

are going to bring the Web site down because it is confusing and they have the wrong prices up there. The discount card is so confusing that on a report on NPR this morning, if you listened to the official trying to listen to the senior citizen, the official said, "A mail order's around a 90-day. That's a 3-month supply." Senior: "Oh, okay." Official: "So to compare the prices, multiply." The senior: "Multiply the 3?" The official: "The 30-day by 3 to get your 90 days, yup. And not all of them have mail orders, so." Senior: "Mm-humm." The official: "And then this will tell how many pharmacies are in your area. How far would you like to go from our ZIP code to look for a pharmacy? You want to keep it within a mile?" The senior starts laughing. The official: "We do have other choices, there's a range here."

This, to a senior citizen who is looking for a lifesaving drug on arthritis, heart, blood pressure, bone strengthening. They are supposed to sit there and try to figure this out. Rather than giving them a benefit and rather than trying to organize and bring prices down in the market, we drive them crazy.

So to top it off, Tommy Thompson now has come around to the view that in fact what we need and to deal with this is what all of us know who dared talk to any of our constituents, that we have got to deal with price. That is the only way to affect and help our senior citizens and our taxpayers, who now are going to be asked not to pay \$400 billion, but \$535 billion for a bill that if it was brought forward today would go down in resounding defeat.

I welcome Tommy Thompson's open mind and bipartisanship to come to realize what all of us knew in this Congress, that we need reimportation to bring down the prices of prescription drugs.

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

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

NO APOLOGY REQUIRED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, last week, several Members of this body issued statements criticizing Presidential adviser Karen Hughes, demanding an apology for comments she made on April 25, 2004. Unfortunately, my colleagues have distorted her remarks into a misrepresentation of her actual sentiment, which I fully support.

In a live interview on CNN on April 25, Ms. Hughes is quoted as saying, "I think after September 11 the American

people are valuing life more and realizing that we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life.

"And President Bush has worked to say, let's be reasonable, let's work to value life, let's try to reduce the number of abortions, let's increase adoptions."

She goes on to say, "Unfortunately our enemies in the terror network, as we're seeing repeatedly in the headlines these days, don't value any life, not even the innocent and not even their own." That was on CNN "Late Edition," April 25, 2004.

In response to her words, some of my colleagues have accused Hughes of equating those who support abortion with terrorists. They have requested an apology for this alleged use of "cheap and distasteful politics." I find this gross misrepresentation of Ms. Hughes' comments disgusting and firmly stand behind her words.

Mr. Speaker, this demand for an apology is simply a political ploy designed to damage the pro-life movement and to promote the abortion industry and their pursuit of increased abortions. Abortion is a money-making business, and the pro-abortion movement will take any chance they can to derail those who promote life.

Planned Parenthood's budget for fiscal year ending June of 2002 showed total revenue of \$692.5 million, and they had a profit of \$12.2 million for that 1-year period alone.

Personally, I would like to thank Karen Hughes for her words because she was right; and, no, I will not apologize.

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Although Mrs. Hughes did not insinuate that these groups were terrorists, I find it amazing that these pro-abortion groups, like Planned Parenthood, have the gall to claim that they are "offended" at this accusation.

Offended? Let me read to you some of the signs that were displayed at the pro-abortion rally in DC a few weeks ago. These were signs that did not make it to the mainstream newspaper. From World Magazine, May 8 edition, their signs read, "Abort Bush. We are pro-choice and we riot. Keep Bush's hands out of my pants."

Offended? I am personally offended as every American should be. And these groups claim to speak for all women. It is these very same groups that have repeatedly called pro-life groups like Concerned Women for American "terrorists." Yes, Planned Parenthood likes to use the word "terrorist" any time they deem it politically useful.

Recently, I saw on Planned Parenthood Federation's Web site a page entitled "Eye on Extremism," and under the heading titled "Terrorists and Extremist Organizations" was a detailed listing of 14 leading pro-life organizations.

I am familiar with the majority over these groups and it is clear that Planned Parenthood is simply working on a smear campaign.

So I have a question for Planned Parenthood: How can such a claim be made against Hughes, an unsubstantiated claim I might add, when groups advocating family and pro-life policies are branded as extremists and terrorists? Planned Parenthood, are you going to apologize for these groups for, as you put it, "cheap and distasteful politics."

A national Right to Life poll has indicated growing opposition to abortion; 56 percent of women, 62 percent of African Americans, 79 percent of Hispanics, 61 percent of 18 to 29 year olds reject abortion in most circumstances. Americans recognize the value of life.

As Mrs. Hughes stated, in the post-9-11 world, we as Americans have placed a greater emphasis on the value of life. We grieve for the loss of every soldier in Iraq and Afghanistan, cling tighter to our close friends and family, and are more conscientious of our personal and national security. Additionally, we celebrate the birth of every baby and adoption of every child into a loving family because we value each life.

Mrs. Hughes' comments in the April 25th interview were right on target.

The demand for an apology is absurd, and I would like to know if Planned Parenthood is going to apologize to the groups that they list as terrorists on their Web site. I doubt it, because each child saved from an abortion is money that the abortion industry will not get. And that, unfortunately, is what this is all about.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

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

There was no objection.

PRESIDENTIAL MISTAKES

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, last month, not too long ago, the President was asked in a news conference, only his third news conference in prime time since he took office, What would your biggest mistake be after 9-11 and what lessons have you learned from it?

President Bush said, "I'm sure something will pop in to my mind here in the midst of this press conference, with all pressure of trying to come up with an answer but it hasn't yet."

Then on May 1, earlier this week, the President, joking about it, said, "I was going to start off tonight telling some self-deprecating jokes." And the Republican crowd laughed. And then he said, "But then I couldn't think of any mistakes that I had made to be self-deprecating about."

