

will go to jail, a fate they richly deserve.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am asking for two things: Next week, when the National Flood Insurance Renewal Program comes before the House, I am asking for an inspector general investigation of the insurance industry to see whether or not claims that should have been paid by the private sector insurance industry were wrongly stuck on the American taxpayer. And I am asking for your support.

Mr. Speaker, I will note that two of those insurance industries that I think were the biggest culprits reside in Illinois. But I also note that two-thirds of all the campaign contributions from the insurance industry went to your political party. So the real question is, Mr. Speaker, are we going to look out for the American people, or are we going to look out for your contributors?

That decision will be made next Tuesday.

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

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

#### HONORING MYLDRED E. JONES

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman from my district, Myldred E. Jones, a resident of Los Alamitos, California, for 38 years, a retired Navy lieutenant commander, and founder of Casa Youth Shelter, and she passed away at the age of 96 on Monday, June 19.

She was a consultant for Youth Affairs for former Governor Ronald Reagan, and during that time, she recognized the desperate need to shelter runaway and throwaway teens who faced danger on the streets. So she co-founded the first adolescent hotline, which quickly spread across the Nation and is now international in scope. She founded We Care and Hotline of Southern California, dedicated to youth in crisis.

□ 1915

At the age of 69, when most people are settled into retirement, Myldred sold her home to finance another non-profit corporation, Casa Youth Shelter. Her vision and dream of helping children in need became a reality, and the woman who began by sacrificing marriage and children for service to country, dedicated 29 years to accepting and loving and sheltering at-risk youth.

She was born in Philadelphia, the second of four children. She earned her B.A. at Wittenberg College in Spring-

field, Ohio. She did her graduate studies at UCLA. In 1942, the wartime call to service led her into the Navy as part of the first contingent of California WAVES to be called to active duty. She served with distinction during World War II and the Korean War, rising to the rank of lieutenant commander, and she was the first female faculty member in the Armed Forces Graduate School of Information. She served as assistant director of the Department of Welfare-Navy Relief Society and as the naval liaison to both the United Nations and the American Red Cross. After her military discharge, she was active in the civil rights movement, marching with Martin Luther King from Selma to Montgomery. She also joined with Cesar Chavez on his marches for the United Farm Workers.

Myldred's military and humanitarian accomplishments were recognized by five of our United States Presidents, and I am very honored to stand before you today to remember the life of such a caring and compassionate social-entrepreneur citizen and patriot. She will be remembered and truly missed for her lifelong dedication and service.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF COLONEL  
YOUNG OAK KIM

Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 56th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, and I am saddened to report that Colonel Young Oak Kim, an American hero in the Korean struggle, passed away on December 29, 2005.

Colonel Kim served admirably in the United States Army since January of 1941, during World War II. He was assigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion, a segregated unit of Japanese Americans. When asked by his commanding officer if he would like to transfer, knowing the historical conflicts between Koreans and Japanese, Kim stated they were all Americans and they would fight together.

Kim is remembered for the Battle of Anzio, in which he volunteered to capture German soldiers for intelligence information. He crawled over 600 yards under German observation posts with no cover. He captured two prisoners and obtained information that contributed to the fall of Rome. Consequently, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He reenlisted in the Army in 1950 and entered the Korean conflict with poise and bravery. He took part in the U.N. Forces drive into the north, leading a battalion, and was awarded a second Silver Star and a Bronze Star for his relentless efforts in a series of battles which pushed the final DMZ north.

Colonel Kim's successes on the battlefield came with a price. Both of his legs were seriously injured, but retiring from the Army only energized his continuous dedication to walk on the path of democracy and freedom. He dedicated the rest of his life to founding many Asian American civic organizations and serving on the board of the Go For Broke Educational Foundation which keeps alive the American values

of courage, honor, determination, loyalty, and justice for all.

Colonel Kim was the recipient of three Purple Hearts, the National Order of the Legion of Honor, the highest military honor in France, for his efforts in taking French towns, and the Knight Grand Cross Military Order of Italy, the highest military honor there, recognitions that underscore the courage Colonel Kim embodied that eventually contributed to the defeat of fascism in Europe and the containment of communism in East Asia.

There is no doubt that his courage and sacrifice is to be treasured, and sometimes it is through bitter conflicts that the best of our country shine bright amidst the seeming darkness and despair that this 56th anniversary may remind us of. It is through times like these that we reflect on the unity, the unity of our countrymen and the unity between the United States and South Korea, that will lead to better global cooperation and peace in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to join our united country in saluting Colonel Young Oak Kim, a genuine American hero.

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California 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.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

#### 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by commenting about a

previous 5-minute speech given by Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, and I want him to know how much I appreciate his representation of his district and sharing with the House some very vital and important information. As he mentioned, we will be considering legislation that will be dealing with the issues that he pointed out.

Mr. Speaker, again, we are glad to be here, the 30-something Working Group, to come to the floor with the help of so many of our colleagues. Tonight we have a special guest, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Tonight is a great night. Tonight is like super 30-something night. This is like great stuff. I mean, I am excited. I may need to sit a couple plays out tonight, because not only do we have the chief Blue Dog, we are hoping that at some point during the course of the night that he will deputize us as maybe Blue Pups tonight. I want to be a Blue Pup tonight.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, reclaiming, sir.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Please.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I am glad to be with Mr. TANNER and also his colleague from Ohio, Mrs. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. Mr. TANNER of Tennessee has really been the leader in the House as it relates to accountability, as it relates to working with Mr. SPRATT on pay-as-we-go. He was around when we balanced the budget and we did some of the things that we needed to do on behalf of this country.

So we are so glad he is here tonight to share with the 30-something Group and also with the Members of the House on what we should be doing versus what we are doing right now.

I yield to Mr. TANNER.

