

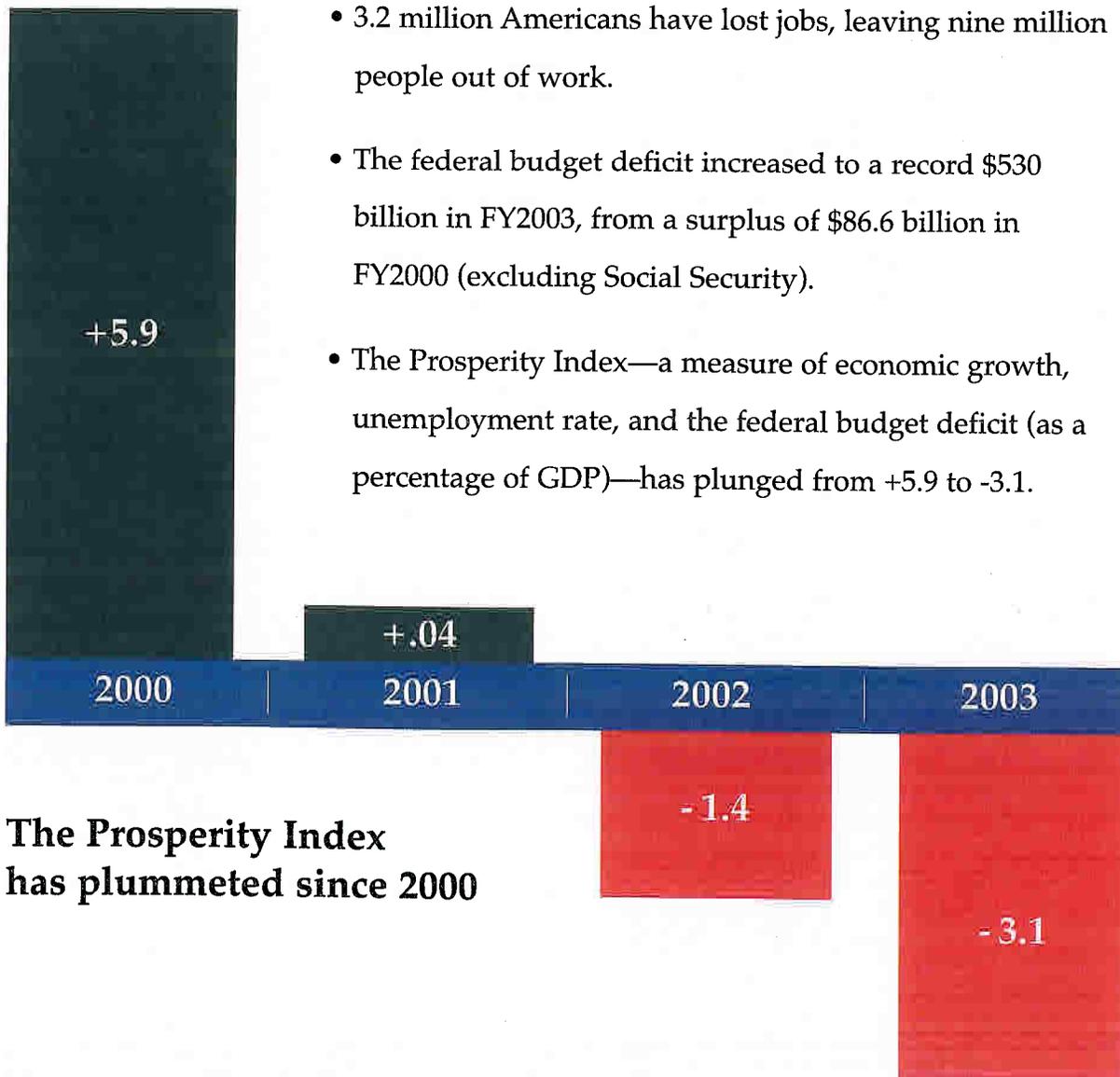
THE ECONOMY

Prosperity Index at Four-Year Low

Four years ago, President Clinton announced that the United States had achieved “new heights of prosperity” and “the longest period of economic growth in our entire history.” Our federal budget was not only balanced, but we had achieved a surplus, and our nation was looking forward to years of historically high surpluses.

Four short years later—after \$2 trillion in indiscriminate tax breaks—we have lost all of the ground we had gained and significantly more:

- 3.2 million Americans have lost jobs, leaving nine million people out of work.
- The federal budget deficit increased to a record \$530 billion in FY2003, from a surplus of \$86.6 billion in FY2000 (excluding Social Security).
- The Prosperity Index—a measure of economic growth, unemployment rate, and the federal budget deficit (as a percentage of GDP)—has plunged from +5.9 to -3.1.



