

under the control of the British Crown and be continually denied their basic human rights.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Prime Minister Blair to announce in his speech here tomorrow a specific date when elections will be held in Northern Ireland. He must indicate to this body his support for bringing democracy and home rule to the people of Northern Ireland. I also call on him to again begin the process of putting the Good Friday Accords back together. Prime Minister Blair must use his leadership to bring all of the parties back to the table and begin discussing ways to reinstate the Belfast Assembly.

Finally, I hope Prime Minister Blair will use this opportunity to address several of the concerns that I have raised on this floor several times in the past. Mr. Blair must address the issue of policing and military presence in the North. For people to feel safe and secure, they must be assured that there is a police force that is representative of the local population.

Mr. Blair should enact the Patten Commission's recommendation on police reform. The North must provide its citizens with a full, fair, and just reform of their police service. And the police service of Northern Ireland must be representative of all ethnic, religious, and political groups in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues in this body will join me in urging Prime Minister Blair tomorrow to immediately address many of the human rights concerns in Northern Ireland. It is time we bring true electoral democracy to the people of Northern Ireland.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROY JONES, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of my constituents, the World Boxing Association's heavyweight champion of the world, Roy Jones, Jr.

Roy began his rise to greatness when he was awarded the Silver Medal in the 1988 Olympics and was voted the outstanding boxer of the Games. Roy has since compiled a record of 48 wins and 1 loss with 38 of his wins being by knockouts over the period of his career. Roy Jones, Jr., earned his first title by beating IBF middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins in 1993. He quickly moved up to the super middleweight division and dominated the weight class by beating James Toney in 1994.

Roy's next move to the super light heavyweight division produced even more success by winning the welterweight boxing champion 1997, WBA 1998, and IBF titles in 1999. His only loss was due to a disqualification to Montel Griffin, which he avenged

with a first-round knockout 5 months later.

Roy is widely considered the best pound-for-pound boxer of this era. He became the first boxer in over a century to win both a world middleweight title and a world heavyweight title.

Roy is one of the boxing world's best ring technicians by finding ways to beat his opponents who are often bigger than he is. He attributes much of his success in the ring to watching tapes and finding his opponents' weaknesses and then exploiting them.

On March 1, 2003, he squared off against the WBA champion, John Ruis, who had a 50-pound weight advantage over him. He won the title from Ruis, proving that only one fighter, Roy Jones, Jr., can make history and overcome such an enormous disadvantage.

Roy has always given back to his communities through mentoring of amateur boxers, encouraging locals to get involved with African American community issues through his music, and his vast philanthropic work. Roy has not forgotten his roots and always shows the pride of his hometown when he thrusts his arms in the air and screams "Pensacola" after each victory in the ring.

Roy is constantly distinguishing himself with achievements that are unmatched by any boxer in history. Northwest Florida is recognizing this great man by designating July 19, 2003, as Roy Jones, Jr., day.

And on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize this very special person, Roy Jones, Jr., for the example he has set in the sports world, in his country, and in northwest Florida. I offer my sincere thanks for all that he has done for northwest Florida and the United States of America.

FEDERAL DEBT AND THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to talk about something that apparently no one else wants to talk about: the Federal debt and the deficit. We are about to see record deficits, nothing like this country has ever seen. This year \$615 billion we will borrow. Next year, \$639 billion we will borrow.

The mid-session review just came out. The Office of Management and Budget tends to explain it away that it is really not the largest that has ever been before as a percent of GDP; it is less. But every time the deficit has been larger in the past, the Congress and the President have come in with a proposal of how to do something about it. This time for some strange reason no one on the majority side chooses to talk about what we are going to do to reduce the deficit.

We will hear that the tax cuts are in place and that will turn the economy

around. We were told that in 2001. We were told it again in 2002, and we were told it again this year. As I have said from this floor many times, I hope Members are right, and I hope I get to eat the biggest plate of crow in town, and I see some colleagues on the floor tonight that would love to serve it up to me. But that is not what I am here tonight about. Finger-pointing does not do any good, and it darn sure is not going to do our grandchildren any good.

