

those who broke the laws. And we also have to have stiff new regulatory reforms to make sure this doesn't happen again. And none of that is happening, sad to say.

UNPRECEDENTED TAXING AND SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to comment also with the preceding gentleman, my colleague from Oregon. I would agree with him. I think he is 100 percent right. We do need to have an investigation. The American people were outraged last week when they heard about these bonuses. I would agree with the colleague from Oregon. We do need to have an investigation. Who knew what when? And the fingers need to be pointed right here at Members of Congress, Members of the House, Members of the Senate, and also the administration. Who was it that negotiated these payments? We still don't have an answer. The American people deserve to know. We have a timeline. We have some facts in evidence out there. We had Mr. Liddy, the CEO of AIG, in front of the House Financial Services Committee just last week. I sat in that committee. Mr. Liddy, under questioning, I asked Mr. Liddy myself, did the Federal Reserve chair know about these bonuses? Did he acquiesce to them? The answer was "yes." Also the Treasury Secretary. The Treasury Department was involved in negotiating the compensation contracts.

Today in Financial Services Committee, the Treasury Secretary again was sitting at the table before the committee. The Federal Reserve chair was there as well. The questioning came before them. The Treasury Department was involved. The Federal Reserve was involved. And we know that the bill that was brought to this body and voted here in this Chamber, the stimulus bill, the \$1.1 trillion bill with debt service, this tremendous historic-spending-levels bill that came before us, that was the smoking gun. Senator CHRIS DODD inserted that amendment into the bill. He claimed that the Obama administration insisted that that amendment be put into the bill, the language that would protect these AIG bonuses. And as a matter of fact, you could call President Obama's stimulus bill the "AIG Bonus Protection Plan" because bonuses were simply protected by this bill.

I would agree with my colleague from Oregon. We need an investigation. We need a special independent prosecutor who can look into this and find out the true facts. What did the Obama administration know? When did they know it? What did Members of Congress know? When did they know it? Clearly,

this was a government cartel that was protecting these AIG bonuses.

And why do we need to know this? Because the American people have figured out something that Congress is only just now beginning to figure out. Under President Obama's budget, we see that the administration is spending too much, they are taxing too much, they are certainly borrowing too much, so much so that the American people are saying "I have had it up to here, I can't take it any more." And the economy is following suit.

Well, our colleagues are here today to talk about this. They have a lot to say. Joining me right now is a colleague from the great State of Ohio. He represents the people in the 12th Congressional District of Ohio and the great city of Columbus, Mr. PAT TIBERI, the new father of triplets, and I defer now to my colleague from Ohio, Mr. PAT TIBERI.

Mr. TIBERI. I thank the gentlelady from Minnesota for yielding me some time to talk about a very important subject. As you mentioned, as the new father of triplets, looking at this budget is pretty frightening, not just for me, but obviously what I feel for them and my older daughter as we have in this budget an unprecedented level of spending and also some policy issues that are going to cost them and many in my State of Ohio a tremendous amount of money.

So this budget has real consequences on real people. In fact, the chart behind me demonstrates a little bit about that budget and what that budget does to our national debt. This debt, as you see in red, is representing the administration's budget, a staggering number that will go up considerably if this budget, which is being debated in the House Budget Committee this week, presumably on the House floor, next week, if it passes, as it is, this will be the result, a doubling of the debt held by the public. It is unbelievable.

Who is going to pay that debt? It is going to be our children and our grandchildren. They are going to be saddled with unprecedented debt, debt as far as the eye can see.

When I got elected to Congress in 2001, when I was sworn in, you can see where the national debt was. The Republicans and the administration during the last 8 years were criticized for not dealing with that debt in blue. And it went up. And it went up entirely too much. But not nearly as much as it is going to go up if this budget passes. The consequences are devastating to our economy.

In fact, within that budget is something called "cap-and-trade." It is an energy issue to deal with the issue of global warming. But in Ohio, what it will do is devastate our already ailing economy. It will cause people to leave and businesses to leave. In fact, within my district, there is a municipal power company. It will create the loss of jobs as well. Within my district and many other districts in Ohio there are munici-

pal power companies, not investor owned, but owned by municipalities. And one such one has said that it will quadruple, quadruple the rates that their ratepayers pay. Quadruple. Now my mom and dad, who are on a fixed income, will see their electric go up. They will see their gas bills to heat their home go up. They will see their gasoline that they pay for in their 14-year-old car go up in cost. This will be a huge, huge tax increase on them not to even mention the goods and services that will go up, just the energy tax alone.

We on this side of the aisle believe that an all-of-the-above energy approach to solving our domestic energy needs should be debated rather than a cap-and-tax program that will devastate economies like Ohio's economy. It will be absolutely a killer to jobs in our State.

Now the other issue that you may hear about in the next week is spending, that my colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle are going to constrain spending. Well, here are the facts, the Congressional Budget Office facts. The blue has been the spending over the last 8 years. The red is the spending over the administration's budget. Clearly, we are going to see an incredible amount of new spending.

□ 1630

So the problem in Washington, D.C. is not a revenue problem. The problem in Washington D.C. is a spending problem. There is no such thing as a spending restraint.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, this is an eye-popping proposal, one that is going to have huge consequences to our economy, to our children, to our grandchildren, to our way of life. We must, we must put a stop to this proposal, and the only way we can do that is with the help of the American people because, quite frankly, this side of the aisle just doesn't have the votes. The other side of the aisle does, and we need the American people engaged in a proposal that will have a killer effect on our economy and one that will have a devastating effect on the future of our children and our children's children.

