

rises to the level of bloodshed. We settle our differences at the ballot box, here in Congress, not with car bombs; through media exposure, not machete swipes. If one cannot see that continued civilization itself is in danger, I don't know what else can persuade you.

Twenty-six years ago last Friday, November 4, 1979, Islamic terrorists took hostages in Tehran. This is how some people in the world address disputes: They take hostages. They push old men in wheelchairs over ship rails into the sea, the Achille Lauro example. They behead little girls. They strap dynamite to their children and send these innocent children to detonate clusters of fellow innocent citizens. They bomb nightclubs, subways, pillars of commerce and symbols of freedom. As long as people reign who cannot live peacefully, the war on terror must press on for the safety of all of us.

#### FEDERAL SPENDING AND THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, along with all 36 members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, I have a sign in front of my office that is updated daily to reflect America's national debt. Just 2 weeks ago, I was deeply dismayed to see that the national debt had reached \$8 trillion. That is \$27,000 for every man, woman and child in America. How did we dig ourselves into such a deep hole? The truth is the Republican leadership has created a credit card Congress that is recklessly selling out the future of America, our children and our grandchildren, and President Bush is the most fiscally irresponsible President in the history of America. On his watch, we have run up record deficits and added nearly \$2.5 trillion to our national debt. In just 5 years in office, President Bush has borrowed more money from foreign sources than all 42 previous Presidents combined. Put together, the first 42 American Presidents borrowed a total of \$1.01 trillion from other countries. President Bush has now borrowed \$1.05 trillion from overseas and he still has 3 years to go.

I know that my Republican colleagues are as ashamed as I am that the United States is forced to borrow over \$1 trillion from foreign nations to pay for our national priorities like reconstruction of the gulf coast and the war in Iraq. We owe it to the American people and future generations to roll up our sleeves and dig out of this mess now. So far, the Republican leadership has refused to reach across the aisle to fix this fiscal mess. The Republican reconciliation plan is a sham. It does nothing to fix the broken budget. In fact, it will make matters worse. By all

accounts, the current proposal would add billions to the deficit in order to finance more reckless tax cuts for the most privileged Americans.

Who in their right mind, I ask you, could look at an \$8 trillion debt and put forward a plan to make it bigger? It is time for a real strategy for fiscal responsibility. The budget process is broken. Anyone can see that. The Blue Dog Coalition has asked the President to convene an emergency bipartisan summit to address America's fiscal crisis. We have put forward a comprehensive 12-step plan to put America back on the path to fiscal responsibility. The Blue Dog 12-step plan is the only serious proposal on the table that would fix our Nation's budget woes and return America to fiscal solvency. Our plan is based on common sense, not party ideology. The Blue Dog 12-step plan includes both Democratic and Republican ideas. When it comes to fixing the budget, the American people deserve cooperation and not partisanship.

Our proposal includes commonsense reforms, such as reinstating the pay-as-you-go rules that we had here a few years ago and implementing discretionary spending caps. We have also urged for the establishment of a rainy day fund to cushion the financial blow of future national emergencies like we saw in the gulf coast recently. You just heard from my Blue Dog colleague, Mr. John Tanner from Tennessee, a leader in the fight for fiscal responsibility in Washington. He outlined for us all how bad the situation is. I strongly urge my colleagues in Congress to embrace real reform and to take immediate action to cure this national tragedy of the debt.

#### AVIAN INFLUENZA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the deadliest plague in human history was the influenza pandemic of 1918 which killed up to 100 million people around the world. While annual flu strains tend to spare young healthy adults, every few decades a strain arises that can kill people in the prime of life. In 1918, more than a quarter of all Americans fell ill. What started for millions around the globe as a runny nose and a sore throat developed into a gruesome, deadly virus. No war, no plague, no famine ever killed so many.

This year, brilliant medical detective work pieced together the genetic makeup of the 1918 virus. The origin was found to be avian influenza, the so-called bird flu.

The new mutant strain of bird flu spreading across Europe and Asia may turn out to be even deadlier than the 1918 virus. As we scramble to assemble plans and get vaccine, more birds infected and more human contact means more opportunity for the virus to mu-

tate, perhaps triggering this next human pandemic.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization consider another pandemic inevitable, whether triggered by this bird flu virus or the next.

The current proposed spending plan does finally address some measures to mediate the impact of future pandemics, but it overlooks the critical policy initiatives that could directly impact the threat at its source.

For example, avian influenza is not limited to Asia or Europe. There have been over a dozen outbreaks of low-grade avian influenza viruses in the United States just within the last 5 years. An outbreak of a high grade H5 virus in Pennsylvania in the eighties led to the death of more than 17 million birds. Nationwide surveys tracked the strains of that virus back to at least 48 live bird markets across five States. Each year more than 20 million birds of various species pass through at least 150 known storefront slaughter facilities in the northeast metropolitan areas alone, increasing the risk of human exposure and the persistence of these viruses. Most of these operations are not subjected to USDA food safety regulations. These live animal markets should be either eliminated or at a minimum brought within the USDA's existing food safety regulatory scheme.

The United Nations food and agriculture organization has implicated live animal transport as another prime culprit for the rapid spread of the virus across Southeast Asia. Yet transportation of birds reared for human consumption remains unregulated in much of the world and in the United States.

The cockfighting trade is another area under increasing scrutiny as a prime vehicle to spread the disease. We need a stronger Federal law against the transport of cockfighting birds across State and national borders. Gamecocks are not part of any testing program and there is a thriving trade in birds for use in this barbaric industry. The Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2005 would increase penalties for violations of Federal animal fighting laws to help prevent illegal cockfighting. The Senate passed this bill unanimously in April, but the identical House bill has not yet been acted upon in the Judiciary Committee. The House and the Senate passed an identically worded felony cockfighting provision in the 2002 farm bill, but inexplicably this provision was gutted in conference. It is unconscionable that we would wait on enacting this felony provision. The House needs to act immediately to strengthen the law to diminish the risk of fighting birds as vectors for avian influenza.

