

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.

□ 1015

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.

The latest financial meltdown on Wall Street highlights the need for a government to regulate big business. We need a referee on the field. Not only does Senator MCCAIN disagree with that belief, but he wants to take the referee out of health care, leaving all Americans to fend for themselves.

That's not a change the American people can believe in.

THE BAILOUT

(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, over the weekend Secretary Paulson asked taxpayers to pony up an astonishing \$700 billion to buy financial services sector debt on top of the existing bailouts that are already implemented this year. All told, that amounts to an astonishing \$1.5 trillion.

Spending at this proportion doesn't just impact a fiscal year, it will impact generations of prosperity. We are told that the consequences of inaction, even of deliberative action, will be severe, but I am concerned that the consequences of hasty action could be just as dire. I have had hundreds of constituents call my office, as have my colleagues, over the last 2 days, asking this question. They are all expressing skepticism for this plan.

They remain unconvinced, as I remain unconvinced, that they will get much result for their investment. We should not be in the habit of writing blank checks. We should not rush to take action in a week when the consequences could last several lifetimes, because the forgotten man in all of this is the everyday American taxpayer.

It's with them in mind that we should fully focus on our responsibilities and not rush to judgment because of an artificial deadline.

HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF DEFICIT SPENDING

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, listening to the President last night, I had a very disturbing sense of déjà vu, or actually, maybe, appropriately, déjà voodoo.

I remember the situation where the President said we had this threat to the country, we had to respond in Iraq. He then went on to foist hundreds of billions of dollars of deficit spending in the Iraq war, without paying one single dime in a fiscally responsible way to do it.

Last night he did exactly the same thing. He attempted to foist somewhere between 200, 500, 700 billion dollars of deficit spending on the American people. When you do deficit spending, you ultimately put the cost on middle-income taxpayers in America.

This President, if he believes this crisis is so bad, needs to come to the American people and put the cost on the folks who got us into this predicament, the industry that created this crisis, not on middle-income taxpayers.

This is fiscal irresponsibility. It will not stand.

WE ARE NOT LEARNING FROM HISTORY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we are told that those who have refused to learn from history are destined to repeat it, and it is true. We are not learning from history.

I love the President, and I disagree about Iraq. But last night, the statements that came to a conclusion had an extremely faulty premise, and that premise was that the Federal Government is the only one that can properly manage these assets long enough, that has the patience.

That's ridiculous. We serve in this Congress. We can't even keep the same incentives in place for a year or two.

China, we just heard, is now telling its banks, don't loan to us. They are totalitarian, and we should be concerned about it, but they are moving toward capitalism. Let the private sector make its money and pay us tax. We are moving that way.

This will be the biggest socialist move in American history, and it breaks my heart that so many are thinking maybe this is all we can do. The Soviet Union lasted 70 years when they did this type of thing.

We won't make it that long. I beg colleagues on both sides, let's look at this and not move socialist.

DISASTROUS ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, our President had an opportunity last night, and he blew it. He could have reasserted his leadership by accepting responsibility for his disastrous policies, but he took a pass. Instead, he chose to blame the American people.

Well, Mr. President, the American people did not spend the last 7½ years deregulating Wall Street. You did. The American people didn't spend \$12 billion a month on an unnecessary war. You did. The American people didn't come up with the idea to give tax breaks to oil companies. You did.

Whatever happens at the White House today, I can only hope that the man and the party responsible for this crisis finally decide to do the right thing. The American people are forgiving. It's time to man up and admit that your disastrous economic policies got us into this mess.

Then, as we always do, we can all work together to repair the damage.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

PRESERVE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this first year of Congress for me is about to end, and the 110th Congress is about to end. It is important that we come together on this floor and in this Congress in a bipartisan manner to preserve the American economy.

Whose fault it is—I think the American people know whose fault it is. There were 6 years of a Republican President, a Republican Senate, a Republican House, and a lack of regulations and a lack of regard to the economic conditions that brought about this situation, but now is the time to fix the mess.

Whether you are a first-year Member, a senior Member, a Democrat or Republican, when you make a mess, you clean it up. It's our responsibility to do it in the proper way with oversight, with the American taxpayer at the base of our concerns to make sure we do it right.

We are in for historic times. The Democratic Party and the Republican Party need to come together, and we need to have a solution to keep America strong.

God bless the United States of America.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1491 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1491

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 25, 2008, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures:

(1) The bill (H.R. 928) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

(2) The bill (S. 2324) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to enhance the Offices of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

(3) The bill (S. 1046) to modify pay provisions relating to certain senior-level positions in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

(4) The bill (H.R. 6045) to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2012.