I yield back to the gentlelady from Minnesota.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman from Ohio's 12th district, PAT TIBERI. The remarks that he is making about the burdens that our children and grandchildren will bear are startling. I had a baby born to my husband and I back in 1987, and I did a study on what the Social Security tax would be on that baby, who is now 22 years old, when he gets to be in his peak earning years. Now, I know that Mr. TIBERI has triplets that were born this year. We are looking at the debt burden on my son, now 22. In his peak earning years, 25 percent of his income will have to be devoted just for the Social Security portion of his tax bill. It is simply unsustainable.

And our concern is that, under President Obama's budget, which clearly spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much, we are looking at a legacy cost that is simply unsustainable. The President is putting together an unbelievable \$3.9 trillion budget, trillion dollar, which, as Mr. TIBERI said, will double the debt limit for every man, woman and child in the United States. Double it. We are seeing these numbers go through the roof of the Capitol right now, like nothing we have ever seen. It is like a sugar high. It is as though the people who are putting together this budget in the Obama administration were all staying up late one night drinking 24-packs of 20-ounce Mountain Dews. They are on a sugar high right now. They can't spend enough of your money.

And the message that everyone needs to send to Washington, D.C. is, I can't afford it. My family can't afford it. My small business can't afford the Obama administration's spending habit.

We have this movie that is out now called Shopaholic. This is a shopaholic bill that we have got in front of us, and it is time to let the people know that those who are paying the bill, the American people, have enough debt. We don't need to take this on too.

Joining us now, from the great State of Texas, is someone, Mr. Speaker, that all Americans are familiar with. His name is TED POE. Congressman TED POE is a former judge. He understands that that's the way it is in the United States.

I yield now to Representative TED POE of Texas.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and her comments especially.

Mr. Speaker, we are discussing the proposed budget. And disregard whether it has some good projects in it or not. It breaks the back of the American citizen. And we hear a lot of numbers about how much it is costing and, of course, it does cost too much. But I will try to put it in perspective.

I have four kids, 7½ grandkids. Mr. TIBERI just had triplets. Mrs. BACHMANN's got a handful of kids. And when kids are born, every parent remembers that they are given an arm band, and the arm band usually says who that child is. My kids all had an arm band that said "Poe kid." They're going to have to change arm bands on my grandkids from Poe kids to just poor kid because every child born after this budget passes will have to pay off the debt to the tune of \$70,000 a piece. So when kids are born in America, if this budget passed, give them an arm band that says, you owe Uncle Sam \$70,000.

Mr. Speaker, that is disgraceful that we are saddling debt on kids yet to be born in this country. So much for freedom. They are going to be enslaved to the Federal Government to the tune of at least \$70,000 a piece. And that doesn't count all these other spending programs that we are seeing going to come down the pike later this year.

Maybe we should remember some of the things that Thomas Jefferson said. Of course he helped write, or he did write the Declaration of Independence. He wrote a lot while he was President. Here's a quote from Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Speaker. He said it in 1821, shortly before he died. He said, "There does not exist an engine so corruptive of the government and so demoralizing of the Nation as a public debt. It will bring on us more ruin at home than all the enemies from abroad." Wise Thomas Jefferson. Maybe we would do well to read some of the things that Thomas Jefferson wrote about saddling American taxpayers with public debt. It is worse than our foreign enemies we have got all over the world.

We cannot afford to pay for this budget because we don't have any money. We have spent it all. We have given it to, you know, these banks that can't fail, and all these other special interest groups. So we are broke. So we are going to have to borrow the money. And we are going to have to borrow the money from foreign countries. Number 1 on the list, the Chinese. You know, our good friends, the Chinese. We are going to borrow their money.

It was embarrassing to me, as a citizen, to see our Secretary of State go to China and beg to allow us to borrow money from them in the future. Even they are a little worried about whether we can pay off this great debt that we are incurring and putting on kids yet to be born. It is disgraceful, Mr. Speaker.

And the second thing is, if we can't borrow enough money, the government's answer is, we will just tax them. Tax them to death. You know, the old statement goes, if something moves, regulate it. If it keeps moving, tax it. And if it stops moving, then subsidize it. We are doing all of the above right now. Things that aren't doing any good for the economy, oh, we are subsidizing those. But we are taxing the American taxpayer to death, those that work for a living. And we are also taxing those small businesses.

I want to make one thing clear about jobs. We hear so much about the budget is going to create jobs. Jobs, jobs. Well, we have to define what a job is. There are government programs, and those are not jobs. A government program takes taxpayer money and gives it to different projects to build something. Now, that is not a job because that is subsidy by the American taxpayer to this entity.

Jobs are not created by government. Jobs are not created by government. Small businesses create most of the jobs in this country because, you see, when small business has money, we call that capital, thus the term capitalism. When they have money they hire people. The taxpayers don't have to subsidize that worker, whereas the taxpayers have to subsidize the government program worker.

So let's be clear about that. There are jobs, and then are real jobs. And so

we should do everything in our power to help small businesses, because they create 70 percent of the jobs in this country.

But this new budget, loaded down with borrowing, is also loaded down with taxes. And it taxes the producers of this country. Like I said, if something keeps moving we just tax it. And that is the plan.