**The Prosperity Index
has plummeted since 2000**

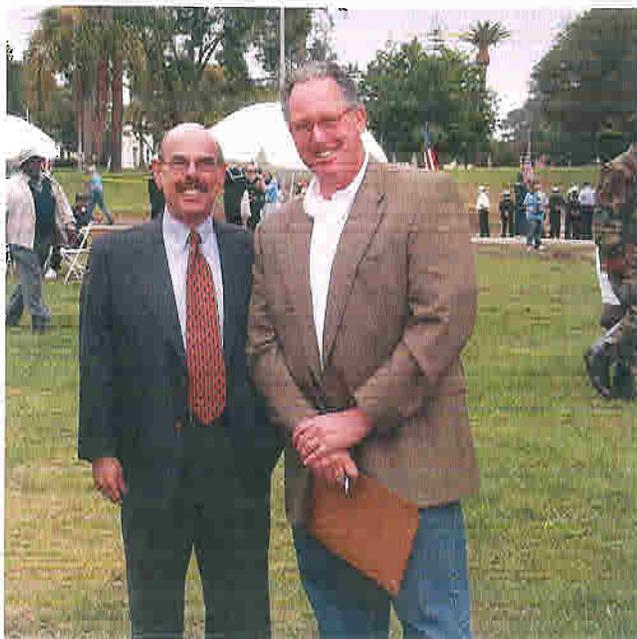
IRAQ

Despite strong disagreements many have with the Bush Administration's Iraq policy, there should be no disagreement that our nation must have intelligence that is accurate and honest in order for our government's decisions to be credible and to keep faith with our brave soldiers who are risking their lives.

That's why I have introduced legislation to establish an Independent Commission to investigate the inexcusable failure of the U.S. intelligence prior to the Iraq war. We don't know who was responsible for the embarrassingly bad estimates of Iraq's nuclear capability and its ties to al Qaeda, but we must find out how it happened. Our nation's credibility will remain in jeopardy if we don't resolve this serious issue.

We can also agree that American taxpayer dollars in Iraq must be protected against waste. As part of a congressional investigation of Halliburton, the American company with a sole-source contract to import fuel to Iraq, I've learned that it should cost less than \$1 a gallon to buy and ship gasoline into Iraq. Instead, American taxpayers are being charged \$2.65 per gallon for that gas, which is then being resold to Iraqis for as little as a nickel. That's an outrageous waste of more than one hundred million dollars and it may be emblematic of other overcharges we can't afford.

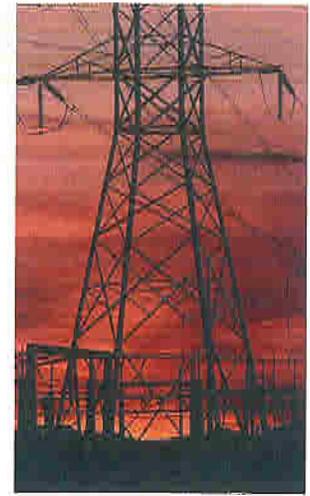
Congressman Waxman and Charles Dorman, Acting Director, VA Greater Los Angeles (GLAHS) Healthcare System, discuss veterans' needs during GLAHS Veterans Day events.



WHY THE ENERGY BILL HURTS CALIFORNIA

Energy legislation (H.R. 6) supported by the energy industry and advanced by the Administration and Republican Congress will harm consumers and the environment. It especially hurts California by:

- Protecting oil companies from liability for groundwater contaminated with the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). California has more MTBE contamination than any other state.
- Laying the groundwork for drilling off the California coast without requiring any consultation with the state in the decision-making process.
- Tilting the management of public lands toward energy production. California has nearly 45 million acres of federal lands, and areas throughout the state could be affected.
- Requiring Californians to pay hundreds of millions of dollars in gas subsidies each year to Midwest ethanol producers, even though the amount of ethanol they'll be able to use will be less than the amount they will be required to purchase.
- Neglecting to address any of the Enron-style market manipulations that cost California billions of dollars.



H.R. 6 fails to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, address global climate change, or move us toward renewable energies, energy conservation, and more efficient use of all energy sources. It also rolls back important clean air and drinking water safeguards. A detailed analysis of the bill is available at: www.waxman.house.gov

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS?

Congress has missed an opportunity to enact a good, comprehensive prescription drug benefit as part of the Medicare program. Instead, it has adopted a complicated measure that will result in very poor prescription drug coverage and put the traditional Medicare program at risk.

Seniors and disabled beneficiaries will pay more for less coverage, and employers will have an incentive to discontinue prescription drug plans they currently offer retirees. In my assessment, premiums in areas like Los Angeles could skyrocket above those in other parts of the country.



PRESSURING THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO PAY HOLOCAUST-ERA CLAIMS

This fall, I organized congressional hearings to demand that the insurance industry eliminate delays and mishandling of Holocaust-era insurance claims administered by the International Commission on Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). ICHEIC was established to assist families who owned insurance and suffered losses during the Holocaust period in recovering unpaid insurance proceeds and benefits. If you believe you or your family has an outstanding insurance policy issued in Europe during the Holocaust era, you must file a claim with ICHEIC by December 31, 2003. For more information, please visit my website at: www.waxman.house.gov