

Later this month, I will introduce legislation levying a fine of \$10,000 per day for an airport security badge that is not canceled for an employee that was fired. That should get their attention and help make the world's busiest airport more secure.

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET AND DEBT

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the President's proposed budget is another step down the long road of fiscal irresponsibility.

While this administration's budget claims to reach balance in 2012, in reality, it actually will remain in the red all along those years. After all, over the last 6 years, the Bush administration's fiscal policies have posted the highest deficits in our Nation's history.

The administration has squandered the budget surplus it inherited, transforming \$5.6 trillion projected surplus into a \$2.8 trillion deficit over the same period, completely losing focus of what we need to do in America.

Even with this continued deficit, the budget still hurts American families. It proposes substantial cuts to Medicare and Medicaid both. What does this out-of-whack budget really fund? The President's tax cuts for the wealthy, of course.

Mr. Speaker, the President has put forth another budget that raises our national debt while cutting vital programs to Americans. His priorities haven't changed. Fortunately, the leadership in this Congress has changed.

CONGRESSIONAL INACTION JEOPARDIZES UNION COUNTY ROADS

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. The failure of Congress to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act amounts to a breach of faith to more than 600 forested counties and 4,400 school districts across our country.

For Union County, Oregon, this means a third of the road department employees no longer will have a job, other county services will be cut, and another rural school district is left behind.

Last night, County Commissioner Colleen MacLeod was making the 8-hour, 616-mile round trip from her home in Union County to the State capital in Salem, where she and other commissioners around Oregon were meeting to discuss how a county declares bankruptcy. Commissioner MacLeod says, "County governments, all they want is to be able to work for themselves, and the Federal Govern-

ment needs to let us. We just want to be able to work in the woods."

Traveling with the commissioner was the Union County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Judy Loudermilk, who says, "What affects one area in a rural community affects us all. Loss of these funds is devastating."

My colleagues, Congress must keep the Federal Government's promise to timbered communities. Pass H.R. 17 and do it now.

NEED FOR DEBATE ABOUT PRESIDENT'S TROOP ESCALATION PLAN

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush's plan to escalate the war in Iraq will not bring success in Iraq or make America more secure. It faces significant bipartisan opposition in both Chambers of Congress, and the plan is opposed by a majority of people in our country.

The American people rightfully want to know where their leaders stand on this critical issue, and the House is prepared to act. Unfortunately, on the other side of the Capitol, Senate Republicans blocked debate on this critical issue, and the House is prepared to do it now.

While Senate Republicans cut and ran from this most important issue, over the next 4 days this House will debate, and then on Friday vote on a resolution on the President's plan to escalate the war.

Mr. Speaker, House Democrats will ask the tough questions about the President's new strategy and continue to insist on a new direction, while always putting our troops first.

The days of rubber-stamping the President's war plans are over. And starting today, this House is going to have an important debate on the President's troop escalation plan.

DEMOCRATS' NEW DIRECTION IS NOT NEW

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

Mr. MCHENRY. After months of campaigning against "Stay the Course," the Democrats are proposing just that, a stay-the-course resolution here on the House floor. Their Iraq resolution does not have the force of law, and in fact, this nonbinding resolution is simply a mealy-mouth attempt to appease their Democrat leftist base.

Democrats have held 52 hearings on Iraq since taking control of Congress. So let me get this right. The Democrats have held 52 hearings so they can show one resolution on the House floor that has no bearing on the President's policy, does not have the force of law, does not advocate the withdrawal of troops, and does nothing except have a

tantrum here on the House floor. So please explain this new direction, Madam Speaker. This is not a new direction, it is political posturing of the worst kind.

Madam Speaker, where is your plan? Where is your plan for victory in Iraq? Where is your plan for success and national security?

WE MUST UNDERSTAND IRANIAN CULTURE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am very, very concerned. President Bush initially wanted the authority in the October 16, 2002 Act of War to use force to restore peace and security in the region, not just Iraq.

We rejected that. The Congress of the United States, Mr. Speaker, rejected that and said no. The exercise of the authority granted in the resolution, read the resolution, is conditioned on the President certifying that war in Iraq would not harm the war on terrorism. We will make a point of that over the next 3 days.

Iran has an oppressive economy. We must understand Iranian culture in order not to make the same mistakes we made in Iraq. Ethnically, Iranians are of Indo-European descent and have no kinship to their neighbors in the Middle East. Their language is Indo-European, with grammar and structure similar to classical Latin. They do not identify with Arabs.

We do not understand the Middle East. We made that mistake once, we should not make that mistake again.

SILLY POLITICS AND SILLY RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the troops in Baghdad were watching what we were doing today, they would be outraged; but when you are in harm's way, you don't exactly sit around and watch C-SPAN and silly politicians with silly resolutions.

Here is what the Democrats are up to. Dearest troops, we support you, but your mission is in the tank. We don't support your mission. Americans are dying, the situation is dire, but we are not going to send more reinforcements. You are on your own.