And it seems to me, this is just my opinion, this whole philosophy that we are moving to in this country is a government-controlled culture, government-controlled society; kind of makes us look like the French socialist society, in my opinion. And I don't think that is what liberty is all about. So maybe we should go back to some basics.

Like most American taxpayers, they don't spend money they don't have. Maybe the government shouldn't spend money it doesn't have. Maybe we shouldn't be borrowing money because we have to pay the debt on it. And we are not going to live to see it, so we are passing that debt on to our kids yet to be born, to the tune of \$70,000 a piece. And that ought not to be.

But that's just the way it is.

I yield back my time.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear President Obama's \$3.9 trillion plan for the budget, for the American people clearly spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much for our kids and our grandkids.

There is a man that we respect and admire. He hails from West Chester, Ohio, the eighth district. He is the leader of the Republicans in the House, but more importantly, he is the leader on the issue of fiscal restraint for the American people.

He stood right down here in the well, Mr. Speaker, he held up so the American people could see what 1,100 pages of a bill looks like. He held those 1,100 pages and made the incredible statement that not one person in this chamber had a chance to read this bill before we were expected to vote on it. There was no true debate on this stimulus bill that was passed earlier this year, \$1.1 trillion. And now the President has a budget for \$3.9 trillion that spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much.

Leader JOHN BOEHNER stood on this House and demonstrated to the American people just how massive this is.

I yield now to our leader, a man that we respect and admire, from the eighth district of Ohio, leader JOHN BOEHNER.

Mr. BOEHNER. Let me thank my colleague for yielding, and thank the rest of my colleagues for participating in this discussion about the budget.

Before we get to the budget, you know, when I held those 1,100 pages up and indicated that no one had read the bill, it was pretty clear no one had because if someone had read the bill they would have realized there were 50 words in there that protected AIG executives, to make sure they were going

to get their bonuses; more proof that we ought to actually read what we pass here on the House floor.

The discussion, though, is about the budget. And I have seen a lot of things over the years that I have been in politics, whether it be a Township Trustee in West Chester, or in the State House, or the 18 years I have spent in Washington. But I have never seen a legislative document more audacious, more far reaching, and, frankly, more bizarre than the budget that has been submitted by President Obama, because it does spend too much. It is pretty clear, when you look at the giant increases in spending. But it is not just that it spends too much. It taxes too much. There are nearly \$2 trillion worth of new taxes that are imposed on the American people in that budget. Whether it is the national energy tax, for those who would drive a car, or those who would produce something with electricity, or someone who would flip on a light switch, every American is going to pay a higher tax.

But even with all the spending and the much higher taxes, look at what happens. Look at what happens to our debt. Even after \$2 trillion of new taxes, the national debt will double over the next 6 years under this proposal, more than what has happened in the 43 presidents that preceded President Obama over the last 220 years.

Now, there was a lot of criticism of President Bush, criticism of the Republicans, that we didn't have a big enough handle on spending. Frankly, I agree. We should have had a bigger handle on spending.

But having said that, over the next 6 years, President Obama's budget is going to make President Bush look like a penny pincher. And look at the debt. And what is going to happen here, with all of this debt that is piled on the backs of our kids and grandkids, means that in about 10 years, 70 cents of every tax dollar that comes to Washington is going to be used just to pay the interest on the national debt, just the interest. 70 cents of every dollar.

So what happens to our national defense? What happens to our Homeland Security? What happens to Medicare or Medicaid, Social Security and all of the other government programs that we have? There is not going to be any money for it, because all of the debt that is going to get built up, interest has to be paid on that debt and the fact is, it won't happen.

This budget, we need to start over. And I had a press conference earlier today where I suggested to the President, why don't we just start over? Why don't we sit down, as Democrats and Republicans, and build a budget that restores fiscal sanity and shows the American people we can work together for the good of our country.

We can't buy our way to prosperity. And that is what this budget seems to believe. And I would hope my colleagues would help each other understand the enormous debt that will be

piled up if we allow this budget to go into effect.

And I yield back.

□ 1645

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you to the gentleman from Ohio, Leader JOHN BOEHNER. We have tremendous respect for Leader BOEHNER and have great admiration for his courage in leading this effort in fiscal restraint. The American people are begging for fiscal restraint, and Leader BOEHNER has emphasized that to our caucus, and is leading that charge here in the United States House of Representatives.

Also joining us today, Mr. Speaker, is a brand new freshman also from the great State of Ohio, our third speaker from Ohio during this hour. Ohioans represent the heartland of our country. Hailing now from Ohio's Seventh District is Mr. STEVE AUSTRIA, who has a lot to say. He represents the Dayton-Columbus area, and he is going to be speaking to us now as a small businessman himself. I yield now to Mr. STEVE AUSTRIA from Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. AUSTRIA. I thank the gentlelady from Minnesota.

We are well represented here today here in Ohio in this Chamber. There is a lot going on in Ohio, and this budget directly affects us, and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak today.

Let me just say, as a new Member of this Congress and having served less than 100 days, we have been faced with tremendous challenges and issues before us. I will start out with the second half of the bailout of the financial markets, the TARP bill, which was \$700 billion that I felt did not have enough accountability and not enough transparency. The Treasury did not have a specific plan in place when we voted on that bill, and I had deep concerns with that, and I voted against that bill.

