

and allowed by law, by statute, to accumulate as a country. And I don't know that exact total, but I believe it's somewhere around \$14 trillion, and the fact is that we are fast approaching that just after this past year.

I came here in January. Frankly, I think both parties were fiscally irresponsible in years past. I would be the first to admit that in terms of my party. And that's one of the reasons I was motivated to come, because if we were running a household, we would not be fiscally irresponsible. We'd live within our means. And the Federal Government has not done that under the leadership of either party in years past and certainly this year with my Democratic colleagues in control.

The fact is that this is not a candy store, and in terms of raising that debt ceiling, I think that's just providing a license for more and more deficit spending going forward into the future. And I would encourage all of my colleagues that we need to be bringing that debt down. We need to be working towards being debt free. That is fiscal responsibility. That is running this House the way we run our houses at home, and that is something that we need to restore. We have not had that for a very long time in this country, but I think that is something that we need to be committed to.

Mr. AKIN. You're absolutely right.

The reason that we're getting off the wrong track here is just because of this whole liberal Democrat concept of economics. They're trying to make two plus two equal five. They're trying to basically repeal the law of economics.

If you and I in our household, if we thought, oh, we're getting tight on money, we're starting to have economic hard times in our family, so let's go out and just run up a huge credit card bill and that will somehow make it better, people would lock us up. They'd put us in little white suits and lock us away somewhere and say these people are crazy.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. And we did that. Unfortunately, that does happen in our Nation, and what happens is people experience bankruptcy. They ruin their lives by doing that.

Mr. AKIN. Right. Except in this case, when the Federal Government does it, we bankrupt the entire Nation.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Correct.

Mr. AKIN. And one of the effects of the bankruptcy is unemployment, among other things, but it also is impoverishing everybody.

You cannot repeal the basic laws of supply and demand, and you cannot basically give away housing where people can't afford to pay for it without expecting to have consequences. Kind of going back to the beginning of things, that's what got us into this trouble not so many years ago.

Here's something I think a lot of people aren't aware of but we need to understand, how did we get into this

problem? It was because of this idea that somehow we think that we are able to repeal the laws of economics.

This is September 11. It's not 2001. This is September 11, 2003. It's an article in *The New York Times*, not exactly a conservative source of information. And here is the author of the article, and it says: "The Bush administration today recommended the most significant regulatory overhaul in the housing finance industry since the savings and loan crisis a decade ago."

Let's get this straight. This is *The New York Times*. This is bad President Bush's saying that we need to have a significant regulatory overhaul in housing finance and the strongest thing since the savings and loan crisis.

"Under the plan disclosed at a congressional hearing today, a new agency would be created within the Treasury Department to assume supervision of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored companies that are the two largest in the mortgage lending industry."

So this is 2003, Bush sees irregularities in Freddie and Fannie in how they're managing the business. Why would there be irregularities? Because they were mandated and allowed to make loans to people who couldn't afford to pay the loans.

What's the Democrat response to what President Bush wanted to do? Well, what happened was he passed a bill in the House to do this. I was here. We voted for this bill. It went to the Senate. It was killed by the Democrats in the Senate.

What was the Democrat response in the House to Bush's saying we've got to get on this Freddie-Fannie problem or we're going to have an economic crisis on our hands? Well, with respect to Fannie and Freddie, I did not want the same kind of focus on safety and soundness that we have in—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. AKIN. Thank you, gentlemen, for joining me. It seems like the time has flown, and I look forward to our next evening.

□ 1930

THIRTY-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we're happy again to kick off another edition of the 30-Something Working Group in which we will try to bring some facts and some analysis to the floor of the House of Representatives.

I can't help but get up after having to sit through what our friends on the other side were talking about a little bit. And it's interesting, Mr. Speaker, as we see some of our Republican friends have a very short memory as to

what transpired here. And I have been fortunate enough to be here over the last 7 years and was able to watch President Bush with the Republican-controlled House, a Republican-controlled Senate, a Republican Supreme Court, many State legislatures and the State Governors' Mansions were controlled by the Republicans. In Ohio, I know that of course was the fact. Run up huge budget deficits, start wars, cut taxes for the top 1 percent, take their eye off Wall Street, ignore health care, continue to support and subsidize the oil economy, push globalization, not enforce our trade laws—all with a rubber stamp from the Republican Congress.

