

our economic recovery. I commend the excellent work done on the energy provisions in this bill and greatly appreciate the conferees' willingness to work to make them as effective as possible.

THERE ARE BETTER SOLUTIONS

(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. Mr. Speaker, our friends on the other side of the aisle continue to frame the stimulus debate as between doing what they want or doing nothing at all. This is simply not the case, as even the Washington Post reported today.

Since the very beginning of this economic crisis and from day one of this Congress, House Republicans have worked to develop proposals that promote job creation. Our solutions provide immediate relief to American families, small businesses, real estate recovery, and homeowners. Our solutions aim at creating jobs. We can create twice the jobs at half the spending. We can bring our set of proposals to the table in a spirit of bipartisanship. We have done so in recognition of the fact that millions of Americans are in financial distress. We must not keep quiet when we know there are solutions that can create jobs without burdening our children with even greater debt and threatening destructive inflation.

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

THE BEST SOCIAL PROGRAM IS A JOB

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the best social program is a job. A job provides a person not only wages but also confidence in themselves and their future.

Over the last 4 months of the Bush administration, the U.S. economy hemorrhaged jobs, over 2 million from August to December 2008. In Connecticut, one of our largest employers, Mohegan Sun, suspended construction in September of a one-half billion dollar addition and, as a result, carpenters, electricians, sheet metal workers, and the entire construction trades are now barely getting by collecting unemployment.

We have a choice in the Congress in the next few days—to support President Obama and pass his Recovery Act, putting thousands of construction workers back to work building roads, bridges, and green energy buildings; or we can listen to the Do Nothing Herbert Hoover crowd who want to trip up our new President only a few weeks in office who is only trying to clean up the mess he inherited.

I say vote "yes" for jobs, and tell the Do Nothing crowd, as they say in the

military: Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, this big government spending plan being called a stimulus is deeply flawed and being rushed through Congress with little regard for the consequences.

Take a look at some of the provisions, including \$1.1 billion in spending to prepare the country for socialized medicine. Under the guise of economic stimulus, the bill creates a Council for Comparative Effectiveness, which amounts to government bureaucracy deciding what is best for your health care based on cost averages, not what is best for each individual sick patient.

President Obama's health care advisers have made clear that this is part of their overall plan to move toward universal government-run health care.

People don't want socialized medicine in this country. This has nothing to do with creating jobs and getting our economy back on track.

Using this so-called stimulus bill to move the country towards the agenda of the left is wrong. First the bailout, now the stimulus, millions of dollars in pork. Enough is enough.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to bring to everyone's attention something that is on everyone's mind: Jobs, jobs, jobs.

America needs to get back to work, because without a job you can't pay off your mortgage, without a job you can't pay your health care bills. We need jobs in this country. How can we get that done?

I think it is time that we treat small business on Main Street the same way the past administration treated their friends on Wall Street, and that is with the number "zero." Zero percent interest. If the Federal funds rate of zero percent is good for their friends on Wall Street and between bank lending, maybe that is the number that small businesses ought to get on Main Street.

When credit is available to small businesses, we can generate millions and millions of new higher wage jobs. Let's treat Main Street like the past administration treated Wall Street.

HUGO CHAVEZ'S QUEST FOR POWER

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

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the Venezuelan people will go to

the polls to determine the future of freedom and democracy in their country. Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, in his continued quest for power, is demanding that the people of Venezuela get rid of presidential term limits.

Chavez has just celebrated 10 years in power, and his legacy is clear: Higher poverty, more crime, rampant inflation, growing anti-Semitism, less freedom, alliances with Iran, Russia, and Cuba, and a loss of hope and opportunity for the Venezuelan people.

Mr. Speaker, Venezuelans cannot afford to have Chavez leading them into the Communist abyss. Today, I am introducing a resolution calling upon the Members of the House to stand for free and fair elections this weekend in Venezuela. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the important resolution and to stand with the Venezuelan people in their fight for freedom from the iron fist of Hugo Chavez.

A MELTDOWN OF CONFIDENCE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, over the past few months we have seen not only a financial meltdown, but also a meltdown of confidence. People we had worshiped, people who ran huge businesses, people we had considered experts proved to be simply Wizards of Oz. We pulled back the curtain and found they were as flawed and fallible as the rest of us. And now we have an economy that gets worse from day to day.

Each of us has stood here and preached about what steps we think will fix our economy. We have heard Members who have never worked in the private sector talk about how to create jobs; we have heard people who can't balance their own checkbooks talk about admonishing bankers; and we have heard the head of the Republican Party incomprehensibly say, "Work is not a job."

None of us has confidence that everything in the economic recovery package will work; but we should all realize that unless the American people have confidence that we are working together, the odds of its success are greatly diminished.

I urge all my colleagues to forget their political calculations, calculate the consequences of failure to our country, and support the only plan available for fixing our economy.

A STIMULUS FOR MAIN STREET

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, this Nation is in a recession, and our constituents are absolutely outraged with what they see happening in this House. They want action. But they do not want the Democrat stimulus bill

that passed the Senate yesterday. What they want is a stimulus for Main Street. They know the best stimulus is a job.