The second bill I was asked to vote on was the \$791 billion over 10 years, \$1.1 trillion stimulus bill that had a tremendous amount of government spending that I felt was not targeted toward where it should be, to small businesses, which are the economic engine of this country. Seventy percent of the businesses across this country are small businesses. We have 900,000 small businesses in the State of Ohio. Yet this plan did not focus on small businesses. It did little to nothing to help small businesses. It was focused on increasing government spending, which I felt was wrong.

We just heard the leader talk about what happens when you don't read a bill, when you don't have accountability, when you don't have transparency, when you don't have a plan. When you don't read a bill, all of a sudden, you run into what we ran into last week with AIG bonuses being paid out of hardworking taxpayers' dollars. Then there was a \$410 billion omnibus appropriations spending bill that had an 8 percent increase, or a \$32 billion increase, this year when we are asking Americans to tighten their belts and

small businesses to make sacrifices. There are almost 9,000 earmarks in it.

Now we are being faced with a \$3.6 trillion budget. I think the gentlelady has pointed out very well and right on target that the problem with this budget right now is that it contains too much spending, too much borrowing, which we have already seen in these other bills, but in addition, we are now talking about \$1.4 trillion of new taxes that are going to be put on Americans across this country.

There is a cap-and-trade, or what is being referred to as a cap-and-tax, on anything that uses carbon or CO₂. We are going back and are going to raise the estate tax. There is the raising of the capital gains tax, the removing of itemized deductions, the increasing of marginal rates. All of these tax increases concern me in this budget.

Let me tell you, as a former small business owner and as a father of three, I did not come to Congress to begin major spending, running up a deficit, running up debt like we are running up, passing on debt to my three children at home. That is not why I came to Congress. I came to Congress to turn this economy around and to really begin to save jobs, to create new jobs and to be able to sustain those jobs over the long term. I believe it is our small businesses that can do this. I can tell you, as a small business owner, when I look at this budget that we are faced with, I have deep concerns about what is facing me—new taxes, taxes and taxes.

I talked about the cap-and-trade—we have heard that, too—the increase of taxes on those who have incomes of over \$250,000 or more, on the so-called "wealthiest" Americans of the country. Many of those are small business owners. Over half of those are small business owners in this country. If I am a small business owner and I know I have these taxes coming at me in 2011, I doubt if I am going to be looking at investing in my business and in expanding my business and in taking a risk. I am going to be preparing for that new tax increase that is coming right at me, and I don't believe that is good for our economy. I don't believe that helps our small businesses.

Again, in Ohio, we have over 9,000 small businesses. Seven out of ten of all new jobs are created by small businesses. America's small businesses are the world's second largest economy, trailing only to the United States as a whole according to NFIB. According to a Zogby poll released last week, nearly two-thirds of Americans, 63 percent of Americans, said that it is small businesses and entrepreneurs that are going to lead this country, lead the U.S., to a better future. Well, you know, while we look at what is going on within this budget, it does not make sense what we are doing.

I had an opportunity on Monday to meet with many of our business folks at a luncheon that was sponsored by the U.S. Chamber. We had the rotary

there, and we had the local chambers there. I had a chance to talk with some of our small businesses about this budget and what we are facing, and they had deep concerns. I mean they are struggling right now. Americans are struggling right now. They are making sacrifices. Businesses are struggling to make it from paycheck to paycheck, payroll to payroll. They cannot get financing. They cannot get the credit necessary to keep their businesses moving forward. What are we going to do? We are going to go out and propose a budget that is going to increase spending, increase borrowing, run our debt up to \$3.9 trillion on the conservative side, and increase taxes by \$1.4 trillion on all Americans. I believe it is the wrong way to go. I think we can do better. I think the American people expect better and deserve better, and we can produce a better bill than what we have before us.

I thank the gentlelady. I yield back my time, and I thank her for the opportunity to speak today.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I think, Representative AUSTRIA, those are wise words, and thank you for sharing those with us this afternoon. I appreciate your work.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined now by a great gentleman and a longtime advocate for the people in his district, the Second District in Tennessee. He has been serving as a faithful Member of Congress for 21 years, Mr. JIMMY DUNCAN, who is a tremendous gentleman, serving the people of Knoxville and the surrounding community. I yield now to Mr. JIMMY DUNCAN of Tennessee.

Mr. DUNCAN. Well, Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

I first want to thank the gentlelady from Minnesota for giving me this time. She has been a real leader in this battle to try to restore some type of fiscal sanity to this government, and I can tell you this:

I represent a little over 700,000 people in East Tennessee. Fortune magazine said in 2000 that the Knoxville area had become the most popular place to move in the whole country based on the number moving in in relation to the fewest moving out. For many, many years now, we have had a tremendous movement in of people from all over the country and, in fact, of many from around the world. About half of the people I represent have moved from someplace else, so I have got a real cross-section of people from almost every State in this country. Over these last few weeks, I can tell you, from spending more time at home than I do up here, that people in East Tennessee think we have just gone almost crazy up here, throwing around trillions just almost in a meaningless, haphazard way.

The gentlelady from Minnesota showed this chart a while ago which says President Obama's budget spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much. No truer words, Mr. Speaker, were ever said on this floor.

The Congressional Quarterly just yesterday came out with a chart, showing that we are going to add \$1.840 trillion to our national debt just this year, and then we are going to add another one \$1.370 trillion next year and another \$970 billion the year after that. In 3-years' time, we are going to add over \$4 trillion to our national debt under the most optimistic scenario by the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office.

