

destruction in Iraq, weapons that do not even exist: Hundreds of American lives lost, thousands and thousands, in fact over 25,000 American soldiers injured, and hundreds of billions of dollars spent. Should we not be investing in eliminating a genuine nuclear threat? And we ought to be applying the lessons of CTR's success in Russia to dealing with Iran and North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, SMART security is an example. It is tough, but it is diplomatic; it is aggressive, but peaceful; it is pragmatic, but idealistic.

INDEPENDENCE DAY REPLAY OF 2000

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, coming back into town today and picking up a copy of one of the local papers, I read the headline, "Members Seek UN Election Monitors." Quoting from today's Roll Call, "a dozen Democratic House Members last week called on the United Nations to send monitors to oversee November's U.S. presidential election."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that I was astounded to read that in the paper today. It seems that there are people in this House who cannot get over the facts of the election that was held in the Year 2000, and the facts are that George W. Bush won that election. He won it in the constitutionally prescribed manner of a majority of electoral votes; he won on election day; and he won on every single recount held thereafter, until the Supreme Court said enough recounting 34 days later, and the counts were stopped.

But the President even won in the Miami Herald's recount that came out, I forget, in February or March of 2001, well into the President's first term. The Miami Herald finally acknowledged the fact that indeed George Bush had won Florida's electoral votes and had indeed won the election.

Those 34 days of transition time were critical to the start of this administration. We had an economy that was headed into a recession, and, as we found out later in that year, we had enemies of this country who were gathering strength and preparing to attack this country. Thirty-four days in transition were critical days that were lost.

But now comes this group who says that the events of the 2000 election are so serious that UN monitors are required on U.S. soil to monitor our electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that the constituents of my district just simply do not understand what goes on in Washington, D.C. We have a candidate for the highest office in this land who says that foreign leaders would prefer him to be the President.

Mr. Speaker, we have got a judicial branch that seems to keep its eye on

what the foreign courts are ruling and what they are deciding.

Now, I am sad to say, we have Members of this body who simply do not understand what "sovereignty" means, and how ironic is that at a time when we are celebrating sovereignty in the country of Iraq, we just celebrated Independence Day in this country, and Members of our own body do not grasp that simple concept.

Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn in here 18 months ago, I swore an oath to uphold the Constitution. I think that is a good idea, to have that oath, to swear to uphold the Constitution. I think it might be a good thing if other Members of this body remembered why they are here.

CRITIQUING THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, if the last speaker had ever traveled outside the United States, he might understand why it is that every country in the world wants George Bush replaced.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to rise today to address the policies of this administration. I intend to use the "F" word, so be forewarned.

During the administration's watch, America has lost nearly 2 million jobs in the private sector. Through no fault of their own, Americans who are out of work cannot find a job. The administration's response is to classify flipping hamburgers as a manufacturing job.

We could have helped Americans weather the storm by extending unemployment benefits, but the administration turned a deaf ear.

Health care costs have skyrocketed in America, up to an average of 49 percent in 3 years. One in seven American families are struggling to pay medical bills, families are being forced to choose between food, housing and medicine. Unpaid medical bills are a leading cause of personal bankruptcy.

So what does the administration do? Provide health care for everybody in Iraq; muzzle the expert who knows what the prescription drug bill would really cost; and passes a drug bill for seniors after drug companies raise prices three times the rate of inflation, negating any possible benefit from a prescription drug card. There is an "F" word in there someplace.

Today, one out of every three Americans breathes unhealthy air. Thanks to this administration, existing rules are being rolled back so that old, dirty power plants can keep belching their pollutants into the atmosphere. The American Lung Association calls it the most harmful and unlawful air pollution initiative ever undertaken by the Federal Government.