And then all of a sudden in 2008, 2009 the bottom falls out. Wall Street collapses. We see the stock market collapse, credit locks up. On and on and on. And our friends on the other side act like that just happened by happenstance.

And now, in order to try to address those issues, we have to make some very difficult decisions as a country and come together as a country. And we get people ignoring the previous 8 years, when anybody who is being realistic can see how we got here.

And all we want to do now is have a conversation about how we move forward and how we use this and see this as an opportunity to address some of the major structural changes that we have in the United States of America. And there are two major ones in our economy that have been like an albatross around the necks of small business people all over our country and big businesses all over our country, and that is health care and that is energy.

And so this Congress has stepped up to bat to address two of those major problems without a lick of help from the Republicans, not a lick of help. And at the end of the day, they're going to be on the wrong side of history, like they were for Social Security and Medicare and civil rights and a lot of the other major issues that really gave us things to be proud of in this country.

And so as we move forward with the House bill on health care—and now the Senate is opening up debate and having debate on the health care bill—we are trying to address the concerns of the American people.

And I want everyone, Mr. Speaker, to understand the issues that we have taken up here as a Democratic Congress. And this is all with the understanding that we know that the unemployment rate is too high, there are too many people out of work. There is a lot more work to be done.

But if you look at the previous 8 years prior to President Obama, you will see an administration that completely catered to Wall Street and Big Business in the United States of America, whether it was a trade agreement, whether it was immigration laws, whether it was health care, whether it was energy. You could bet your bottom

dollar that President Bush was on the side of Big Insurance, Big Pharmaceutical, Big Oil, Big Agricultural, right down the line.

And when we came in as Democrats, we began to change that. And all you have to do—and they say you can judge someone by their enemies—the Democratic Party took on the Big Oil interests. The Democratic Party is taking on the insurance industry. The Democratic Party is the one party getting the banks out of the student loan business. And all of these sweetheart deals that were set over the last 8 years are on their way out the door. And President Obama got stuck with a heck of a mess, there is no question. A heck of a mess.

But in America, we have to live in reality. I know some people on the other side may not necessarily agree with that or like that, which is fine. But we are the majority party, and we have to deal with reality without illusions and deal with the facts that are at hand.

And here are the facts: if we do absolutely nothing with health care, the average family of four next year will have an \$1,800 increase, \$1,800. And then the following year it will be another \$1,800, and the following year it will be another \$1,800. That's reality. Everyone is agreeing on that.

If we do nothing, human beings, American citizens in this country, will continue to get denied coverage by insurance companies because they have a preexisting condition. That preexisting could be you were involved in a domestic violence situation; that preexisting condition could be infertility, or as we even heard, spousal infertility. You're denied. Diabetes. Cancer. That's if we do nothing. If we do nothing, just in my congressional district in northeast Ohio we will have 1,700 families go bankrupt next year because of health care costs—if we do nothing. And on and on and on right down the line. An inhumane, costly, expensive, inefficient health care system.

And so we chose to take on the big fight. We chose to make a human decision to say this problem needs to be fixed, it needs to be addressed, and we know it's politically risky but we know we're going to do it because there are too many people in the country, Mr. Speaker, who need us to act and not sit on the sidelines where it is safe.

It would have been nice, we could have just said, You know what? We're going to play it safe. We're not going to do anything that's going to upset anybody or get FOX News riled up or Rush Limbaugh or Clear Channel, the right wing talk radios. We're just going to play it safe. But at the end of the day, history would not be very good to us because they would have said, What did they do in Washington, D.C., when this decision, these hard decisions needed to be made 10 years ago?