That comes on the heels of several weeks ago when this Congress—most of us in the Chamber right at the moment voted against it—voted to raise the national debt limit to \$12.104 trillion. That is an incomprehensible figure. Nobody can humanly comprehend that much, but we are going to hand over \$4 trillion to that. What it means, Mr. Speaker, is this:

In just a few years, we are not going to be able to pay all of our Social Security and veterans' pensions and all of the things that we have promised our own people. I used to say—and I have heard many people say in the last few weeks even—what we are doing to our children and grandchildren is terrible—and it is—but actually, I think now we are doing it to ourselves because I think that, in 10 or 15 years, if that long, we are not going to be able to pay all of these things we have promised our own people. So I think it is really sad what we are doing to the American people because we are spending too much, taxing too much and borrowing too much.

Joe Scarborough said on his national television program just this morning: We are like a doctor who has diagnosed diabetes in a patient but who has then prescribed a diet of cotton candy. He said: We are like somebody making \$100,000 a year who has suddenly gone out and bought ten \$1 million houses. He said repeatedly something that I have said many times over these last couple of months: We can't afford it. We are spending money that we do not have, and every place in this world and throughout history, when a government has gotten in the position that we are in, you either have staggering inflation or staggering deflation, and one is just about as bad as the other. I don't have a crystal ball to know which one we are headed into. My guess would probably be staggering inflation. What we are doing is reckless, and what we are doing is dangerous. We passed a stimulus bill, and it had some good things in it, but once again, we were spending money that we did not have.

The Washington Post, which favored the stimulus bill, had a front-page story in which they said it was going to mean a massive financial windfall—those are their words—for Federal agencies. Then they had another story a couple of days later in which they said tens of thousands of new jobs would be added on or new hires would be added on by Federal agencies. That is who is going to benefit from this

stimulus package—first Federal agencies, then State agencies. So bureaucrats all over the country are going to come out just fine, and maybe a little bit is going to trickle down to everybody else, but this is not who is hurting. This area is one of the wealthiest areas in the country, this Washington, D.C., northern Virginia, southern Maryland area. Yet they are going to receive a massive financial windfall according to The Washington Post.

On Lou Dobbs last week, he said 4 million jobs had been lost in the private sector in the last year alone. Four million jobs lost. Yet government payrolls had expanded by 151,000. Now, because of what we passed up here, government payrolls are going to expand once again.

There have been so many exaggerations over what is going to be done with this money. A couple of weeks ago, a daily newspaper in Montana reported that the two Montana Senators had put out a press release saying that 40 jobs were going to be created because of a \$1.3 million portion of the stimulus package. The paper went to that agency, and that agency said: No, we have already got almost full employment. We are going to add two people because of this, and the rest of it is going to be spent on the employees they already have. So I think a lot of people are going to be disappointed over some of this money that we are spending, and we are spending, as I said, money that we do not have.

Now, two of the Members from Ohio—my colleague Mr. TIBERI and the new Member, Mr. AUSTRIA—both mentioned coal and utility bills and things of that nature because it has such a great effect on their State. We have powerful people in this body who are attempting to cut way back and who are attempting, hopefully, to even eliminate coal in this country. Well, I can tell you this: Anybody who is supporting that is going to really hurt the poor and the lower income and the working people because coal provides over 50 percent of our energy in this country today. If we cut way back on coal, we are going to double or triple or quadruple our utility bills, and we are going to hurt a lot of poor and low-income people.

□ 1700

I have noticed throughout the years that most of the environmental radicals and environmental extremists in this country come from very wealthy or very upper income families, and perhaps they don't realize how much they hurt the poor and the lower income and the working people when they destroy jobs and drive up prices. But if they cut way back on coal, that's exactly what is going to happen.

Our leader, Mr. BOEHNER, mentioned another thing. He said that this bill—and we heard a presentation from the ranking member of the Budget Committee just this morning which said that the President's budget has \$1.9

trillion in tax increases in that budget. Jim Cramer, the famous stock man—he's on television every night, and he has been a six-figure contributor to the Democratic Party—he described the President's budget as the greatest wealth killer in history. And I will tell you, that is a pretty serious charge coming from that source: the greatest wealth killer in history.

And we just don't have enough people who understand—there is waste in the private sector but a business who continually wastes money cannot stay in business very long. But a government agency that wastes money, they use that as a justification for getting increased funding the next year.

So every dollar we can keep in the private sector is going to do more to create jobs and hold down prices because money in the private sector is spent so much more efficiently than this money that is turned over to government. Governor Edward Rendell, who is a former chairman of the Democratic Party, when he was mayor of Philadelphia, he testified before a Congressional committee and he said government does not work because it was not designed to. He said there is no incentive for people to work hard, so many do not. There is no incentive to save money, so much of it is squandered. That pretty much summed up the reason that money in the private sector is spent so much more efficiently than money turned over to the government. So every dollar we can keep in the private sector will do more to create jobs and hold down prices.

So we certainly don't need a budget that increases taxes by \$1.9 trillion. It has been proven all over the world that when you let government get too big, what you do is you create this elite class at the top, you wipe out the middle class, and you create this huge starvation, or underclass, and certainly we have all traditionally in this country had the biggest middle class in the world because we kept our government—it has been very difficult, but throughout history we have kept our government one of the smallest in proportion to the GDP in this Nation.

