

[U.S. Congressional Record]

THE FEDERAL BUDGET -- (House of Representatives - February 26, 2003)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose." I think it is very interesting, in the very week that the President was telling the Governors that we had no more money for their health care, Medicaid plans, their education, college, every State is raising tuition on middle-class families who are affording college and higher ed, the Leave No Child Behind. The very week that the President of the United States said to our Governors, I am sorry, there is not another penny for them, is the very week that we upped and sweetened our bid to Turkey ; so we have now given Turkey \$24 billion.

I want to meet the person that was negotiating for Turkey . They have done themselves a wonderful job. We finally got ourselves a job plan and economic growth package. The problem is it is for Turkey , not for the United States. And we have done ourselves, I think, a world of damage here. And I believe personally that we need a northern front in our fight if we are going to war in Iraq and I do not think we should spare anything to save our lives; so clearly having a northern front in this war is going to be important. But I want my colleagues to think about the fact that in the very week that we told our Governors and, most importantly, the citizens of our States that there would not be another penny for higher ed, there would not be another penny in assistance on health care, that we could not fully fund the Leave No Child Behind on the education program, is the very week that we sweetened our offer to the nation of Turkey .

To all the police departments that need money for fire, for all the cities that need assistance for police departments and fire for training on terrorism, I want them to now know Istanbul has their money. So I have come to the conclusion that maybe our States need to apply to Turkey for foreign aid. They have our money.

When it comes to making sure that all our police departments and fire departments are fully trained for dealing with terrorism, they do not have the resources to deal with that. We do not have all the money that they need. They are not going to get all the training they need to deal with terrorism. And when we have an act here at home, which everybody knows that this war will instigate as further terrorism here in the United States, our police and fire departments do not have all the resources they need to act on that.

I want my colleagues to think about the choices here, because as I have said early on, that President Kennedy once said there are choices. The amount of money that we have now guaranteed for Turkey , \$24 billion, is twice the money we spend on Pell grants. We spend \$11 to \$12 billion a year. It is twice the money for Pell grants. The loan guarantees for Turkey , the same amount of money that we have now given Turkey , we could make two thirds of the existing tuition free at public universities.

These are choices we are making. So as we make this assistance, as we tell our Governors we do not have money for them and there is not another penny for them and yet we tell Turkey here is another \$2 billion, the same week we did that, I would like the left hand of the administration to meet the right hand of the administration, because somebody has not got a clear plan; and we are giving money away to Turkey while we are telling our own people here at home we do not have enough money for them.

How did we get there? I have a chart here that shows the last 50 years of fiscal and economic management by Presidents. It goes back to the second term under Truman, and it goes through all the Presidents and tells how they did in managing the economy. And our present President, our President, has the most anemic economic growth of any President in the last 50 years. And since we are in the mood of quoting former Presidents, Ronald Reagan once said, "Facts are a stubborn thing." And since the 2000 election, we have lost 2 1/2 million jobs in this economy; 925,000 manufacturing jobs in the years 2001, 2002; 4 more million Americans are without health insurance; nearly a trillion dollars' worth of corporate assets have been foreclosed on, and 2 million more Americans have left the middle class for poverty.

Facts are a stubborn thing. That is the record of this present President and the economic management at this time. And what has he chosen to do and what has the administration chosen to do? Having argued for a tax cut 14 months ago to get the economy moving, the net result has been the worst anemic growth of any President in 50 years: More people unemployed, more people without health insurance, more businesses closed, and more people joining the ranks of poverty. He has decided to put his foot on the accelerator and pushed further for more tax cuts. He is the only President in history, in a time of war, who has decided to have tax cuts. So we will ask our men and women to sacrifice, that those in the wealthiest corridors of our country will not be sacrificing and joining the rest of us as we do sacrifice.

This is the wrong way to economic management. We can have a bipartisan approach that puts our fiscal house in order, invests in our future, and defends our interests overseas. As a person and individual Member of this Chamber who does support in some capacity military action, I think the notion of the last 2 weeks in Turkey where it was let us make a deal, unfortunately Turkey has walked away with the resources that our kids need, our police departments need, and our doctors and nurses need to provide health care.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I especially appreciate the gentleman's pointing out the plight of the States and the tongue-in-cheek advice to how the States might improve their situation. Of course we had the Governors here in Washington this week, the Governors from both parties. Is there any indication they got any satisfaction at all from the President?

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, no. But I am thinking of recommending to the Governors Association that they hire the person who was negotiating for Turkey and maybe he could do them a good job. So there is no indication of that. In fact, what has happened is if the gentleman will read the Wall Street Journal report out of the meeting that the President had with the Governors, in fact he told them there will be no more assistance in that area. And mind you, this is not a partisan issue. It is the worst fiscal condition of all 50 States since World War II.