And our kids and our grandkids would say, Jeez, Mom. Jeez, Dad, you were in Congress during the very difficult time. We needed some big deci-

sions to be made. What did you do when you were there? And you can look proudly at your kids and say to them, I did nothing. I played it safe. I sat on my hands because I wanted to get re-elected or I was afraid that Rush Limbaugh would make fun of me.

The reforms that are coming out of this House of Representatives—as I have said when I am back home in Youngstown, Ohio; in Niles, Ohio; in Warren, Ohio; in Ravenna; in Kent and Portage County; Akron—these reforms are for our people, our people who have struggled and fought and got zero wage increases over the last 30 years, who've got to haggle with the insurance company, get denied, get ignored while they're on their death bed, lose their job, lose their pension. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. Wrong. And we're going to do something about it.

So let's just take what happens when health care reform passes. There will be some time until the exchange gets set up and, you know, whether there's a public option and what it looks like. That may take a couple of years. But immediately what happens is that no longer in America will you get denied coverage because of a preexisting condition. Never again. If you have a child, a son or daughter, who is under the age of 27 years old, they can stay on your health care insurance. So all of those young people in their early and mid-20s who can't get health insurance or can't afford health insurance can stay on their parents' health insurance. That gets implemented immediately.

If you have a health care catastrophe in your family—and being a Member of Congress, we get these calls, and we are out in the public and we meet these people at the fairs, at the festivals, at the bowling alley, at the bingo halls, at the civic events—there will be a cap on how much you can pay out of pocket per year on health care costs so that we can eliminate people in the United States of America going bankrupt because they had a health care catastrophe. And all of our friends on the other side of the aisle who talk about family values and everything else voted against that. Voted against it.

So when you look at the health care reform bill, it is a values issue. It is a family values issue that we need to address. And our budgets and our investments speak to that, speak to our values and what we care about and what we stand for.

And when you look at it, AARP's endorsed it, the American Medical Association's endorsed it, the Catholic Bishops had nothing but good things to say about it. And even the Business Roundtable, the top CEOs in the country, said that the health care reform bill in 2019 will save them \$3,000 an employee, \$3,000.

Now, you can argue with me, you can argue and call people "liberal" and "socialist" and pull out all of the names that our friends on the other side have been using for the last 60 or 70 years in their rebuttals to policy ini-

tiatives by the Democratic Party, but you can't argue with the Business Roundtable saying that it's going to save them \$3,000 per employee.

And aren't we tired of getting calls from small business people telling us about all of the increases, all of the rate increases? And I just got a call the other day from a health care provider talking about this issue and another from a health care business person who said he just got in the mail a 50 percent increase for his business. He had one person out of a couple hundred get sick. Pushed the number up. Next thing you know, he goes from paying \$600,000 a year to next year he is going to have to pay a million dollars a year. And he said, TIMMY, I may have to shut the doors. I may have to shut the doors. That's what we're trying to prevent.

How can we have any sustained long-term economic growth if we don't take care of the health care issue in this country? If we keep strangling our small business people? And I understand that there may be some small business people that maybe disagree with any extension of the role of government in any area. But there is nothing left to control the massive insurance industry in the United States of America unless we do what the people have always done when we needed to address a big problem in this country, and that is join together through our elected officials who we send to Washington to help us.

□ 1945

We need to ask them to get together and solve this problem, and that is what is happening. And we see the insurance industry and the extreme right wing of the Republican Party, the neoconservatives, continue to be offended. Nobody here wants to hurt anybody. Nobody here wants to destroy America. We are here to help, and we are here to address these problems collectively as a country.

We have people on the other side of the aisle, because Rush Limbaugh says they shouldn't, they won't even work with us. Getting rid of preexisting conditions, letting people be on their parents' insurance until they are 27, limiting how much out-of-pocket you can spend, making sure that they can't knock you off the rolls after you have insurance coverage, these are some basic things that we should all be able to agree upon. Mr. Speaker, we are doing it.

