

power. He knows how powerful these particular words are. An apology is definitely in order, and a rejection of these remarks also is in order from the President of the United States.

#### KATRINA UNEARTH'S DISASTROUS FISCAL STATE OF COUNTRY

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, almost a year ago, I spoke on this House floor warning of the dangers posed by the latest effort of the majority party to raise the debt limit for the third time during this administration to a whopping \$8.18 trillion.

I used the occasion to contrast the fiscal policies of the Clinton administration, namely, turning the largest budget deficits in history to the largest budget surpluses in history, with the fiscal policies of the current administration. However, my protestations and the warnings of my fellow Blue Dog Democrats continued to fall on deaf ears.

It is inconceivable that deficits soaring as far as the eye can see, mounting debt, and the skyrocketing costs of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan would be ignored for so long and that it would take a tragedy such as Hurricane Katrina to finally serve as a wakeup call. For years members of the Blue Dog Coalition have warned that we were spending money we did not have, that the administration had no economic plan, and that massive untargeted tax cuts were not a substitute for an economic blueprint for our country's future. And yet the Congress continued to reject every proposal requiring us to do our budget in the same way that our constituents do, by paying as we go.

Now that Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have wreaked havoc on the gulf coast, causing hundreds of billions of dollars of damage, it is clear that we must take immediate action to get our fiscal house in order. Members on the other side of the aisle have finally acknowledged what Democrats have been saying for years, that our current economic policies cannot be maintained. Unfortunately, however, some in the majority party have proposed that we ask those Americans who have been impacted most by Katrina, namely, the elderly and those with low incomes, to bear the costs.

This is not the answer to the persistent poverty exposed so brutally and graphically by Katrina. We must pursue a comprehensive solution to our fiscal woes by suspending tax cuts for wealthy families, by cutting spending, and enacting PAYGO rules, pay-as-you-go, and establishing an emergency rainy day fund.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 budget resolution included \$106 billion in new deficit finance tax cuts over the next 5 years. These additional tax cuts will impose a

huge additional debt burden on the next generation. If the government is forced to borrow the money to cover these added expenses, the yearly interest payments alone will pile on the already enormous debt that our children and grandchildren will be faced with paying off.

Most of these tax cuts will actually be doled out to individuals who do not need more of the government's largesse. With American troops in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and with our country coping with the rebuilding of the gulf coast, all of us, all of us, must sacrifice for our troops and for our neighbors.

In addition to suspending tax cuts for wealthy families, the Congress must immediately restrain its voracious appetite for spending, finding places where cuts can be made to pay the costs of Katrina and Iraq. And in addition to making tough cuts, the Congress should move to immediately reinstate PAYGO rules to stop any further bleeding.

Finally, the Congress must establish a rainy day fund for future Katrinas so we will not find ourselves in this spot again. The interest earned by such a fund could be used for disaster planning and preparedness, to modernize our Nation's infrastructure, fortify our levees, and to update and make interoperable our communications systems.

The American people now understand the precarious state of the Nation's finances. Today our national debt stands at nearly \$8 trillion. Each citizen's personal share of that debt is almost \$27,000. This is what we bequeath to our children, and it conflicts most directly with what my parents taught me and what most of our parents taught all of us, that is, we leave the country a little better off than we found it.

In 1989, a New York City real estate developer named Seymour Durst placed a large National Debt Clock in Times Square in order to draw public attention to what he saw as a grim predictor of financial instability. For 11 years, the debt numbers on the clock rose at the breakneck pace of \$13,000 a second. In 1995, as the Clinton administration began to pay down the national debt, onlookers were shocked to see the numbers on that clock not only slow down but reverse. The clock was retired in the year 2000, as President Clinton announced record reductions in the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, no debt clocks were at work this time drawing attention to this crisis. It has taken Katrina to awaken the Nation to the coming fiscal crisis. Let us hope our response to this crisis is an improvement on our response to the last. We owe that to our kids.

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

(Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### RECOGNIZING DONNA SMITH ON HER RETIREMENT AS LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS of California) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the end of a distinguished career and yet the beginning of new adventures and horizons.

This week my legislative counsel Donna Smith is retiring from my congressional office, ending an extensive and dedicated career of public service.

For the past 5 years in Washington, Donna has handled what she referred to as the three Es: education, energy, and the environment, as well as many other issues.

Donna is a California native born in Los Angeles. Her family soon relocated to San Diego. And what would be L.A.'s loss became San Diego's gain.

She graduated from Pomona College and received a teaching credential from UC Berkeley and began an 18-year teaching career. She instructed students in English, social studies, journalism, and history. She taught at the San Diego Unified School District and served as the junior high school principal and teacher for the San Diego Jewish Academy. During these years of mentoring and teaching, Donna was also active in the community and began her interest in public policy and politics.

Our association together began as members of the League of Women Voters where she served as the League's vice president from 1973 to 1977.

