

My fellow Americans, we must chart a better course. Congress has a constitutional responsibility to scrutinize this request carefully as well as how to pay for it, to find a better way to achieve our shared goals of protecting every American family. To do otherwise will leave us embroiled in an Afghanistan that can consume, as it has throughout human history, as many lives and as many dollars as we are willing to expend there. And such a painful, unending sacrifice may well make our families less, not more, secure.

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

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE QUAGMIRE OF AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. PAUL. Certainly, in the last 24 hours, we've had a lot of discussion about Afghanistan and whether or not we should send more troops. As a matter of fact, that debate has been going on for a long time. The whole debate about Afghanistan is something that makes me think that we are bogged down, considering the fact that it has been going on for 8 years.

This is not new for us. This is more or less the rule rather than the exception, and I believe this comes about because of the way we go to war. In the last 60-some years, we have never had a declaration of war, but we have been involved in plenty. We've been involved in Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and the Iraq War, and now Afghanistan, and it looks like it's going to be Pakistan as well.

So I think the reason we get here is because we don't declare war and we slip into war, and then it becomes political. There are two sides. There is one side of the argument that says, Let's just come home. And the other side says, Fight it all out. And people say, No, you can't be an extremist on this. You have to have a balance. And the balance is chaotic. There's no way of measuring victory, and nobody wants to give up, claiming it would be humiliating to give up.

But just think of the tragedy of Vietnam, all those years and all those deaths and all that money spent. Eventually we left, and South Vietnam is now a unified country, but we still have troops in Korea, in Europe, and in Japan. And we are bankrupt. So some day we are going to have to wake up and look at the type of foreign policy that the Founders advised us to have, and that is nonintervention: don't get involved in the internal affairs of other nations, have free and open trade and

accept friendship with other countries who offer it, and that we shouldn't be the policemen of the world and we shouldn't be telling other people what to do. We cannot be the policemen of the world and pay for all those bills because we are literally bankrupt.

In thinking about the dilemma that we have, I think back, even back in the 1960s when I was an Air Force flight surgeon for 5 years, and that was the first time I heard the term "quagmire." And thinking about that for many, many years, that's all I can think about right now is to evaluate what we have. There are a few phrases that have been around for a long time, and I believe they more or less describe what is happening here. Quagmire. Certainly that is what we are doing. We are digging a hole for ourselves. "Perpetual war for perpetual peace." We have all heard that term, and it sounds like we are in perpetual war. "War is the health of the state." We all know the government size and sacrifice of civil liberties always occurs much more so in the midst of a war.

A book was written many years ago by one of the most, if not the most decorated soldier we ever had, Smedley Butler. He wrote a book called "War is a Racket." And I have come to this belief that war literally is a racket for the people who push these wars, whether it's the military industrial complex or the special interests and the various factions, but it's never, it's never for the people.

Today it is said that we're over there to protect our national security to go into Afghanistan. Well, it's down to 100 al Qaeda in Afghanistan, and, quite frankly, the Afghan Government had nothing to do—they said they harbored the al Qaeda, and that is true, but do you think those 19 guys needed to do pushups in Afghanistan to come over here and do what they did? The real planning wasn't in Afghanistan. It was in Spain. It was in Germany. Where was the real training? The real training was in Florida. The training was in Florida, and the FBI had evidence at the time that they were being trained, and it's totally ignored. And yet we are concentrating, we are still back to 9/11, fear of nuclear war. We have to go in, scare the people.

Yet what is the motivation for individuals to become radical against us, whether it's in the Taliban or al Qaeda? There is one single factor that is the most influential in motivating somebody to commit suicide terrorism against anybody or us, and that is occupation by a foreign nation. And now, where have we occupied? We have occupied Iraq and Afghanistan. We are bombing Pakistan. But not only the literal occupation, but also, we have this threat on Pakistan.

So I would say it's time for us to reassess ourselves and look at a non-interventionist foreign policy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE GENEROSITY OF ROSS PEROT'S GIFT TO THE U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE FOUNDATION

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in the House of Representatives to recognize a remarkable gift that will enhance the professional education of our country's military officers and thereby improve the safety and security of every American.

In November, Mr. Ross Perot of Texas pledged \$6.1 million to support two new initiatives at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. At a time when our country is demanding so much from those in uniform, this significant contribution will ensure that America's military leaders receive the best education and training to accomplish their missions around the world.

Mr. Perot's contribution followed a recent visit to Fort Leavenworth. He experienced firsthand the classroom instruction that U.S. officers and their interagency and international counterparts receive at the Army's Command and General Staff College, our country's oldest and largest military staff college. He also met with students and toured the Lewis and Clark Center, an impressive new building completed in 2007 to house the college.

Mr. Perot's gift will fund a new center for interagency cooperation and a new chair of ethics. As the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan make clear, cooperation between military and other agencies is an important component for our country's success. To address this need, the Col. Arthur D. Simons Center for Study of Interagency Cooperation will enhance the cooperation of interagency affairs. The second initiative to be created, the Gen. Hugh Shelton Chair in Ethics, will attract world-class academics and researchers to stress the importance of ethics and values in the military.

