

buses, and it would have put American workers to work by driving the buses, taking Americans to work and to school. \$3 billion was cut from there to make room for tax cuts. There was money cut from highways to go to tax cuts. All of the money to build schools was cut from the bill for tax cuts. The list goes on and on and on. We could have done so much more to rebuild our infrastructure with this bill. We could have done so much more to help our kids get a good education and get safe and new schools and facilities, but they went out the door to tax cuts.

Now, there was one tax cut, actually, that would have helped a business in my district that employs 1,300 people. That tax cut was taken out of the bill. The CEO called me yesterday, saying, "We'll probably be closing our doors because we're not going to be getting that tax relief."

Then there is money to help the States with the deficit and with the school budgets—that's great—except it cannot be spent until July. My schools are in crisis now. They're talking about lopping a month off of the school year, and we are being told we cannot spend that money now, that you'll need it for next year. Well, we're in the last 3 months of a 9-month year. That means our cuts are going to be twice as big as they would need to be on an annual basis. We need to have access to that money now, but we won't have access to that money now under this bill.

This bill ultimately is a lost opportunity, and I fear that, when it comes time to do further investments, the borrowing well may have run dry. Who is going to lend us this \$800 billion to spend on these sorts of things like tax cuts?

They might lend us money to build a bridge because they know it makes us more productive, and it puts people to work, and it provides returns. They might lend us money for other substantial things. They might lend us money for education, but they're going to lend us money so we can cut taxes.

If they'll lend it to us, we're probably going to borrow it from China or from Japan. We'll think there are not going to be any consequences, and we'll think that maybe we can go back to the well again later when we want to meet real needs and when we want to make real investments. I fear that the well will have run dry. So I voted "no" today, and I am proud of that vote.

THE STIMULUS BILL

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. Mr. Speaker, today we passed the largest spending bill in the history of the United States. When you add the interest and everything into it, it is going to cost over \$1 trillion. I don't think the American people really understand how much \$1 trillion is, but it is an awful lot of money.

I want to congratulate my Democrat colleagues on getting this passed. I certainly did not vote for this bill. I think it is going to be very detrimental to the future economy of these United States, and I think it is going to hurt our economy instead of creating the jobs that it was intended to create. So I think we made a big mistake today, but the Democrats got their bill passed, and they're going to get it passed in the Senate. It is going to become law, and every American is going to have to live with it.

One of the things that concerns me is not only the \$1 trillion we have spent today but that Mr. Geithner, the Secretary of the Treasury, said the other day that we would have to spend another \$1 trillion, \$2 trillion or maybe even more to help the financial institutions of this country stay afloat. So we're looking at \$2-, \$3-, \$4-, maybe \$5 trillion.

If you will look at this chart, Mr. Speaker, it shows the amount of money that is in circulation. You will see it was pretty consistent at around \$1 trillion-plus over the last couple of decades. Then just recently, it shot up like a rocket, and that was before all of this spending that we put through the House today or the amount of money that Mr. Geithner is going to spend. So we are looking at a tremendous increase in the amount of money that is going to be in circulation.

Now, one of the things that helps stave off this inflationary problem is that we have people around the world, other countries, that loan us money. For instance, China right now has loaned us \$682 billion. That is what we owe them. We owe Japan \$577 billion. We owe the United Kingdom \$360 billion. We owe Brazil \$120 billion to \$130 billion.

China said just the other day that they were very concerned about loaning us money because they said that they did not think that the currency in the United States would be stable, so the value of their currency would go down. They were calling Mr. Geithner, Secretary Geithner, to say, "Hey, we want some stability here because the value of the currency in our country is going to be depreciated because of what you're doing."

Well, a day later, after it was brought up on this floor, they changed their minds and said, "Well, the only place to loan this money where we have any kind of security is the United States. We are going to continue to loan money." So they are going to loan money to us in the billions and in the trillions of dollars, but the kicker is: How much is the interest going to be that they're going to charge? Because that interest is added to the loan that they are giving us on a month-to-month basis. I believe they kicked that interest rate up, so we are going to see an inflationary trend not only in the money they are loaning to us but in the interest that is going to be accumulating.

