

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LANCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### IN PURSUIT OF PEACE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, yesterday our President mused about the inevitability built of war, war's instrumentality in the pursuit of peace, and just wars.

It is important for us to reflect on his words, because once we believe in the inevitability of war, war becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Once we are committed to war's instrumentality in pursuit of peace, we begin the Orwellian journey to the semantic netherworld where war is peace, where the momentum of war overwhelms hopes for peace.

And once we wrap doctrines perpetuating war in the arms of justice, we can easily legitimate the wholesale slaughter of innocents. The war against Iraq was based on lies, the wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan based on flawed doctrines of counterinsurgency. War is often not just; sometimes it is just war. And our ability to rethink the terms of our existence, to explore the possibility of peace without war, may well determine whether we end war or war ends us.

#### CONGRATULATING SUMMIT HILLTOPPERS

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

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Summit Hilltoppers who captured the New Jersey Group 2 North 2 State sectional

football title on December 3 at Giants Stadium.

Coached by John Liberato, the Hilltoppers won a 28-19 victory over the Orange Tornadoes. On offense, the Hilltoppers were led by quarterback Joe Jaskolski and running back Matt Rea. For the game, Jaskolski ran 17 times for 119 yards while completing six pass attempts for 134 yards. Rea finished with 167 yards on the ground and two touchdowns on 16 carries.

The Summit defense was anchored by Pat Birosak, Michael Steinberg, Mike Watts, Ryan O'Malley, Kevin McNany and Danny Feeney, holding Orange to just 19 points.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Liberato and the entire Summit Hilltoppers football team for their victory over Orange to win the State sectional title.

#### STOP RECKLESS SPENDING

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, yesterday this House voted on a 2,500-page spending bill with a price tag of almost a half trillion dollars that we will have to borrow. The majority in this House just doesn't seem to get it. We are in the midst of a recession, with 10 percent unemployment, 15.4 million people out of work. Our Federal deficit is over \$12 trillion, and the Democrats will vote next week to raise that another \$1.8 trillion.

Yet this half-trillion-dollar spending bill, which combines six into one, represents a 12.5 percent spending increase over 2009 and a 24 percent increase over 2008; 24 percent over 2008. I ask, How much of this is real needs of our citizens versus just wants of spendthrift politicians?

Madam Speaker, the Democrats must stop this reckless spending spree. We need to have the ability to make tough choices to get our economy back on track and pass legislation that helps American families looking to make ends meet in these tough times.

#### ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL AGRICULTURE

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Madam Speaker, the United States has the safest, most plentiful, and most affordable food supply in the world. This abundant food supply didn't happen by accident. The United States has put policies and production practices in place which allows us to continue to feed the world at affordable prices.

However, animal agriculture and those production practices are under attack. Some in Congress would ban the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture. As a lifelong farmer still managing a cow-calf operation in Iowa and

former chairman of the Livestock Subcommittee, the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture is an issue I have personally been involved in.

As a livestock producer, I can attest that the industry is committed to using antibiotics responsibly and has developed responsible use guidelines. Producers didn't develop these guidelines because Congress told them to do so. They developed the guidelines because it was the right thing to do for their animals and their consumers.

Those in Congress who would ban the use of antibiotics for nontreatment purposes have a noble goal—improving human health. However, scientific evidence does not exist that this ban would reduce antibiotic resistance in humans. They are looking to penalize an industry without appropriate data to back up their claim.

A 2006 report from the Institute of Food Technologists said “eliminating antibiotic drugs from food animal production may have little positive effect on resistant bacteria that threaten human health.” In fact, eliminating animal antibiotics may be detrimental to public health.

I believe that a ban on non-therapeutic antibiotics in animal agriculture will have detrimental effects, not only on our farmers who feed the world safe and wholesome meat and meat products, but also on public health.

#### UNSUSTAINABLE DEBTS

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise yet again another day to remind ourselves that this Nation's AAA credit rating is about to be downgraded if we don't stop the spending and continue these unsustainable deficits.

We ran a \$1.4 trillion deficit last year, and we are on the track to do the same this year. Yesterday, this House passed six appropriations bills in an omnibus package with an almost half-a-trillion-dollar price tag. This is 13 percent more than the spending levels of the prior year; 13 percent more, following a bloated trillion-dollar stimulus spending package.

We all want to return our Nation to economic prosperity, but we can't do it and simultaneously run our Nation into a ditch of fiscal financial irresponsibility.

