

I thought the American people had been shocked at the lack of response by our Government to the victims of these hurricanes. I thought the American people could hardly ever get over the fact that they witnessed victims of a natural disaster held up in a convention center in New Orleans for days without food, without water, begging for help.

It was unbelievable when we discovered that the head of FEMA, Mr. Brown at the time, said that he did not know that those victims were out in front of the convention center waving white flags, inside the convention center sick and even dying.

It was unbelievable to witness one of the richest, if not the richest country in the world with the lack of adequate response to its citizens at a time when we were needed most.

And so we're trying to work through this. We have been working to try and get money to the gulf coast, to New Orleans, to Mississippi. We have tried to work to save public housing so that residents could return who had been evacuated and told that the housing would be rehabilitated and they could return.

Many of us have been pushing not only on FEMA and our government, but working with the State and local government trying to correct the injustices that we have now come to know that have taken place in the gulf coast.

And now we're confronted with another unbelievable situation. How much bungling can you do? How much mismanagement can you be responsible for?

Finally, we find there's more. The Federal Emergency Management Administration, that is, FEMA, has admitted what people living in trailers have known for several years: that these trailers contain high levels of formaldehyde that pose serious health risks for residents. Almost after moving in, trailer residents started to complain about respiratory and other formaldehyde-related health problems.

The first private study on the unacceptable levels of formaldehyde in these trailers was in 2006. A few months later, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration conducted its own testing and found formaldehyde concentration as high as 5 parts per million, or 50 times higher than the level the Environmental Protection Agency considers elevated. But FEMA didn't stop the sale or deployment of trailers until July of 2007. And here it is 2008, and it still has no plan to move families out of these environmental health hazards and into safe, permanent, and affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker and Members, we've got to force FEMA to rise to the challenge of getting these 38,000 families out of these toxic trailers as soon as possible and move them into safe, permanent, and affordable housing. Unfortunately, because affordable housing creation has not been a priority of this Bush administration, I know this is going to be a difficult task.

The Bush administration has failed to ensure that the gulf coast region has an adequate supply of affordable housing for its displaced persons, including those in trailers. The administration approved redevelopment plans in Mississippi and Louisiana that provide less affordable housing than was available before Hurricane Katrina. It even allowed, believe this, the State of Mississippi to move \$600 million away from housing assistance to the redevelopment of the Port of Gulfport.

Now, mind you, there are still people who are out of State who want to come home. There are still people living in trailers. There are still people doubled up with family members. And this administration, this Housing Secretary said to the State of Mississippi, go ahead and take \$600 million from housing assistance and you can go ahead and use it for the redevelopment of the port.

In New Orleans, the administration has approved the demolition of 4,500 units of public housing, with no regard to the fact that there are 12,000 homeless persons who could have benefited from having a roof over their heads. The demolition of New Orleans' public housing during an affordable housing crisis is a prime example of this administration's shortsightedness and lack of concern for our country's lowest income renters.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I simply close by saying, here we are, FEMA again, mismanagement, lives at stake. They have no answers.

□ 1600

SUNSET MEMORIAL

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

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another sunset memorial. It is February 26, 2008, in the land of the free, home of the brave; and before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That is more than the number of innocent Americans that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,818 days since the travesty called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down; and since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them cried and screamed as they died; but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we could not hear them in this Chamber.

All of them had at least four things in common: first, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Second, each one of them died a nameless and lonely death and each of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite

the same. And all of the gifts these children might have brought to humanity are now lost to us forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself in our own silent genocide which mercilessly annihilates the most helpless victims to date, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it's important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said: "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Perhaps today, Mr. Speaker, maybe someone new who hears this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,818 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children is enough and that America, the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous enough, compassionate enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this Chamber and in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time. And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn, may that be the day when we finally find the humanity, the courage and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is February 26, 2008, Mr. Speaker, 12,818 days since *Roe v. Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, and this is in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 gentlewoman 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 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, we are looking forward to spending some time on the floor over the next several months and several weeks and spending some time talking with our colleagues and talking with the American people about the budget.

Everybody hears a lot about the budget and about this budget document that is several hundred pages thick, that it is what directs the spending, and I think that most Americans know that the House of Representatives is basically the keeper of the purse, if you will, for the American public.

Now, some of my colleagues from the Republican Study Committee and I want to make certain that we all understand how this money is spent because we fully believe that the American people have the right to know, they have the right to know and they should know, how their budget gets spent, how those tax dollars get spent because we know, Madam Speaker, this is not the Government's money; it is the taxpayers' money. And we want to shine the light on how those dollars are being spent. We want to break down this process. We want to demystify the process and invite the American people to join us and follow us.

