

communities receiving recovery funds across my district to bring more transparency and oversight into the process.

I found significant progress has been made in bringing jobs to greater Arizona with 1,098 jobs created or saved in District One. Support to our State also prevented deep cuts in Arizona's education and public safety funding.

However, delays were reported on more than 40 percent of projects, despite the hard work of local officials. Our rural communities are finding the bureaucracy to be an obstacle.

I will continue working with local officials and Federal agencies to allow greater Arizona to take full advantage of the Recovery Act so they can create more jobs and get folks back to work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair will remind all Members not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, since 2007, our national debt has increased 39 percent from nearly \$9 trillion to more than \$12 trillion. This works out to be \$39,000 for every man, woman, and child in America just to pay off our country's debt. Now there is a push to increase our Nation's debt ceiling to \$13.9 trillion, despite warnings this increase will be harmful to the U.S. economy.

At a time of double-digit unemployment and with more than 2.6 million jobs lost since the so-called stimulus was passed by Congress, isn't it time we institute fiscally sound policies?

Over the last 11 months, the American people have seen unprecedented spending from Washington, D.C. They are certainly not impressed. They know any economic recovery starts with tax relief for working families and small businesses and fiscal discipline from Washington.

TRANSPARENT HEALTH CARE REFORM

(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. Mr. Speaker, let me say that when Democrats gather, good things happen for the American people. Our health care bill is a bill that will bring down premiums, save lives, and create a magnificent reform comparable to saving lives when Medicare was passed in 1965. It is only those who are scared and apprehensive and not ready to go forward for the American people that won't

allow us to move forward on the health care reform.

Just as when we gather together behind closed doors, Democrats, again, are promoting transparent legislation and creating jobs for Americans. We stand with the small businesses in providing them more resources and credits because they are the backbone of America. We realize that job training, and specifically a bill that I am offering that says that if you're unemployed and get unemployment compensation, you can be in a scholarship program that will train you for the jobs of the future.

The health care bill will be providing jobs on top of jobs: health care jobs, nursing, doctors, and physician assistants. Americans need jobs, and Democrats are not afraid to take the risks that are necessary to provide for them.

As we pass the appropriations bill, we are creating jobs for America, and, therefore, I'm asking my colleagues to assist and not cast about the fears of doom. We are moving this economy. We are helping health care. We are providing the opportunities for America. And I am glad to be a Democrat serving on behalf of the American people.

UNITED NATIONS SOVEREIGNTY

(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, what is the proper function of the United Nations? Is it a forum for countries to come together to promote peace, security, and human rights? Or is it an independent entity that determines and establishes the law and regulations to govern member states?

General Secretary Ban Ki-moon has made it clear in recent comments that the U.N. Climate Summit in Copenhagen will not be successful unless a firm deadline for a legally binding agreement is in place.

In Copenhagen, the U.N. is advocating for U.N. bureaucrats with the legal power to regulate the actions of member states. We should not let the health of our economy rest on the collective decisions of a group containing antagonistic and autocratic governments who do not have the American people's interests at heart, let alone the interests of their own citizens.

Do we really want Burma, Iran, and North Korea and other despotic governments setting the rules that govern how American businesses operate? I certainly do not.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MCALLEN MONITOR

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I, together with Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, rise to honor the McAllen

Monitor newspaper in McAllen, Texas, on its 100-year anniversary. Since its first issue on December 11, 1909, the McAllen Monitor has been a round-the-clock operation.

It began as a weekly newspaper. Its reporters recorded the events when McAllen became incorporated in 1911. The Monitor was there to record the history of the Rio Grande Valley and its people. The names of the pioneering families leave a roadmap all across the Rio Grande Valley, families like the Canales, the Guerras, the Lopezes, the Cuellars, the de la Garzas, the McAllens, the Youngs, the Closners, the Sharys, the Hinojosas, and the Bentsens.

Now a daily paper, the McAllen Monitor takes pride in telling the success stories of homegrown people who have become famous, from Narciso Martinez, el Huracan del Valle's accordion sounds to Kris Kristofferson singing and acting; from Bobby Morrow's Olympic Gold Medal to the distinguished political career of the late Senator Lloyd Bentsen.

The McAllen Monitor has covered the good and bad, the sad and the joyous news for 100 years. Congratulations to the McAllen Monitor on its 100-year anniversary.

□ 1030

DEMOCRATS' ABSURD AGENDA

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, some days ago, when we were discussing and debating and voting on the health care bill, I got a call in my office from one of my constituents. After we had spoken for some time, he said, I have a confession to make. He said, I voted for President Obama because I thought that he would bring us together and that there was hope. But then he said these words, But I did not vote for this madness.

What did he mean? I guess maybe he was talking about a health care bill that's going to cost more money, going to raise taxes, and not going to take care of all Americans. I guess he was talking about a cap-and-trade bill that will put a burden on every single American. I guess he was talking about a proposal that comes to us that says, oh, we have a huge deficit and we're going to work our way out by spending more. And I suppose he may have been here to hear one of my colleagues just a moment ago who said, When Democrats meet behind closed doors, they come out for transparency. It seems absurd, perhaps because it is.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the 111th Congress has made historical progress

working with President Obama to take America in a new direction. We are working to turn our economy around and create good jobs, to make common-sense reforms to how Wall Street does business, to make quality health insurance affordable to every American, and to launch a clean-energy jobs revolution that makes America more secure. These efforts are being tackled with fiscal discipline and accountability.