She helped introduce me to the issues I came to embrace and to the invaluable discourse of pro-con discussions for which the League is well known. At the same time, we were all building long-lasting relationships.

In 1992, Donna was appointed by San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor as a member of the San Diego City Council Elections, Campaign, and Government Advisory Board. And as a member of the board, she was instrumental in formulating a proposal for a San Diego ethics commission.

Donna holds a myriad of other interests beyond creating sound public policy. She loves music; travel; the arts;

and, of course, spending time with her three grandchildren. And when most of us are content cruising through life with our careers and family, Donna's love of learning and public policy motivated her to get her legal degree from UCLA in 1996.

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Before I came to Congress, Donna served as my chief of staff in my final two terms as a member of the California State Assembly. Any chief of staff who oversees a district and legislative office knows that job has its rewards, but also many challenges. As I transitioned to Congress, Donna came east to Washington to fulfill a long-time goal of developing public policy, a job she is well suited for. She has an ability to put her arms around an issue and see all sides of it. Instead of sound bites, Donna is always able to see the whole picture.

She has been so much more than a trusted adviser on the issues. She has been a partner in crafting legislation on teacher quality, improving curriculum, promoting renewable energy, protecting open spaces in San Diego, and negotiating the complex issues of the 2000 electricity crisis in San Diego.

In the midst of immersing herself in politics and policy, Donna has also immersed herself in the cultural and artistic endeavors that Washington has to offer, as she did in San Diego.

She is not only a multitasker, but a multi-talented renaissance woman. From playing her cello, to singing in the choir at the National Cathedral, to traveling to such exotic locales as Egypt, New Zealand and India, it can certainly be said that Donna has not let life pass her by.

Many of us in Congress know that a good staff is the key component to our ability to create public policy, and Donna has been such a vital asset to my office and to my successes as a public servant. Donna has been more than an invaluable member of the staff; she has been a good and loyal friend.

She not only will be missed in our office. I am sure she will go on and be envied by all of us. As we are all heading off to work next week, Donna will continue to travel, to sing, to play and taste the flavors life has to offer. And in the middle of all that, she will find and give great joy as the consummate grandparent. And knowing Donna, she will be an active player in making our country and the world a better place to live.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the years of hard work and public service that Donna Smith has provided to San Diego, to California, to the Congress, and to our Nation.

Thank you, Donna.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CONDEMNING REMARKS OF WILLIAM J. BENNETT

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise before this House condemning the words spoken yesterday by former Secretary of Education William Bennett. It is truly reprehensible that as we try to heal the wounds that were laid bare following the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, that powerful elements in the Republican Party still insist on espousing racial rhetoric while trying to divide Americans based on the color of their skin.

I was shocked, I was appalled that the former Secretary of Education, William Bennett, a prominent member of the Republican Party, would go on public radio and say, "But I do know that it is true that if you wanted to reduce crime, you could, if that were your sole purpose, you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down."

Mr. Speaker, as a proud black American who was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, I know that this is precisely the kind of insensitive, hurtful, and ignorant rhetoric that Americans have grown tired of.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bennett still has power and influence within this Republican administration; and he is representative of the ignorant, inconsiderate politics that have been displayed in this government today. And I am calling on my friends, the responsible Republicans, to rebuke Mr. Bennett for his damaging statement.

Where is the indignation from the GOP, as one of their prominent members talks about aborting an entire race of Americans as a way of ridding this country of crime? How ridiculous. How asinine. How insane can one be?

Mr. Bennett's remarks were thoughtless, mean-spirited, and well, well off the mark. We all know that aborting black babies would not decrease or erase the crime rates in this country. Abortions the Republican policies which have hurt the disadvantaged, the poor, and average Americans for the benefit of large corporations would be a much more sane and reasonable way to address crime and poverty in this Nation.

Americans are sick of the poisonous, divisive atmosphere that is prevalent in this Republican era. Americans want reform. Americans want change. Amer-

icans want an end to the culture of corruption and bitterness that the Republican Party and this House have come to embody.

It is ironic that the same people who promised America that they would clean up the system 11 years ago, have used their power and influence to benefit their own agenda and defile the

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

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. ENGEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THANKING THE PEOPLE OF KAZAKHSTAN FOR THEIR AS- SISTANCE TO AMERICA AND THE WORLD

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

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina has caused not only colossal damage to the economy of Louisiana and the entire gulf coast but she has also taken away hundreds of innocent lives and left thousands homeless. As the Representative of the Third Congressional District of Louisiana, half of which was leveled by this disaster, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have responded to this American calamity. I would especially like to thank the people of the Republic of Kazakhstan and their president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, for the condolences and readiness to render financial assistance to Katrina's victims.

No one can have too many friends, and that applies to both countries and individuals. The history of the United States and Kazakhstan's cooperation is a vivid example of a partnership between true friends and allies with shared values.

Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal from the Soviet Union but choose not to keep that lethal legacy, which could have automatically placed Kazakhstan among the world's nuclear superpowers. Instead, the people of