I know there are some other people who want to speak. So once again, I want to thank the gentlelady from Minnesota for her hard work and her leadership in regard to the fiscal condition of this government. We need more people like her in the Congress, and it is an honor to serve with her, and I thank her for giving me her time today.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I want to thank Mr. DUNCAN for standing strong for restraint. When you have got donors to the other party who are standing up and saying this is a wealth killer, that is a wake-up call. As a matter of fact, we just had one of the former commerce secretary appointees, Senator JUDD GREGG, say of this budget that it clearly spends too much, taxes too much, borrows too much from our kids and grandkids. He said himself that

this spending bill will bankrupt America. It will bankrupt our country.

And it caused me to think—I was writing some notes down. I was thinking about the very first Congress. We are the 111th Congress. And I was thinking back to the very first Congress and the founders of our Nation. And I was thinking that they are here in this Chamber, symbolically, and we, as Members of Congress—Mr. DUNCAN who served for 21 years; myself, this is my third year—I think of the first Members of Congress who are here as we symbolically stand on their shoulders and observe their example from the rear-view mirror of history.

And I think about these founders who wrote our Nation's Declaration of Independence to get away from a mother country who abused its taxing authority against the American colonists who then went on to write our great Constitution which was clear as to the limits on government authority. That was the greatest fear that the Founders had was a government that would be tyrannical and reach too far in the pockets and in the freedom of the American people.

The very same day that our founders, the first Congress, passed that Constitution, known across the world, they also passed the 10 amendments to that Constitution. And those amendments were written for one reason. It wasn't to limit the freedom and the power of the American people as individuals, it was written to limit the power of the Federal Government over the individual. And the 10th Amendment, the last of those 10, reserved to the States all power not expressly given to the Federal Government in the Constitution.

This spending bill that President Obama is putting forward to the 111th Congress would shock the founders of our Nation. I believe it would shock them because they might say that they bled and died and sacrificed their fortune and their sacred honor so that what? So that we could selfishly consume material wealth sufficient to bankrupt our Nation? That hardly seems what America is about or what America was founded upon.

Well, Mr. Speaker, joining us now is Dr. PAUL BROUN. He is a great patriot hailing from the State of Georgia. I appreciate Dr. BROUN. He represents Athens, Augusta, and northeast Georgia hailing from the Tenth Congressional District.

I yield now to a great physician, a great friend, a great patriot, Dr. PAUL BROUN.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Promises made, promises broken. This administration has made many, many promises to the American public and has broken promise after promise after promise.

We were promised that wasteful spending would decrease and be eliminated. But what do we see? We see a huge increase in the size of the Federal

Government. We have been promised that those wasteful programs of the Federal Government would be cut and eliminated. What do we see? We see a bigger growth of the Federal Government, and we see more wasteful spending and a huge increase in the size of the Federal Government.

We were promised that any bill that has earmarks in it would be vetoed. Well, the omnibus bill—I call it the ominous omnibus bill—was nothing but earmarks. The whole bill was nothing but paybacks to the folks who elected the leadership here in Washington today, and that promise has been broken.

And now we have a budget. Leader BOEHNER was here just a few minutes ago and spoke about the increase of the Federal debt. And I want to make it clear something that he said that is very important to the American people, should be important to the American people. The deficit spending, the debt that has been created with this budget alone, is greater than all presidencies combined. Every one of them combined. This one budget is greater than all of those. We can't continue down this road.

This budget bill is a steamroll of socialism that has been shoved down the throats of the American public. It is going to strangle the American economy. It is going to choke the American people economically.

We have been promised that 95 percent of Americans were going to get a tax cut. We saw that in this recent stimulus bill where the tax cut is \$1.10 per day. That's it, \$1.10 per day. I'm a physician, and I don't believe in smoking. I think everybody should quit. But you can't even buy a pack of cigarettes for that amount of money.

And not only that, but this cap-and-tax issue that's being proposed in this budget is going to tax every single American family by over \$3,100 per family. Let me repeat that. Every single family is going to pay an increase in their cost of living by \$3,100 per family. We can't afford that. It is going to hurt the poorest of people in this country. It is going to hurt our seniors who are living on a fixed income. It is going to hurt small business because of this class envy and class warfare that's being proposed by this administration.

We have seen promise after promise broken by this administration. And not only that, we are creating a debt for our future generations so that their standard of living is going to be much less, much lower than ours today.

As Mr. DUNCAN was talking about, we are either going to have hyperinflation or deflation. I think we're fixing to head for hyperinflation. We have seen in the past that gross deficit spending by governments has created hyperinflation to the point that people almost literally had to have a wheelbarrow to take the currency to the grocery store to buy one loaf of bread. That's where we're heading today. Warren Buffet just 2 weeks ago said that we're off the cliff.

I think we're headed towards a marked prolongation of this recession, a deepening of this recession, and very probably a severe depression.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, when he was spending taxpayers' dollars like a drunken sailor, did nothing but prolong that Depression. That's exactly what this philosophy that's being promoted here in this House and in the Senate across the way and by this administration is going to do.

In fact, the only thing that got us out of the Great Depression was the creation of a manufacturing entity in America to supply the needs for World War II. Are we going to need a world war to get us out of this depression that we're headed towards? I hope not.

But this deficit spending is totally irresponsible. It is unconscionable that we would have this kind of philosophy promoted in this Congress. It is going to hurt the people who can stand to be hurt the least, and that's the poor people, the retirees, those on fixed incomes.

This cap-and-tax policy is going to raise the price of all goods and services: medicines at the drug store, which is going to hurt our elderly; it is going to raise the price of groceries at the grocery store for everybody, and that's going to hurt all of us.