They do not want the Democrat big government stimulus bill that was passed across in the other Chamber yesterday. They know that stimulus should be targeted, it should be immediate, it should be temporary, and it should yield results.

Yesterday's bill brings us \$400 million on social services block grants, \$300 million for green golf carts, \$198 million on the DHS headquarters consolidation, \$300 million on FBI construction, \$125 million for District of Columbia water and sewer projects.

What they want is focused, targeted stimulus, not a big bill that our children and grandchildren are going to continue to pay for the rest of their lives. Let's oppose this bill. Let's focus on targeted stimulus that will yield results.

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HOOVERVILLE IS COMING AROUND

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, there is a saying that what goes around comes around. And the Republicans have adopted this as their mantra for their response to the American economic problem. Republican President Herbert Hoover presided over the Great Depression and stood by while millions of Americans stood in soup lines and unemployment lines. It produced Hoovervilles across the land, a kind of how-to guide on what not to do during an economic crisis.

Today, Republicans are replaying the same old movie, responding in the same old way. And they offer America the same old outcome. Hooverville is the model community of the Republican plan to solve America's economic crisis. You won't need a mortgage in a Republican Hooverville because the town is already bankrupt. You don't need a stimulus package to revive the economy in a Hooverville because it is a Republican-planned community, and they have planned for soup lines and unemployment lines. And you won't see light at the end of the tunnel in Hooverville, because they drove the economy into the ditch over the last 8 long years. And they offer an economic plan to drive it deeper.

What goes around comes around. And Hooverville is right around the corner. Republicans offer America an economic blueprint called "Hooverville." It didn't work the last time, and it won't work this time.

ASSOCIATED PRESS SHOWS FAIRNESS IN FACT-CHECKING PRESIDENT OBAMA

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is just as important to recognize examples of fair reporting as it is to criticize biased news. Earlier this week, the Associated Press released an article fact-checking President Obama's claims about the economic stimulus package. The AP found that the President "had it both ways" when at first he bragged about getting Congress to produce a stimulus with no pork, but later boasted the stimulus would do good things for pet projects in Indiana. The AP also found the President guilty of "projecting job creation numbers that may be impossible to verify and glossing over some ethical problems that bedeviled his team."

Americans count on the media to check the facts on important issues and report the truth about officials in both parties. Fair reporting like this will go a long way towards restoring Americans' trust in the media.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN DINGELL

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a bit of good news today. This is a great day in this body because on this day, a great man will become the longest-serving Member of this House. This is especially important to me because the record he is breaking belonged to that of my predecessor once removed, the great Jamie Whitten, my wonderful boyhood friend and hero. But today, Chairman JOHN DINGELL from Michigan will break that record. On this day, when the sun came up this morning, he became the longest-serving Member of the United States House of Representatives.

He is a great man, a gentleman, a man's man, if you will, and a giant in this institution, a record that will no doubt probably never be equaled or broken. I had the great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to know them both. I had the great pleasure to know what great public servants they were. I had the great pleasure to call them both my friends and one of them my colleague. I will remember this day a long, long time.

And I salute you, Chairman DINGELL.

TAX CUTS, NOT HANDOUTS

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention a Trojan horse for billions of dollars in pork spending under the guise of a stimulus. This \$1 trillion bill is designed to spend taxpayer money on programs that have nothing to do with creating jobs. It takes a step toward government-controlled health care and takes limits off of welfare spending to create endless handouts.

This should be about creating jobs, not about making work. We can do this

with long-term, meaningful tax cuts. The President's own economic advisers say the Republican plan will create twice the jobs for half the cost.

We cannot spend our way out of debt. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says that long-term, this bill will cause more harm than good. Yet Democrats intend to spend the equivalent of \$1 million a day for the next 3,000 years. The hardworking people in my district are also hurting from this economy. But under this bill, their tax dollars will only dig a deeper hole for us to climb out of.

DEMOCRATS WILL TURN THIS ECONOMY AROUND

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, when the Clinton administration concluded 8 years, it had created 23 million jobs. It left the new administration with a \$236 billion surplus and an estimated \$5.6 trillion of projected surpluses. It took only 4 years to turn that surplus into deficits. And now when this administration leaves office, they leave this country with an annual deficit over \$1 trillion. They have doubled our public debt—from \$3.4 trillion to \$6.4 trillion—of the amount of debt held by the public.

And it began because instead of balancing the budget, as President Bush the 41st had done and President Clinton succeeded in that policy, they threw the PAYGO concept aside, gave us two tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, and bankrupted this country. And that is why we have to act this week to restore our fiscal solvency.

THE SKY IS FALLING

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the sky is falling, the sky is falling, but never fear, the Federal Government is here. But in another failed attempt to save the day, the administration announced they would use the full force of the government to spend our way out of this crisis. Congress hasn't even passed the \$835 billion stimulus package and the Treasury Department announces \$2 trillion more for the bailout for the fat cats on Wall Street. With that new emerging threat on the horizon, the stock markets tanked.

Government is not the answer. They are the problem. These ideas do little to address the economic situation. It is just more scare tactics and government-savior rhetoric. Reagan once said that the most feared words in the American language are, "We are here from the Federal Government, and we are here to help you."

The Federal Government can't spend money it doesn't have. This will be debt that Americans yet to be born will