

POW boldly boarded a C-141 transport plane with a tin can in his hand flying from Vietnam back home to America. His name? Colonel SAM JOHNSON, now a Member of this United States House of Representatives, from Texas.

SAM JOHNSON was a fighter pilot, flew 62 missions in Korea, and on his 25th mission in Vietnam he was shot down. He landed in a rice paddy, was captured by the North Vietnamese, and for 7 years was a prisoner of war. He was tortured, beaten, but never broken. He did have a broken arm, and his other arm was useless. April 16, 1966 is when he began his 7 years of confinement. But today is his 36th anniversary from his 7 years in a POW camp. He served in a cell the size of a tomb with that tin cup and polluted rice, and sometimes a rat would come by.

Madam Speaker, we want all of America's sons to grow up to have the character of Colonel SAM JOHNSON. We thank SAM JOHNSON for his 7 years of service in a POW camp. We thank all the Americans that served in those POW camps—those that survived and came home, and those that did not.

And that's just the way it is.

H.R. 852, THE REBUILD AMERICA BOND ACT OF 2009

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, during these difficult economic times, President Obama has called on Americans to embrace a new era of responsibility. To that end, last week I introduced H.R. 852, the Rebuild America Bonds Act of 2009.

The proceeds from these bonds would be set aside in a Rebuild America trust fund, to be used only to build infrastructure projects, including rail, transit, water, highway, bridge, and road projects. Rebuild America savings bonds would provide every American with the opportunity not only to invest in their country but to also provide the financial support that we need for our infrastructure in America.

In addition, the new savings bonds will improve the morale of the American people. People want to know, what can I do now? They want to know, where can I put my money? Where will it be safe? How can I help America.

From bridge collapses, water main breaks, and other infrastructure accidents across this country, it is clear that America's infrastructure is aging. So I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 852, the Rebuild America Bonds Act.

A NEW 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, our Democratic col-

leagues have said we need a new approach in Washington that does not rely on tired ideas and politics of the past. So I am curious, what exactly is new and novel about a massive spending package, developed behind closed doors, and devoid of bipartisan input? That is not change. It repeats mistakes of the past.

Instead of trying to borrow and spend our way to recovery, House Republicans have laid out a commonsense, timely, and targeted alternative. Our proposal would create jobs by providing immediate relief to American taxpayers, small businesses, and home buyers. These tax cuts have been tried before under President Kennedy and President Reagan. Each time, they created jobs and led to economic recovery.

The American people are hurting. They care about keeping their jobs, paying their bills, and sending their children to school. They deserve much better than this massive spending bill, which will raise interest rates.

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

SUPPORT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PLAN

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, while Democrats in Congress are pushing for a recovery package to put Americans back to work, the recovery is delayed by the same Washington Republicans who helped craft the Bush-onomics that created this recession.

In 1993, Washington Republicans said that the Clinton budget would lead to a job-killing recession. Instead, the Clinton economy created 22 million jobs in just 8 years. Compare that to the 2.6 million jobs lost just last year, in the last year of President Bush's administration.

In 2001, Washington Republicans swore that their tax cuts would lead to the most robust economy we have ever seen. Instead, their theory went bust and drained the surplus that President Clinton had created and left us with a staggering deficit that we are now dealing with.

The American people demanded in November for a change, and for a reason: Republican economic theories don't work and certainly don't put American people back to work.

I urge Washington Republicans to join fellow Republicans like Governor Crist and Governor Schwarzenegger and help us enact President Obama's plan to turn this economy around.

WE MUST DO BETTER

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, this bill that we are going to consider

or vote on in the next day or so should be about jobs, small business, and working families. However, small business, which I am on that committee, make up 99 percent of businesses in Florida and they create 70 percent of the jobs, but only 1 percent of this will actually go in terms of helping small business.

The Congressional Budget Office says it will do more harm than good long term; 300 leading economists say this bill will not help the economy. It explodes the debt. We are at \$10 trillion now; this year we will be at \$1.2 trillion plus the stimulus with interest, over \$1 trillion. This is about our children and grandchildren. We are going to put them further behind. We will not leave it better for them, and that is why I cannot support this bill.

HONORING LAWRENCE "LARRY" KING

(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, I rise this morning to honor the life of my constituent, Larry King.

Larry was shot at his middle school by a fellow student. That was 1 year ago today. He died 2 days later. Larry was 15 years old. The police classified the murder as a hate crime. Almost 200 vigils in all 50 States were held to honor this young man's life.

Larry's death serves as a tragic reminder that we must work to end violence and harassment directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people.

Every child should be guaranteed an education free from bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence.

Today, I honor Larry's full but tragically short life. I am introducing a resolution in his honor to bring attention to the violence he experienced in school and for all those who face harassment because of their sexual orientation and gender expression.

We must, and we will, end this discrimination.

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. Madam Speaker, Members were informed yesterday that a deal has been struck on the \$1 trillion spending bill that Speaker PELOSI is calling an economic stimulus plan.

The American people have a right to know what is in this bill, but I have serious doubts that the majority party will allow the American people to view the bill for the 48 hours like they said they would; so let's look at a couple of the provisions of the bill.

Davis-Bacon, a policy that forces government contractors to pay union wages, will force the cost of all infrastructure and construction projects up

by millions and millions of dollars in every part of the country.