Mr. TANNER. Well, I thank you, you fellas. The 30-something Group is rendering great service to our country. It is about the only way I know to turn the clock back and be youthful again is to associate with the 30-something hour. I want to speak for all of us who admire your work here and thank you very much for what you do to try to alert the American public and your generation to what I believe will be disastrous consequences for our country and our citizens if we continue on the course that we have embarked on for the last 60 months or so.

I wish I was making up what I am about to say, because when I tell people about the financial mismanagement and irresponsibility here in Washington that has gone on for the last few years and is continuing, people have a hard time comprehending that.

When I tell them that the GAO, the General Accounting Office, reports that 19 of 24 Federal agencies can't produce an acceptable audit, in other words they can't tell you what happened to the money that the Congress involuntarily removed from the taxpayers' pockets and appropriated to the administration, 19 of 24 Federal agencies can't tell you what happened to it. They can't produce an audit. People are amazed.

It is a function of the Congress to oversee the monies appropriated to any administration, and this Congress has abdicated that constitutional responsibility to the American people. I mean, no private enterprise in this country would tolerate what all of us are tolerating in our public lives. Can you imagine a private company, a CEO, or just anyone going to the treasurer or to the comptroller and saying, here is an expenditure of \$10,000, do you know what it is for? What happened to it? And the answer is, well, I don't know, I can't find it, I couldn't tell you.

Nobody in private enterprise in this country would put up with that, yet that is exactly what has been going on here in this one-party political town. You have a compliant Congress, a friendly administration, and so not only is Congress not asking the administration what happened to the money, if they ask them, they can't tell them.

So what we have done is introduced House Resolution 841; that basically says what all of us believe ought to happen in our own private businesses and what happens here in our public business that affects everybody. It simply says this: When an Inspector General report comes back from any of these agencies and says either, number one, we can't find the money that has been appropriated; or, number two, this program, in government talk, is a high-risk program, and what that means really is that this program is not working like Congress intended for it to when it passed it to begin with, when those two things occur, House Resolution 841 provides that by law Congress must hold a hearing.

Right now these Inspector General reports are just gathering dust. There are no hearings on what has happened to the money. So we are putting into law, hopefully, if we get enough votes to pass it, we are just telling Congress you ought to do your job. You ought to oversee this spending that is going on.

I mean, I can't imagine anyone who would argue that it is not a good idea that we audit the books every now and then and see where the money is going that is being removed involuntarily from taxpayers. Who would be against finding out where the money went? I just can't imagine.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If you would yield a moment, Mr. TANNER, I can tell you right now that there are a lot of things we should be doing, or the Republican majority should be doing but they are not doing, and we don't have the opportunity to do it because we are in the minority.

Again, it is good having you and Mrs. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, especially from the Ways and Means Committee, talking about the accountability and the ways and means of doing things. I am glad that you have this bill filed. And I am happy to know about it, because I am writing here a note to my folks that I need to be a part of this, because that is what we are talking about here almost every night, ac-

countability, with these Inspector General reports stacking up.

As you also know, Mr. TANNER, the head person of the GAO has this working group moving around the country talking about what is happening in this government, the lack of accountability, the lack of oversight. Mr. RYAN and I met with him in the office. And this is bipartisan conservative and "liberal groups" going around. They have come together on behalf of the country because all this money is being spent with very little accountability.

□ 1930

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to be on the floor with the 30-somethings. I am 30 plus almost 27. I am proud to admit that I am 56, and I think I am doing all right. I am glad to be here with my sons, as I call KENDRICK MEEK and TIM RYAN, an my colleague on Ways and Means.

The most interesting thing is, if you think about it, remember when the Iraq war began, and there are millions of dollars that they can't account for. They said it was so crazy over there, they couldn't figure out where the money went. And the most recent reports about FEMA, about moneys that should have gone to help Katrina victims, they can't account for.

So I am with my colleague, Mr. MEEK, saying Mr. TANNER, great piece of legislation. Keep on pushing it. We are going to help you make sure that the Members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, say to the people of America, we are going to account for the dollars. The Ways and Means Committee, we raise the means to do things, and here we have people messing with the dollars we have expended. I am pleased, Mr. TANNER, to be here with you tonight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. The point I would like to make, and this is why I am such a big fan of Mr. TANNER, I think this helps us convince the American people and shift our party into a direction that says we don't want to go and tax people. We know that they struggle with health care and gas prices, college tuition, all of the costs we review here every night, increased by 40 and 50 percent.

What Democrats in 2006 are saying, following the lead of the Blue Dogs, is that there is waste in the government. We need to audit and find out where that money is so we can take that money and invest that money in education and invest that in health care and invest that into all of the programs that we believe in, our priorities.

This is for me, personally, 32, 33 years old and a new Democrat in many ways, this is a beautiful thing because this is the vehicle, your piece of legislation, that I think changes our party in 2006 and gets us ready for the next century to say that we don't want to tax anybody any more than we need to run the government, but we can never go back to the taxpayer until we first

say we are spending your money responsibly.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, people say all the time why can't government run more like a business? As I said earlier, no business would tolerate what we are tolerating here with this abdication of Congress' responsibility to keep up with the money. The very least the American people should expect from Congress is for Congress to oversee the money they remove from people involuntarily through taxes. The very least we ought to be able to do is tell them what happened to it.

The other part that this resolution addresses is, one, when they can't tell us what happened to the money; two, when the program is identified as high risk, that means it is not working; and three, when the auditors disclaim the audit report.

I want to read what the auditors said when they tried to audit the Department of Defense. "We are unable to give an opinion on the fiscal year 2005 DOD financial statements because of limitations on the scope of our work. Thus, the financial statements may be unreliable. Therefore, we are unable to express and we do not express an opinion on these financial statements."

That is on the first page of the audit. What they are saying is we don't know whether what you are about to read is true or not.

Listen to this from the Department of Energy. "Audit work performed by the contract auditor identified significant deficiencies in financial management and reporting controls related to the Department's fiscal year 2005 consolidated financial statements. Specifically, the Department was unable to correct previously described weaknesses and could not provide a number of supporting documents required for audit."