We cannot continue down this road. We have to put a stop to it. The steamroller of socialism that's being shoved down the throats of the American public that's being driven by NANCY PELOSI, HARRY REID and Barack Obama, it needs to hit a speed bump. It needs to hit a stop sign. And the only people in America that could put up that stop sign, that speed bump up is the American public to cry out, No, we're not going to put up with this. We want bipartisanship. We want Republicans and Democrats to come together and solve the problem.

And small businesses are going to be hurt markedly by the tax increases, and that's going to cost jobs. We're not creating jobs.

We have been promised by this administration that we were going to invest in our infrastructure. Well, the stimulus bill had only a minuscule amount of the—this huge deficit spending geared towards infrastructure which would, at least, create some jobs in the private sector.

But where are the jobs being created by bigger government? Bigger socialism. Taking our freedom away, taking our money away, taking our future away and taking our children and our grandchildren's future away. Because this budget spends too much. It taxes too much. It borrows too much. And we've got to put an end to it. It is up to the American people to cry out to Members of Congress to say, No, absolutely no. We're going to stop this.

So I encourage people to contact their congressman, contact their senator and say "no" to this budget.

And I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. PAUL BROUN. I have such great respect for Dr. BROUN. I appreciate his words. He's made the hue and cry that the American people need to know that this budget is historic by any measure. We would agree. The Obama presidency is historic, Mr. President. It is historic in the amount of debt that will be accumulated.

Leader BOEHNER stood on this floor just a few moments ago and stated that the debt in this country will double in just 6 years. It spends more than all the previous Presidents put together. And Leader BOEHNER said this: He said that when a dollar flows in to the Federal Government, 70 cents of that dollar will be needed just to pay for interest.

This is absolutely unsustainable. Pretty soon we will have currency equal to Zimbabwe's if we continue down this road because of currency devaluation. This is what we're seeing. We're looking at essentially a doubling of the debt under what the Obama administration wants to put together. But what we hear over and over again from the Obama administration, they say this is a debt that we inherited. Is it really? We need to look at the facts.

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The facts tell us something different. January of 2007 is when Congress was run by the Democrat majority. Republicans ran it up until 2007 January. At that point, both the House and the Senate took over and were run by the Democrats. At that point, we saw the Federal deficit begin to rise and skyrocket. Discretionary spending was rising and then skyrocketing, and mandatory spending was rising and skyrocketing. We had the stimulus bill that was passed, an over \$152 billion.

Speaker of the House PELOSI, Majority Leader REID and Senator Obama all voted "yes" for every one of these spending measures that has gotten us into the place we're in. Did they inherit this mess or did they help create this mess? The American people need to decide.

We have been down this road before. As a matter of fact, President Roosevelt's Treasury Secretary said it best when he said, "We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work. I say after 8 years of the administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started and an enormous debt to boot!"

Mr. Speaker, we've been down this road before. We've all heard the saying that, if you don't learn from history, you are doomed to repeat it. Unfortunately, the Obama administration appears to making that same mistake.

Now, to speak to the American people is great man, a wonderful physician, a man I'm just getting to know. His name is Dr. JOHN FLEMING. He's serving the people of Louisiana's Fourth District from the big city of

Minden, Louisiana. He's a freshman, and Dr. JOHN FLEMING has been a physician for 32 years and also a small business owner.

And I yield, Mr. Speaker, to Dr. FLEMING.

Mr. FLEMING. Well, I want to thank the gentlelady from Minnesota. Thank you for your work and leadership, particularly in this area. And by the way, I love watching you speak because I think I can learn a lot of tips from you. So I do appreciate that.

I also want to reflect on my colleague from Georgia that just spoke, a physician, who made a lot of good comments about the tilt that we have right now going towards socialism, certainly liberal socialism at the very least.

You know, it's true, Mr. Speaker, that we've spent in this bill and prior bills over the last 2 months, it's evident that our government is spending too much, taxing too much, and borrowing way too much. Remember, that the Congress just passed a \$787 billion stimulus package, \$410 billion omnibus appropriations bill loaded with over 9,000 earmarks, and remember, our President promised that he would not support earmarks. Now the administration has unveiled a \$3.6 trillion Federal spending plan, a spending plan that the nonpartisan CBO, Congressional Budget Office, has now determined will produce \$2.3 trillion of more red ink than the President initially predicted.

I want to turn the camera and the people across America to this picture here and explain really what it is. These are kids in Germany in 1923, and they're stacking what looks like bricks. What they are, in fact, stacking is their currency. That's Deutsche notes right there, and in 1923, the value of the currency in Germany as a result of cranking out money, cranking out money, printing paper to pay back war reparations they couldn't pay back, it made the currency so dilute that it took a wheelbarrow, literally a wheelbarrow of cash just to buy a loaf of bread. That's just how bad inflation can be, and we all know the end of that story. It ended up into Nazi Germany.

I also bring your attention to this. This is, believe it or not, a \$10 billion bill. It can be found in Zimbabwe, the same problem, trying to solve their fiscal problems by printing more money. And if you keep printing more, you get a situation like this where a \$10 billion bill is required to buy an egg. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's what this bill will buy. However, that's only a few weeks ago. Today, they have something—in my hand, you can see a \$100 trillion bill, believe it or not. And what is it worth? The same value as confetti.

