

speed up operations in an effort to stay competitive. As a result of these and other factors, there would be a surge in income and wealth inequality, exacerbating dangerous trends already under way.

Until we have a trade policy that has workers rights, human rights and environmental quality principles, all that free trade means for nations like Vietnam is more exploitation of the country and of the workers. That is why we need to vote down this bill when it comes back this week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF JOHNS CREEK, GEORGIA

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor and city council and citizens of the newly created City of Johns Creek in Georgia. In accordance with the bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Johns Creek will be officially incorporated as a city on December 1, 2006.

This is a wonderful and gratifying time for the people of Johns Creek. Those residents fought diligently to make this day a reality. They have chosen to honor Mr. Mike Bodker as the first mayor of their new city.

Johns Creek is a vibrant, engaged and dynamic community. They have seized the opportunity to have a more direct impact on their future, and this achievement also comes with many new responsibilities.

I am confident that the citizens will successfully embrace these new challenges, as our 10th largest city, Johns Creek, will also be a leader in our larger Georgia community.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the privilege of bringing the recognition of this House of Representatives as we congratulate the people of Johns Creek, Georgia and wish them the very best during this exciting transition.

AMERICANS DEMANDING CHANGE IN WASHINGTON AND DEMOCRATS BRINGING CIVILITY TO D.C.

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, last week, the American people spoke loudly and clearly. They want a change here in Washington, and they want Democrats and Republicans to work together to solve the problems they confront on a daily basis. During the campaign this year, Democrats promised to change the tone of the debate here in Washington, and work cooperatively on behalf of all Americans.

Because we will not be the party of anger politics, Democrats will honor our pledge. We will treat the Repub-

licans in the minority in a manner compatible with the interests of the voting public. In the past, Democrats have been shut out of the debate. This is not how a Democratic form of government is supposed to work.

But the campaign is over, and we are not going to focus on the past. Democrats pledge, therefore, to preside over the most open and honest Congress in history. We want to pass solid ethics legislation that the public is actually demanding. We are here to represent only our constituents, and we need to make that clear.

Madam Speaker, change is coming to Washington.

ED DAVIS TRIBUTE

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Admiral Chester Nimitz, in describing the bravery of Americans battling for Iwo Jima, said, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Captain Ed Davis, who died last week at age 67, was a man of most uncommon valor. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Davis was shot down over Vietnam in 1965, and he would spend the next 7½ years as a prisoner in Hanoi.

When finally released from captivity, he said, "When I first saw that flag"—meaning the U.S. flag—"I knew it was all worth it."

To those of us who knew him, his death is a great loss. But his passing is also a great loss to the country he loved.

Captain Davis won three silver stars, the Legion of Merit with Combat Citation, five air medals, two purple hearts, as well as numerous other honors both military and civilian.

Our thoughts and our prayers and those of a grateful Nation go out to his family. May he rest in peace.

IRAQ

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, last week the American people voted for new ideas and a new direction in Iraq. Changing the Secretary of Defense was a good first step, but we have a long way to go, and the situation is getting worse.

Last week, I went to Amman, Jordan, to listen to a cross-section of moderate secular leaders from the region. They gave me their ideas for stabilizing Iraq. It is a way forward and it comes from the people in the region closest to the chaos.

These leaders believe the U.S. should redeploy our soldiers to the borders between Iraq and Syria and Iraq and Iran. These leaders believe strategic redeployment can stop the infiltration of

violence and get U.S. soldiers out of harm's way in Baghdad.

The leaders gave me a four-point plan they believe will save American and Iraqi lives and their country. Strategic redeployment is a key element. We should do it.

In medicine, doctors are taught to listen to the patient. The saying is, "Listen to the patient. He's telling you what's the matter." Too often we have gone in like a doctor who had an idea that they knew what was wrong and how to fix it.

We, the Congress, must listen to those moderate secular leaders in Iraq.

ISSUES FACING TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22

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

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. My name is SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS. I am the new Congressmember from Texas Congressional District 22.

As the winner of the special election, I promise to roll up my sleeves and work hard over the next 2 months to move our country forward and to support the hardworking people in my district who have put their faith in me.

Some of the key issues for my district are:

Reducing the size of government and lowering taxes; to help seniors in their search for more choice and security in health care and have a stable source of funding for Medicare; to enhance Ellington Field as the linchpin of homeland security for the Houston region; to also help fund NASA/Johnson Space Center, the return to the Moon and onward to our voyage to Mars. Space is at the epicenter of our Nation's future.

As a physician, wife and mother who respects life from conception to natural death, I look for ways to support the sanctity of life.

Texas shares a long border with our neighboring country Mexico. I will work to honor my commitment to the people of my district by seeking ways to stop illegal immigration while streamlining the process of legal immigration.