What they are saying is here is this report, but read it at your own risk, we don't know whether it is true or not.

Homeland Security. "Unfortunately, the Department made little or no progress to improve its overall financial reporting during fiscal year 2005. The auditor was unable to provide an opinion on the Department's balance sheet."

If that were in private business, the CEO of those businesses would be going to jail under the SEC rules if their stock traded on the exchange.

This is not rocket science. The least the American people ought to expect from this Congress or any other Congress is to be able to account for the money that we take away from the citizens in the form of taxes. These people are not doing their job. This is replete.

I have gone through some of these reports, it is unbelievable. There is not a hearing from Congress. There is nobody being subpoenaed up here saying, what happened to the \$10 million that is here that the auditor said they can't find? Nobody is asking those questions. Congress is not asking it. If they asked it,

they couldn't tell them. That is wrong. It is wrong to the taxpayers. It is wrong for this Congress to allow this to continue to go on.

I hope we can get H. Res. 841. The gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA), another Blue Dog, has H.R. 5315, and he says basically in that bill that when a Cabinet Secretary's department cannot produce an audit after 2 years, they have to go back before the Senate and be reconfirmed. In other words, you are in charge of this department; what happened to the money that was removed from the taxpayers' pockets and we gave it to you to spend? Where is it?

I can't tell you.

The second time he comes up here and says, "I can't tell you what happened to the money," he has to be reconfirmed because he is obviously incompetent because he can't do his job, or her job.

This is just basic good government. It has nothing to do with politics, it has to do with running the government's business like we would run our own. That is what people send us here to do, and that is what is not being done, and that is why it is so wrong.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I am reminded of one of the hearings in the Ways and Means Committee where then-Secretary Snow was before the committee. This was before we actually got into the Iraq war.

I said, Mr. Secretary, you used to run a business. Tell me what trustees or board of directors of any business would say to you that you can have a supplemental outside of the budget that would increase significantly the deficit, and you don't have to include it in the amount of dollars we are expending?

He said to me that the President doesn't want to go to war, so it is not part of the budget.

I said, wait a minute. I know that there are tankers over there, there are men and women over there, there are arms over there, and we are spending dollars to feed and clothe them. That ought to be part of the budget. The American people should know what kind of money we are spending and not have it off side.

That is what this administration has been so good at in all of these supplementals. Many of us vote for the supplementals because we want to support the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, but it is bad budgeting. I know if Secretary Snow ran his business like he ran the government, and he is gone now, but he would be put out of business if he ran a business like this.

Mr. TANNER. If the United States of America were a business, it would be classified as a failing business enterprise, and I hate to say this about my country. We are now in a structural deficit situation. In the business world where I come from, you can handle a cyclical deficit. That is if you have a bad year, if you had a bad year and so forth.

Under this scenario of this regime running the Congress and running our country and running the White House, we have a structural deficit. It never balances. Anybody in business knows that is unsustainable. That will not go on forever. Unless they figure out how to repeal the laws of arithmetic, we are in a structural deficit situation that cannot continue.

What does one do when one takes over a failing business? The first thing one does is find out where is the money coming from and where is it going. The first thing I want to do, we know we can pretty well figure out where the money is coming from from Treasury because they can tell you who is paying taxes. We can't tell where it is going. That is why we need this bill. We need accountability, and we need this bill.

When we appropriate money to anybody, any administration, if they can't tell us what they did with it, they ought not to get it next year. That is what you would do in your private business; that is what we ought to do as Members of Congress with the public business.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. TANNER, I am pulling this information from the Heritage Foundation, which is one of the most conservative foundations in Washington, D.C., if not the leading. In fiscal year 2003, \$25 billion of taxpayer money went unaccounted for according to the Department of Treasury, again a third-party validator.

Basically they are saying that \$25 billion can fund a full year at the Justice Department, according to the Heritage Foundation. So this is real money that is missing. Taxpayers dollars can go into funding an entire Justice Department, which has a number of employees and is charged with carrying out a great deal of responsibility on behalf of the American people.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And what is the end result of all of this wasteful spending? I think it is important to point out what the long-term effects are.

When President Bush took office, our debt limit was \$5.9 trillion. As you can see, and these charts are on [HouseDemocrats.gov/30something](http://HouseDemocrats.gov/30something), in June of 2002, it increased by half a trillion dollars.

May of 2003, another debt limit increase. November of 2004, another one. March 2006, another one. The budget this year for 2007, the budget resolution will raise our debt limit to \$9.62 trillion. By 2011, the debt limit under the Republicans will almost double from when President Bush took office.

Now we are trying to say that we want to audit the government and save money and make sure that we invest it properly into our priorities that will lead to economic development, and it is clear that the Republican majority, which controls the House, Senate and White House, has been fiscally irresponsible not only with the way they lack enforcement, they don't audit and pay attention to where the money

goes, and then they turn around and borrow it from China and Japan and OPEC and all of these other countries and run us into this huge structural debt that hurts the economy long term.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, there is a chart which shows the priorities of the majority, and I wish you would share that chart.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. This is the interest payments on the debt. This is the 2007 budget of what we are going to pay. It is about \$230 billion just on interest on the debt. So all of those numbers we were showing, this is big time.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. It is like a bad credit card bill.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. To make a point, when we were talking about what we have control over in our own government and how we can streamline and do the audit and make sure that everybody is held accountable, I bet we know exactly where every single one of these dollars goes. There is someone in China on the other end saying, you owe me another 10-, and I want it here right now. They are not waiting around to say where did that \$10 million go? We know where all of this \$230 billion went.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I know this is along the line of accountability, and I think this chart is a testimonial to the lack of accountability and the spending that has been going on in this House by the Republican majority. I think it is important when you say a charitable House of Representatives as it relates to the policies coming out of the White House, this is what happens. \$1.05 trillion has been borrowed in the last 4 years, which is record-breaking in many ways, and historical in the wrong ways as it relates to what the President and the Republican majority has done.

