

that was fair, transparent, and democratic. Iraq's National Assembly recently named the country's first democratically elected President in more than 50 years, and Iraqi security forces now number over 150,000, protecting their nation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our President said it best. Before coalition forces arrived, Iraq was ruled by a dictatorship that murdered its own citizens, threatened its neighbors, and defied the world. And now, because we acted, Iraq's government is no longer a threat to the world or its own people. Today, the Iraqi people are taking charge of their own destiny.

I rise to recognize the Iraqi people who have made such great strides and to thank our servicemen and women who risk their lives every day to protect our freedom.

WAKE UP AMERICANS

(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, instead of bringing our troops home from Iraq, today our majority party is advocating sending billions more to Iraq to keep our troops there indefinitely. Instead of winding down operations in Iraq, today the administration will receive money to help build permanent bases in Iraq. At a time when the American people are waking up to the disaster of the war in Iraq, this House is going to sleep. Wake up.

The administration manufactured intelligence to take us into war in Iraq. Wake up. The flower of America's youth is being sent to battles, spilling their blood to find weapons of mass destruction which did not exist. Wake up.

Mr. Speaker, \$270 billion going for a war based on a lie while America's educational systems are crumbling while 47 million Americans are without health insurance while our inner cities have high unemployment while oil companies are gouging Americans for \$2 to \$3 a gallon for gasoline. Wake up, my friends. Let us get out of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, let us bring our troops home. Let us hold the administration accountable for the lies that took us into Iraq. Redeem the faith our Founders had in this House.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GINGPEY, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of strengthening one of the most important Federal programs, Social Security.

This past Monday, Vice President CHENEY graciously came to my district to talk to the good people of Georgia to talk about fixing Social Security for our future generations. At a town hall meeting at Campbell High School, one

of the students stood up and said Mr. Vice President, is Social Security going to be there for me when I reach retirement age? And the Vice President said, I hope so, son, but not unless we do something about it now.

I am really astonished my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing to put our children's retirement in jeopardy because they would rather use Social Security as a political weapon than an opportunity for bipartisan achievement.

Mr. Speaker, anyone can criticize and obstruct, but it takes a leader to do the heavy lifting on a serious problem as our President and Vice President have done. I urge my colleagues to keep up the good fight because our children and their children are dependent on us to save Social Security.

NATIONAL OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

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

Ms. BEPKLEY, Mr. Speaker, May is National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month. Osteoporosis and low bone density affect 44 million Americans over the age of 50, many of whom were unaware of the fact that they have osteoporosis and therefore were unable to take steps to prevent it.

Like many Americans, I had no idea I was at risk for developing osteoporosis. I thought I simply had bad posture, and it never occurred to me to be screened for osteoporosis. Yet when I was running for Congress in 1998, I was diagnosed with this disease. Fortunately, within 10 months of the diagnosis, with proper treatment, I was able to stop my bone density loss and my bones actually began to strengthen again.

Because of my personal experience with osteoporosis, I am committed to ensuring that my fellow Americans are aware of the importance of early detection and prevention. Men and women can reduce their chances of developing this disease. I encourage everyone to see your doctor, get screened for osteoporosis. It is a very silent but very deadly disease.

MAKING PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. PITTS, Mr. Speaker, since May of 2003, more than 1 million new jobs have been created, and Americans have gone back to work. We have had 22 straight months of job growth. Last month alone, more than 110,000 Americans found jobs.

Clearly, our economy's growth is a result of the pro-growth agenda of the President and this Republican Congress. By focusing our efforts on allow-

ing the American people to keep more of their own money and working to remove the negative economic effects of our legal system, the Republican Congress continues to show its commitment to America's economy and working families.

However, our work is not done. We need to get an energy bill signed into law. This would create 500,000 new jobs. We need to make the tax relief permanent and hold down government spending. Over the past 100 days, House Republicans have demonstrated that we are dedicated to promoting policies that better the economy. And for the sake of our families who are counting on us, I hope we can count on our friends in the Senate to follow our lead.

PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. LEE, Mr. Speaker, today there are more than 45 million Americans living without health insurance. In my home State of California, there are almost 6.5 million people without health insurance, and that is 600,000 more than when President Bush took office. This is a tragedy and a disgrace. It is time for us to act.

The Family Care Act, the Medicare Access Act, and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act will help cover more than half of the uninsured, but that is not enough. All Americans should have access to quality health care, and that is why I will be reintroducing H.R. 6000, the United States Universal Health Service Act.

In the wealthiest country in the world, no one should be without affordable and accessible health care. Today, this House votes on \$82 billion more to continue to wage war and occupy Iraq, a total now of over \$600 billion, and we cannot even provide health care for all Americans. It is a shame and disgrace that our priorities are so misplaced.

JOINT EFFORT WITH PAKISTAN WINNING WAR ON TERROR

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

Mr. PENCE, Mr. Speaker, as we were reminded with a thundering explosion on the streets of New York City at 9 a.m. this morning, we are a Nation at war. And so it is with particular pleasure that I rise to extol the arrest of Abu Faraj al Libbi by Pakistani authorities yesterday in Pakistan. The capture of the third-ranking operative in al Qaeda is a momentous and significant event in the war on terror.

The President said, "His arrest removes a dangerous enemy who was a direct threat to America and a critical victory in the war on terror."