



Congressman
BENNIE THOMPSON
REPRESENTING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



The Thompson Report

In This Issue: Going, Going, GONE!!! Highway Bill Rising Healthcare Decisive Reversal

MISSISSIPPI
AGRICULTURE
BLUES
HISTORY



Going, Going, GONE!!!

Although I am not an avid baseball fan, I believe that "Going, Going, GONE!!!" is the most descriptive phrase to describe the Bush Administration's non-existent job recovery program. In fact, the actions of the Bush Administration indicate that it is, at times, a passive proponent of outsourcing, the sending of good American jobs by corporations, and in instances an active proponent of the new phenomena. "You don't have to take my word for it. The true colors of the Bush Administration

can be seen in the words of George Mankiw, Top Economic Adviser to President Bush." Mankiw says, "outsourcing is probably good for the U.S. economy in the long run." There is no sympathy or loyalty to the

"You don't have to take my word for it. The true colors of the Bush Administration can be seen in the words of ..."

"outstanding" average hardworking American.

Hardworking Americans every-

where are suffering immensely because the Bush Administration's economic policies are engineered specifically to benefit the

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Highway Bill Boasts Boom

The highly touted highway bill, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU) reauthorizes the Federal-aid surface transportation program for the next six years.

The major controversy of getting this bill passed is its considerable cost, \$375 billion. Other than funding, the provisions of this bill that engender the

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Rising Healthcare Costs are Driving Citizens Uninsured

Even before the new Medicare law extending prescription-drug benefits, experts forecasted higher costs ahead. "The rising cost of healthcare affects all Americans, whether they make much use of

the medical system or not. It just means they have less to spend elsewhere." The nation is spending about \$1.65 trillion a year on healthcare which

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A Decisive Reversal



Congressman Thompson in his Washington, D.C., office

As of late, the Bush Administration has been on the defense over how it handled

events leading up to the September 11th attacks. More specifically, the Administration has been fighting hard to ensure that National Security adviser Dr. Condoleezza Rice not testify before the 9/11 Commission publicly and under oath. While no one

doubts the magnitude of the events that took over 3000 American lives, the Bush Administration has described itself as one that constantly exhibits "decisive leadership," the latest series of events leads to another example of a "decisive reversal."

You might be asking what a "decisive reversal" is. Well, a "decisive reversal" is the act of one bowing to political pressure

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and deciding to do the right thing. It is truly sad that the Bush Administration tries to hide behind weak "executive privilege" and "separation of power" arguments. In fact, there are a number of examples of the "decisive reversal":

- The president initially argued that a federal Department of Homeland Security wasn't needed,

but then devised a plan to create one

- He resisted a commission to investigate Iraq Intelligence failures, but then relented.
- He opposed, and then supported, a two-month extension of the 9/11 commission's work, after the panel said

protracted disputes over access to White House documents left too little time.

- He initially said any access to the president by the commission would be limited to just one hour but relaxed the limited earlier this month.

The Bush Administra-

tion needs to understand that there is a true difference between "decisive reversals" and "decisive leadership."

For more information, contact Curtis Austin in my Washington, D.C., office.

Highway Bill Boasts Boom

most controversy are its environmental provisions. This bill is stringent on how the development of these road infrastructures will effect air and water quality.

As proposed, the bill makes no major structural changes to the core highway programs. This bill, however, does add a multi-billion dollar pro-

gram to construct projects of national/regional significance. One area in the bill where significant changes are suggested in highway safety, through the creation of a new consolidated highway safety program. TEA-LU

proposes to reduce over 43,000 annual deaths on the nation's highways.

"In efforts to build safe roads,

the highway bill proposes to create more than 1.7 million good paying American jobs." It proposes to help alleviate traffic congestion, which is costing nearly \$70 billion in productivity and motor fuel. It proposes to save American families time wasted in traffic.

For more information, contact Karis Gutter in my Washington, D.C., office.

Going, Going, GONE!!!



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corporate interest that funds its campaigns. The

result is policies that continue to reward corporations that transfer American jobs to places like India, Pakistan, and the Philippines. Americans need not look to the Bush White House for protection from outsourcing. They will find no haven. Instead, Americans from every corner of life are facing an uncertain future about the idea of outsourcing which strikes fear into the hearts of men and women everywhere. How

"The Bush Administration takes no responsibility for its awful job creation..."

long can hard working Americans afford to buy products and services that do not generate income for their families? Under the Bush Administration, not one job has been created. In fact, millions of American jobs have been lost to countries with cheap labor. "The Bush Administration takes no responsibility for its awful job creation record." The Administration preaches personal responsibility,

but, unlike hardworking American men and women and families, takes no responsibility for the economic and job market hardships that are facing millions of American families. It seems to me that the best way to stop the outsourcing of American jobs to foreign countries with cheap labor is to permanently outsource President Bush back to Texas.

For more information please contact Curtis Austin in my Washington, D.C., office.

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Rising Healthcare Costs are Driving Citizens Uninsured

consumes one-fourth of the federal budget. As costs spiral upward, more and more Americans are being priced out of the healthcare market.

The latest statistics show 44 million Americans are not covered by any form of health insurance. This number is likely to increase as costs rise further.

Higher costs discourage employers, especially small businesses, from providing health benefits to employees. And since

employers are already boosting the cost to employees, fewer workers will enroll in their firms' health plan.

What we have now is a pool of citizens with no health insurance who tend to put off medical visits until they can afford it. In the meantime, their conditions worsen which costs them more in the long run.

The new Medicare drug benefit will tempt more companies to drop their coverage of retirees, despite new subsidies to

encourage continuation. The benefit, though primarily shifting drug costs from individuals to the federal government, is expected to add to overall drug consumption.

Affordable access to healthcare will lower rates, which will in turn restore faith in insurance providers, health benefits to employees, and health professionals. Federal healthcare dollars should be spent more efficiently to ensure accountability in all medical decisions. I will

continue to play a leadership role in the growing national dialogue on taking care of our citizens.

For more information, contact Karis Gutter in my Washington, D.C., office.



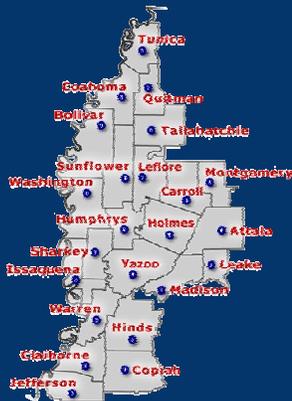
Congressman Thompson & Ms. Nellie Moore in Winona, MS at Prescription Drug Fair

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I would like to congratulate Hollandale Simmons High School Boys Basketball team for winning the State 2A Championship and Ray Brooks High School for winning the State 1A Championship. To preserve this historical event, a copy of your teams record will be placed in the legislative records, which will make it a permanent part of history.

Thank for a job well done and for representing the 2nd Congressional District, and as always keep the faith!



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