I know this is an awful lot for my colleagues to digest and for the people across this country who might be paying attention to digest, but let me just say this, Mr. Speaker: It is going to cause an inflationary trend at some point in the future. I think it is going to be earlier rather than later. When that inflationary trend starts, this chart is going to be minuscule to what we are going to see. We are going to see inflation shoot up at a very rapid rate, which means that the value of the dollar that every American has in their bank or in their home is going to be devalued.

That means, if you buy a car for \$30,000, it may cost \$60,000 or \$90,000. If you buy a loaf of bread, it may cost 2 or 3 times as much or more. That is called hyperinflation. This happened back in the 1970s when we had a very similar situation to what we have today. We had double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment, and they raised the interest rates to 21 percent to stop all of this. That may happen again. If it does, it will put a real hammer on the economy, and it will put more and more and more, thousands and millions of people out of work.

But the problem early on is the inflation that we are going to have to deal with. This is a problem that is very real, and I hope my Democrat colleagues will think ahead and will realize that we have to do something to stifle the growth in government and the spending because we are not going to be able to deal with this inflation as we should, and our kids and our grandkids and the future generations of this country are going to have to pay, not only with inflation, but with higher taxes and with a lower quality of life. That is something we should not have to deal with, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

TURKEY'S GENOCIDE HYPOCRISY

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

Mr. PALLONE. On Saturday, February 7, The Washington Post reported that a Turkish Islamic-oriented human rights group, the Association of Human Rights and Solidarity for Oppressed Peoples, known as Mazlum-Der, initiated a probe to investigate if war crimes and genocide were committed by Israel during the recent Gaza conflict.

I was startled to read that Mazlum-Der plans to investigate 19 Israelis, including Prime Minister Olmert, President Peres, Foreign Minister Tzipi

Livni, and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, for orchestrating genocide. For a Nation that for 94 years has practiced widespread genocide denial of the killing of 1.5 million Armenians, hypocrisy runs deep today in Ankara.

Last week, I expressed my concerns regarding Turkey's recent rash of anti-Semitism, but this probe is going too far. Israel did not commit genocide, but this has not stopped Ankara's chief prosecutor from launching this war crimes probe.

The probe out of Turkey will investigate Israel's actions in the Gaza conflict to see if they amount to "genocide, torture and crimes against humanity." If the prosecutor finds evidence against the Israeli leaders, under Turkish law, they can be detained if they enter Turkey.

The absurdity of this probe and of the fact that Turkey is issuing that it must be exposed. Israel did not commit genocide. Israel was not attempting to eliminate the Palestinian people. Israel was protecting itself from the hundreds of bombs Hamas has been shooting into its cities.

Mazlum-Der has no ground to stand on, and Turkey has no ground to stand on. Neither this NGO nor the Turkish Government has ever attempted to discuss the truth of the Armenian genocide, nor has Turkey or Mazlum-Der taken action against the present genocide that continues to rage in Darfur.

While Israelis are defending themselves against constant attacks from Hamas, Mazlum-Der insists this is genocide. How can this organization accuse Israel of committing genocide when it has yet to categorize the thousands of killings in Darfur as genocide?

The Turkish people need to step back and question their skewed understanding of genocide. Look in the mirror. Look at your own history. Come to terms with the fact that 1.5 million Armenians died and that, when contemporary genocides, like Darfur, take place, they should be denounced.

Instead of denouncing it, Turkey's relationship with Sudan is strong. Last year, Turkish President Abdullah Gul warmly welcomed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to Ankara. Yet al-Bashir continues to preside over a genocidal regime responsible for the deaths of 300,000 Sudanese people in the Darfur region of the country.

Today, 2.7 million Darfuris have lost their homes since the conflict and now live in internally displaced persons' camps. While all of this happens, President Gul of Turkey has said that the situation in Darfur adds up to a "humanitarian tragedy" caused by economic difficulties.

Now, this watering down of state-sponsored government killing is an affront to the thousands who have perished in Darfur. Yet a Turkish organization is investigating genocide in Israel? What hypocrisy.