You just heard about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and then there is the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act, stimulating growth and creating jobs with up to 20 additional weeks of unemployment benefits. And then there is the Job Creation Through Entrepreneurship Act to give established small businesses and entrepreneurial start-ups the needed tools and resources to thrive, create jobs, and drive economic growth.

GITMO DETAINEES COMING TO THE HEARTLAND

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, this morning, we read reports that the administration will announce that a prison in Illinois will be home to over 70 al Qaeda core detainees. After spending \$275 million on a state-of-the-art facility in Cuba, we will walk away from that investment.

The new plan poses an unnecessary risk on the American people. Administration briefings revealed that we are not ending Gitmo, just moving it to the heartland.

Members of Congress posed over one dozen questions on this plan 1 month ago—with no answer. Here is one of the key unanswered issues: In his archives speech, the President announced that approximately 75 of the detainees are “too dangerous for trial or release.” They are to be held indefinitely without civil or military trial.

It is illegal under our Constitution for the executive to hold a person inside the United States indefinitely without trial. Question: How will the President suspend our Constitution’s writ of habeas corpus once he brings these 75 detainees to the heartland? Courts will force him to answer, and the American people should know right now.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, many in the media and some of our Republican colleagues are trying to raise the specter of 1994 when we are talking about health care reform saying, oh, the Democrats are going to lose control of the House if they pass health

care reform just like they lost the House after trying to get HillaryCare through.

Well, there are a few differences between 1994 and 2009. For one, in 1994, 11,000 people weren’t losing their health insurance every day, premiums had not nearly tripled in the prior 10 years, we weren’t 7 years away from facing bankruptcy in Medicare, more than 700,000 people were not going bankrupt every year because of health care costs, and, finally, nearly 40,000 people every year weren’t dying because of a lack of health care coverage.

You know, the people in America have seen what the Republican response for health care is. They saw one move in 12 years of their control, and that was to pass an unfunded prescription drug plan that the Social Security trustees now say may raise the deficit by \$1.2 trillion over the next 10 years.

We’ve seen the Republican solutions. The American people want the Democratic solutions.

MR. PRESIDENT, RECONSIDER GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was here at the Capitol on September 11. I watched the smoke rise from the Pentagon. I walked in the ashes of Ground Zero 1 week later. Terrorism is not theoretical to me. That’s why, like most Americans, I was astonished to read this morning press reports that the Obama administration is about to transfer over 70 known dangerous terrorists from the military detention facility at Guantanamo Bay outside the United States to a prison inside the United States, in the heartland of America, in the State of Illinois.

By moving known terrorists to American soil, the Obama administration is putting international public relations ahead of public safety. How does closing Guantanamo Bay make us safer? How does moving over 70 known terrorists to a facility in my beloved heartland of this country make our families safer? And how does it even make sense?

Mr. President, rescind this order. Reconsider your decision. Put the safety and security of the American people ahead of international public opinion.

SUPPORT GLOBAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT IN COPENHAGEN

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the scientific consensus about whether humans are causing global warming is clear. Reports from the United Nations IPCC underscore the need for all countries to take action to reduce global warming pollution.

As I speak, world leaders are meeting in Copenhagen to negotiate a new global climate treaty. This is a tremendous opportunity for the United States to lead the world in coalescing around a fair, ambitious, and binding climate agreement.

We must confront the causes of global warming and manage the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels, and help developing countries benefit from clean energy technologies.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a lot to gain in Copenhagen. Currently, European countries generate more of their electricity than we do from clean alternative sources, while China is on track to become the world’s leading maker of wind turbines by the end of this year.

The United States can lead the world in growing a clean energy economy. We can create new American jobs and strengthen our national security while we protect our planet. We can, and we must, be the global clean energy leader again.

Let’s all support a fair, ambitious, and binding climate agreement in Copenhagen.

DEMOCRATS AT WORK PUTTING AMERICA BACK TOGETHER

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the 111th Congress and the President have pulled the economy back from the brink. After 8 years of the previous administration’s lax oversight of Wall Street, tax cuts for the very rich, and dishonest budgets that hid the true costs, this Congress and President Obama are busy reversing the damage.

The House passed a Wall Street reform bill that will protect consumers and ensure that taxpayers are never again on the hook to bail out big Wall Street banks. We also passed Cash for Clunkers, which helped to jump-start the U.S. auto industry and get new, cleaner cars on the road. And the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has invested in Main Street America, creating jobs and building infrastructure projects. These projects will serve their communities for decades to come.

When the President took office in January, the economy was shedding over 700,000 jobs a month. Last month, there were 11,000 job losses. Every job loss is a tragedy, though; and that is why we have been working to create jobs while we also extended unemployment benefits to those still seeking work.

We are still turning America around, but in just 1 year we have come a long way.

END THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN NOW

(Mr. GRAYSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1