And the same issue happens with energy, to where we send in this country \$750 billion a year in wealth out of our country through the gas stations that go to oil-producing countries: a \$750 billion wealth transfer right out of our country. And a couple of years ago, Mr. Speaker, we spent about \$115 billion out of the Defense Department escorting ExxonMobil and Big Oil ships in and out of the Persian Gulf. So if you do the math, the Persian Gulf oil that ends up in your gas tank should really

be \$1.50 more because of the subsidies that the American taxpayer has paid to provide the security of these ships going in and out of the Persian Gulf. Now in addition to that, subsidies for oil companies, tax credits and tax cuts to go and continue to drill, so completely subsidizing Big Oil and the oil economy.

And what Democrats have said is, how do we put together an energy policy that will take some of the \$750 billion and instead of letting it go offshore and out of our country, how do we direct it back into the United States, and at the same time reduce CO₂ and at the same time resuscitate manufacturing in the United States of America through our windmills, through our solar panels, using natural gas that is here in the United States.

We don't have the kind of oil that some of these other countries do. And why do we prop up these dictators and these royal families who have no concern for our well-being, when we can use the need for energy and make it work for us and put together a system and a national policy that is pro-American.

There is not a bigger, more patriotic piece of legislation in the United States of America's House of Representatives right now than the energy bill that passed this House. What kind of national security plan is it for us to continue to send money that goes to these kingdoms that fund terrorist organizations that don't like us when we could be putting steel workers to work making the 400 tons of steel that go in the windmills or resuscitate manufacturing in the United States of America by making sure that our people manufacture the 8,000 component parts that go into a windmill. To me that makes a good deal of sense.

And both of these issues in the long term are jobs programs. Does anybody have a better idea, Mr. Speaker, on how to stimulate manufacturing in the United States? I can't think of one. We have tried to cut taxes on the top 1 percent and hope something trickles down, and that means they will invest back in America and will create jobs in the United States. That didn't work. It did not work. The Republicans had the House, the Senate, the White House. They implemented the whole George Bush economic policy, and it didn't work. And here we are today.

I know our friends like to be critical of the stimulus bill, but in January we lost 750,000 jobs. Now we are still losing a couple hundred thousand jobs a month, but it is not quite as bad. We are trending in the right direction, and we do need to put together a jobs program. We do need to invest in the transportation and put thousands and thousands of people to work. We need to do that. We need to make those investments. There is no question about it. And we need to get back to a moderate, balanced, prudent, wise, economic policy and tax policy here in the United States.

The old Keynesian economic theory that asked some of the wealthiest people in our country to pay a little more in the good times, cut taxes in the bad times and increase social spending to stimulate the economy and smooth out these rough edges, worked for a long time in this country. It led to the construction of a great middle class, balanced investments in education and transportation and roads and bridges. It is time for us to get back to that.

In the Mahoning Valley in the 17th Congressional District, we are putting together what is a very smart, balanced, economic policy locally where we are making the proper investments and laying the proper groundwork. What we are trying to do locally is to line up with where the national policy and the national trends are going. You had to be sleeping if you can't tell that the world is moving towards green technology, green energy. The hedge funds, the big money people are all moving in that direction. The scientists, the engineers, all moving in that direction. All of the research moving in that direction.

And so there is health care reform and what that will do for our local community, and there is energy. And so we have been fairly fortunate amidst all of the economic problems and the high unemployment, that we are seeing back home seeds that are beginning to sprout, and that once credit loosens up, we will see long-term economic growth.

But we need our national policies, Mr. Speaker, to shape us as a country and push our economy in the right direction. The big decisions that are being made here through the Obama administration are sound. I think we are making some smart long-term decisions, and it will pay off in the long run.

We see it in sports all of the time where you can start a game or start rebuilding your program, whether it is college football or basketball or the NBA or whatever the case may be, where you see a great coach start to implement the plan and you don't necessarily start winning all of the games right away. You saw it with Bill Walsh in San Francisco, and you see it with the Patriots and the Steelers. It doesn't always start off with the Super Bowl. And for the Browns, Mr. Speaker, it has been a rough road, but we are going to get past it. It has been a difficult time to have been a Cleveland Browns fan. But the bottom line here is we are in a rebuilding process. We are laying the groundwork. We are making the fundamental decisions necessary to allow for long-term economic growth.

