

This week, I, along with six other Members, sent a letter to President Nguyen Minh Triet to express outrage over Vietnam's ongoing human rights violations, and to urge the Government of Vietnam to stop using violence against its own people.

I encourage my colleagues to continue addressing this serious issue and speaking out for those in Vietnam who are putting their lives in danger in the name of freedom.

TAXPAYERS DESERVE ANSWERS AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON WALL STREET BAILOUT

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the news on this Wall Street bailout has me fuming. Taxpayers want, need, and deserve answers and accountability. The Treasury Secretary should not have the authority to spend \$700 billion with zero oversight.

Meanwhile, a provision in the bill says that banks that bought Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac preferred stock get better tax treatment than an individual who bought preferred stock. That is wrong. Why shouldn't banks be held responsible for their mistakes?

I am not sure this is the best way to fix the problem. We need to discuss serious alternatives before we ask Americans to shoulder billions in additional debt.

Hundreds of my constituents have called outraged at this Wall Street rescue. They want to know when we are going to bail them out.

I am outraged too. Taxpayers deserve better from America.

REJECT FUNDING FOR ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, 750,000 American teenagers will become pregnant this year. This is clear evidence of a serious problem in our country. According to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, teen parents are less likely to complete their education and more likely to depend on welfare.

Unfortunately, for the last several years the Bush administration has insisted we waste money on abstinence-only education programs that the GAO has deemed ineffective. In fact, a University of Washington study revealed that students who receive comprehensive sex education are less likely to become teen parents than those who receive abstinence-only information.

Not surprisingly, my home State of California, which rejects title V abstinence-only funding, has a teen birth rate that is lower than the national average.

Madam Speaker, we need to teach our children commonsense decision-making skills and not withhold vitally important health information from them. I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting any future funding for abstinence-only education. Instead, let's spend it where we will see real results.

A SHOOT-FROM-THE-HIP DECISION?

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, they tell us that we are facing financial Armageddon. They tell us we must buy our way out of this. They tell us we must act now or the country will fall into the abyss.

The plan? A \$700 billion bailout will be given to the very people who are responsible for this financial mess: Wall Street money grabbers. And to top it off, the idea for this bailout is from the same financial schemers who themselves are responsible for this chaos.

We in Congress have to resolve three issues first: What is the problem? What caused the problem? And what is the solution?

We are still debating what the problem is and what caused it. Until we figure that out, we should not come up with a shoot-from-the-hip, quick-draw decision on what to do.

We have spent more time in congressional hearings on steroids in baseball than we have in discussing this \$700 billion ripoff of the American people.

Before we strong-arm American citizens into paying for the sins of New York City financial markets, we need to do more investigation. Then we can come up with the right thing to do and make sound judgments—sound judgments that the so-called experts from Wall Street don't make.

And that's just the way it is.

SERGEANT RAFAEL PERALTA, AN IMMIGRANT AND A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here to honor a true American hero, Sergeant Rafael Peralta, an immigrant that made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, using his body as a shield to protect his fellow marines from a grenade blast.

Peralta's story is an example of the heroes that love this Nation. For his disregard of personal safety and heroism, his commander recommended him to be awarded the Medal of Honor. This was not the case. Sergeant Peralta was awarded the Navy Cross, which is also an extraordinary feat.

However, his sacrifice merits that of the Medal of Honor. That is why I have joined my colleagues in asking the President to review this case.

Sergeant Peralta is a true example of how much many immigrants in Amer-

ica love this country. No one can deny Peralta's love for this country, having joined the United States Marine Corps right after becoming a legal permanent resident.

Recognizing the sacrifice of Peralta, America cannot turn her back on immigrants.

I urge my colleagues to support comprehensive immigration reform.

WE NEED A CAUTIOUS AND COMPETENT APPROACH

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, hardworking Americans understand that our Nation's financial markets are very fragile. The American people are rightfully concerned when they see a \$700 billion price tag on a plan to address this crisis. They are hesitant to give the Federal Government an extraordinarily large amount of taxpayer dollars, especially before the right questions and the right concerns have been given their due process.

This Nation has a long history of balancing the needs of a market economy and the realities of government involvement in those markets. We have weathered our fair share of storms as well. Before Congress endorses a multi-billion dollar effort to address our financial situation, it would serve this Nation and the wallets of those we represent not to forget that history.

We need a full review of different alternatives to a simple bailout. Otherwise, we risk placing a daunting financial burden on our children's futures.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

TAXPAYERS BEING ASKED TO PAY FOR A GRAND OLD PARTY ON WALL STREET

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Madam Speaker, in somber terms last night, President Bush described a crisis as if it had emerged on Wall Street from outer space. Never accepting any personal responsibility, this is the man who chased the sheriff off Wall Street while it had a party, a grand old party.

That infamous Republican earmark, that Bridge to Nowhere up in Alaska, it carried a hefty price tag, \$223 million. Well, what President Bush is now asking Americans to do is to pay for the equivalent of 4,500 Alaskan bridges, a \$1 trillion gold-plated, diamond-encrusted bridge to Wall Street.

And our job here in Congress is to ask, is this just another Bridge to Nowhere, and ask why is it that the party-goers don't have to pay for the party? Why should American taxpayers and future generations of Americans

have their future mortgaged to pay for a party they never participated in?