It is time for us to start looking at what can we do to turn this around other than talk about platitudes. We keep hearing if we just reduce spending. And the chairman of the Committee on the Budget said in his presentation today, if we just control spending. Well, let me remind Members we are at war. We are at war on the homeland front, we are at war in Iraq in which we are losing a soldier or two or three every day. The cost of that war is estimated at \$4 billion per month. At no time in the history since 1812 of this country have we ever gone to war and not had a sacrifice demanded of those of us fortunate enough to stay back home. But this time some way we are looking at it differently. I guess it is not going to change because the minority party cannot change the direction that we are going.

I suppose that we can continue to talk about the deficit. We can continue to explain it. No matter how Members attempt to describe it, in the last 2 years we borrowed a trillion dollars. In the next 2 years, we will borrow in excess of \$1.2 trillion. That is trillion. When we consider it took us over 200 years to borrow the first trillion dollars, that should mean something to somebody.

OMB Director Mitch Daniels has left, but where has he been over the last year or two? Usually OMB directors come up and proudly defend the economic game plan we are under, but that is not to happen.

The economy has lost 2.5 million jobs and employment has increased from 4.1 to 6.4 percent. The number of workers unemployed for more than 6 months has tripled to 2 million. That is where we are. Yet there is a curious silence of what are we going to do about it, or does it not matter? Do deficits not matter?

I have been told that now so many times. I have been here too long. During the 25 years that I have been here, I remember standing with my friends on the other side of the aisle decrying deficits. I remember voting five or six times in the last 3 years to lock up the Social Security surplus and not touch it because that is money that is reserved for the baby boomers about to begin retiring in 2011. The same folks that voted for locking it up today, just curious silence, or having some platitude, do not bother.

I remember when we passed the balanced budget constitutional amendment, which was one of the happiest

days of my life here because I believed finally we were about to put something into the Constitution to demand what we would do and not be able to do what we have now done in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Tax cuts with borrowed money, no reputable economist today believes that is good economic policy. Tax cuts with money that is surplus that should not be spent, that is a different argument. That is one I would gladly join with my friends on the other side of the aisle, but we are borrowing \$639 billion next year, \$615 billion this year; and we keep hearing we are just giving the money back to you because it is your money.

It is not your money. It is our children and grandchildren's money that we are giving back. The result of the supply side economic theory folks is not working.

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It is kind of like we heard some speakers earlier today, we have got a problem in Iraq, and our plan for peace is not working as I had hoped it would, as I had been supportive and still support certainly the troops and my President regarding that endeavor. But we have got a problem, and we will continue to be on this floor talking about it. We look forward to joining with our colleagues on the other side very soon and hopefully coming up with a bipartisan solution and no finger-pointing.

FORMATION OF GROUP AIMED AT ELIMINATING WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have already heard from a number of my colleagues here regarding this new working group, the Washington Waste Watchers Group, to expose and to help root out waste, fraud, abuse, the double-talk that is so rampant up here in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new here, as you well know. This is my first term. What I have found when I got here is a number of interesting things. Number one is how here in Washington when you see huge increases in government spending, some on the Democratic side call that cuts. How we have found in a very short period of time, millions? No, Mr. Speaker, not millions, billions of dollars of wasted, of lost taxpayers' money, money that is being robbed from the taxpayer. And also, Mr. Speaker, that money is also being robbed from the people that are dependent on the services of government. It is money that is being robbed from the students, money that is being robbed from the teachers, from the law enforcement officers, from our brave men and women in uniform.