The bird flu virus could also be imported to our shores via the trade in wild birds for pets. More than 400,000 live exotic birds are imported every year to the United States. The stress of confinement and long-distance transport critically weakens their immune

system and makes them susceptible to respiratory viruses. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has already implemented a ban on the import of all birds and bird products from 13 predominantly Asian countries, but this ban should be extended to all nations as a precaution.

This is not the first time that animal diseases have crossed the species barrier to infect humans. The director of the Centers for Disease Control has noted that 11 of the last 12 emerging infectious diseases have likely arisen from animal sources, from SARS to AIDS. With a potentially even more virulent virus waiting in the wings, we must not only act now to soften the blow when a pandemic strikes, but we must attack the problem at its source, the human-animal interface.

We must end unsustainable agricultural practices, intensive confinement of birds raised for food, the cock-fighting trade, live poultry markets, the importation of live birds as pets, and the unregulated transportation of birds in general. Millions of lives are at stake. Safe, simple, cost-effective solutions are within our power.

#### FEDERAL SPENDING AND THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Earlier, a gentleman from California rose to talk about how the economy was booming and how well the American people are doing with job creation and new prosperity. Unfortunately, it does not look like that for most people in my district. In fact, it really is not that way for most people in America. The combination of misplaced priorities and trade policies that export jobs and depress wages in this country have hurt Americans. In fact, last year, according to the IRS, 99 percent of Americans, all those who earn less than \$350,000 a year, saw a decline in their real income. But I think the gentleman from California and the Republican leadership and the White House are looking at that 1 percent, who are doing phenomenally well. The tax cuts have been an incredible boon, over \$120,000 per year in tax cuts for families who earn over \$1.3 million a year. They are doing just great. Unfortunately, we are borrowing the money to give them the tax cuts and handing the bill to working families and their kids and their grandkids as we continue to reduce the tax burden on corporations and the wealthy.

He said, "Boy, the economy is booming." That is kind of interesting. Over the last 17 quarters, the GDP has grown at 2.8 percent, right around the rate of inflation, but in the last six business cycles, it grew at a rate of 40 percent more than that during recovery periods. He bragged about job growth. The United States only has 1.3

percent job growth, much of it in the public sector, under the watch of this administration, since March 2001, whereas in previous business cycles, job growth was closer to 9 percent over the same period, six times the rate of growth. Private sector job growth is only up 0.8 percent. Wage and salary income has also grown anemically. As I said earlier, 99 percent of families and working people in America saw their real incomes decline last year. One percent, \$300,000 to \$1.3 million, did pretty well. But the people over \$1.3 million, they did phenomenally well.

So what is the answer of the Republicans this week? Cut benefits that might flow to that 99 percent of the people. Student loans for kids trying to learn and do better and have a better ability to earn in their adult lives and become more productive Americans, \$14.3 billion in cuts for student loans, double the origination fee for student loans. That is a cut that needs to be made according to the Republican majority.

And then there are the cuts in long-term care, foster care. The family values side of the aisle over there wants to cut long-term care for struggling seniors and their families and foster care. That is extraordinary. And then, of course, they want to slash Medicaid. What they do not tell you is they are dumping that burden on our States who are already struggling. They are going to add to the 45 million people who are uninsured for health care in the United States of America through those cuts. But they say those cuts must be made. Why? Because they have become suddenly fiscally responsible after a 62 percent increase in the debt during the Bush administration and the Republican Congress over the last 5 years? No. Because they want to make room for more tax cuts because, as we heard earlier, trickle-down is working great. Those people who earn \$1.3 million with that extra 130,000 bucks a year in tax cuts, which are added to the deficit which all the rest of us will have to pay for, they are spending some of that money, some of it even in the United States of America. Sometimes they are hiring people to cut their lawns, or wash their boats. Yachts. They need that money. They need it more than the kid who wants to get a college education. They need it more than the family that is struggling to figure out how they are going to pay for long-term care for their seniors. They need it more than the kids who need foster care in this country. Those rich people need it more because they will trickle it down upon the rest of us.

So that is the game they are playing this week. They are going to pretend they are making tough cuts that need to be made. They won't take on the tough cuts. You want to talk about tough cuts? Let's do away with the stupid idea of going back to the Moon by borrowing \$100 billion. We have already been there. Why do we want to borrow \$100 billion to go to the Moon? How

about Star Wars? The general in charge says, hey, it has better than a zero percent chance of working if anybody ever shoots a missile at us. Better than a zero percent chance at a cost of \$100 billion, \$10 billion a year ongoing. Farm subsidies for farmers who earn over \$100,000 a year on corporate farms, we could save billions there. Not to mention if we just reinstated the rate of taxation for people who earn over \$300,000 a year that they paid during the booming nineties, we would save \$300 billion over the next 5 years. There is a better way to run this country and we are not hearing it from them.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Reverend Michael J. O'Sullivan, St. Peter's Catholic Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and eternal God, You have revealed Your glory to all Nations. God of power and might, wisdom and justice, through You, authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed.

We pray for the Members of the House of Representatives who are entrusted to guard our political welfare. May they be enabled by Your powerful protection to discharge their duties with honesty and ability. We likewise commend to Your unbounded mercy all citizens of the United States, that we may be blessed in the knowledge and strengthened through the observance of laws framed for our rule and governance.

May this Congress always seek to preserve peace, promote national happiness, and continue to bring us to the blessings of liberty and equality. May we this day go forward confident in the hope of Your abiding presence. We pray to You and thank You who are Lord and God. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.