We believe Government spends too much money. We believe that Government never gets enough of your money. They never get enough of the taxpayers' dollars and, indeed, one of my favorite analogies is from one of my favorite plays, "Little Shop of Horrors," and I think we have many Americans who fully believe that the U.S. House of Representatives, the Congress, that the Federal Government, that this big

enormous bureaucracy that liberals have built as a monument to themselves, the bureaucracy never gets enough of the taxpayers' money. It's like Audrey II in "Little Shop of Horrors," never can get enough to eat. And what that bureaucracy wants to just chomp away on every day is your money. It is the taxpayers' money.

So we want to make certain that we spend some time going through this budget process spelling out where those dollars get spent, how the dollars get spent, actually, basically, holding a classroom for our colleagues, spending some time talking about the budget document; talking about the consequences that come with baseline budgeting; talking about what would happen if we went to zero-based budgeting; talking about performance-based budgeting; dissecting the appropriations bills; highlighting the risk of growing entitlements; and also addressing the waste that we find in earmarks.

So today as our first session, we thought it would be a good idea to review how Washington spent the taxpayers' money last year.

We have it broken down by household, and we always find that when we speak in terms of billions and trillions in Washington-speak, that we are talking about numbers that are really big. So we went in here and said how much is it per household that was spent in 2007 in the name of Government. What did we appropriate and spend of your money? Came out to be \$24,106 per household. That's the highest total since World War II.

The Federal Government collected about \$21,992 per household in taxes. So what did that give us? If you are spending \$24,106 per household and then you are taking in \$21,992 per household, Madam Speaker, think about that. That is each household's share of taxes: \$21,992.

But it wasn't enough. That wasn't enough. Audrey II wanted a little bit more. The bureaucracy wanted more. The bureaucracy couldn't curb their spending. So they spent that \$24,106. So that leaves the taxpayer and future generations a deficit each year that becomes a debt. And the deficit last year came out to \$2,114 per household.

All of that is going to land in the laps of our children, and in my case, a grandchild that is going to arrive in May. Welcome. Because there's going to be a debt from the U.S. Government on that child's head when he arrives.

Madam Speaker, I want to yield at this time to the gentleman from California (Mr. CAMPBELL) who chairs our Republican Study Committee budget committee and is doing great work on this issue. He's going to take the lead on many of these issues; and at this time I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from Tennessee very much for yielding on this important issue of the budget.

Now you know in the next couple of weeks we will vote on a budget here, Madam Speaker, in this House. And that budget will undoubtedly have a deficit somewhere over \$400 billion. Let me say that again: we will vote on a budget in the next few weeks with a deficit of somewhere over \$400 billion.

Now as Mrs. BLACKBURN indicated, these are big numbers and they're hard to relate to. I understand that. Until I was elected to Congress, they were pretty hard for me to relate to, too. When 9/11 happened, we had a big deficit. The economy dropped off, as you recall. We spent a lot of money going after al Qaeda and so forth at that time. But since then, we've had three straight years of declining deficits. It has been coming down. And in fact, this last year it looked like finally perhaps a balanced budget was in sight.

But now this year, this year for the first time in 4 years, the deficit's going to go up, and it is not just going to go up a little; it's almost certainly going to more than double, more than double this deficit. And that's just this year. But if we look at the future, it gets even worse. If we look here at what is going to happen, and if you just look at this, this shows what will happen to the deficit, to spending in this Government over time if we don't change where we are headed.

You see, the problem we have got is not that the American people are taxed too little. It's that this Congress spends too much. There were tax cuts back in 2003 and in 2001; but since 2003, the revenue of the Federal Government has risen almost 50 percent. Let me make sure people understand that. We reduced tax rates, but because economic activity was generated by that, revenue to the Federal Government actually went up, and it went up every year. But spending keeps going up faster than that, and that's what has got to stop.

And where is it going up? It's going up in just about every category. As we pile deficits on deficits, the interest we pay goes up. Defense spending is continuing to rise; other spending is continuing to rise. But we also have Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, three things which currently take up over 50 percent of the taxes that everyone pays, Madam Speaker.

If we leave them alone, if we don't reform them, if we don't change them, you will have to literally double tax rates on every single American in order to have Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid and keep anything else like a military, like national parks, like anything else. Nearly double tax rates. That is unsustainable.

□ 1615

What are we doing in this budget to deal with that? Nothing. Not a single thing.

Now, this isn't just me saying this or just Republicans saying this. Every single analyst, liberal, conservative, right, left, Republican, Democrat