When you look at health care and 30 million more people that are going to have health insurance, we are going to need docs, we are going to need nurses. There is going to be a total reinvigoration of health care information technology.

Just, for example, I was at the National College a few days ago in

Youngstown, Ohio. They have programs primarily in health, health information technology and some business entrepreneur classes. The college opened up with 50 people. It now has 850 kids from Youngstown and Campbell and Struthers and Warren going to this school to learn health information technology.

Now here we have people, young and middle-aged, looking at where the economy is going and what they need to be doing. And so the huge investment in health information technology in the stimulus bill, the investment that we will be making in health care by making sure that everybody is covered and coordinating all of these different systems, is going to be an opportunity for many of these young kids who are doing what we asked them to do: Go to school and get educated and do the right thing, and you will be rewarded.

And so in 10 years, Mr. Speaker, in 2019, 2020, we will look back on these decisions that have been made in this Congress and we will see that we have eliminated a lot of human suffering because of what we have done with the health care system. We will see that we have reined in costs for the insurance companies, and that has allowed small businesses to reinvest back into their own companies and give pay increases to their workers as opposed to covering all of the health care increases. We will see people who believe that a compassionate government can exist to advocate on their behalf.

A lot of people say, I am afraid of the government. It is not the government you need to be afraid of; it is the big insurance company you need to be afraid of. It is the Big Oil companies you need to be afraid of. And we are taking them on. Ten years from now, it is going to be looked back upon as one of the turning points in our Nation's history, like Medicare and like civil rights, and like a lot of the great programs that have been established to help our people. Average Americans are getting represented in this government.

We will look back on our energy policies, and we will see that we have reduced our dependency on foreign oil. We have given people hope. We have re-established America as an innovative leader in the world, and it will help with health care reform and lift up the middle class because we need to start making things again in the United States. We need to start making things again. And with windmills and wind turbines, these are things we can't ship in from China. We have to make them here. We are, and it is going to put middle class people back to work. So those two major issues are going to unleash the creativity needed, the American spirit needed, the American independence needed.

I am proud of what is happening here. I am proud of what is happening in the United States. I know it is difficult. I know it is tough. I know it is noisy,

Mr. Speaker, but these things are happening for us in the United States. When it is all said and done and that parent goes to get health insurance, or some young person goes to get health insurance, and they call the insurance company, and they have diabetes or cancer, the insurance company cannot deny them.

□ 2000

Their parents are going to say, Did you know there was a day 5 years ago where you would have gotten denied coverage? And 20 or 30 years from now, our kids will say, You've got to be kidding me. That really happened in America? And we look back on the civil rights movement today. Our generation says, You've got to be kidding me. White people and black people weren't allowed to drink out of the same water fountain?

That's how we're going to look back. Did we really, as a country, do that? And it is shameful that that happened in this country. Those are the same exact feelings and sentiments that we are going to have here in the United States years from now. And we will say, Did we really deny people health care? We really had people die because they couldn't afford health care when the treatment was available and the technology was available? We really let that happen?

This is a turning point in our country's history, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

HONORING THE GENEROSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF JERRY LONG

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the generosity and community work of my friend, Jerry Long. Today, Jerry is being honored for his generous philanthropy back in North Carolina as the West Forsyth Family YMCA officially changes its name to the Jerry Long Family YMCA.

This honor comes to Jerry thanks to his tireless work as a community leader. He is someone who understands that making a positive difference in your community and helping your neighbors can start with the hard work and dedication of just one person.

His example of serving his community is inspiring, and this renaming is a much deserved honor. Congratulations to Jerry and his family, and thank you for your many years of giving back to Forsyth County and the communities there.

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I'm privileged and honored to be recognized

to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I appreciate the opportunity to, I think, help enlighten you and the Members that are listening in and anyone who might be observing this process that we have in the House of Representatives.