□ 1945

100 million Americans live in places where the air is not fit to breathe. The

administration's response is to label science as fiction and then work to undermine environmental protection. We know the sources of pollution. Coal-fired power plants and diesel trucks are two big culprits. We know how to clean up the air. What does the administration do? Choose polluters over people. Choose polluters over protection. The administration wants to let oil rigs into the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The oil companies cannot wait. The only thing greater than America's greed for oil is the insatiable desire for profits by oil companies.

Certainly there must be an "F" word that applies when oil companies post 300 percent profits. The administration's civilian leaders must have lots of "F" words when the world first learned about the prisoner abuse scandals in Iraq. First they denied knowing anything. That was followed by media revelations of what they knew and approved in advance. The Geneva Conventions was something to embrace, not follow. That is the bottom line of the internal White House memos.

Need something else to use the "F" word? The administration has launched an undeclared draft in America. The undeclared draft compels current and former soldiers to fight in Iraq, even if they have already served. The undeclared draft uses rhetoric to mask reality. The military does not have enough soldiers. The administration knows they will be thrown out of office if they told America the truth. So the undeclared draft is called something else for now. Wait till after the election if George Bush wins.

The veterans seeking health care, the administration has a new plan. Bring your checkbooks and get in line. The administration wants to cut hundreds of positions in the VA. They want veterans to pay even more of the financial burden for the purchase of prescription drugs, and it wants veterans to pay a new enrollment fee. The administration's proposed budget for the VA is \$2.5 billion too low, but that is nothing compared to what the administration intends to do to education in title I funding which helps disadvantaged kids across America. This administration underfunds title I by over \$7 billion next year.

Half of every eligible school district in America will receive less grant money. The need is greater, but that does not matter. Only the rich have strong advocates in this administration.

From education to the environment, from veterans to health care, from the economy to forced military service, from moral leadership to global credibility, one word applies to this administration: the "F" word, failure, the administration's failure to create jobs that Americans want and deserve; the administration's failure to protect our land, air, water, and people; the administration's failure to confront military reality; the administration's failure to invest in our future leaders; the administration's failure to address the needs

of those who earn less than a million dollars a year; the administration's failure to retain America's moral leadership in the world and our moral compassion at home.

The Vice President used the other "F" word on the floor of the U.S. Senate. It showed a blatant disregard for a distinguished Senator. It showed a blatant disrespect of the American institution. It showed a blatant disrespect for being an American when dissent keeps the strong free. The "F" word applies to the administration. Failure in every way.

ELECTION YEAR

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, you know, we are certainly in the campaign season of an election year; and I think everybody, Mr. Speaker, needs to be on guard for the talent to spin. And I am reminded of a cartoon that was in our paper recently. And there were four figures, and the first figure said, "Gas prices are going up." And the next figure says, "Yeah. That is President Bush trying to give his friends in the oil industry more income and more money." And the next figure said, "Well, look, gas prices are coming down." And the next figure says, "Yeah. That is President Bush trying to buy our votes."

So I just challenge, Mr. Speaker, everybody in America to brace themselves probably for the most television ads they are going to see ever in this election. And you know what is encouraging is people in this country have a lot of what I call common sense that sort of comes from the gut. So I suggest to everybody, size up the candidates. Do what is right for our future.

You know, some people down here suggest that the way to have a balanced budget is to increase taxes. Some people suggest the way to balance the budget is to reduce spending. Whatever it is, I think we need to be very cognizant of what we are doing to future generations with overspending.

This year, even with the job growth and the expanded economy that is going to result in an estimated \$100 billion less overspending, less deficit spending than was earlier predicted, we are still leaving a huge mortgage to our children and our grandchildren. I want to talk about just two issues in that regard as we face the next several weeks of deciding how much we are going to spend in the appropriation bills, in the overspending and what it does to our kids, right now.

And interest rates of course just went up a quarter of a percent last week. It looks like before the end of the year they are going to go up again a little bit. Fourteen percent of total Federal spending now goes towards servicing the debt. So here is 14 percent of the \$2.3 trillion that is being spent

this year being spent to pay interest on what we are borrowing to accommodate the overzealousness of this body, the Senate, and the White House for the last 25 years to spend more and more money, trying to solve more and more problems.