While we heard some of my colleagues specifically mention some of

those billions of dollars worth of overpayments, our dear friends in the minority party propose as a solution this year on this floor \$890 billion in more government spending. Mr. Speaker, while my colleagues here mention billions of dollars of lost money, money that has evaporated with zero accountability, our good friends in the minority party propose as a solution to spend another \$890 billion of the hard-working American people. Take it from them, Mr. Speaker, and bring it up here so we can waste, we can misspend, we can lose and we can hire more bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, while we heard from some of my colleagues, Republican colleagues, about improper payments, billions of dollars of improper payments, some going for dead people that did not then go to serve, for example, our seniors, our friends in the minority party still propose increasing taxes to do more of that? Mr. Speaker, this group is a group of young, when I say young, some are younger than others, but new Members of this Chamber; and we want to see if we can change the culture a little bit here in Washington, D.C. We commend the President for trying to do the same thing, to change the culture from a culture of irresponsibility, of lack of accountability, of it doesn't matter because we will take more money from the hard-working American people to bring it up here. So it doesn't matter if we lose money, it doesn't matter if nobody is held accountable, it doesn't matter if nobody is indicted, it doesn't matter if nobody is imprisoned, it doesn't matter because we will just raise taxes on the American people, on those hard-working American people that are struggling to pay their bills.

Mr. Speaker, again, we are here to announce that, with a number of colleagues, we are not going to sit by idly and watch as money is wasted, is thrown away, evaporates, is lost. We are here to come up with solutions, to first highlight the problem and then come up with solutions, specific solutions so that the American people can know that when they send us their valuable, hard-earned tax money, that money is going to be well spent on essential services for those that truly need it and not on more bureaucracy, on more misspending, on more evaporated dollars that nobody can find.

THE GROWING FEDERAL DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, if only what the previous speaker said were true. If only he really cared about a balanced budget. There is an amendment that would require Congress to spend no more money than it collects in taxes, and it has been languishing in this House for 1,560 days. Every day that DENNIS HASTERT

has been Speaker, we have not had one opportunity to vote on a balanced budget amendment. It was written by a Republican, a nice guy by the name of ERNIE ISTOOK. His own Speaker will not let us vote on it.

But if you guys are as serious as you say you are about a balanced budget, you can walk right over here, you can sign discharge petition number three, and it would force a vote not on my balanced budget amendment, not on Congressman STENHOLM's balanced budget amendment but on your colleague ERNEST ISTOOK's amendment to balance the budget. Your own guy. Tell your own Speaker you want to vote on your own guy to balance the budget.

Let me remind you why you need to do that. Two years ago, May 9, we passed the President's spending plan. The President's tax cuts passed with almost every Republican vote, passed with a couple of Democratic votes. I voted against it. I did not think it would work. It turns out this time I was right. In just over 2 years under that budget passed by you guys, you have increased the national debt by \$1 trillion.

Let us put that in reference. If you went all the way from the Revolutionary War to 1979, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, built the interstate highway system, built the Golden Gate Bridge, the intercoastal waterway, we borrowed less than \$1 trillion. In 25 months, you guys have borrowed \$1 trillion.

The Speaker in the chair knows what a \$1,000 check looks like. It is what a lot of us write for rent checks up here in Washington. If you wrote that \$1,000 rent check a thousand times, you have spent a million. If you wrote a \$1 million check a thousand times, you have spent a billion. If you wrote a \$1 billion check a thousand times, you have spent a trillion. That is how much money a trillion is.

In just the past 12 months, you have increased the national debt by \$544 billion. More importantly, you have stolen \$371 billion from the Social Security trust fund. Mr. Speaker, the reason I say stolen is if you take it back and you do not have a plan to repay it, it is stealing. If someone pays on their payroll taxes toward Social Security, they fully expect it to be put in a trust fund just for Social Security and that it is going to be sitting there for when they need it.

That is not the plan, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage you or any of my colleagues to tell me the name of the bank account that the Social Security trust fund is put in. Because you know and I know there is not a dime in it. It is nothing but IOUs, government securities.

You have borrowed \$167 billion from Medicare, the same thing. Hard-working Americans pay payroll taxes. On that payroll tax is a line item that