And the \$0.1 trillion over 224 years borrowed from 42 Presidents, that is all they were able to muster up. World War I, World War II, a number of other conflicts, the Great Depression, still record-breaking and borrowing money in an irresponsible way.

Mr. RYAN also mentioned who is buying all of this debt. I am not blaming the American taxpayers. They don't have a voting card. They have representatives up here, but they don't have a voting card. Japan has borrowed \$682.8 billion of our debt and counting. They own a piece of the American apple pie, and it pains me to see these countries over the silhouette of the continental United States, but this is exactly what's happening, and this is the way we need to break it down.

China, \$249.8 billion of the American apple pie, not because of the American people, but because of the Republican policies.

Mr. TANNER. If you add Hong Kong, that is over \$300 billion that China controls of our paper.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I am glad you are here to share that information, and you are 110 percent right.

The U.K., \$223.2 billion.

The Caribbean, \$115.3 billion.

Taiwan and counting, \$71.3 billion of our debt.

Again, this is not the American taxpayer, this is what a charitable Congress has done with the President's policies.

And you let some individuals tell it on the other side of the aisle, they will say we are doing great.

For the first time in the history of the country, these countries have had their hands in the pockets of the American taxpayer, and having us pay with interest. Like Mrs. JONES mentioned, it is like borrowing on a credit card.

OPEC nations, you are talking about Iran, Saudi Arabia, a number of the countries that many Americans have questions about, oil-producing countries, they are in on the game. Not only are we paying through the nose for petroleum, they own \$67.8 billion.

□ 1945

Germany, \$65.7 billion; Korea, \$66.5 billion; and Canada, just north of us, \$53.8 billion. They are in on this feeding frenzy. And the reason why we have this silhouetted Continental United States and the American flag, we want to get back to this.

Mr. Speaker, we are the only party here in this Chamber, including, we would add, the one Independent that actually votes with the Democrats on this side. If we want to get back to a debt-free America, then we have to go on pay-as-you-go policies, which just today, just today, just today, Mr. TANNER, just today, Mrs. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, there was a vote on this floor to move in a pay-as-you-go policy, and the Republicans voted against it. United voting against paying as you go. That means if you are going to spend the money, you have got to show where you pay for it. And still that policy is not in place.

And, Mr. TANNER, I know that you have worked day in and day out. I have watched you here on this floor. I watch Mrs. TUBBS JONES in Ways and Means talking about, if we are going to do it, what are the means? How are we going to do it? And it is continuing to be placed on a credit card.

We usually use old charts, but today I think it is important for us to say that just today, on this floor, Republicans continue to move in the direction, I would say the leadership, continues to move in the direction of allowing these countries to have their hands in the pockets of the American taxpayers.

And it goes simultaneously with the two pieces of legislation that you have shared with the Members and the American people today, House Resolution 841, that you have offered and also Mr. CARDOZA's legislation as it relates to House Resolution 5315, that talks about this kind of accountability, forcing the Congress to carry out section 1, article I of the U.S. Constitution, which is boiler plate.

Mr. TANNER. Well, I am going to have to go, but I want to thank you all again for letting an old guy like me pretend I am 30-something again. It is a real thrill to do that, because your generation, I have two children in their 30s, and I have two grandchildren, one on the way. And when I see this country in an unsustainable financial downward spiral, I feel great remorse from my generation's standpoint, because we are not doing what our forebears did. To allow a situation to go on where there is no accountability, where Congress is not asking any administration, this has nothing to do with politics, it has to do with good business principles in the public sector, which I think all citizens of this country not only expect but deserve, and that is, this Congress ought to, at a minimum, be able to tell the American people what happened to the money. And they are not even asking this administration. And if they did, they couldn't tell them. That is just plain wrong.

And these bills, I hope some of our Republican colleagues will sign on. It seems to me like they would want to audit the books as much as we do. I mean, I just hope that this is the first step of accountability into the public sector so that when we get an audit from any Department, the auditors can identify what happened to the money, whether or not the program is working, and so we don't get these disclaimers that say, everything you are about to read in this audit we have no idea of. We don't know whether it is true or not. Go ahead, be my guest and read it, but we can't vouch for any of it because we don't know, and they can't tell us. That is just, it is not only grossly irresponsible for this Congress to let that go on, it is really a generational mugging. And you 30-something guys, I appreciate you and your group, because you all will ultimately bear the terrible consequences of continuing down this road of no accountability in the Federal Government. And so I thank you again for allowing me to be here.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I am laughing, Mr. TANNER. Remember when we had the IRS hearing, and the IRS decided that they were going to go look for waste, fraud and abuse in Earned Income Tax Credit instead of looking for waste, fraud and abuse in the larger corporation and what they were doing with the Tax Code?

I am not against business. Democrats are pro-business. We know that if we have business, people have jobs. But the reality is when you want to look for waste, fraud and abuse, you don't look for somebody that is paying a dollar in taxes. You look for somebody who is paying a whole bunch of dollars or who is getting a whole bunch of dollars from the American public to do a job and they don't do the job.

Mr. TANNER. You can look around. I could hit a driver and a 3-wood most of these places. They could start right here in this town just trying to find

out what did you do with the money we gave you.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. That is probably a driver, a 3-wood and a 7-iron for you.

Mr. TANNER. And a pitching wedge to boot. Thank you all.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you, Mr. TANNER. We definitely appreciate your contributions. And I like this whole generational mugging piece. You are going to hear that again. That is a great one. And it is so good, Mr. RYAN, to have Members of the Ways and Means Committee here, because they hear this constantly, and the policies are passed through that committee as it relates to how we tax Americans, corporations, what have you. And to see the waste on the other side of the ball, on the government, which we are supposed to oversee, and make sure that those dollars that are being collected from the American taxpayer or the American corporation or whatever it may be, that it is spent in an appropriate way and that we are accountable for it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Sure I would yield.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We had a wonderful, and I am going to share this with the Speaker and the House, we had a wonderful conversation about three weeks ago with Alvin Toffler, who wrote "Future Shock," and then wrote this new book, "Revolutionary Wealth." And he goes into how civilization during the Industrial Age was much different than it is now.