I look forward to serving the district and the opportunity to serve my Nation.

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DEMOCRATS TO REINSTATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO REQUIREMENTS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, for too long in this country Republicans have governed without a strong dedication to fiscal responsibility and without using the pay-as-you-go method. The President and his friends here in Congress

have squandered the Clinton administration's projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion and have put us into a projected deficit of \$3.5 trillion.

Last Tuesday, the American people told the Republicans that enough is enough and demanded a change in the way that Congress does business. They voted in a Democratic majority to return our country to a path of strong fiscal responsibility and back to the pay-as-you-go system.

Madam Speaker, the current Republican leadership has incurred more foreign debt in these 6 years than the previous 42 Presidents combined incurred. When we assume the majority in January, Democrats are committed to fiscal responsibility, and we will reinstate pay-as-you-go, working effectively as we did in the 1990s when President Clinton and the Congress balanced the budget.

MAKING IT FIRM THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO BE IN AMERICA WITHOUT PERMISSION

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, according to the Dallas Morning News, "Farmers Branch, Texas, on Monday adopted strict measures against illegals, requiring apartment renters to provide proof of citizenship or residency and making English the city's official language."

"The city also unanimously agreed to let police apply to participate in a Federal program that would enable them to check the residency status of suspects that they arrest and initiate deportation proceedings in certain cases. These measures, believed to be the first of their kind in the State of Texas, brought cheers from some supporters, but sparked anger among some Hispanics."

Madam Speaker, cities across the Nation are taking positive action in dealing with illegals. These are common-sense steps the Federal Government has refused to take for political reasons.

Of course, the pro-illegal immigrant crowd has threatened lawsuits. It seems odd that illegals can use American courts to prevent cities from enforcing laws against illegal entry.

The example of Farmers Branch, Texas, is a statement that cities cannot and will not continue to bear the costs in education, health care and social services of illegals. This Nation must be firm that it is illegal to be in America without permission.

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDING PROPER OVERSIGHT OF THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the war in Iraq, con-

gressional Republicans have refused to provide any oversight of the Bush administration in its handling of the war.

When no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq, House Republicans refused to investigate how the intelligence could have been so bad.

When the administration sent our troops into combat without the proper body armor, House Republicans refused to hold anyone in the administration accountable.

When milestone after milestone passed without things getting better in Iraq, congressional Republicans refused to hold oversight hearings and allowed the Bush administration to continue with the status quo when a change was clearly needed.

Today, our Nation desperately needs for Congress to do its job and provide real oversight of the administration. When Democrats take control of Congress in January, we vow to provide proper oversight of the actions of this administration. It is something that is required of us all by the U.S. Constitution.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO HELP LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PRICES FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, millions of American seniors are trying to make the best of the Medicare prescription drug plan that congressional Republicans and President Bush signed into law 3 years ago.

Today, seniors are demanding changes in this program. They want a plan that does not create a giant gap in coverage, where they can lose coverage for months on end and where they still must pay their monthly payments.

The giant doughnut hole, as we call it, leaves many seniors in the predicament of paying for groceries, paying their rent or the drugs they need to live healthier and longer lives. They may cut their pills into two or take them every second or third day. That is a recipe for disaster, and this is not a decision that seniors should have to make in America today.

Democrats have long opposed this doughnut hole, and one of our top priorities next year is to eliminate it by making prescription drugs cheaper. How are we going to do this? It is simple. We are going to do the same thing the Veterans Administration does today, and that is, give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate on behalf of all seniors for lower drug prices.

Today, American veterans pay 42 percent less for their drugs because of this negotiating authority. If we make prescription drugs cheaper, we can fill in the doughnut hole so seniors no longer fall into it. This is one of our top priorities as we become the majority party in Congress next year.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS TO HELP MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, now that the elections are over, it is time for Democrats and Republicans to come together to work in a bipartisan fashion to help all Americans.

Throughout this year, Democrats have talked about a forward-looking agenda, one that encompasses all Americans. We want to expand economic opportunity to millions of Americans who have been left behind by increasing the minimum wage for the first time in 9 years. We want to expand educational opportunities to teens who want to attend college, by cutting interest rates on student loans so that they can better afford college. We also want to help seniors better afford their prescription drugs by cutting drug prices and filling the doughnut hole.

Democrats touted these plans, but that doesn't mean Republicans can't join us in implementing them when the new Congress convenes in January. Raising the minimum wage, helping college students better afford their education and helping seniors pay for their prescription drugs is something we all, Democrats and Republicans alike, should be interested in. We will have the opportunity to follow through on this agenda in January.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

H.R. 5842. An act to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3501. An act to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program.

S. 3687. An act to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair