Treasury. That wasn’t the problem. The problem was that we were deficit spending. And that’s a large reason why the Democrats won the majority in November of 2006, to cut out deficit spending.

So, after hearing my friends across the aisle last night talking about how bad deficit spending was, I went back, and as I thought about it last night, it could mean only one thing. Our Democratic colleagues, including the majority leader that spoke so eloquently last night here, are going to vote with us against this deficit monstrosity because parents, most parents, would do anything to make the life of their children better. But not here in Congress. We’ve got a bill that is going to allow us to live better at the expense of our children, and we should not do this to future generations if we care.

IT’S CRITICAL THAT CONGRESS ACT QUICKLY AND RESPONSIBLY

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, with employment hitting unprecedented highs, it is critical that Congress act quickly and responsibly to turn the economy around. Unfortunately, many of my Democratic colleagues continue to play partisan politics with our children’s and our grandchildren’s future. Apparently the backers of the stimulus bill believe that any government spending can be justified as an economic stimulus. The result in both this Chamber and the Senate is a bill larded with spending on Democratic policy priorities that will not impact the economy for years, if at all.

Republicans have put forth a real solution, one that provides targeted tax relief to hardworking Americans, and provides economic relief to allow businesses to invest in themselves and rebuild our economy.

As the President has said, the decisions we make now will have long-term consequences on our future and future generations. At the very least, we owe those future generations a thoughtful debate and objective economic justifications for our actions.

PEOPLE ARE WORRIED BACK HOME

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, last weekend I was home, and folks back home are worried. They’re worried about what this Congress is doing. They’re worried about their futures, they’re worried about their kids, they’re worried about their jobs.

One of the things when I was talking to a lot of the folks at home over the weekend was, first of all, they said what happened to that $700 billion that you all passed last year for the financial bailout? And they’re worried about what’s going to be going on right now with this $838 billion that we’ve seen come out of the Senate. And, of course, that’s not the correct figure because after you figure in your interest, you’re over $1 trillion.

And when you talk about that $1 trillion, you know right now we owe $3 trillion to foreign governments, with as of 2 months ago the Chinese owning $622 billion of our debt. We watch this keep rising and rising and the people want to know what’s the future going to be for them; where are the jobs going to be.

Well, the Republicans have offered a plan, especially one in which Ohio, under our plan, would create 246,000 jobs, compared to the 142,000 jobs offered under the current stimulus package.

I think that this Congress should examine what this Congress should be doing, making sure that we spend our dollars wisely.

WHERE WERE THE MEDIA . . . ?

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, sometimes media bias is most evident by the news that reporters choose not to cover.

For example, where were the media when the Congressional Budget Office announced last week that the economic stimulus package would reduce the long-term potential output of the economy? Almost every national media outlet ignored the CBO’s negative report.

Where were the media when the White House announced last week that it would seize oversight of the Census Bureau and, thus, be able to politicize the nonpartisan census?

Where were the media when President Obama decided that an internal investigation by his own attorney was sufficient to clear his staff of any inappropriate dealings with the former Governor of Illinois?

Madam Speaker, can you imagine what the media would have done if a Republican President were involved?

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

WASHINGTON, DC, February 9, 2009.

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, This letter is to inform you that I will be taking a leave of absence from my position on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs (HCFA); however, I reserve my right to retain my seniority on HCFA during my service on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Shaun Chandler, with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully yours,

ADAM SMITH,
Member of Congress.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 1, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I move to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and state and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS). All time yielded during consideration of the motion is for debate only.

Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I think the need for this action is obvious. The country is in trouble economically. We need to put an economic recovery package in place just as soon as possible. Going to conference is the next step to making that happen, and I would urge support for the motion.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

It was less than 2 weeks ago that we debated the House version of the economic stimulus package. When we began this process, I was hopeful that the House and the Senate would heed the President’s call for bipartisanship. Madam Speaker, clearly, that has not occurred.

The House and Senate have now cleared their respective versions of the same legislation. To date, eleven Democrats have opposed the stimulus package in the House, and only three Republicans—that is three Republicans—have supported it in the Senate.

The manner in which this package was developed is the clearest demonstration to date that, while the President expresses his sincere interest in bipartisan collaboration, his own leadership in the House stubbornly clings to a top-down approach to governing. That top-down approach to governing that has dominated our politics
in the House these last 2 years is the single greatest impediment to bipartisanship and is the greatest threat to this institution that most of us love so much.

I am absolutely convinced that, given the way in which the chairmen and ranking members of each of the twelve appropriations subcommittees could have and would have worked together responsibly to develop a bipartisan piece of legislation that would stimulate the economy and would create millions of American jobs. Given the opportunity, Republicans and Democrats would have produced a package that would have garnered the support of the House majority on both sides of the aisle. That, however, did not occur with this package.

The chairmen and ranking members of our Appropriations subcommittees were never given an opportunity to work in such a fashion. Not only were subcommittee chairmen and ranking members not working together, but the majority staff of the Appropriations Committee was instructed on more than one occasion not to engage or to share information with their minority counterparts. Think about that, Speaker. At the subcommittee level, we have very fine staff, very fine members who spend time concentrating in areas of expertise, and they were told by the top of the committee, “do not communicate at the subcommittee level with the subcommittee,” cutting off any sensible form or chance for compromise. 

Bipartisanship is a pragmatic and constructive willingness on the part of both parties to engage in a beneficial give-and-take on various areas of disagreement to form consensus. Given this definition and approach are the manner in which critical legislation is now written, bipartisanship in this House really is no longer possible. It certainly does not even appear to be desired by the leadership.

I have said publicly and sincerely on several occasions that I want to see our President be successful. The urgency of the present economic situation demands that we work together in a constructive fashion, but that cannot occur when decisions are made solely by a handful of powerful leaders while the voices of other Members, who have much to contribute, are routinely dismissed. Given the opportunity, Republicans and Democrats would have produced a package that would have garnered the support of the House majority on both sides of the aisle. That, however, did not occur with this package.

Mr. OBEY. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, before we continue with a stimulus policy that has consistently failed to stimulate anything other than the government, I think the supporters of this program need to answer some very simple questions.

For example, the President, himself, told us yesterday that this $800 billion of new spending is going to produce 4 million new jobs. Well, that’s great until you pull out a pocket calculator and realize that that comes to $200,000 per job.

Question: Why don’t we just send those 4 million lucky families a check for $200,000? That will certainly do more to stimulate the economy.

The President, himself, told audiences this weekend that the spending bill would produce a renaissance of historic, road, and bridge construction. This is constructing on more than one occasion not to communicate at the subcommittee level with the subcommittee,” cutting off any sensible form or chance for compromise. 

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Mr. OBEY. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a meaningful solution to the economic challenges facing our Nation. The House Republican economic recovery plan, for example, would have created 6.2 million new jobs, and would have provided critical tax breaks for the small businesses that are the engine of our economy.

Unfortunately, today the Senate passed a borrow-and-spend bill that is full of wasteful spending and fails to provide the immediate relief the American people demand.
According to Rasmussen Reports, 62 percent of Americans want more tax cuts and less government spending in an economic stimulus plan. Yet only one-third of the Senate’s bill focuses on that much-needed tax relief.

Madam Speaker, I’ve been contacted by hundreds and hundreds of Minnesotans who understand the need for meaningful relief. These men and women are frustrated with ineffective legislation that favors the creation of new government programs over new jobs—and saddles our children and grandchildren with more debt and bigger government.

One of these Minnesotans owns a trucking company. And he reported that he’s had the worst quarter and the worst months in the history of his company, which is a second-generation company. They’re having to lay off truckers. It’s hard times. He does not support the Senate stimulus package.

One of those Minnesotans is another employer, a small businessman, had over 150 employees. They’ve had no new orders for systems since this summer. They, too, were having to lay off employees.

We understand that there are people hurting, but neither of these Minnesotans favors this non-stimulus plan.

Madam Speaker, let’s listen to these American people. Let’s listen to the Minnesotans. They deserve a stimulus that works.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 2 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I can’t tell you how it warms my heart to hear the former chairman say he was pleased to yield me time. I appreciate that.

But one thing that isn’t pleasing is this so-called stimulus bill. It’s an abomination. We should not be doing this to future generations. I’ve got two pairs of words for you: One pair of words, tax holiday; another pair of words, American energy.

Our President went from promising all of these millions of jobs, three million, I believe, initially through this stimulus package to now saying we’re going to create or save four million jobs. Why would we add “save”? Because there is no way to document saved jobs. So whatever happens, “Well, we lost four million jobs, but gee, we saved four million in the process.” I guess that’s what will be said at the end of it.

The problem is this is not going to stimulate the economy when over half of it, 60 percent of it, is not going to be spent for a couple of years or so.

The economy needs help now, and we need to do it without devastating our children and grandchildren. I used to sentence people for doing unconscionable things to their children or to children, and here now I’m a part of a body who wants to live better by taxing and hammering future generations. That’s not right, and it’s not virtuous. There is nothing noble in loading down our future generations with this kind of debt.

And, in fact, my Democrat colleagues got in the majority by talking in 2005 and 2006 about the deficit spending, and they were right then. We shouldn’t be doing it. Tax cuts got us record revenue in the Treasury; deficit spending got us into trouble. The immorality of people wanting it for themselves was just too much.

It is time to get back to morality and not loading up future generations, not making our children suffer for the sins of our parents. I see there’s any more by being immoral in the way we throw money. Let’s do this the right way.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker. I am pleased to recognize a member of the committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FREling-HuyseN), for 3 minutes.

Mr. FREling-HuyseN. Madam Speaker, I strongly support an economic stimulus bill that will produce jobs that actually put people to work, especially in the private sector. H.R. 1 does not do that.

The notion that we need to expand State and Federal public employee rolls with a massive dollar increase in existing and entirely new domestic programs is not what my constituents back home want. My constituents are losing their jobs on Main Street and on Wall Street. The value of their homes has been reduced. Some teeter on the brink of forfeiture. Families’ savings and investment accounts have been savaged.

And in this context, the House leadership proposes a bill that guarantees a burst of State and Federal hiring: bureaucracies that will undoubtedly handcuff small businesses with more rules and more regulation.

What’s wrong with this picture?

As an illustration of what’s wrong with the bill, let’s look at the energy and water portfolio. Frankly, more funding has been proposed in H.R. 1 than could be possibly spent intelligently and effectively.

Under the bill, the budget for the Department of Energy grants and loans explodes to $30 billion. This sum alone is greater than the entire budget for the whole Department of Energy last year. Instead of being our premier R&D agency, DOE will become a grants-manager for tens of billions of borrowed money, much of it spent in expanding the Federal workforce. And what’s left will expand State government: money owed to people who actually work with their hands, actually make things more efficiently, and advance technology.

This is all a recipe for more dysfunction for government acquisition systems that can’t handle their own workloads today. Are the State governments prepared? Their manpower is down, and those who might provide oversight and accountability are walking the unemployment lines as we speak.

My colleagues, remember Katrina: Poor planning, shoddy execution, non-competitive contract awards, abuse of
Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 29 1⁄2 minutes remaining; the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 29 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

I’ve heard from my constituents in New Jersey. They want a stimulus package, but they don’t want this one.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, could I inquire about the time remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) has 12 minutes remaining; the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. Obezy) has 29 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Westmoreland).

And I want to just say, you know, as I spent time at home this weekend, I would say 38 percent of those people were talking about how we are spending people’s money in favor of this stimulus bill. Evidently those 38 percent don’t understand that this is a government-expansion spending bill and not really a stimulus bill. But I don’t know who the 38 percent of those people were because everybody I talked to in my district was upset that we were trying to create new government spending programs and claim it to be a stimulus.

There are 20 new programs in this stimulus bill that have never been in the government before, 20 new programs. There needs to be some programs that we find that are inefficient. I can’t believe that every program in our government is working to where it serves the citizens.

But let me say this: The things that we are spending money on, such as car credits—a lot of people say, “Good. Car credits are great,” but they’re for two-wheel, three-wheel electric plug-ins; not for the cars that are sitting on these lots today that these dealers need to get rid of.

So we need to look at what the Republican plan did and actually give people money to keep in their own pockets. They wouldn’t even have to give it. They could just keep it from what they’re paying right now in their Federal taxes. This is a way to stimulate the economy. Spending other people’s money does not stimulate. Spending other people’s money does not stimulate. We are spending people’s money that are the taxpayers. They need to spend that money. We’re borrowing money from foreign countries to be able to do this. We’re printing money at a very rapid rate.

What we need to be doing, Madam Speaker, is looking at ways to create the jobs that the average person that’s standing in the unemployment line can have right now, not create more government and create more government jobs, but create more jobs in the private sector.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHRNER).

Mr. BOEHRNER. Madam Speaker, let me thank my colleague from California for yielding.

Today, earlier, President Obama held a town hall meeting in Fort Meyer, Florida. He discussed the need to create more jobs for Florida families and families across our country. This has been one of our shared goals since the outset of this process. A lot’s that’s why House Republicans have crafted a plan that creates the most jobs in the shortest period of time. In fact, our plan would create 141,000 more jobs for Florida families than the package that’s under consideration.

And overall, it would create twice as many jobs, 6.2 million jobs in all, at half of the price of the bill that’s moving through Congress.

And don’t just take my word for it. This is based on the methodology used by President Obama’s own nominee as chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, Dr. Christina Romer.

How? How do we create all of these jobs? We encourage investment and create jobs by letting families, small businesses, home buyers and job seekers keep more of what they earn. Unfortunately, the House and Senate bills take us in a different direction.

We already know that they rely on slow-moving, wasteful spending here in Washington, but there’s more.

The plan that’s currently on the table tries to take advantage of the crisis in our economy to enact a series of liberal policies that have nothing to do with economic recovery. It discourages Americans from working, loosens welfare reform’s work requirements, and encourages more Americans to become dependent on government programs. And a proposal called Comparative Effectiveness, it aims to put the Federal Government in charge of some of the most important life and death decisions that families face.

The bill is supposed to be about creating jobs, not about reversing welfare reform or letting government ration out America's health care options.

There is still time for both parties to work together to craft a bill that puts job creation first and foremost. But I think it’s up to the majority to help make that happen.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Burgess).

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would just urge my colleagues to take a second look before committing this bill to conference.

We’re making some fundamental changes in the way health care is administered in this country as a result of this bill, which has nothing to do with jobs. And I want to just say, you know, as I was speaking, I was speaking to the 38 percent of those people who believe in but really has no place in a government-expansion spending bill, the American people in favor of this stimulus bill. Evidently those 38 percent don’t understand that this is a stimulus bill. Evidently those 38 percent don’t understand that this is a stimulus bill.

Certainly the funding cliffs that are present in the funding for Medicaid and COBRA—COBRA extending medical benefits for 12 months, Medicaid an additional 18 months—but what happens at the end of that 12- or 18-month interval? Do those individuals just fall off a cliff or will Congress have to come back with yet more money?

Already we’re talking about an $800 billion bill. We don’t include in that the cost of capital. If we were honest about this bill and included the cost of capital and the cost of funding past the funding cliffs, this, in reality, would be a $3 trillion product.

And, Madam Speaker, I spent an hour today down at the Bureau of Debt and watched $32 billion be auctioned off shortly before one o’clock today. That was the third time today that they’ve had an auction down there. This is an incredible amount of paper that we’re selling on the worldwide market, and you have to wonder how long the market can sustain that.

And perhaps just as pernicious, we heard the minority leader mention the comparative effect of this statute, the health information technology statute, the health technology statute, something that I support, that I believe in but really has no place in a stimulus bill. Look at the power we’re giving to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology that provides medical decisions, sets the time and place of care. We’re devolving an enormous amount of power to an individual minister in this country as a result of this bill, and we’re devolving an enormous amount of power to an individual minister in this country as a result of this bill, and we’re devolving an enormous amount of power to an individual minister in this country as a result of this bill.

We’re politicizing health care in this country in a way that’s never been.
done before, and we at least ought to be honest with the American people about what we’re doing and not do it under the cover of night.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) 2 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I stand in opposition to H.R. 1, and I can stand here and talk about specific line items in the bill that were first presented to us in the House, not a whole lot different from what’s coming over from the Senate, but the bottom line is that we on this side of the aisle have an alternative that would do a whole lot better, and I don’t think I can say it any better than comparing my own State of Georgia.

The Republican alternative would create 186,000 jobs in the State of Georgia. This bill would create 113,000. That’s a difference of 73,000 jobs, and we did not do it. Speaker, we did not do it, with much less spending, in fact less than half of the spending that’s in this current bill. And we do it by making sure that the tax cuts are directed towards small businesses and -women and, of course, preserve the capital gains and the tax on dividends.

So we get money in the hands of the people immediately, 5 percent cut in taxes across-the-board, every marginal rate, and last but not least, Madam Speaker, 1 percent across the board, with the exception, of course, of national defense.

I’ve heard President Obama and others say, you know, we need to do something right now, don’t just stand there, do something. But this clearly is a time that we need to take a deep breath and make sure that we do the right thing because the downside risk of adding $1.2 trillion worth of debt to a 10.7 current debt, I don’t know how our grandchildren are going to ever pay for this, and the chances of it being successful are slim and none in my opinion.

I’m opposed to it. I think we can do better.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker. I’m proud to yield 2 minutes to Mr. COLE from Oklahoma, a member of the committee.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak against going to conference on the stimulus bill, H.R. 1. However, I’m also rising in support of keeping the conference open.

The time has come to expose this legislation for what it is, a grab bag of special interest projects that will do little in the way of stimulating the economy and will significantly increase our deficit, literally risking our bond rating and triggering future tax increases.

Never in the history of our country has so much money been spent in so little time with, frankly, so little oversight.

As a new member of the Appropriations Committee, a gentleman asked me, well, what’s it like? I said, I don’t know. I showed up to one meeting. We spent $358 billion in about 3 hours. It was an open process. There was full debate. In my opinion, the package has not been bipartisan in nature. It’s not been developed through negotiation and discussion.

Madam Speaker, I trust the President when he says that this should be a bipartisan package, and frankly, I wish the Democratic leadership in the House had seen fit to make it so. But a bipartisan package generally requires the two sides to sit down and negotiate, and in my opinion, the package legislation usually requires that some Members on each side vote “no.”

What we have today is a package that’s going to be rammed through on a largely partisan vote where, frankly, the minority feels like it hasn’t had an opportunity to participate. Again, I have no problem with that because that’s the legislative process. As our friends like to say, they won the election.

Of course, so did we. Everybody that’s in this body won an election. Everybody has a point of view, and if you want to have genuine bipartisan legislation, then you have to involve the other side.

The route we’re taking will end up, again, in virtually universal support by Democrats and universal opposition by Republicans. It doesn’t have to be that way. We could have either debated the Republican alternative or done something else and found common ground.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time. May I inquire of the chairman if he has any additional speakers. I’m going to reserve and yield back my time.

Mr. OBEY. I have one speaker, myself.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I don’t intend to take my time, but I do want to respond to some of the claims and comments made today in opposition to this legislation.

First of all, I do want to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE). Like myself, he is a committed partisan, and I think, like myself, he is also an institutionalist, and while I recognize that he very much differs with the product that we have before us, I appreciate the fact that he did indicate that the committee consideration of this bill was an open process.

Let me simply respond to a few of the comments made by my friends on the other side of the aisle.

We’re told by numerous speakers that this package is too large. In fact, I fear that it may be too small. We can’t determine the proper size of any economic recovery package unless we have some understanding and some antici- pation of the size of the problem that it is meant to alleviate.

My old friend Archie the Cockroach, for instance, in talking about the need for proportion said once, In life you always need proportion. Of what use is it for a queen bee to fall in love with a bull?