Now, it is hard to believe that anyone in my State of Ohio who has lost his or her job, 177,000 manufacturing workers in Ohio have lost their jobs since President Bush took office, it is hard to think that any one of them thought that was very funny, that the President could not think of any mistakes that he made; mistakes that he could learn from, that he could correct and do something about.

It is hard to think that any veterans who have seen their benefits cut under this President think this was very funny. It is hard to think that those soldiers who do not have body armor in Iraq because the President and the Pentagon did not plan for it, that they think that is very funny, to say that he could not think of any mistakes. I do not think that too many Americans of the 43 million without health care think that is very funny that the President mentioned he could not think of any mistakes that he had made.

Now, there are a group of us coming to the floor tonight. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL), the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE), that are going to talk about some of the mistakes, not to embarrass the President, in some sense not even to criticize the President, but just we hope to point some mistakes out tonight that the President has made so that he can correct them. Because we are all taught as children to learn from our mistakes.

If the President is unwilling to admit a mistake, if the President is unwilling to acknowledge that he even made any, and then if the President is willing to sit around and joke that he has not made any mistakes when we have lost this number of jobs in my State of Ohio and across the country, when our soldiers in Iraq are in harm's way because we have not provided body armor, because we are not providing the armor underneath the Humvees and on the doors of the Humvees to protect American troops, it is not really not much of a laughing matter.

Today the President was in Ohio and, again, the President continued the let us just kind of joke about this.

AP reports, "With humor and sarcasm, President Bush is trying to make JOHN KERRY eat his own words. At every stop of his Midwest bus tour, the President is mocking Kerry to the delight of partisan audiences."

I understand this is a Presidential race. I understand that politicians need to attack each other and make fun of

each other and all of this, but in light of the fact that the President is unwilling to admit any of these mistakes he made, we, tonight, the five or six of us, would like to help him talk about, whether it is a mistakes he made with weapons of mass destruction or Medicare or veterans' benefits or the tax cuts, a millionaire gets \$123,000 in tax cuts; whether it is job loss, whether it is totally forsaking both small business and the manufacturing base in this country.

The entire six Democratic-member delegation of Ohio wrote the President a list of questions as he arrived in Dayton, Ohio today in his Ask the President Forum that he is beginning to hold around the country. He did the first one in Dayton today.

We had some questions for the President about the new Medicare bill because we recognize that the Medicare bill was a mistake. First of all, the President allowed the drug companies and the insurance companies to write the bill. He also allowed the drug companies, that are going to make \$150 billion additional profits from that bill. The insurance companies will get a \$46 billion direct subsidy from this bill. But no surprise there, the President has already received tens of millions of dollars from the drug and the insurance industry for his election.

In fact, the word in the street in Washington, my colleagues and I have all heard, is that the President will receive a total of \$100 million from the drug industry for his reelection. Of course, he is going to support the drug industry. But, frankly, we consider that a mistake, when you write a Medicare bill that helps the drug industry, it helps the insurance industry, and then maybe you get around to dropping a few dollars for seniors.

When they release this prescription drug discount card today, we asked the President a couple of questions. Is it true the Medicare law allows drug and insurance companies offering discount cards to change covered drugs and discounts weekly? Does this not mean that seniors may choose a card one week that will be worth little or nothing to them the next?

In other words, seniors sign up for one of these discount drug cards. If you sign up for one of the 50 or 60 or 70 cards, you are stuck with it the entire year, even though the drug discount card company can turn around and take your drug off the list, can raise the price, can cut your discount.

Mr. Speaker, the President also mentioned in this bill, this Medicare bill, there is also a prohibition on drug companies, on the government negotiating cheaper prices. We know we can get cheaper drugs in Canada, yet the President will not allow it. Something is wrong. I wish the President would acknowledge his mistake. Go back to the drawing board and write a drug bill for the seniors, not for the drug companies.

MISTAKES OF THE PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for organizing tonight's series of statements about the consequences of the Bush administration's tragic and terrible decisions.

Now, last month, the President stated that he could not really think of a single particular mistake that he had made in office, though he conceded that he must have made some. Even worse, the President was either unable or unwilling to say what lessons he had learned from the process.

Now, tonight some of us are here to talk about the administration's decisions because, quite frankly, "mistake" is far too soft a word. It almost makes it sound like an accident. We are also here to talk about the consequences and the lessons that the entire world is learning from this administration.

Now, in the newspapers and on television in the past week we have all seen the horrifying pictures of American soldiers torturing, tormenting and humiliating Iraqi prisoners. We all know that this does not characterize the tens of thousands of brave men and women serving in Iraq, but we do note that it endangers their lives.

These pictures are horrifying, both because of the callous disregard for human rights that they show by individual American soldiers but also for the far more fundamental failures at the highest levels of leadership, failures that began with an administration that led the Nation to war under false pretenses.

The pictures are also horrifying for their consequences. What will happen to the next American soldiers or civilian captured? If we, the world's most powerful military country and greatest democracy, will not abide by the Geneva Convention and international law, then who will?

What will happen to our already devastated international reputation?

The Washington Post today reports that the State Department's Intelligence and Research Department is deeply concerned about a cascade of international criticism that could seriously affect our broader foreign goals.

Leaked portions of a 53-page report by Major General Antonio Taguba completed in February conclude that there were numerous, numerous instances of "sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses at Abu Ghraib" prison.

I hope that this is not just the tip of the iceberg.

Individuals involved have stated that they were encouraged by military intelligence to engage in this abuse. Now, as one who has a background in psychology and mental health, I worry for our young men and women in uniform who are being dehumanized, dehumanized by a war that allows them to cross this threshold.