He used the example of 9/11, about how this decentralized, information-based, cells popping up al Qaeda, basically a private group, moved money and information around the world on cell phones and very decentralized, attacked us. And our response was to build a 20th-century pyramid bureaucracy called the Department of Homeland Security because that is what we know how to do. We know how to build these bureaucracies. And how we are living in an age that no longer represents, those kind of bureaucracies no longer address the needs of the American people.

So this audit and what Mr. TANNER and Mr. CARDOZA are trying to do is squeeze this government, squeeze these bureaucracies, get the fat out of them and find out where we can gain resources and invest them into the new programs, the new technologies, the new ways of doing things. And Democrats are for this. And I am excited about this summer and this fall for us to go around the country and talk about this new approach that we have because people say, oh, the Democrats aren't going to do it.

We are experiencing the implementation of the neoconservative agenda right now. They haven't done anything. They are spending like drunken sailors. We are running huge budget deficits. We are spending \$230 billion a year, just paying interest on the debt. We

are borrowing money from China and Japan and all of these other countries and funding these long-term structural deficits that we have.

We need an opportunity to take over this government, and let us start auditing this thing. This is a new Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker, that wants to squeeze the fat out of this government.

The Republicans had a lot of good talk in 1994. But even their own leader, Mr. Gingrich, Speaker Gingrich is saying now they are in charge, they are seen as in charge of a government that can't function.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Perfect example was today when we started talking about the estate tax. And there are different views on the importance of the estate tax. But reducing the estate tax puts in place, how do we pay for what was covered by the estate tax? And how do we pay for it? They don't even account for it. They just reduce it or get rid of the estate tax and say, okay, I am going to leave you to fend for yourself as to how you cover it.

Pay-as-you-go, they fussed at us. Well, if you want to increase college loans, or if you want to increase money for Social Security, or if you want to increase money so that seniors can get a prescription drug benefit, or you want to increase it so seniors can be covered with Medicaid, pay for it. But they don't ever talk about paying for it and a reduction of taxes.

And there are a lot of Democrats who certainly believe that we should not reduce taxes. But regardless of where you are, pay-as-you-go is language that everybody understands. My father used to say, if I have \$5 and beef costs \$5, I am going to buy me a pound of beef for \$5.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, I think, and also Mrs. TUBBS JONES, I think it is important that we look at this issue of the irresponsibility of the Republican majority. They are being very irresponsible. And to say that that is fine, we will give you what you want, of course, Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to see more of that kind of action by the Republican majority to say that, oh, we are with you, even if we are running the country into the ground.

We know better. We know that we have foreign countries that we are borrowing from because we can't even borrow from ourselves anymore because we have done such a bad job. We know we have raised the debt ceiling time after time after time again. Meanwhile, we come to the floor and say our policies are working.

We know that there are things we should not be doing because you are working every day or you are running your business every day. You may not be paying attention to everything that is going on. Not only are we elected but we are paid to watch out for your best interest and also for future generations' best interests. And they are doing it.

And I think that the paradigm shift as it relates to the American people paying attention to what they are doing in a way, from a fiscal way, I think, will take place between now and November.

And so what is so unfortunate about this whole situation, Mr. Speaker, is that we are supposed to be responsible policymakers on a bipartisan basis. And that is not happening right now. That is just not happening. The American taxpayers are getting mugged, knocked down and kicked by this Republican majority and the rubber stamp, or the rubber-stamp Congress, Republican majority that is here.

Now, one other thing I want to mention here, which I think is very, very important, just today, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. TUBBS JONES, we don't have to go back, Mr. Speaker, to weeks or months or 2 years ago or 3 years ago. We had a pay-as-you-go provision here. Individuals decided not to take it up.

We had an opportunity to raise the minimum wage on behalf of the American taxpayers. The Republican majority rejected an opportunity to raise the minimum wage for everyday working Americans.

As a matter of fact, Mr. RYAN, one of the Republican leaders said, I haven't voted in 25 years, Mr. Speaker, to raise the minimum wage. And if he would have had his way, the minimum wage would still be \$3.35 versus \$5.15.

I am so glad that my State joined 21 other States in raising the minimum wage. Meanwhile, we are still here with chisel and hammer in hand as Neanderthals on the Republican side of the ball and saying, oh, we don't have to raise the minimum wage. We are so indebted to the special interests that we don't even want to bother them of having an American public that is able to pay the rent or pay for their house mortgage or to be able to put gas in their tank. We are so invested in the K Street Project, we are so invested in so many other things that we are willing to allow these individuals to suffer.

But guess what? Those are the same individuals that are making America America. And there are millions of Americans that are there.

And so what is very, very unfortunate here, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the Republican majority is still boasting about, you know, we are in charge. We are going to continue to keep our foot on the necks of everyday Americans that are going in, punching in and punching out every day, 5 days a week, sometimes 6, because they have to work overtime; those Americans that know what it means to take a 15-minute break in the morning and a 15-minute break in the afternoon, and a solid 30 minutes of lunch, if they get that, and they better not be a minute late. Those kind of individuals, I think, are going to go to the polls this November and say, no more. They are going to go to the polls and say, we are willing to fight for the kind of accountability that we need from this government.

I am so proud, Mr. Speaker, of the 30-something Working Group and the Members that come down here and the Democratic Members that file legislation on behalf of the American people, not on behalf of the Democratic Party, not even on behalf of the Democratic Caucus, not on behalf of our leadership, but on behalf of the individuals that they represent who woke up early one Tuesday morning and voted for representation in this U.S. House of Representatives, and I must add, Mr. Speaker, the only Chamber that you have to be elected to, that you can't be appointed to. All due respect to the Senate, but Senators can be appointed by Governors. If a Senator was to say, hey, you know, I have had enough, I want to go home, I want to take care of my grandkids, a Governor can appoint a Senator.