You may notice that rather than naming these new programs after himself, Mr. Perot chose to name them after others. Col. Arthur "Bull" Simons led the 1970 Son Tay raid to free prisoners of war in Vietnam, as well as a 1979 mission to rescue, from a prison in Tehran, two of Mr. Perot's employees. Retired Army Gen. Hugh Shelton served as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is a friend of Mr. Perot's. Mr. Perot selflessly named his initiatives after military members who have played an important role in his life and

defended our country's honor. This gesture is a testament to Ross Perot's character and patriotism.

I commend Mr. Perot for his generous and continued support for our Armed Forces. I also want to commend retired Colonel Bob Ulin, who, as CEO of the Command and General Staff College Foundation, was instrumental in securing this tremendous pledge and growing the foundation generally. Since its inception in 2005 as a not-for-profit to support the college, the foundation has offered many programs and activities to promote excellence, including awards for students and faculty, support for conferences and lectures, and community outreach activities.

For 128 years, the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has served as the "intellectual heart of the Army," producing numerous world and military leaders. The next Marshall, Eisenhower, or Petraeus may very well be sitting in a classroom in Leavenworth, Kansas, today.

We are grateful to Ross Perot, an American patriot, for his support of our men and women who protect and defend our Nation by their service in the United States military, and we are grateful for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GRAYSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMALL BUSINESS IS AMERICA'S ECONOMIC ENGINE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the economic engine that pulls along the economic train of prosperity in America is being derailed. America's entrepreneurs, America's small business men and women are this country's economic engine. They are the backbone of our economy. They create most of the new jobs here in America.

Mr. Speaker, they have waited long enough for the so-called stimulus to

kick in. In fact, they have been waiting far too long. Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs? It's time for us to scrap this failed policy. It's time for Congress to stop wasting taxpayer time and money. It's time to give a real jolt to the economy and stop taking so much through high taxes and more debt.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 4100, the JOBS Act, to do just that. My bill, the Jumpstarting Our Business Sector, or JOBS Act, is a commonsense and simple approach. It provides a 2-year moratorium on capital gains and dividends taxes, two taxes which directly inhibit or derail a business' ability to reinvest their revenue into creating new jobs. It reduces the two lowest tax brackets by 5 percent. It cuts the payroll tax rate and the self-employment tax rate in half for 2 years. Additionally, it reduces the corporate tax rate by 10 percent for 2 years.

In fact, the United States already has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world. It's incredible that our economy has prospered for this long under such an extraordinary tax burden.

At this time of great economic turmoil, it's only logical to curtail this massive tax and allow our business sector to propel us back onto a stable economic footing.

Finally, just as important, my JOBS Act recoups any and all unspent stimulus dollars, putting them to work instead of towards waste.

Now is the time for a new way forward. For 11 months, the so-called stimulus has been tried and tested. Unfortunately, it has failed. But there is no reason to keep going down the same track and throwing taxpayers' money down a rat hole towards a failed plan. And there is certainly no reason to keep sending money into Georgia's imaginary congressional districts, double zero, 27, 86, or any others that the government has identified.

The American people demand something better than more government and more debt. They deserve more, something better than more unemployment insurance and COBRA extensions. We need to stop handing them dead fish and, instead, hand them a fishing pole.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, I've introduced H.R. 4100, the JOBS Act, to answer their call. And I urge my colleagues to lend their support by cosponsoring this important legislation and keeping that economic engine of small business on the right track to economic prosperity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JOB CREATION IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, this evening our topic is going to be something that is of interest, I believe, to all Americans, the topic of jobs. In the past we've talked something about health care. In fact, we've talked about that for a number of months. But it seemed appropriate to me this evening to open our discussion on the subject of jobs. Everybody in America is concerned about the subject. It is one of those things that affects everyone. And something that is not as clear, and the solution to the jobs question is not as simple as it might appear on the surface. And certainly, we have some examples of politicians doing exactly the wrong thing. So I think it's important that we start and just analyze what it is that makes jobs and what are the enemies of job creation. I have listed about six of them here that are the most common things that are destructive to jobs.

The first would be a bad economy. That seems fairly self-evident. If the economy is not doing well, the thing that people tend to do is to say, well, things aren't going so well; I need to cut my overhead, and, therefore, we will cut some jobs. And so that is one thing that affects jobs is a slow or poor economy.

Another thing that's extremely disastrous and very much basically stops the creation of jobs and maybe even gets rid of existing jobs is taxation. That also is fairly self-evident. Let's just think for a minute. You're an owner of a small business and you have 100 people working for you. All of a sudden, you find out, you read in the paper, here we go, the politicians, one more time are going to be taxing and spending. They're going to increase your taxes and increase the taxes to your business. Well, that has the same net effect as a bad economy because if all of a sudden you're expecting a big tax increase that your company is going to have to pay or you're going to have to pay because you own the company, you're thinking, oh my goodness, I don't have as much money to work with as I thought I did. I'm going to have to figure out ways to tighten the belt. And when you tighten the belt, many times that means you get rid of either existing jobs by laying people off, or perhaps you were thinking of creating new jobs and you decide, I think I'll wait on that expansion and buying that new piece of equipment and adding the addition to the building and in adding those new jobs. And so tax increases are also enemies of jobs.

A third problem that can also affect jobs, and that is what sometimes people call liquidity; that is, the available supply of money. If you're a small businessman, one of the things that you need in order to keep your business going is some source of loans or money to work with. Most small businesses