The bill directly undermines key welfare reforms passed by Congress in the nineties that got people off welfare and back to work. In fact, under provisions in the bill, States are actually incentivized to put more people on welfare.

Not to mention the pork: \$4.8 million for a polar bear exhibit, \$3 million for golf carts, \$150 million for honey bee insurance, and on and on.

This isn't much about creating jobs; it is massive government spending. First the bailout, now the so-called stimulus. Enough is enough.

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COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. I believe that the stimulus package is very important for working families. And we must pass this bill on behalf of the American people. But our Nation is in desperate need of comprehensive immigration reform, as well. Politicians have used the immigration issue as white noise for every important bill that is brought up here in the House. We can keep dancing around the problems. We need real reform with border enforcement that also addresses the 14 million undocumented people living here in this country.

Just yesterday, The Washington Post reported that local counties in the area are stepping up their collaboration with ICE. This will only be creating more fear and dividing our communities and our families. This is why we cannot use a wide brush to paint a solution to deal with the immigration issues. We must not forget that we're talking about families, not just numbers and statistics.

I urge my colleagues to help these families and join me in working towards real comprehensive immigration reform. I ask President Obama and Speaker NANCY PELOSI to address this issue of comprehensive immigration.

DEFENDING THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Mr. PENCE. Today Congress will begin to consider, under the guise of stimulus, what will amount to the largest spending bill since the Second World War. As millions of Americans have come to realize, this spending bill is not so much about creating jobs as it is about creating more government and more debt. Senator CHUCK SCHUMER referred to the "porky" elements of this bill. And we're learning about millions of dollars for golf carts. And this morning we learned about millions of dollars to protect San Francisco mice.

But I don't rise this morning to debate the bill, Madam Speaker, so much as to defend the public's right to know. Just a few short days ago, Congress unanimously voted to post the so-called stimulus bill on the Internet for 48 hours to let the American people judge for themselves. I rise to challenge my colleagues in the Democrat majority, slow this process down. Post this bill on the Internet. Let the American people see this so-called stimulus bill in all of its details and they can decide whether we're creating jobs or just more government and more debt.

SCHOOL FUNDING

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

Mr. WALZ. Madam Speaker, you hear everyone in this body talking about strengthening our economy, leading in innovation and creating that entrepreneurial spirit. But to do this, there is one thing we must do to ensure a solid base for our economic future, and that is to provide the best education possible for our children.

Like most States, my State of Minnesota is facing a severe budget crisis. Without Federal assistance, the largest community in my district, Rochester, Minnesota, will have to cut up to 35 teachers. That is home of the famous Mayo Clinic, which is also a place that uses research on mice to cure some of the most debilitating diseases in this country. What it means to our local schools is that students will get less time to become those researchers of the future and less attention from their teachers.

I recently watched a video from my district from the United South Central Schools showing children entering a crumbling literally 1932 building. I know in my 20 years of teaching, children do much better when they're in a safe and efficient environment. We're going to get the opportunity to invest in America's future, to invest in that economy and to invest in those children. The stabilization money will do exactly that. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" for America's future.

OPPOSE THE STIMULUS PLAN

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

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I'm acutely aware that many folks in the Ninth Congressional District of Missouri are hurting. They're contacting me every day about the challenges they're facing. They're worried about keeping their jobs and providing for their families. But those same people are telling me that this so-called "stimulus package" is not the answer. I'm hearing from 49 percent of my people that are saying "no" to this massive spending bill. And the other 51 percent are saying "heck no."

It is time to cut up our Nation's taxpayer-funded credit card and get our

fiscal house in order. The Republican alternative plan creates twice as many jobs at half the cost. There is a better plan. The people of the Ninth Congressional District of Missouri sent me here to make tough decisions on their behalf. They also sent me here to make good decisions. That is why I simply refuse to spend taxpayer money irresponsibly. And I refuse to saddle our citizens and families with more debt.

VOTE FOR THE STIMULUS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, on this day of celebration and commemoration of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, a man of conviction and conscience and patriotism, I'm proud to be able to say that this Congress will have a historic opportunity to put their special interests aside and vote for the American people. Vote for the 3 to 4 million jobs saved or made. Vote for the 269,000 jobs that were made in the State of Texas. Vote for the 7,000-plus jobs in the 18th Congressional District in Houston. Vote for the opportunity to modernize and repair our schools, to ensure that the broken roads and freeways will be repaired and to put men to work such as the gentleman that I met in my district in an unemployment office who had 17 years of experience in heavy equipment and couldn't find a job. Vote for those who need a more improved medical system. And vote for those who want extensive research in renewable energy.

I'm proud to stand alongside of the history of Abraham Lincoln, the history that points to others and not to self. Voting for this bill recognizes the needs of Americans who are outside the Beltway begging for us to do something. I'm proud to stand with them.

LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, on the 200th birthday of our great President, Abraham Lincoln, I rise to pay tribute to his accomplishments. But primarily I want to tell my colleagues and others about Tennessee's great Lincoln Memorial University.

General Howard, President Lincoln's main military adviser, said the President told him that the people of east Tennessee had been loyal to the Union, and he wanted to form a school for them. Remembering Lincoln's words, General Howard formed LMU in 1897. Today, the university is reaching new heights. It has the Nation's newest medical school, and it is in the process of forming a new law school. Its main campus is in a beautiful setting in Harrogate, Tennessee, but it has very large