But in democracy, in this Chamber, in the U.S. House, if one Member were to say, hey, I want to take care of my grandkids, I want to spend more time with my kids, they have to run for office. They have to run for office, and they have to be replaced by the people.

So we have a greater responsibility. We have a greater responsibility than the White House, than the Senate or the Supreme Court, when you look at the three branches government, to the American people.

The oversight, House Resolution 841, and Mr. CARDOZA's legislation that calls for the calling in those administrators that are not accountable to taxpayers' dollars, these are the kind of bills that we must pass.

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One thing I can say, Mr. RYAN, which is so very important on our side of the ball of saying we want to take this country in a new direction, is the fact that we said we will increase the minimum wage. We will make our country more energy-independent within 10 years. We will implement the 9/11 recommendations to be able to make sure that we can fight terrorism here and make sure that local communities have what they need.

These are not "if" or "if we get around to it" statements. These are statements that we said wholeheartedly that we would carry out.

The last point, anybody who wants to get this information as it relates to an innovation agenda: [housedemocrats.gov](http://housedemocrats.gov). Right here, this is what it looks like. You can download this information. Again, safeguarding, making sure that we have the real security here in America, our Democratic plan: [housedemocrats.gov](http://housedemocrats.gov). And, again, here as it relates to the working group that we have dealing with investing in the Midwest versus the Middle East: [housedemocrats.gov](http://housedemocrats.gov). Mr. RYAN said all of the charts that you see here tonight you can get on [housedemocrats.gov/30something](http://housedemocrats.gov/30something).

Mr. Speaker, I do not even waste my time anymore, as a Member of this House, talking about working in a bi-

partisan way because the only way we can work in a bipartisan way, Mrs. TUBBS JONES, and you know because you are the most senior Member on the floor right now, is that the majority allows it to happen. The majority calls the conference committee, and this happens a lot in the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. A whole lot.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. A lot in the Ways and Means Committee. They will have about tax law, about accountability or what have you, trying to find the ways and the means of bills that come through that committee, and the Democratic Members are not even called. A conference report comes to the floor, and they have not even seen it. Not that they weren't willing to sit down with the Republican majority, saying, We want to work with you and see how we can work in a bipartisan way. They don't even get the notice for the meeting. So the meeting takes place, it comes to the floor, and the rules that are in the House rules, it smacks the theme of the rules and also the spirit of the rules and the rules, period, about the minority party's being informed about these meetings.

So one thing that our leader has said: When we take control, there will be a bipartisan spirit in this House, and we will work together with the Republican minority, if the American people see to it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Because it is not about us. It is not about the Democrats; it is not about the Republicans. It is about fixing the problems. I mean, we have got real problems in this country, serious, structural problems. And we do not have time to be nitpicking with each other to say, Well, that is a good idea, but you are a Republican, so forget about it. Give us all the ideas.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. It is very important to understand that there are 41 members on the Ways and Means Committee. As a result of that 41, there are 24 Republicans and 17 Democrats. And the Democrats, 17 members, beginning with our ranking member, CHARLIE RANGEL, and going on to PETE STARK and on down the line, are people who can bring leadership and knowledge to a discussion about legislation. But, unfortunately, as the committee is currently constituted, we do not have the opportunity to sit at the table and truly legislate. Even one day the police called on us, trying to pull us out of the Ways and Means library room.

The reality is that we are willing and ready, ready and able, to provide import to the legislation on taxing and raising revenue for the United States of America. But, unfortunately, we do not have the opportunity. Unfortunately, we, as Democrats and Republicans, do not have the opportunity to sit at the table, talk it over, figure it out, and come to the floor with legislation that can make a difference on behalf of all Americans.

If you look back in history, every year we were in, there was legislation

that really worked for America. It was legislation that was done on a bipartisan basis. This chairman talks about being a member of the willing, something like the Iraq war, if you weren't a member of the willing and you didn't go to war, you do not get counted in. We are, hopefully, not at war right here in the House of Representatives, although some days I think that we are, that we can have the opportunity to sit at table, legislate, and make a difference on behalf of the people of America. The people of America expect it from us. They do not send us here to argue back and forth with one another about issues. They want us to work it out, and that is why we were elected as representatives.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Do you know what this comes down to? This is just boiling all this down, regardless of the issues that you are talking about: What do we believe in as a country? What do we want our country to be? The great thing about being an American is we get to decide. We do not have 30 or 40 people in the upper echelons of government telling us what we want the country to be like. We get to vote on it, and the American people get to express themselves at the ballot box and decide what we want this country to be like.

Now, what we have had here over the past 5 years with a Republican House, Republican Senate, and Republican White House is tremendous deficits, borrowing more money from foreign interests in the last 4 or 5 years than we have borrowed in the last 224 years.

Do you believe in a government that should put everything on a credit card? Do you believe in a government that should give tax breaks to millionaires and then never raise the minimum wage? Do you believe in a government that should have a \$1 trillion prescription drug benefit and not do anything to contain the cost because the pharmaceutical industry may not like it? If you believe in that kind of government, then you want to continue with what we are doing right now.

But if you believe in a government that is for the common good and the common defense and uses common sense, then you want to vote for the Democrats. If you want to raise the minimum wage by a couple bucks an hour, then you want to vote for the Democrats. If you want to reduce the cost of prescription drugs by using the bargaining power of the United States Government and the Medicare recipients, then you want to vote for the Democrats. If you want to take some of this money that we are going to squeeze out of the government because we are auditing and finding the waste and abuse in our government and invest that money in the Pell Grants, then you want to vote for the Democrats.

I mean, this is very simple. They have their beliefs; we have our beliefs. And we need the American people to affirm those beliefs at the ballot box.



