

this body apparently feel that spending \$35 billion on a highly successful program that provides health care to uninsured children is excessive.

It's time for Republicans to stop blindly following the President and start helping American families.

THE TAXPAYER CHOICE ACT

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I want to bring before the body this morning an issue that needs more attention, not less, and that is the issue of the huge blob that ate the American Dream called the alternative minimum tax. One thing that we are seeing is that the alternative minimum tax, Madam Speaker, is set to rise at a level so unprecedented that the American economy has not experienced anything like this in the last 40 years.

Right now, the tax burden for the average American and to the economy is about 18.5 percent of GDP. If we don't scale back on the alternative minimum tax, we are looking at the tax burden of GDP being almost 24 percent by mid-century. We have never seen this level of taxation in our GDP. This means this money will come out of the pockets of the American taxpayer and will go into the coffers of the Federal Government.

This is a big concern, Madam Speaker, one that I am very concerned about, as I know most of the Members in this Chamber are as well.

In 1969, when the alternative minimum tax came in, it was 155 people. I will close with the fact that this year we are looking at 23 million Americans impacted.

PRESIDENT BUSH ASKS FOR ANOTHER \$196 BILLION TO FUND THE WAR IN IRAQ IN 2008

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, yesterday President Bush asked Congress to rubber-stamp his plan to spend \$196 billion next year on the war in Iraq. I have to tell the President: not a nickel more for this war.

Since the beginning of this year, congressional Democrats have been trying to change a war policy from one where our troops will stay there for more than a decade, to one where we have a responsible redeployment and bring the troops home next year. The President believes it's acceptable to spend billions of dollars in Iraq, while important domestic priorities here in our own country go unmet.

While the President was crafting his \$196 billion war supplemental, the Democratic House approved appropriations bills that included targeted investments in our priorities here at home: education, health care for vet-

erans, more police on the streets, caring for American families.

Madam Speaker, as Congress begins to examine the President's latest war-funding bill, we will once again demand that the President change course in Iraq and get a responsible plan to bring our troops home within the year.

SUPPORT FOR BELARUS

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the pro-democracy rally that took place in Belarus on October 7. During this event, thousands of protesters flooded the streets of the capital city in support of democracy and to demand free and fair elections. The protesters shouted "Belarus and Europe," and they waved European Union flags to express outrage against Alexander Lukashenko. That is the person the State Department has labeled "the last dictator of Europe."

It is time for this dictator, who cheated his way into office by stealing the elections last year, to step aside, step down, and let the people decide who should lead their country through legitimate and clean elections. The world must not tolerate evil dictators, and this one must step aside to allow Belarus to join the modern world rather than suffer under the oppressive and selfish rule of one man.

I applaud, Madam Speaker, the courage of the protesters who took to the streets in Belarus, and I stand with them in their quest for freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

REAUTHORIZE SCHIP

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, President Bush and about 10 House Republicans are all that stand between 10 million children and the health care they need and deserve. I am deeply disappointed in the President's dumbfounding veto of the SCHIP bill. He reneged on his pledge he made when running for re-election in 2004.

The bill to reauthorize SCHIP continues coverage for 6 million kids currently covered and provides incentives for another 4 million kids who have been falling through the cracks of the health care system. The program continues to focus on low- and moderate-income families who earn too much for the Medicaid program, but can't afford private health care.

Madam Speaker, the big momentum behind this historic bill is growing exponentially and will not be stopped. To those blocking the SCHIP reauthorization from becoming law, I say either get on board, get out of the way, or get run over. The children's health care bill is on its way, either with or without you.

SCHIP supporters are even more determined than ever to get this done by the mid-November deadline. Let's all finish this job. For children's health care in America, it's fourth and goal on the 1-yard line. Working together, we can overpower anyone left blocking the way.

THE MEANING OF THE RESTORE ACT

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, as we listen to the comments of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it is obvious that what they intend to do is to make this "SCHIP Week" and "SCHIP Month." You kind of wonder why they are doing this.

Reflect back on last week when we had a most important vote scheduled for this floor that somehow was removed. It was called the FISA vote. It is the question of how we enable ourselves to protect us and our children and our grandchildren against the attacks of those who are terrorists around the world. We do it in many ways, but absolutely essential is intelligence.

Madam Speaker, the FISA bill, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, would have been destroyed by the bill placed on the floor last week by the majority, the so-called RESTORE Act. It actually gave greater protection to Osama bin Laden in a telephone conversation than an American citizen in the United States accused of a crime.

RESTORE: What does it mean? Repeal Effective Surveillance Techniques Opposing Real Enemies. Go out to NSA and see what they are doing. Understand what we need to do in this country and then bring a bill back to this floor that restores the ability of the United States to find out about our enemies before they attack.

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH T. WHALUM, SR.

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the City of Memphis, Tennessee, has lost one of its finest citizens, Kenneth Whalum, Sr.

Kenneth Whalum, Sr., passed away last night. He was a pastor, he was a two-time city councilman, he was a father, he was a family man, he was a leader in our community.

For 30 years, he was the pastor of the Olivet Baptist Church and very highly respected in the community and among the clergy. For 8 years, he was a city councilman, one time as a district councilman in a community known as Orange Mound. Then when he saw a higher calling and the need to address a higher subject, he ran against an incumbent city councilman, at the time

unheard of, and was elected at large, one of the first African Americans elected at large to the Memphis City Council.

He was also a postal service employee and had a career there and rose through the ranks to director of personnel. For that reason, this House, and this week with the President's action, the post office at Third Street in Memphis, Tennessee, will be named the Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr., Postal Building. That is a tribute to his work and all postal employees.