I think that if we have large and serious economic crisis coming at us, that response needs to be large, bold and aggressive, and that’s what I believe the President’s package is.

Now, this package is $820 billion. It represents less than 6 percent of our total gross domestic product spread over several years. I would point out that World War II government spending went from 10 percent of GDP in 1940 to 44 percent in 1943 and 1944, a huge percentage, an increase of 34 percent. That was to save the country in time of war.

I would submit that the challenge to our economy today is every bit as large as the challenge of World War II was to this country in another time because we have been faced with the prospect of virtually total collapse of the financial sector of this economy.

Under the previous President, Presi- dent Bush, when the crisis finally hit, this Congress gave him the benefit of the doubt, and even though we, many of us, had strong misgivings about the wisdom of the proposal, and even though many of us were frustrated by the fact that Secretary Paulson would not provide sufficient relief on the mortgage front, we nonetheless supported the President’s request because we were told that the alternative was to see an absolute freeze up and collapse of the credit markets in this country, with disastrous results. Not just for those Wall Street wizards who helped cause the collapse. It did not would also have resulted in the crushing of everybody else below them on the eco- nomic ladder as they fell from their Wall Street perch.

And now the President is asking us to do two additional things. His Sec- retary of the Treasury today is sched- uled to explain to the country what their second step will be with respect to trying to stabilize the financial system in this country, at the same time, trying to do something to deal with the horrendous collapse of housing prices and the horrendous collapse of people’s equity in their homes. And then the next thing the President wants us to do is pass this package.

Now, this package, as I’ve said, is a huge, huge endeavor. It is certainly of the size that would have been shocking just a few months ago, but it’s responding to a problem just as large, and I want to show you what we’re trying to respond to.

This chart shows projected unem- ployment levels from now through 2
He wants to preserve hundreds of thousands of jobs by helping States to maintain their education budgets as their own revenue sources collapse so that we don’t have to lay off school teachers; so we don’t have to lay off janitors, speech therapists and guidance counselors; so that we don’t have to lay off park workers.

In addition, he wants us to provide tax cuts in order to enable the middle class to finally get a little better deal on the tax side of the ledger. He wants to help workers hurt by the economy by providing additional help for those who have lost their jobs by way of an unemployment benefit extension and an expansion of unemployment compensation. And he also wants to help those who have lost their health insurance by providing greater access to Medicaid and by providing some help to keep up with what is called their COBRA costs.

So that is what this package is all about. It is not perfect by any means. And we have substantial, but I hope not overpowering, differences between us and the Senate. And so the purpose of this motion is to simply have us get on with it. To take the next step we know that we have to take if we are going to do something constructive to move this country forward. We can all debate the fine points of this package until the cows come home, as they say in my area of the country. But the fact is, sooner or later we need to take heed and remember what Franklin Roosevelt said in 1933, not very different a situation years ago when he said, “We need action, and action now.”

This package is meant to begin that process. I would urge Members to support the motion.

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I support quickly moving forward with a recovery package to put America back to work.

The reckless actions of much of Wall Street, coupled with years of inadequate regulatory oversight, have led to a housing and financial crisis of enormous proportions. Spiraling foreclosure rates have put millions of families on the brink of disaster and infected the entire economy. We must stop an economic collapse and throw a life-line to the millions of people who are struggling to find work and support their families.

In the last four months alone, the economy has lost over 2 million jobs. By the end of 2009, an additional 3-5 million Americans could lose their jobs and without this package, the unemployment rate is likely to rise to 12 percent.

Any final bill must create new jobs by: repairing and improving our nation’s roads, highways and bridges and improve and expand public transportation systems in urban and rural areas. Surface transportation funding in the House bill would create more than 1 million new jobs.

The House and Senate bills would also create jobs by investing in safety and capacity improvements at our Nation’s airports; capital investments in Amtrak and intercity passenger rail; and energy retrofits in our Nation’s public housing, HUD assisted housing and Indian reservation housing.
The previous question was ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBRYAN). The motion was agreed to. **MOTION TO INSTRUCT**

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees that the managers on the part of the House that they shall not record their approval of the final conference agreement unless the text of such agreement has been available to the managers in an electronic, searchable, and downloadable form for at least 48 hours prior to the time described in such clause.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBRYAN) were made Managers of the Conference Committee on H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The debate over the Pelosi-Obey non-stimulus package has often focused on the nearly $1 trillion it will spend, much of it in ways that will not stimulate our economy or create badly needed jobs. It will, however, stimulate tremendous growth in the size and scope of the Federal Government and our national debt.

Well-meaning people can disagree about this legislation, but the simple truth is that nearly 2 weeks after it passed the House, we are still discovering every day what exactly is in this package. The Senate just passed its own version this afternoon and I'm certain that Senators, too, will discover aspects of this bill in the coming days that they were simply unaware of when it came to a vote.

What is most troubling is how some of the Federal agencies will distribute the massive amounts of funding provided for in this bill. For instance, agencies will use funding in the House-passed bill for these endeavors: $30 million for salt marsh harvest mouse habitat restoration in the San Francisco Bay; $5 to $10 million for oyster restoration in the Gulf of Mexico; $600 million for the acquisition of plug-in vehicles, which are not made or currently available in the United States. Sadly, the list goes on and on.

While these may be worthy endeavors, they certainly do not meet the test of being "timely, targeted, and temporary." And they certainly do not belong in an economic stimulus bill.

I have been watching this process closely. This process began that the House and Senate would embark on a bold new experiment—building a bipartisan consensus—to reflect not only the tone set forth by the President, but to live up to the expectations that people had.

Let's face it—my voters and your voters are sick and tired of the typical Washington finger pointing and want us to work together. The House leadership had a tremendous opportunity to use this legislation as a vehicle for bipartisanship. Much to my disappointment, the decision was made to forego bipartisanship in the name of expediency. I believe this expediency will prove costly over the long run.

As the House and Senate prepare to confer separate versions of the stimulus package, it is absolutely essential that House Members and Senators know exactly what is included in the final conference agreement. It is for this reason that I am making this motion to instruct conferees that the House conferees not to sign the final conference agreement unless the text of such agreement has been available to the conferees in an electronic, searchable, and downloadable form at least 48 hours prior to their approval.

If the House is about to cast its approval of the largest spending bill in history, the least we can do is to ensure that Members have 48 hours to review what is in it. That is not an unreasonable request. To the contrary, it is the reasonable and responsible thing to do.

While this motion limits public availability to conferees, I think any final agreement should, in practice, be available to the public in advance as well. Members have an obligation to their constituencies to know the contents of the conference report before they cast their vote in what certainly will be one of the most important votes they will ever cast in this body. They should—have a chance to know—what is in it. We ought not act in haste when spending almost $1 trillion of our taxpayers' money.

I urge Democrats and Republicans alike to join me in supporting this motion to instruct conferees and provide that 48 hours I mentioned.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBRYAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes. Madam Speaker, we have often been accused of trying to push this bill rapidly through the Congress. In fact, we are working to push a recovery package through this Congress for the last 150 days.

We began this process in September when we tried to persuade the previous Bush administration of the necessity to support a recovery package. That White House would have none of it. Nonetheless, we put together a package—very modest in size compared to this one—trying to look for anything that President Bush would sign, and that product was well known.

It has evolved gradually since that time as the economy has descended further and further and further into a recession so spiraling. We now have had this legislation in both the House and the Senate appear on the Web.

Our committee, as soon as we produced the final product in the House, placed the bill on the Web. And the Senate placed the Nelson amendment, which is the amendment that they are now operating on, they placed it on the Web as well. So I think both Chambers have demonstrated that they are trying to do every bit that they can to provide transparency for the process.

I have no objection to what the language in this motion to instruct conferees says. I do have one caution: every day that we do not take action, an additional 20,000 Americans lose their jobs. And that is accelerating.

I don't intend to go anywhere. The Speaker has made it quite clear that this Congress is not going to go home for its Presidents Day recess until this process is finished and scheduled to adjourn for that recess on Friday. But I have no problem sticking around for as long as it takes to get the job done.

I would point out that there's considerably less to this proposal than meets the eye because all it does is to require the text of the proposal to be available to the managers of the bill. And I suspect that the managers, who will be participating in these discussions, will know literally from moment to moment exactly what it is that they are doing.

I am sure that each and every person appointed to be managers on both sides of the aisle will be reasonably competent so that they can do that. So I would simply point out the effective approaches to doing that, and then making sure that this legislation when it does come back from conference, if that is what Members want to go on record as supporting, I have no objection whether this passes or not. I will be around as long as it takes; and, frankly, I expect it is going to take a whole lot longer than just this week.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. First, let me say I rise in support of the motion to instruct. But what I really want to talk about is President Obama's call for bipartisanship. And last night in his press conference; we have heard it in every major speech that he has given. And, somehow, it is just the Republicans' fault that we are not being bipartisan. Well, I have had it up to here with the rhetoric. The reality is totally different.

We have before us a motion to go to conference in which not one Republican amendment was accepted on the House floor, in which there were no hearings in any of the committees in the House of Representatives, which is in contrast to the Energy and Commerce Committee of which I am the senior Republican we didn't have any hearings. We
did have a markup. We got five Republican amendments accepted in the markup in committee, but three of those were stripped when the bill came to the floor. We are apparently going to have five House conferences out of 435 Members; two are going to have nobody from them: Commerce Committee, nobody from the Education and Workforce Committee, nobody from the Ag Committee, nobody from Homeland Security, nobody from Veterans’, nobody from Financial Services. The list goes on and on. That is not bipartisan. I don’t know what it is; but if President Obama is listening, if you really want to be bipartisan, pick up the phone and call the Speaker and say: allow the 41 percent of the House that represents the Republicans to be a part of the process. It is not bipartisan where we are presented a bill and told “take it or leave it.”

Now, I understand that if one side has 59 percent and the other side has 41 percent, the 59 percent can win every vote; but that doesn’t mean that the 41 percent has no say. And we have a bill somewhere between $820 billion and $850 billion, which is more than the entire economy of the country of Australia, which, in 20 years, will be having the electricity of the State of Texas, which is equal to almost the entire discretionary budget of United States of America, and we are going to pass it after a floor debate 2 weeks ago of 3 to 4 hours, and I don’t know how many hours we are going to have today and tomorrow, but it is 3 or 4 hours. Now, that to me is shameful.

The regular appropriation process, which Mr. OBEY is the chairman of, they have 12 subcommittees; they have hearings in every subcommittee; they have markup in every subcommittee. They take each bill to the full committee and have a markup. The bills, theoretically, come to the floor separately and under an open rule where any Member of the House can stand up and offer an amendment.

This process is a dictatorship. I could talk about the substance of the bill, but at least know, the American people, that the process that we are spending $900 billion to $900 billion is a closed system. I strongly oppose it.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker. I yield myself this time to simply observe that my friend from Wisconsin, Mr. KIRK of Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Spending under this legislation totals over $800 billion, requiring the Bureau of the Debt, we project, to auction $150 billion per week of the Treasury’s general fund debt because so much was being offloaded. When other sovereign debt failures fail. Recently, the government of Germany failed to auction its debt because so much was being offered.

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Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON), a member of the committee.

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to say that I hope the bill can be vastly improved in the conference committee.

While much has been said about the Senate cuts, their version of the bill still costs $383 billion, which is a $20 billion increase over the House-passed bill of $319 billion.

Also, with regard to the Financial Services section of the recovery bill, and particularly since I am a new ranking member, I am disappointed that neither I nor the minority’s committee staff were given an opportunity to consult with the majority members or staff before the bill was produced and unveiled on the Internet. I hope that this practice won’t continue as this stimulus bill is negotiated with the Senate and as the committee begins its work on next year’s fiscal year.

With regard to the motion to instruct before us, it simply asks that the House conferences not approve of the final conference agreement until the text of the legislation has been available electronically and downloadable form for at least 48 hours prior to voting on the final agreement. I think this is a simple request, and it is a simple request that ensures American people have an opportunity to review the entire conference report and contact their representatives regarding its content. I believe, and I think all of us believe, that our constituents have a right to see the bill before it is voted out of conference and it is no longer amendable.

Mr. OBEY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the committee Mr. KIRK of Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Spending under this legislation totals over $800 billion, requiring the Bureau of the Debt, we project, to attempt to borrow $2.1 trillion to finance this legislation. And this legislation isn’t the only big spending bill we will consider. Shortly, we will consider a $410 billion omnibus appropriation reportedly containing 4,000 earmarks, followed by a $100 billion supplemental.

I was just at the Bureau of the Public Debt today watching the government go $32 billion in debt, one of three public auctions. We have an enormous requirement for borrowing money, five times more than in the history of the United States, totaling $76,000 per taxpayer. If this legislation passes, we have seen other sovereign debt issues fail. Recently, the government of Germany failed to auction its debt because so much was being offered.

Under this legislation, and with other legislation that is pending on the omnibus and on the supplemental, the Bureau of the Debt will be forced to auction $150 billion per week of
United States going into debt. We have never seen so much debt auctioned before, and this is not coordinated with other governments. Other governments, like the Government of China, the Government of the United Kingdom, France all have their own stimuluses going into debt $1.2 trillion themselves.

The question: With all of these governments borrowing over $3 trillion, who has the money to pay this? Now we know our $1.5 trillion going to pay for this long term, but who is going to pay for this next week? And the answer is: maybe debt markets, maybe not.

We have never seen the United States go this far into debt this quickly. It took 40 Presidents, from President Washington to President Reagan, to build up $1 trillion in debt. The previous President doubled our debt to $6 trillion. But now, we are going $2.6 trillion more into debt in a month. In a month. Can we auction this much debt this long term, a question that should be asked and answered before we pass this legislation.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, the last people in the world who lecture on fiscal responsibility are those Members of this House who voted for the Bush economic programs that borrowed $1.2 trillion and then took us into a war which, before it is over, will cost us another at least $3 trillion.

Secondly, I would simply answer the gentleman’s question when he asks who is going to pay. I would ask, who is going to pay if we do nothing and do not implement this package? I would submit the people who will pay will be every American who loses his or her job, every businessman who loses his ability to get credit because of the constriction of the economy; every student who has to quit college because his family cannot afford to help him go.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself my additional 1 minute.

And every person who loses one-third to one-half the value of their 401(k)s because of the continuing unraveling of the economy.

That is who will pay.

We need to stop the political rhetoric and recognize this problem is serious enough to rise above our usual recitation of trivia and deal with the major problems facing this country. And we can’t do that without taking action on this package.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 17 1⁄2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 23 minutes remaining.

Mr. CANTOR. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana, our conference chairman, MICHAEL PENCE.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I take a second chair to no one in this conference in my respect for the integrity of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Mr. OBEY is a man with whom I differ on a broad range of issues, but he is a man of integrity, Madam Speaker. And I come to this floor to acknowledge that.

Let me say also how much I appreciate that the chairman said that he has no objection to the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1 that is before the body today that would require that before the House shall record its final approval to the conference agreement that the text of the agreement should be made available to the managers in an electronic, searchable and downloadable form for at least 48 hours. I commend the chairman for that.

I would respectfully disagree with the statement that the chairman just made, Madam Speaker, and it’s a statement that we heard the President of the United States make. And it is maybe it was inadvertent by the chairman, but it is this contrast that somehow this debate is between people that want to do something and people that want to do nothing. With great respect to the chairman, that is not an accurate articulation of the competing positions on this bill.

House Republicans know we are in a recession. This is a very serious time in the life of American families and in the life of our economy. At the President’s invitation, House Republicans brought forward a series of proposals that would bring fast-acting tax relief to working families, small businesses and family farms. And despite President Obama’s laudable call for bipartisan support, House Republican proposals were completely excluded from this bill. And so to hear last night on national television and to hear today that there are those of us in the body that would do nothing, I would say respectfully to my Democratic colleagues and to this administration, who are you talking about? I know of no Republican in the House or the Senate who believes in these challenging economic times that we should do nothing. House Republicans believe, simply that we should do the right thing. And millions of Americans stand with us that this massive spending bill that is nothing more than a tired wish list of leftover liberal spending priorities is not the answer. But we simply believe that we can do better. And by requiring that this legislation be on the Internet for 48 hours before final vote, we believe we’re going to have a better opportunity to get the American people even more into that conversation than they are today.

I still believe that we can achieve a bipartisan result. I believe in the goodwill of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. And I believe in his integrity. I believe in the goodwill of a great number of my colleagues on the Democrat side of the aisle. And I believe our President is sincere in saying that in these difficult economic times, we ought to be coming together and building the best of both sides of the aisle to confront this very serious recession. But let’s bring the American people into this debate. Let’s pass this motion and ensure that this bill is open to the public for 48 hours. And we will hear what they have to say.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 1 minute.

Let me simply say in response to the gentleman’s comments, that indeed I believe that Republican ideas have been included. I have had dozens of conversations with members of the minority side of the aisle who would talk to me about this item or that item that they thought ought to be in or be out of the package. And we’ve reported out the Committee. And I would also point out that the President himself has pointed out that when first talked to Republican leadership about what ought to be in this package, they told him there ought to be a healthy dose of tax cuts and that when he produced the package, which did contain significant tax cuts, a number of Republicans then indicated that they were, in fact, pleasantly surprised by the fact that the President had reversed course.

Apparently, however, since then, they have decided to move the goalpost. The President can’t do much about that. And I can’t do much about that. I suspect that the people moving the goalposts are the people who might consider moving it back again.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to yield 1 minute to the whip on the Republican side of the aisle, Mr. CANTOR.

Mr. CANTOR. I thank the gentleman.

And let me respond to the last statement from my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. OBEY, that that is not the way things happen. We were invited to the White House because the President felt it appropriate to reach out to us to take into consideration our proposals. We submitted to him in person a Republican economic recovery plan. Yes, it was more weighted for tax relief; it was focused on tax cuts and a spending formula, because at the end of the day what any stimulus bill should be about is preserving, protecting and creating jobs, period. And as the President said last night, there is a lot in this bill that people may like. But do you know what? He also said the plan is not perfect because it was produced in Washington. This President came to this town and was elected because he said he was going to deliver on change.

Madam Speaker, I would say if we are serious about a true stimulus bill, let’s get down to business. Let’s provide small business tax relief because they create 70 percent of the jobs in
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this country. Let's not embark on a spending spree that is the biggest spending spree in the history of this country.

Mr. LEWIS of California, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia, the saying everybody in here already knows is that “if you find yourself in a hole, it’s time to stop digging.” And there was far too much deficit spending for far too long.

This bill, clearly, with all its lack of transparency, is not about jobs. If it were just about jobs, then we could have the proposals by the Energy Committee and the Republicans in the Natural Resources Committee with some of the Blue Dogs, we could open up Alaska to oil and gas exploration where it has not been, open up the OCS, and we would get 3 million jobs without taking the future away from our children.

Now, the American people intuitively know this is not a good thing. Even though there is so much that is not transparent, they are not allowed to see it because of the opposition to the former chairman’s motion here. But they definitely know. I just saw we are down 380 points even with this bill having passed the Senate and being brought in here now. People understand this is not a good thing. If it’s something you’re proud of, then go along with the motion to instruct and let the American people see this product you apparently are so proud of that is going to just auction off our children’s future.

Mr. LEWIS of California, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Speaker PELOSI, as well as President Obama, talked about wanting to have a new level of openness and transparency. And that is exactly what this motion to instruct is all about. It is to bring openness and transparency of this huge bill to the American public.

And I can’t understand why my Democrat colleagues seem to be so bent on getting this bill to the floor and passed, because we don’t even know what all is in there. I understand that the $600 million that were originally slated in the House bill to prepare Americanized medical records has been expanded to $2 billion. And the American public has the possibility of having their health care decisions made by some health care czar and some bureaucracy here in the Federal Government, not by their doctor. And in fact, the doctor may be even chosen by this health care czar.