MEDIA SHOULD PROVIDE BALANCED ELECTION COVERAGE

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is not easy to find a news magazine without either Senator OBAMA on the cover or gratuitous attacks on Senator MCCAIN and Governor Palin in its articles. For example, Newsweek magazine this week published an article suggesting that Governor Palin's faith in God makes her less qualified to be Vice President. That is an amazing lack of grace.

This marks the latest shot fired in the media's all-out assault on Governor Palin's campaign to become America's first woman Vice President. No wonder Americans, by a 10-to-1 margin, believe the media are trying to hurt Governor Palin, according to a Rasmussen poll.

Newsweek is the same magazine that has featured Senator OBAMA on its cover six times this year, compared to only three times for Senator MCCAIN.

Americans need balanced coverage during this election, and should demand that the media provide it.

SECRETARY PAULSON'S SOLUTION TO THE URGENT FINANCIAL CRI- SIS IS WRONG

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

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, Secretary Paulson's solution to the urgent financial crisis is wrong. The problem is that the financial institutions have been trading securities whose value they don't know and can't know because bad mortgages are mixed in with good mortgages in indeterminate amounts.

For any problem, you should go to the root in order to solve it. The root here is that the bad mortgages mixed with the good mortgages have poisoned the financial papers. In buying those papers, the taxpayers won't know whether they are getting any value for their dollar, and neither Paulson nor the market will be able to determine the value. So go to the root. Repair the bad mortgages. It will help Wall Street and Main Street. It will restore confidence, liquidity and solvency.

There is an antecedent. The Homeowners Loan Corporation in the 1930s dealt with a crisis of bad mortgages, put up \$70 billion in today's dollars and rescued 1 million homeowners. It worked.

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LOWERING GAS PRICES, CREATING JOBS

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, as I travel across my district, helping with hurricane recovery, I am proud of the can-do spirit of the people of southwest Louisiana. Hurricanes Gustav and Ike caused amazing damage throughout my area, but neighbors are helping neighbors.

These two storms also highlight the importance of American energy production in the Gulf of Mexico. High gas prices are affecting our food prices, the economy in general, and people's pocketbooks directly.

Throughout August, I joined my fellow House Republicans in urging Speaker PELOSI to bring Congress back in session to help American families struggling with the dramatically high gas prices, but she refused.

Now we can act. We can increase and diversify our energy supply, become less dependent on foreign sources of oil and create good high-paying American jobs. Many of these energy jobs are going overseas, but we can keep them right here in America.

By harnessing all of America's vast resources, we can help Americans in the short term and into the future. Let's do the responsible thing. Let's open parts of our deepwater coasts for energy exploration and pass a comprehensive energy bill. Let's begin to reduce the price at the pump.

WHILE REPUBLICANS WANT MORE OF THE SAME, DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING TOWARD CHANGE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, there is a reason that the American people are demanding real change this year. Nearly 8 years ago, this administration inherited a Nation that was well respected abroad, fiscally sound and economically stable.

Today, thanks to misguided policies and arrogance, President Bush has left our Nation's security in a more precarious and dangerous position. On the budget front, President Bush and congressional Republicans have turned a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion into a projected 10-year deficit of \$3.4 trillion.

On the economic side, home foreclosures are at record highs, wages are stagnant. More than 600,000 jobs have been lost this year alone, and Wall Street is in crisis thanks to this administration looking the other way for 8 years.

The administration is now looking for a \$700 billion recovery package with absolutely no strings attached. While they are trying to recast themselves as the agents of change, we know better. They have built a record of failure over the last 8 years, and America cannot afford more of the same.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to not engage in personalities toward the President or the Vice President.

HELPING HOME MEAL DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS

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

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting with home delivery volunteers in the Fifth Congressional District on Monday to discuss H.R. 6675, a bill I introduced in July.

H.R. 6675 would increase the standard deduction for home meal delivery volunteers from the current rate of 14 cents per mile to 58.5 cents per mile. Home meal delivery programs across the country are losing volunteers as the cost of gasoline continues to rise.

This legislation will help retain and recruit additional volunteers to carry out this important work. For those who receive home delivered meals, these volunteers serve an important role in delivering meals that provide needed nourishment, in addition to boosting the morale and spirit of those individuals.

As we continue to debate the comprehensive energy reform policy in Congress, we must be aware of the important contributions volunteers have on our great country. Volunteer firefighters, civic group leaders, and others who give so much of their time and resources are what make our community and our country a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

MCCAIN DEREGULATION AGENDA WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, as Americans everywhere are feeling the effect of President Bush's failed economic policies, Senator JOHN MCCAIN has once again demonstrated that if he wins in November, he will not only continue those same failed policies, but he will expand them to the health care industry.

Just last month, Senator MCCAIN, in an opinion that he wrote, said that the health insurance market should be run more like the banking industry has been during the last decade. Can you imagine that?

As you can imagine, this would be a disaster for American families. By creating a deregulated national marketplace, health insurance companies could sell plans that lack even the most basic consumer protections, creating high out-of-pocket expenses and allowing insurance companies to break promises to pay medical bills.