And I believe in November, Ms. TUBBS JONES and Mr. MEEK, that the American people are going to affirm the beliefs of the Democratic Party because we are ready, willing, and able. We have the will and the desire to go out and lead. Put us in coach. We are ready to rock and roll.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Reclaiming my time, it is very interesting. And, Mr. RYAN and Mrs. TUBBS JONES, I think you hit the nail right on the head in talking about the reality of serving in this Republican majority right now, what is not only happening to the Members of this body on the minority side and the one Independent that is a part of this House, but also what is happening to the American taxpayer. And accountability is on our side. We balanced the budget. The bottom line is there wasn't a deficit. There were surpluses as far as the eye can see when the Republican majority took over. And now we find ourselves in a fiscal crisis.

And I want to share this information and make sure, Mr. Speaker, that all the Members, hopefully, go back to their districts and, before they see an increase in the interest rates of student loans, to share with their constituents, and we are sharing it with our constituents, to consolidate their loans before July 1, because afterwards they are going to be paying, I believe, a 2 percent increase in interest rates and climbing, not because the companies said they want to go up on the interest rate, but because the Congress allowed these companies to go up on the interest rate, meanwhile providing more tax breaks for the superwealthy Americans that are here.

So as we continue to speak, we are not here speaking into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Members, just to say we want to be on the record about what is happening to America. We are saying that we are ready, set, go. We have our chinstrap buckled and our mouthpiece in. Since football season is coming up in August, let it be known that we are ready to hit the field. We are ready to hit the field on behalf of the American people; not willing hit the field on behalf of Democrats, not willing to hit the field on behalf of just children, but on behalf of all the American people. That is Republicans, Independents, Green Party.

If you are not even voting, and you are so mad, and you are tired of this mess here in Washington, DC, we are doing this for you. We want to make sure that this democracy that some talk about that we are fighting in foreign lands to guarantee a democracy over there, we want to make sure that we can celebrate a democracy right here, making sure that individuals do not have to find a way out of no way, and making sure that we come up with ways that we can become energy-independent and not just running around here saying, well, we need to go to war in foreign lands to be able to attract oil when we have resources right here.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. If the gentleman would yield, you know what is interesting as we debate on the floor, let us talk about, just for a moment, the minimum wage. And there is always the discussion that the people who pay the most tax ought to get the most return on their taxes. And I cry and scream on behalf of the unemployed in my district: Give them a job, and they will gladly pay taxes. Give them a job and a living wage, and they will be glad to pay taxes. They will be able to take care of their families. They will come off of government rolls.

But the reality is most people working at \$5.25 an hour cannot be successful. They cannot be part of the American dream because they cannot buy milk, \$3 a gallon of gas, and take care of their families. And the reality is that the Democratic Party is the only party talking about raising the minimum wage.

And there has been an argument that we do not want to raise the minimum wage because it impacts business, but there is statistical information very recently that just came from Ohio that says if you raise the minimum wage, businesses are doing better. It is not that if you raise it, they will go into debt. The reality is that if you have got a better worker making a better salary, then you have got a better business. And that is what we need to have happen in Ohio and across this country.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the last time the minimum wage was raised, it was a zero impact on businesses. Zero impact. So when folks are saying if we raise the minimum wage, people are going to go out of business, please. Okay? And when folks start talking about, Well, I am here to protect the business community, the last time I checked, there were individuals that went to vote to elect me and everyone else here to the United States Congress, to the House of Representatives. I didn't see major corporations going up with a voting card saying, I am representing corporation one, two, three, and I am here to vote on behalf of KENDRICK MEEK for Congress. There were individuals that voted for us.

So, Mrs. TUBBS JONES, I think you are 110 percent right, just not on behalf of the people of the great State of Ohio, but on behalf of the American people. People are working every day, but they cannot even put gas in their tank. How can you live?

Oprah just did a story on this as it relates to individuals that are making minimum wage. And they put individuals who were making above the minimum wage on a minimum wage, and they could not survive.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. They say that if you look at inflation and apply it to minimum wage, the minimum wage today should be \$9.08. And even in our proposals we are only asking for \$7.25.

Give people an opportunity to make a living and be proud of themselves making a living wage.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And whatever business you have, your customers are

going to have more money to go and spend. This is the basic difference that we have between what the first President Bush called "voodoo economics," which is the current system we are in right now, the implementation of the neoconservative agenda. That is what is happening right now. And if you are happy with what this system is yielding for you and your family, then you need to continue to vote for the Republican Party. But if it is not effective for you and your family, then you need to look for alternatives, and that is what we are doing here.

But the Democratic Party is saying raise that minimum wage and give these small businesses more customers to go out and purchase their products.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I was just looking for this, and I am so glad that I found it because I think it is important to be able to share the facts where they are. Third-party validators, Mr. Speaker, once again, there is just a line of them as it relates to the things we bring up.

This is a message from my Democratic Caucus Chair, who is JAMES D. CLYBURN, that is talking about priorities of the Democratic Caucus. It is not talking about something we just came up with a couple days ago, but the priorities of the Democratic Caucus and the American people. Five dollars and fifteen cents is the minimum wage. Fifty years, the last time the minimum wage has been this low as it relates to the inflation that you just spoke about. It should be \$9 and some change. 1997 was the last time that the Congress raised the minimum wage. That is almost 10 years ago. It is about to be 10 years ago. Six point six million people, the number of people who would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage. Six point six million individuals, roughly three-quarters of minimum-wage workers, adults over the age of 20, many of whom are responsible for half of their families' income. One day it takes to be able to make money to buy one tank of gas working on the minimum wage.

Again, Mrs. TUBBS JONES, a zero jobs loss. Studies have shown that there is no evidence of jobs lost after passing a minimum wage increase.

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Here is another one. Eighty-six percent of the American people support an increase in the minimum wage, and I must say 22 States have already headed in that direction through constitutional measures or legislative measures to increase the minimum wage to help their State's economy, because they know these individuals are consumers and these individuals that are on minimum wage will help their State's economy.