In this great deliberative body, there is a limited amount of time that we can debate here on the floor. And as things churn through, sometimes we don't come back and revisit subject matter, but I think it's necessary to establish the perspective that fits into the broader picture.

The perspective that I intend to address tonight is the perspective of immigration, and that debate has gone on in this country for a number of years. It was brought up by Pat Buchanan as a candidate for President back in the 1990s. He said he would hold congressional hearings on immigration if he were elected President of the United States. He did a lot to help galvanize this immigration debate and bring the issues that are important to this country to the forefront. And since that time, people like Tom Tancredo, and probably before that time, actually, came to this floor and raised the issue of immigration and the rule of law over and over again.

Eventually, the American people began to look at the circumstances of millions of people that are in the United States illegally, their impact on this economy, this society, and this culture.

As intense as this debate got in 2006 and 2007, it got so intense, Mr. Speaker, that as the Senate began to move on a comprehensive amnesty bill that was bipartisan in its nature, however weak it was in its rationale, it had the support of the President of the United States at that time, George W. Bush, and it had the support of leaders of the Democrat and the Republican Party in the United States Senate, as well as here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker. And yet the American people rejected the idea of amnesty in any form, whether it be comprehensive amnesty that was proposed and then the nuances that they tried to bring through or whether it would just be blanket amnesty.

Well, here we are again, Mr. Speaker. Here we are again with a transformational issue that is slowly being brought forward before the American people, and I'm here to say, let's pay attention. My red flag is up, and I have watched the transition of issues that have unfolded since, actually for years, but intensively unfolded since the beginning of the Obama Presidency.

And these issues unfolded in this fashion, and perhaps I'll go back and revisit them in some more detail. But the American people did go to the polls a year ago last November and sustained majorities and actually expanded majorities for Democrats in the United States Senate and in here in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they elected a President who fit their

mold as a party member, a Democrat, a very liberal Democrat. In fact, President Obama, in the short time that he served in the United States Senate, had the most liberal voting record out of all 100 U.S. Senators. So they elected, I think it's not even close to arguable, the people in the United States elected the most liberal President in the history of this country.

And while there wasn't a legitimate debate in the Presidential race that had to do with immigration, because neither candidate really wanted to touch the issue, they knew that they were at odds with the American people on immigration. JOHN MCCAIN knew that, and he didn't bring up the subject after the nomination, at least not in a substantial way. I couldn't say that it never happened. And Barack Obama knew the same thing and didn't bring immigration up in a substantial way during the Presidential campaign after the nominations.

And so this Nation went forward with discussions about national security, about economic development, discussions about energy, but not discussions about immigration. Here we are today, a year and a month after President Obama was elected, and we have seen these big issues come through this Congress. And here is the sequence of events, Mr. Speaker, that has taken place, and I invite anybody to challenge me on the facts of these, but it is this:

During the Bush administration, we had the beginning of the first call for TARP funding. That was the beginning request that began by my mental marker here, chronologically, September 19, 2008, when Secretary of the Treasury at the time, Henry Paulson, came to this Capitol and asked for \$700 billion. All of it, of course, would be borrowed money. All of it would have to be paid back, and the interest on it, by the taxpayers and their children and their grandchildren, presuming we would be able to retire our national debt in that period of time. Or it might take more generations, Mr. Speaker. \$700 billion in TARP, this Congress approved half of it then, and I believe that it was actually into October, the early part of October 2008, delayed the other half, the other \$350 billion to be approved by a Congress to be elected later and signed into law by a President to be elected later. That began September 19, 2008. \$700 billion in TARP funding, partly before that, mostly after that, became the sequence of events then.

As the described downward spiral and threat of economic crisis of global proportions came at us here in this Congress and it was spread around the globe, causing nation after nation to react in one fashion or another, we saw most of it under the hand of President Obama, the nationalization of three large investment banks, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, AIG, the large insurance company, General Motors, Chrysler, all of that swept through in a period of