This is not right. This is not transparency. This is not fairness. The American people deserve better than this. So I encourage my Democratic colleagues to look at this motion to instruct and to support it so that the American people can see what is in this bill. We can come back next week or some time or even through the weekend. We can put it online today. And we can vote on it on Friday evening or Thursday evening if you will just do that. So I encourage my Democratic colleagues to support this motion to instruct so that we can have the transparency that the American public deserves.

Mr. OBEE. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, I hope that the Thursday or the gentleman is talking about, I hope he recognizes that it’s likely to be next Thursday or Friday, not this one. Secondly, I must say I am amused when I hear the reference to “socialized medicine.” Does anybody really believe that it’s socialized medicine if we are putting $2 billion in this legislation in order to help change our medical records from paper records to computerized records so we can reduce the number of mistakes that are made in hospitals and create more efficiency and save money in the health care area? With the rising costs of health care nationwide, shouldn’t we be looking for ways to make the system more efficient to save money? That is what that $2 billion does, despite somebody’s desire to look for ghosts.

Mr. LEWIS of California, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member for the opportunity to speak. And I do stand in favor of the motion to instruct requiring 48 hours for the information on this bill to be made available electronically in a readable, searchable and downloadable database.

I think that is important to the American people.

And I want to stress that we have heard a lot of talk about what people stand for. I haven’t heard anyone say that we shouldn’t be doing something. We absolutely need to be taking issue with where the American economy is standing more that we are working as hard as we can to provide solutions. There are American families out there that are hurting each and every day. I don’t think any of us up here don’t have that first and foremost on our mind.

Madam Speaker, it’s not only important that we do something, but it’s important that we do the right thing. This is such a monumental step for this government to take. It has been said that this is precedent on the level of spending that we are taking to drive the economy. It really begs us to take the time to get it right.

We need to take the time to focus on the right mix of tax cuts and spending that benefits the economy, dollars that make their way into the economy immediately. Over 60 percent of this bill doesn’t make its way into the economy for more than 19 months. I don’t know that anybody here would say we are truly stimulative to the economy and things that are going to equate to jobs in a timely manner for folks that are suffering right now.

I think it’s important to make sure that all the American people are heard on this. This is so important. There are members on this side that represent folks out there that want to make sure that ideas we hear from them are projected in this bill and they make their wishes part of the final product. We need to make sure that this information is available for the American public to understand, for their comments to come back to us, for us to have the opportunity to make sure that those comments make their way into this legislation. This is groundbreaking legislation, and it needs to happen now.

Mr. LEWIS of California, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCARTHY).

Mr. McCARTHY of California. Well, I thank my fellow congressman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for the fine work he does for all Americans.

I rise today in support of the motion to instruct conference on H.R. 1. I would argue that it should be retitled. It should be titled “People Before Politics.” All it is asking is 48 hours to see the example of more than 800 pages spending more than $800 billion. It is not “let’s not do anything.” It is the American public has a right to know what is in the bill and what it is being spent on.

When I was watching television last night and watching one of the interviews by one of our fellow Senators, one that helped negotiate where this bill currently was, when asked a question, he said, I only agreed to $780 billion. But the score today says $838 billion. When they asked him a question that has gone more than $800 billion has been put in about health care, he said, I never agreed to that. So even the Senators themselves that have been negotiating this bill before it goes into conference are questioning what is in it. I think the American public has a right to know.

I would tell you that a little more than a week ago we sat on this floor and we had an debate about this bill. And unfortunately, there was a parade of Democrats and Republicans who said “no.” And I think their voice has a right to be heard. And their voice of saying “no” is not “let’s not do anything.” We believe there is an ability to do something better. And on this side of the aisle, the Republicans have sat together, worked in a bipartisan group and worked together also in a working relationship with the President and have given him the ideas that said how can we improve, how can we move together in moving forward? And what
we are saying with the motion to in-
struct is let's continue the work, let's
improve it and let's make the Amer-
ican people first and foremost. Let's
put people before politics.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 5
minutes to the distinguished chairman of the House Ways and Means
Committee.

Mr. RANGEL asked and was given
permission to revise and extend his
remarks.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, there
may be a lot of people that have objec-
tion to the process in which we have
moved forward, but one thing is abun-
dantly clear and that is, the President
of the United States, and every econo-
mist from the left to the right, believes
that if we don't do something and do it
fast, that our economy would be in far
worse shape than we find it today.
To the number of people that are
losing their jobs, losing their health
insurance, losing their families and
losing their hope are things that are
not labeled Republican and Demo-
crats. This is what the core of America
is all about.

I cannot think of anything that's
more American, even the American
flag, than our middle class citizens, our
middle class taxpayers. Whether we've
been involved in war, whether we've
been involved in depressions, it's been
the guts of these people that's been
able, with pride, with dignity, to be
able to come back stronger than ever.
And now we find that their demands
have increased, but at the same time,
their resources have decreased. These
are people that work hard every day;
that have families with kids in school,
that want to protect their health. And
the one thing they can't do is purchase.

I don't understand this word that you
have confidence of people in the market.
But one thing is that if you're the working poor, $500 or $1,000
in the family, that's no confidence,
that's filling a gap, that's filling a need.
And it seems like it makes so much
sense, no matter what town or
village that you live in. If people can't
afford to buy, if they can't afford to
buy from the small businesses in their
towns and villages, then these people
have inventory that has built up, but
they also have staff and clerks and em-
ployees that don't afford to hire.
Once these people are discharged, fired,
laid off and go right back into the gen-
eral economy, these are the middle
class people. They're not the rich.
They're not the poor, they're not the
homeless, but these people believe
that this country will never let
them down.

And so the President says that 95 per-
cent of people who work hard every
day would be receiving some type of a tax
cut. It would seem to me that, what-
ever happened, that will not be our friend. We find more small
businesses closing, more people going
into unemployment, losing their bene-
fits for health. And in this bill we try
to ease the pain, to try to stop the
hemorrhage that we have from job loss,
to try to make certain that someone
who wants to buy would believe that
they can keep their kids in school, that
they will be able to have a job the next
day, and not hold back.

I'm hoping that we try to break this
parisian past that we have, because I
don't see how anyone can explain to
anyone that's in trouble as to what
their party label would be.