So I just wanted to share that information, because it is important that we share that. But again, the Republican majority is saying no. We are saying if we become the majority, if they become the minority come this

November, it is not "if we can, we may get around to it." It will be one of the first things that the Democratic Caucus does. A done deal. We don't even have to talk about it, that the American people will see an increase in the minimum wage.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would like to make a point, because when you raise the minimum wage, you raise the wages for all people who are participating in the labor market.

Let's take for example our friends at Wal-Mart, okay? If you raise the minimum wage, now, if you don't work at Wal-Mart or somewhere else of that caliber of a store that hires so many millions of people around the country, they are all going to get a boost. So instead of companies like Wal-Mart making billions and billions and billions in profits, some of that money will make its way back to the workers, so all the workers will get a couple dollars more an hour, which means you are going to have consumers with more money in their pocket so they can pull it out and go buy more goods, which will stimulate the economy.

The American people right now are feeling they are not benefiting from what is happening. I think a raise in the minimum wage would do that, it would accomplish that, it would give demand a spark, which is obviously what we want to do.

Then, like we have talked about here, investing in sewers and roads and bridges and infrastructure and get this country back where it needs to be with our infrastructure, so that we could build industrial parks and roads and bridges and increase commerce in the United States, extend broadband. All of these things will stimulate the economy here in the United States of America, educate our kids, get information into the households, and, at the end of the day, you have got a strong country.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I know that my good friend Kendrick Meek is going to close out on a New Direction for America, but I want to talk again about the minimum wage.

Consider that if the minimum wage had increased with inflation, it would be \$9.08. Well, think about it like this. Family health care insurance is up 70 percent. The increase in minimum wage would help 7.5 million. Gas prices have doubled. So if the minimum wage doubled, it would be \$10, and we would be able to do it. Record surplus has been turned to record deficits. And then college costs are up. There have been \$12 billion in student aid cuts under this administration and Republican Congress.

It is time for Democrats to take control of the House so that we have an opportunity to serve the people and put America in a new direction.

I yield back to our leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let me just say this. You can go ahead and give the website out, sir, and I will close out.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Are you talking to me?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I am talking to you, sir, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate you letting me do this. [www.housedemocrats.gov/30something](http://www.housedemocrats.gov/30something).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Thank you, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Thank you, Mr. MEEK.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I want to thank Ms. TUBBS JONES and also you, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. TANNER and Mr. TAYLOR, who was here at the beginning finishing off his 5-minute speech for joining us tonight.

As Mrs. TUBBS JONES mentioned, as Democrats, we want to take this House in a New Direction for America. I think it is important, and we will let it be known that we will implement on day one, or days within being in the majority, if the American people see fit, a real security plan that will implement the full 9/11 Committee report, work on affordable health care, to fix not only the prescription drug law, but a series of seniors' issues as it relates to health care and also health care for the American people, from GM down to the small mom and pop business. Also make sure we have good paying jobs and stop sending jobs overseas and raising the minimum wage. Reversing all the things that the Republicans have done to Americans as it relates to higher interest rates for students and making college affordable. Also with tax deductions, and also energizing America by making sure we have investment in the Midwest versus the Middle East. And ensuring dignity as it relates to no privatization of Social Security.

With that, Mr. Speaker, it was an honor addressing the House. We would like to thank the Democratic leadership for the time.

#### AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF CONDITIONS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the Speaker for the privilege to address this House of Representatives.

I came to the floor here to speak about a number of issues, but the subject matter, as often happens when I arrive here and listen to the preceding speakers, that subject matter does change, and I would just take it from the top.

Gas prices. Mr. Speaker, gas prices are exactly the same that they would be if we had Democrats in charge of this Congress rather than Republicans. The difference is people have a lot more money in their pockets to buy the gas with, because Democrats would raise the taxes, take the money out of the pockets of the working people and gas prices would not have changed.

We need to do more with energy supply, and I am for that. We can't get

past some of the Republicans in here. But there aren't Democrats that I know of that will support us expanding the supply of energy.

We need to drill in ANWR. We need to drill on the Outer Continental Shelf. I am hopeful we will be able to bring out a bill within the next few days of proceedings in the House so that we can drill on the Outer Continental Shelf for gas and oil, within reasonable limits that we can work out with the States.

So, gas prices are the same as what they would be. It is just that people have more money in their pockets under Republicans to pay for this gas.

This is also a global market. It isn't a United States market. We are not able to drill for oil in places where we know we have reserves because the environmentalist coalition blocks that drilling in the United States of America, especially the Outer Continental Shelf and other places, our non-national park public lands. We have a tremendous supply of natural gas and oil. We are not able to get into that.

That is focused over on that side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, not this side of the aisle. We need a far greater supply of energy, and you will have less energy, not more, if you listen to the advice of the people that spoke ahead of me.

With regard to the tax issues that came here today, the estate tax, most of the money that is taxed in an estate tax has already had the tax paid on it. Most of that is earnings that have already had the taxes paid.

So if you go out and you earn \$100,000 over a year or a lifetime and you pay the income tax on that and that becomes savings that you invest, when that portion of that capital is taxed at your death, much of that, the core of it, the equity of it, the basis of it will be taxed a second time, not a first time.

How many bites at the equity apple does government need? Does government need to tax people on death? Does government in fact need to tax people for their productivity? My answer is no.

I would take all tax off of all productivity. I would put it on consumption. Then if people inherit a few million or a few billion dollars, when they spend that money, they would pay the tax and no one would escape it. But as we have it today, attorneys, and especially large corporations sometimes have whole floors of tax attorneys whose jobs it is is tax avoidance. So very wealthy people avoid the tax, and very poor people don't pay tax. In fact, even lower-middle income people don't pay very much, and sometimes not at all. It is those middle people in there that have earned a reasonable nest egg that get taxed, but they can't afford the attorneys or they don't do the planning because it is that marginal kind of an equation.

But we need to quit taxing people upon death. No taxation without respiration. This bill that we brought out