My 1-year-old grandson, Michael, and his generation will never be able to afford the mountains of debt we are accumulating. Moody's Investment Service has warned us to stop it now or lose our AAA credit rating by 2013. This Congress must get the message. Get the message now. Stop the unnecessary spending.

#### WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, today when this House passes the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, it will take a huge step to the protection of the American citizen, the American taxpayer, and American business. Never again will Wall Street take massive risks with the expectation that they will be bailed out when they fail. Never again will mortgage brokers sell mortgages that they know can't possibly be repaid. Never again will the credit card companies make billions from sowing confusion amongst American consumers.

I have been struck in this debate by how closely what we are doing today mirrors what happened in the 1930s when this Congress created a regulatory structure. The opposition said this would be the end of capitalism, the end of markets. And instead, that reform led to 60 or 70 years of the most intense prosperity the human race has ever seen. Word for word, those charges have been repeated.

They were wrong then, and they are wrong now. What this House does today will be a tremendous step forward for the American people and the American economy.

#### WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(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, this week I stood with my colleagues to introduce a bill to audit stimulus funds. It is time for Congress to demand answers on behalf of the hardworking taxpayers that we represent.

The misnamed stimulus is one of the largest spending bills in our Nation's history, and it is critical that American taxpayers know the facts. This is the people's money, not the government's money. It is wrong that a well-connected Democrat pollster received \$6 million to preserve just three jobs when we could provide jobs for dozens of families. I urge Speaker PELOSI to consider our legislation to ensure full accountability of every dollar spent.

I first sent a letter to the President asking him to implement the recovery panel that the stimulus bill provides. The request went unanswered. Therefore, I introduced a national commission to investigate how many jobs have actually been saved or created. Taxpayers should know, Where's the jobs?

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### JOB CREATION

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, creating jobs in south Florida is one of my top priorities in these challenging

economic times. We must find ways to create good jobs in our community and ensure that our small businesses are growing and expanding in order to provide opportunities for work in our local neighborhoods.

There are great success stories that we can build on. One example is TBC Corporation, which is located in my district in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

After working closely with the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, TBC, a leading national supplier and retailer of auto tires, will expand their headquarters and data center to create 50 new, high-quality jobs in our community.

Congratulations to the management of TBC. These are the business models we must support and encourage, and I look forward to working with other local businesses to continue to create good jobs in south Florida.

□ 0915

#### RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN SEAN WELCH, USMC

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

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who give so freely to serve this great Nation, men such as Captain Sean Welch, United States Marine Corps.

In November, America celebrated 234 years of having a United States Marine Corps that defends our precious freedoms at home and serves as the world's 911 force around the globe. We are fortunate to have men and women who are willing to answer the call of duty, time and again, especially in the midst of two wars.

This year I had the pleasure of having one of America's finest serve in my office as a Congressional Military Fellow, Captain Sean Welch. It has been a privilege and an honor to work beside Captain Welch, who lives in Quantico, Virginia, part of Virginia's First Congressional District.

As Thucydides once said, "The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools." Fortunately, with men like Captain Sean Welch serving in our Marine Corps, we don't have to worry about that distinction. He flawlessly balances his operational experience with a heavy intellectual rigor and enthusiasm that was clearly apparent during his year on Capitol Hill. Captain Welch serves as a role model and superb example for society and the marines he leads.

So today, I thank Captain Sean Welch for his leadership, his perpetual service to our Nation, and his exceptional service this year as a Congressional Fellow on Capitol Hill.

#### WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HIMES). Pursuant to House Resolution 964 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4173.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes, with Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, December 10, 2009, amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House Report 111-370.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Chair, I rise to offer the amendment to the body that is at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. COHEN:  
Page 1126, line 6, strike "subsections" and insert "subsection".  
Page 1126, strike lines 15 through 25.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 964, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I want to thank Chairman FRANK for working with me to include this language in the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009.

This amendment would strip a provision permitting the Securities and Exchange Commission to delegate regulation of investment advisers to the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

In its present form, the bill would give FINRA sweeping rule-making authority over investment advisers which has been under the sole domain of the governmental regulatory agencies. This far-reaching provision would extend FINRA's jurisdiction to Federally registered investment advisory firms that manage almost 80 percent of all advisory firms' assets under management.

FINRA does not have the necessary expertise or experience with investment advisers or the Investment Advisers Act to do the job, and the SEC is