President Gul greeted the Sudanese leader with a military guard of honor only bestowed on Turkey's closest al-

lies. While the international community fiercely works to contain al-Bashir's government, Turkey embraces it. Both governments have a long history of genocide denial.

Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Turkey has had 94 years to recognize the Armenian genocide perpetrated on their soil in 1915. Like the Sudanese Government, the Turkish Government's state-sponsored ethnic cleansing of the Armenians in the early 20th century left 1.5 million Armenians tortured, murdered and displaced. Yet, to this day, the Republic of Turkey continues to deny the slaughter of the Armenians—instead, launching an absurd investigation into Israel.

If Turkey and its NGOs want to take a stand against genocide, they should not be pointing at Israel, nor should Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan be threatening Israel with comments like these:

"Allah will sooner or later punish those who transgress the rights of innocents."

Well, if Turkey wants to move closer to the West, it should practice some self-reflection on its own history regarding the Armenian genocide and help to end the genocide in Darfur.

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DOES CONGRESS KNOW

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. You know, the Chamber is empty, the voting is over. But as regards to the stimulus bill that was in front of us today, I had a request from Greg, who lives in Milford in my district, if I could read a part of his letter to me regarding that bill.

"Dear Congressman McCotter, I spoke with you on WJR Friday morning. I couldn't get out everything I wanted to say because of my frustration. I would love to talk before Congress and the Senate. I would like to talk to them about the deplorable, reprehensible, and egregious waste they are considering with our tax dollars. I'm sorry this is long, but I want them to see what I see. And I want to ask them a few questions.

"You see, I just lost my job. The company I worked for is eliminating 700 sales positions nationwide, about 15 will be affected in Michigan.

"I would like to ask the Congress and Senate if they know what it's like to sit at the dinner table and tell your 11-year-old daughter that she can't get a school yearbook because we need the money to buy groceries. Do they know what it's like to see the tears in your wife's eyes when you tell her the conference call you were just on eliminated your position?

"Do they know what it feels like to tell your father-in-law that the daughter I married and promised to provide for that you just lost your job?

"Do they know what it feels like to return the shirts you just bought for work on clearance, because you really needed new shirts, and now you don't even have a job?

"Do they know that when I told my 7-year-old son we just had to make cuts, and he responded, 'Can we still have our donut on Sunday morning before church?' That's all he said he wanted. I had to tell him we'd try our best.

"Do they know we've made sacrifices but you haven't?

"Do they know what it's like to speak with someone who was in tears over losing their job because they think they will lose their house? How about the always upbeat guy who sounded depressed that he could lose his house because he had just lost his job?

"Do they know what it's like to have another coworker lose their job and are worried their spouse's job could be next?

"Do they know how fearful it is to turn your heat down at night to 59 degrees and 65 in the day when your child is asthmatic and it can flare up from the cold?

"Do they know about the guy I just met whose entire company just took a 20-percent pay cut so they wouldn't have to lay off employees?

"Congressman McCotter, why doesn't the Senate have the guts to reject the pork spending portions of this bill and start over? Why don't you get off your ivory tower, pork barrel, earmarked, pet project behinds and do what we need you to do?"

And Greg finished, "The wasteful spending they are considering is unconscionable to me. What jobs in the U.S. does that create?"

Earlier today we heard the Speaker ask Members of this body to remember the people at home and feel their hand upon theirs as they cast their vote upon this bill. I did not need to feel the hand upon mine. I felt their pain in my heart because I saw it every day in our Michigan neighborhood, our Michigan community.

And the reality was that the bill before us was a trillion-dollar mistake that will harm working families like Greg, deprive them of hope, and damage our already recessed economy.

So before today's vote, I called Greg and I talked to him. He was as set in his position as he was when he wrote me this letter. And Greg thanked me for voting against it. And the fundamental reason was this: I live in Lavonia, Michigan. I live with people who are suffering. And they sent me here to work for them to try to make things better.

And when I go home, after a vote, to my wife and children, I go home to the people who are suffering as well; and I will have to look them in the eye and tell them whether this trillion-dollar bill helped them or not. And with God as my witness, I will at least be able to tell them the truth that it will not.