He had a family of which the City of Memphis is proud. His son Kenneth, Jr., is a pastor and a member of the school board. His son Kirk Whalum is a world-renowned saxophonist, and his other son Kevin is a musician with a contract and a poet.

There have been many great families in the City of Memphis to get involved in politics, but none greater than the Whalums. The hair of the hypocrite never was upon this family, and the idea of discrimination and bigotry or intolerance never disgraced them either. He was a leader in biracial politics and activities in the City of Memphis. He was a leader in being bipartisan as well.

There have been few people like Kenneth Whalum, Sr., in the City of Memphis. There will be few to come. I share his loss greatly. He was a supporter of mine who, although he had a stroke and had difficulty walking, came down and did a political ad for me when he could hardly get up the stairs, and on television it was like an angel speaking. When JOHN CONYERS came to Memphis in February, he made it up a whole flight of stairs to see JOHN CONYERS, and a happier man I have not seen. He knew the post office was being named for him before he passed. I am happy he knew that and I am happy I knew him. We have lost a great leader.

NEW DIALOGUE NEEDED TO BRING TROOPS HOME

(Mr. BRALEY of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, it is clear that President Bush has no intention of changing the course in Iraq in any way before he leaves office in January 2009. In fact, both the President and the Pentagon have recently said that they expect American combat troops to be in Iraq for another 10 years; and just yesterday the President requested an additional \$196 billion to fund the war in Iraq for the upcoming year.

The Democratic Congress rejects the notion that our troops are needed in Iraq for the next decade. If the Iraqi Government knows that we are going to be there for 10 years, they have absolutely no reason to make any of the tough political compromises that they promised they would make when the troop escalation began earlier this year. Instead, we support a responsible

redeployment out of Iraq so that the Iraqis can finally take control of their own fate and so that we are no longer sending more than \$2 billion there every week.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats are committed to bringing our troops home, but we can't do it alone. I hope this outrageous funding request serves as a wake-up call to my Republican friends and starts a new dialogue to bring our troops home.

DISCLOSE SALARIES OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS

(Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, when will it end with Blackwater? Probably not soon enough. Just yesterday, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released findings that show that Blackwater has potentially misclassified hundreds of workers in Iraq and Afghanistan, evading taxes and costing the taxpayers in the United States at least \$30 million. This comes a few weeks after the same committee discovered that Blackwater is raking in potentially \$100 million in profit off of their government contracts. We have got to get this situation under control.

That is why I, along with Mr. WELCH and Chairman WAXMAN, have introduced legislation to require that private government contractors receiving more than 80 percent of their revenue from Federal contracts, like Blackwater, must disclose the salaries of their most highly compensated employees.

It just isn't right for executives at Blackwater or anywhere else to make their fortune off of war profiteering. It is our money, and we deserve to know how it is being used.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 767) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 767

Whereas, United States soldiers and personnel in Iraq are fighting to protect innocent Americans from being attacked by al-Qaeda and radical jihadists who are determined to kill the American people.

Whereas, on October 18, 2007, in debate on H.R. 976, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, the Member from California, Mr. Stark, stated: "You don't have money to fund the war or children. But you're going to spend it to blow up innocent people if we can get enough kids to grow old enough for you to send to Iraq to get their heads blown off for the President's amusement."

Whereas, on October 18, 2007, in a press release, Rep. Pete Stark is quoted as saying: "I respect neither the Commander-in-Chief who keep them in harms way nor the chickenhawks in Congress."

Whereas, the Member from California, Mr. Stark, engaged in personally abusive language toward the President and Members of the House, including the use of language that impugns their motives.

Whereas, the Member from California, Mr. Stark dishonors not only the Commander-in-Chief, but the thousands of courageous men and women of America's armed forces who believe in their mission and are putting their lives on the line for our freedom and security.

Whereas, the Member from California, Mr. Stark, has failed to retract his statement and apologize to the Members of the House, our Commander-in-Chief, and the families of our soldiers and commanders fighting terror overseas.

Resolved, That the Member from California, Mr. Stark, by his despicable conduct, has dishonored himself and brought discredit to the House and merits the censure of the House for the same.

Resolved, The Member from California, Mr. Stark, is hereby so censured.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). The resolution presents a question of privilege.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I move to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 196, nays 173, answered "present" 8, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 986]

YEAS—196

Abercrombie	Conyers	Hall (NY)
Ackerman	Cooper	Hare
Allen	Costa	Harman
Andrews	Costello	Hastings (FL)
Arcuri	Courtney	Herseth Sandlin
Baca	Cramer	Higgins
Baird	Crowley	Hinchee
Baldwin	Cuellar	Hirono
Barrow	Davis (AL)	Hodes
Bean	Davis (CA)	Holt
Becerra	Davis (IL)	Honda
Berkley	DeFazio	Hooley
Berman	DeGette	Hoyer
Berry	Delahunt	Inslee
Bishop (GA)	DeLauro	Israel
Bishop (NY)	Dicks	Jackson (IL)
Blumenauer	Dingell	Jackson-Lee
Boswell	Doggett	(TX)
Boucher	Doyle	Jefferson
Boyd (FL)	Ellison	Johnson (GA)
Brady (PA)	Emanuel	Jones (OH)
Braley (IA)	Eshoo	Kagen
Brown, Corrine	Etheridge	Kanjorski
Capps	Farr	Kaptur
Capuano	Filner	Kennedy
Cardoza	Frank (MA)	Kildee
Carnahan	Giffords	Kilpatrick
Castor	Gillibrand	Klein (FL)
Chandler	Gonzalez	Kucinich
Clarke	Gordon	Lampson
Clay	Green, Al	Langevin
Clyburn	Grijalva	Lantos
Cohen	Gutierrez	Larsen (WA)