Our country is involved in an inten-
sive care unit, and it seems to me
that they're saying that we need an infusion
of resources, an infusion of health care,
an infusion of economic assistance. If
we don't help this patient, our great
Nation, then most every economist has
said that she could come to near death.
And every day we hold back this care,
every day we hold back this injection
of having funds, whether it's the earned
income tax credit that allows people
throughout the country that may
be below poverty, still are able to
work and have their dignity, to be able
to have children that are deductible
where we can receive an additional two
or $3,000 a year. It may not be much
to any one person, but it might be much
to the people who have to count
their salaries each and every week to
see whether or not they can put food
on the table, clothing on their children's
back, or to be able to fulfill that
dream, once the dream that Americans
have, that they will not be able to suc-
cceed, to me, that's even more impor-
tant than the economic loss that they
would have.

To believe that in this great Nation
of ours, no matter what the economic
setbacks will be, that we can and we
will recover, we've done it before, dur-
ing bad times. We've come back after
America, but indeed throughout the
entire country, throughout our towns and villages, not
only throughout the United States of
America, but indeed throughout the
world.

I don't see how any Democrat, having
a Republican President, could not say
during this time for our Nation that
we'll put our party labels behind, we'll
work together and try to save the
economy of this great country. Now's
the time, I really think, if you're talk-
king about bipartisanship, that this is
the time to see whether or not we can
work together because this word "con-
fidence" means not Democrats and not
Republicans, but Americans working
hard together.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam
Speaker, I believe to inquire again, but
I really need to know if I have enough
time for my colleague.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gen-
tleman from California (Mr. LEWIS)
has 6 minutes remaining. The gentleman
from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 16 min-
utes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of California. In that
event, Madam Speaker, I am happy to
yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from
Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I
thank the gentleman for yielding, and I
have not agreed with the previous speaker
that we do need to have bipartisan coopera-
tion on this. And of course, we got off
the wrong foot. This bill was passed
in the House without having the beauty
of subcommittee hearings. There was
one general hearing back in Dec-
ember, before many of the Members
who voted on it were even sworn in to be
Members of Congress. So I think we
could go back and this week, maybe in
a conference committee, open it up and
allow some of the amendments that
were left off the Senate or the House
side to be included in it, and maybe
we could work in a bipartisan
fashion.

This bill, as it is now, is more expen-
sive as it comes out of the Senate than
it was by the House, which had a bipar-
tisan vote against it. There was a par-
tisan vote against for it, but a bipartisan
vote against it.

Only 7 percent of the spending in the
bill goes to public works projects.
That's $57 billion out of $838 billion.
And only 22 percent of the money could
actually be spent this year. So much
money for urgency and shovel-ready projects.

The Senate bill actually increases
spending $19 billion over the House bill,
which, on a bipartisan basis, so many of
us voted against. It creates all kinds of
new programs, new programs, new programs.
Now, some of them were being stripped
out by the Senate that the House put
in there. That was good. But I just
found out about a new $100 million pro-
gram to get new lunchroom equipment
into schools. Now, maybe that's a good
idea, but why can't that be done where
it's always been done, on a local level?
$100 million so that schools can buy
new lunchroom equipment.

There's also funding in there for the
Department of Energy that actually
doubles their annual appropriation, in
a stimulus package. There's even a
grant in there to study privatization
on American Samoa and the Northern
Mariana Islands. What is that about?
Have you read that language? I don't
think anybody has. It's very peculiar.
How did that get in there?

And you know, this bill the President
brags about has no earmarks, let's be
serious. It has $200 billion worth of ear-
marks, but they were State and local authorities. It wasn't
made by the Congress. At least when the U.S.
Congress does earmarks it gets posted
on the Web page and people can find
out who requests it. But no, we're going
to have phantom, ghost earmarks
to the tune of $200 billion.

Madam Speaker, the Republican al-
ternative to this bill creates more jobs
at a lower price tag. The Republican
bill, through tax credits to small busi-
ness, creates about six million jobs, and
that's what's coming from Wisconsin's
Budget Office, a nonpartisan analyst of
this. The price of the Republican one is
about $400 billion.
We stand ready to work with the President and work with the Democrats on a good, bipartisan package because we think doing something is the right move. But this package deserves a ’no.’

Mr. OBEY. Has the gentleman from California yielded back his time?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I have not. I have no additional speakers, however, and it’s my intention to inquire of the Chairman if he’s got three or four speakers.

Mr. OBEY. Just one.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Okay, then I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. How much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin has 16 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, this bill is more than 150 days late. And every day that we delay, if you take a look at what’s happening in the economy, an additional 20,000 people are losing their jobs.

So we’ve had plenty of time to talk about our philosophical differences. We’ve had plenty of time to talk about our different views of the viability of the market. We’ve had plenty of time to talk about the role of government.

But people back home are not interested in our theoretical or our philosophical views. They’re interested in whether they have a clue what’s happening on Main Street America, what is happening in businesses all over this country, what is happening when metal working companies and paper mills and dozens of other businesses lay off workers every day, every hour. And they want to know whether we can end the speculating long enough to actually do something that will help them.

That’s what this is about.

So we can argue about one-tenth of 1 percent of this bill, whether we like it or not. The fact is that some of the same people who were only too willing to vote for $1.2 trillion worth of tax cuts paid for with borrowed money under President Bush, the same people who were willing to allow us to go to war and spend over $1 trillion in a war that will plague us for years, these are the same people who supported economic policies that, essentially, resulted in the average working family having flat wages for the last 8 years. These same people are now telling us, “Oh, don’t do this. We’ve got a better idea.”

Well, we’ve tried those ideas for 8 years, and what have been the results? The result has been that, for the last 8 years, over 94 percent of the economic growth in this country, over 94 percent of the economic growth of this country went into the pockets of the wealthiest 10 percent of American families. And so, the other 90 percent were struggling to get table scraps.

And how did they respond? They responded by borrowing. They borrowed more for their houses. They borrowed more to send their kids to college. They borrowed more to pay for health care and a lot of other things. And then, the housing bubble and the Wall Street bubble burst and they got hit with the results. And so, now they are suffering for the bubbles that we’ve had in the economy the past 8 years. And they’re looking for somebody to recognize what’s happened to them and looking for somebody who will help to actually do something about the fact that they’re losing their health care, losing their homes, losing their jobs, losing their ability to send the kids to college, and losing hope.

This package, by itself, will not solve any of those problems. All it will do, if we can finally produce it, all it will do is to minimize the damage and to try to inject an additional source of consumer spending in the economy, in hopes that we can begin the process of eventually turning this economy around. That’s what this is all about.

We’ve had our time for debates. It’s been a long time now, over 150 days, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) noted, and losing hope.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.
Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California and Mr. PAUL changed their vote from ‘nay’ to ‘yea.’

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 0, as recorded.

[Roll No. 55]

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Roque, Chair pro tempore). TheUnfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 114.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution as it was announced.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 114.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This vote is to be recorded as above recorded. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (duration of the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The results of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair will ask all present to please rise for a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and in Afghanistan and their families, and all who served in our Armed Forces and their families.