That 14 percent of the total spending represents approximately \$300 billion a year; and if you realize that interest rates are going up and at the same time we are increasing the deficit, that means increasing the debt, that means increasing the interest that we are going to have to pay on that debt, it just leaves our kids with a huge responsibility, to the extent that their standard of living is going to be less than ours if we continue to do what we have been doing, and that is overspending.

And I suggest increasing taxes is not the right way to accommodate that overspending. Right now businesses are charged 18 percent more than the industrial countries that we compete with.

They pay 18 percent more in taxes in this country than other countries. So to simply say we are going to increase the taxes and put our businesses at a greater competitive disadvantage means that there is a greater likelihood that other countries are going to undersell us, that are going to produce those products. It means that companies in this country, to survive, are going to do more of their business overseas. Let us not solve our problems by increasing taxes.

Let me finish, Mr. Speaker, by talking about overpromising. It is easy for a politician to go back home to their districts or their States and say, well, you have some problems; I am going to come back in Congress, and we are going to push to solve that problem simply by increasing taxes to accommodate you, or maybe not even increasing taxes; maybe just making propositions.

The economists use the words "unfunded liabilities" to describe how much we have promised over and above the revenues coming in to pay for those promises. I would ask people to guess how much unfunded liabilities are now projected by the Medicare and Social Security actuaries. The answer is \$73.5 trillion. That means that we would have to have \$73.5 trillion into a savings account, earning as much interest to accommodate inflation, to pay for what is not coming in in the payroll tax in future years. It is not fair. It is moving away from the principle of those that work hard, that try, that study and invest end up better off than those that do not.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that it is important in this election year that the people of America size up their candidates.

H.R. 867, HASAN PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives did a good deed. The House passed a bill that I had introduced nearly 2 years ago known as the Private Relief bill, which will allow Duri Hasan and her four daughters who live in Milltown, New Jersey, to fulfill the dream that brought them to America.

Nearly 3 years after the murder of their husband and father in a post-9/11 hate crime, Duri, Asna, Anum, Nida and Iqra received welcome and overdue news from the House of Representatives. Today, this body has helped them take a huge step toward putting the tragedy of September 15, 2001, behind them and put them back on track for American citizenship. I hope the Senate will move quickly on this.

I am very thankful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of this bill and for the scores of citizens, activists, and religious leaders around the country who have supported this.

For any of my colleagues who are unfamiliar with the Hasan family, let me recall their tragic and heroic story. I think my colleagues will agree it is a true American epic filled with hopes and dreams, tragedy and hardship, and, thankfully, today, compassion in the form of a chance.

Waqar Hasan came to the United States in 1993 from Pakistan in search of a better life for his family. A year later, he brought his wife, Durrehahwar, or Duri we know her as, and their four daughters. The family settled in Milltown, New Jersey, where they had relatives. Waqar supported the family working in a gas station in the area. In the fall of 2001, he was in Dallas to establish a convenience store. He planned to move his family there after the business got off the ground.

However, on the night of September 15, 2001, just 4 days after the vicious 9/11 attacks, Mark Anthony Stroman walked into Waqar Hasan's convenience store in Dallas and shot the 46-year-old father to death. When asked by police why he shot Waqar, Stroman expressed no remorse: "I did it to retaliate on local Arab Americans or whatever you want to call them," he said. "I did what every American wanted to do, but didn't." Stroman is now on death row.

Mr. Hasan was very much a victim of the attacks of 9/11, and his death was a hate crime if ever there was one.

Before his death, Waqar had taken steps for him and his family to become American citizens. He was in the United States on an immigrant visa and was going through the paperwork towards citizenship. When he was brutally killed, his family's American future was placed in jeopardy. Their visas and green card applications were both dependent upon his visa. When he died, their hopes of American citizenship died with him. The Hasan family had lost their husband, father, and