Now, we might think, well, these kind of tragedies cannot happen to us in America. Well, is that true? Just today, the Chinese announced that they do not like our dollar. They feel like that even though they're one of our largest debtors, they no longer trust us in our debt.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from

New Jersey's Seventh, Mr. LEONARD LANCE.

Mr. LANCE. Thank you very much, and thank you for taking the lead on this extremely important issue.

Overspending and over-taxation are terrible factors in the American economy today, but from my perspective the worst factor is levels of debt, and I think that this is, in effect, generational theft.

The Congressional Budget Office, in calculating the proposals of the Obama administration, indicate that spending will hit about 28.5 percent of GDP during fiscal year 2009, and this is a record amount. CBO also estimates that next year spending will be 25.5 percent and at 23 and 24 percent over the course of the next decade.

As someone who tries to be a student of American history, over the last 40 years, the level of debt has been roughly 20 percent, and this is an historic average. And yet over the course of next several years we increase this dramatically. Let me repeat the figures: 28.5 percent in this fiscal year, and similar amounts in the next 2 fiscal years.

I believe that this spending is too great, and I hope that the administration will review its budget and working in a bipartisan capacity to bring this amount down.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 146, OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. POLIS (during the special order of Mrs. BACHMANN), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-51) on the resolution (H. Res. 280) providing for consideration of the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 146) to establish a battlefield acquisition grant program for the acquisition and protection of nationally significant battlefields and associated sites of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1404, FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. POLIS (during the special order of Mrs. BACHMANN), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-52) on the resolution (H. Res. 281) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes, which

was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I don't come to the House floor very often to speak. In fact, last year I addressed this body only a handful of times. I think that I am much more effective in representing my constituents by developing relationships in a personal setting rather than arguing my viewpoint on the House floor. But today marks a special time of year.

Mr. Speaker, the month of March is colon cancer awareness month. I think that it's only fitting that the month of March, a month where Congress has the most legislative work days, is devoted to an illness that is often relegated to the back burner of cancer awareness. Obviously, colon cancer is not an issue that garners a lot of headlines, but colon cancer has had a dramatic effect on my life, as it has millions of Americans.

I bring a picture of my mom up. Eleven years ago, my mom died of colon cancer. She was a vibrant woman. She was filled with joy. She was filled with optimism. This horrendous disease took her from Earth far too early. Because of colon cancer, she never had the opportunity to hold her granddaughter. She never had the opportunity to attend my wedding and see me marry my beautiful wife, Andrea. It's a tragedy that has forever left a void in my life.

You know, she was like so many mothers. She was always so proud of her son. She was always pushing me. She always cared about my grades. She always cared about how I did in school. And I was probably not the best student but she kept after me. She kept telling me how smart I was, and she kept pushing me.

The last memory I have of my mother is in a hospital room dying from this disease. She didn't get to see me become a Congressman. And like all Americans who have felt the pain and fear that comes with losing a loved one to cancer, I wouldn't wish that grief on anyone.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that I am not alone. This disease kills tens of thousands of Americans every year. It is the third most diagnosed cancer and one of the leading causes of cancer death in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates that 150,000 Americans will be diagnosed with colon cancer in 2009, and out of that 150,000 citizens, over 50,000 of them will die from it.

What is so shocking about these deaths is the vast majority of them could have easily been prevented with

a simple routine screening called a colonoscopy. That is 50,000 moms and dads and sons and daughters that could still be enjoying the great gift of life if they would have just taken the time to get a routine colonoscopy by their 50th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, a colonoscopy takes under 1 hour to complete, and the results you receive will literally save your life. The American Cancer Society estimates that if detected early, 90 percent of all colon cancer deaths could be prevented.

Now, just, if you will, take a look at this board here. Look at the stages. Now, the stage where my mom was diagnosed is stage IV. There's about an 11 percent survivability rate and at stage I, 90 percent, and despite the effectiveness of this colonoscopy that can figure this out, only 50 percent of Americans use this procedure.

I think that's a very shocking statistic. Compare that prevention rate with breast cancer, where over 80 percent of women get a routine mammogram, and you can see why I work so hard to spread the word on preventing this disease.

But there is some outstanding news. The outstanding news is that there is hope ahead in fighting this killer. The Centers for Disease Control, along with groups like the American Cancer Society and the Colorectal Cancer Coalition, have taken it upon themselves to raise awareness about this disease.

Specifically, the American Cancer Society has launched a campaign to push the number of Americans who get screened for colon cancer from 50 percent to 75 percent by the year 2015. It's a lofty goal, but it's a goal that's worthwhile. In fact, a few of my colleagues have introduced important legislation aimed at reaching this mile marker.

One particular piece of legislation that I hope will receive strong consideration in the House Energy and Commerce Committee is my legislation, H.R. 1330, the Colon Cancer Screening and Detection Act of 2009. My legislation is pretty simple. Just like a mammogram, my bill would require every health insurance plan in America, both group and individual, to cover a preventive colonoscopy before the deductible. This legislation is very badly needed.

One of the top reasons many Americans do not get screened is the cost. The average cost of a typical colonoscopy is over \$1,000. That wouldn't be a concern to many citizens who are currently covered under a private health insurance plan, but most health insurance plans have deductibles exceeding \$1,000, or worse, they have a restrictive cap on preventive care, sometimes as low as \$250, and that's the issue.

We have thousands of Americans who are covered by insurance plans that pay little to none of the costs associated with a colonoscopy, so they never get one. It's a shame. We live in the