plantation, one of the best tree farms in America.

The entire family, which includes Dr. "Skeet" Burris, his wife Gail, and their sons Hank, Andy, Ben, Tony and Charlie, have themselves worked the 1,600-acre tree farm in Hampton County since 1986.

They have won many awards including the South Carolina Tree Farm of the Year in 1995, National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year award in 2000, and Private Conservationist of the Year in 2001.

Today, the beautiful lands of Cypress Bay Plantation contain well over 200,000 trees teeming with wildlife, and are used to educate local children on the environment.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the Burris family for their commitment to environmental excellence.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops; and we will never forget September 11.

VETERANS PROGRAMS ARE BEING UNDERFUNDED

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the untested ideas of liberty, equality, and democracy. But today as a new generation of veterans is being created in Iraq and Afghanistan, Republicans are underfunding the programs that are vitally important to our veterans by passing a budget that underfunds veterans health care by \$1 billion and rejecting Democratic efforts to fully fund VA health care.

What is even worse is that this will not stop this year because the Bush administration's plan for the 2006 budget includes a \$900 million cut in funding for veterans health care. And this will conveniently not come into effect until after the election.

No Republican has come forward and rejected the Bush administration's latest proposals to cut veterans programs. Not one. This is outrageous.

Democrats are fighting to honor veterans by honoring their sacrifices. Why are the Republicans making our sons and daughters fight bravely on the battlefield and come home and fight the government for their benefits?

THE LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS OF CBS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month we learned of more good economic news about the expanding economy. 947,000 new jobs created in March, April, and May alone. One

might think that almost a million new jobs in 3 months constitutes big news, but it was not big news on "CBS Evening News."

"The CBS Evening News" spent 20 seconds glossing over the creation of nearly a million new jobs. CBS then aired a 2-minute report about 1,300 people being laid off in Ohio. The laying off of 1,300 workers and their families at any time is sad. I have hope and faith that those families will soon be back on their feet. But for CBS to bury the good news about a million new jobs and magnify the bad news of 1,300 layoffs smacks of partisan media bias. Twenty seconds for good economic news, 2 minutes for bad economic news. If it is not liberal media bias, I do not know what is.

ARE WE BETTER OFF?

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration has demonstrated a complete failure to plan for our operations in Iraq and a complete failure to plan here at home. One has to ask, Are we better off than we were 4 years ago?

When President Bush took office, we had a \$236 billion budget surplus and the Nation had created 22 million jobs over the previous 8 years.

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The number of uninsured had decreased for the first time in 12 years, and the country had the lowest poverty rate in 20 years.

Today, 8.2 million are Americans looking for work; 1.8 million private sector jobs have been lost. The number of uninsured has increased by 3.8 million, and gas prices are at a 23-year high. Household income has decreased by almost \$1,500, and college tuition is up by 28 percent. This is absolutely not acceptable, and it is not something that just happened.

President Bush had only one economic policy when he took office and he had only one today, tax cuts for those who need them least.

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS

(Mr. BONNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, if the American people have somehow stumbled on to C-SPAN this morning, trying to find either Oprah or Regis, let me urge you to set your VCRs because later today you are going to get a chance to see the fundamental difference between our side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle.

You see, our friends on the other side have suppressed their appetite to raise your taxes long enough, and just like