But wait. The majority party still wants to play backseat driver. This is nothing but a nonbinding resolution, fit for the Democrat club back home, but when you are the U.S. Congress in the majority party, you have the right to pass laws, real laws affecting real people.

If you have an alternative plan, introduce it. Get out of the back seat. November 7th put your hands on the steering wheel with the President. You

can now help drive the direction of policy, national policy in Iraq. This is a silly resolution. I recommend a "no" vote.

IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the American people and both Democrat and Republican Members of Congress are demanding a new direction in Iraq.

It is long past time for Congress to debate whether or not the President's latest troop escalation will actually change the situation on the ground in Iraq. This is a debate that Congress must have. We will all have 5 minutes to explain to our constituents and to the American people and to our troops why we either support the President's strategy or why we think it is time for a new direction.

This is the first time since the war began that every Member of the House will have 5 minutes to speak about the situation in Iraq. The last time Congress was allowed so much time for a debate on the war was during the lead-up to the first gulf war back in the 1990s.

Mr. Speaker, every single one of us in this House supports the efforts our troops are making in Iraq. Some believe the best way to support them is to allow the President to conduct the war in any way he sees fit, without question. I believe it is our job in Congress to ask the tough questions, and that is what we are doing this week.

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AMERICA NEEDS A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring legislation, H.J. Res. 21, which would add a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution. The amendment sets the financially responsible goal of balancing the budget by the year 2012.

Currently, the national debt is \$3.6 trillion. Each taxpayer's share of that debt is almost \$29,000. In fiscal year 2006, over \$400 billion of taxpayers' money was spent on interest payments to the holders of the national debt.

Last year the interest paid on the national debt was the third largest expense of the Federal budget. The debt is increasing by over \$1 billion every day. Our economy is ready for us to set this important priority.

Last year alone Federal revenues increased 11.8 percent. Receipts this year have grown by 8 percent so far in the first quarter compared to last year in that first quarter. Forty-nine out of 50 States, including my home State of Florida, currently have a balanced

budget. It is time that we follow the lead there and balance the budget for the country.

AMERICA'S GROWING TRADE DEFICIT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our Nation needs a course correction in our foreign policy, and we are being given the chance by the Democratic leadership this week to debate it fully, as we should have when that resolution was first debated in this House.

Our country needs many course corrections, including on the economy. President Bush's trade policy has clearly failed, as his foreign policy has, as American workers and American businesses find we are losing more jobs to imports again. The confirmed numbers for 2006 released today show that the annual trade deficit in 2006 doubled since this President took office.

In fact, for 2006 the trade deficit equaled \$763.6 billion and broke the prior year's trade deficit by adding another 6 percent more deficit from 2005's level of \$716 billion.

Five straight years of record deficits have left millions more Americans with displaced jobs, outsourced jobs, unemployment across regions of this country, and putting our financial future in the hands of foreign creditors such as China and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Speaker, to grant renewed fast track authority to this President would be a serious mistake and irresponsible. This administration needs a course correction by this Congress, both in foreign policy and in domestic economic policy.

AMERICA NEEDS A COURSE CORRECTION IN INTERNATIONAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to agree with my colleague from Ohio that we need a course correction in international and domestic policy.

As Congress prepares to debate a nonbinding resolution on Iraq, this administration is already on its way to the next war against Iran. We are losing our democracy to war and to debt. We are borrowing money from China, from Korea and Japan to fight a war in Baghdad and to prepare for war against Iran.

Meanwhile here at home, there are so many people that lack access to adequate health care, who do not have money for housing or education. We do not have money for job creation, but we have money for war. It is time to stand up for the American people. It is time for Congress to assume its full power under the Constitution. It is time to impose some discipline on this

administration. It is time for Congress to truly be a coequal branch of government and to do the work for the American people.

BOTH PARTIES SUPPORT TROOPS EVEN THOUGH WE VOICE OPPOSITION TO BUSH PLAN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Congress has a responsibility to the American people and to our troops bravely serving our Nation in Iraq to debate the President's plan to send 21,500 more troops to Iraq.

Today this House will begin debate on a bipartisan resolution supporting our troops and voicing disapproval with the President's plan. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, it really concerns me that some of the Republicans on the other side this morning talked about this debate as silly and tried to trivialize a debate that involves our troops who are fighting, some of whom are dying in Iraq.

Our own intelligence agencies released a report earlier this month saying that the war in Iraq is not a civil war, it is worse, with numerous groups killing each other to gain the upper hand. Four times before, the President has sent thousands of additional troops to Iraq, and each time the situation on the ground either remained the same or grew even more dangerous. Could that be why our generals concluded, before being let go by this President, that sending more troops to Iraq simply will not help the situation?

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to ask the tough questions this week so we can begin taking our Iraq strategy in a new direction.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 63, IRAQ WAR RESOLUTION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 157 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 157

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 63) disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) debate not beyond midnight on Tuesday, February 13, 2007, equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees; (2) debate not beyond midnight on Wednesday, February 14, 2007, equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority