

gets us anywhere. As a matter of fact, I think that gets us nowhere. It is that kind of quasi-debate which leads down the wrong path.

We are without a doubt facing a very difficult economic situation, and as did others, I returned to my district to talk to constituents about that. I had a tele-town hall where we had over 6,000 people on the line, and I listened to their comments. I also sent out a questionnaire by e-mail, and thus far we've received over 1,800 responses. I thought it might be informative to tell this body the feelings of the people in my district, at least as reflected in this survey; although I realize it is not a scientific survey.

In response to the question, what is the most immediate economic concern you face, overwhelmingly, 53 percent of the respondents said they were most concerned about declining value of retirement accounts. We ought to be very concerned about that, because if we send a message to the world that we are fiscally irresponsible, that more and more spending and more and more debt is the way to get out of the situation that we got into because of spending and debt, those retirement accounts are going to lose more value. We ought to be concerned about the future, as well as the immediate present.

Secondly, in response to the question, what is the most important element of an economic stimulus package, the number one response was tax cuts. Why? Because many of the American people do believe the argument that raising taxes in the midst of a recession doesn't make sense and that tax cuts, properly articulated, properly enforced, create a stimulus to the private sector, particularly the small- and medium-sized businesses where the jobs are really created, not the government sector. Secondly, the biggest response was, nothing, the economy is strongest when government does not interfere. And the third response was funding for infrastructure projects. And unfortunately, the percentage of money that goes to infrastructure projects is relatively small, as is the percentage that goes towards tax cuts.

The next question: Are you satisfied with the economic stimulus package Congress passed? Thirty-four percent of the people in my district said, no, the details of the size and scope needed to be worked out. Perhaps they thought having less than 24 hours to look at a 1,076 page bill was inappropriate. The second largest response, 33 percent, was, no, Congress shouldn't have passed any stimulus package. Those are concerned that a stimulus package does not stimulate. And third, by a much, much smaller margin, yes, anything the government can do is better than nothing.

The next question: I expect the worse of the economic crisis to be over within—and this is truly difficult to read because it said that 42 percent of the respondents thought it would take 24 months or more. Second largest re-

sponse was 13 to 18 months by 21 percent. And then 17 percent believe it would be 19 to 24 months. In other words, the American people, at least reflected in my district by this survey, understand the seriousness and the depth of this economic difficulty.

And lastly, I asked them: The economic crisis' impact on me is such that—and the response, number one, was, I am okay right now, but I'm worried about what will happen to me if the economy continues to get worse, 59 percent. Thirty-three percent of the people said, I will face tough decisions but I will survive. And less than 9 percent said, I do not know how I will make it through the time.

Interesting thing about that response is the resiliency of the American people. They do believe, they do have faith that we will get out of this, but they believe that we will get out of it through the ingenuity, the creativity, the stick-to-it-iveness of the work ethic of the American people, not government.

While certain government programs might be able to assist, we should not forget that the essence of the greatness of America lies in its people, not in its government. This government reflects its people. This government is one that was set up to protect the rights of the people but also to be protected against an overweening government. If we are to work ourselves out of this economy, we must rely on the people for their creativity and do nothing that impinges upon that.

□ 1100

CONGRATULATING DANCE MARATHON AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY IN ITS MONEY RAISING EFFORT TO COMBAT CHILDREN'S CANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a great cause and to congratulate the over 15,000 young men and women at Penn State University who participated in the largest student-run philanthropy in the world—THON.

THON, which is short for Dance Marathon, is a student-run venture led by the Penn State University Interfraternity and the Panhellenic Council whose mission is to conquer pediatric cancer by providing outstanding emotional and financial support for the children, families, researchers and staff at the Penn State Children's Hospital.

Madam Speaker, this is no ordinary student organization. Dating back to 1972 when the first THON was held, a small group of dancers raised approximately \$2,000. This past weekend, over 15,000 student volunteers raised \$7.49 million to fight pediatric cancer. Since its inception in 1972, THON has raised

more than \$52 million for this worthy cause. And while this is a yearlong, never-ending fight against pediatric cancer, it culminates each year with a 46-hour dance marathon. With 708 dancers this year representing over 350 student organizations and 180 individual groups, THON has shattered previous year's record.

Madam Speaker, it is this type of leadership and dedication that gives me renewed hope that our Nation's best days are still ahead of us. As a proud Penn State alumnus, I join with colleagues such as Congressman WOLF, a Penn State alumni, in saying it is not only an honor to be associated with a first class institution, it is a privilege to share that association with the 15,000 students that participated in THON.

We Penn Staters have a saying: "We are Penn State." But, Madam Speaker, as you can see, it goes without question that these students are truly the "we" in Penn State.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord of history and Father of all humanity, as we mark Black History Month this year, anxiety gives us much to pray about. Yet we have much to celebrate as well.

The Honorable JOHN LEWIS tells a story which may serve as a parable for African American history in the United States. On a Sunday afternoon, he was one of 15 children who took refuge in Aunt Sevena's house because a storm was brewing. As the storm let loose, the house began to sway. The wood beneath their feet began to bend. A corner of the room started lifting up.

That was when Aunt Sevena told the children to line up and hold hands. Then she had them walk as a group back and forth from kitchen to the front of the house toward every corner of the room that was rising. Fifteen children were walking with the wind, holding that trembling house down from flying to the sky with the weight of their own bodies. They had learned that You, Lord, were right in the midst of the storm and Your voice could be heard in the thunder.

Throughout history, Lord, Your presence can be found. Be with this House

tonight as history is made. Be with us now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. 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 Ohio (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio 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.

MOVING FROM BANK CARE TO HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Fifty million Americans without any health insurance, another 50 million underinsured. There has never been a more significant moment where this country has the opportunity to turn crisis into opportunity by making it possible for all Americans for the first time to have a plan of national health care, a universal, single-payer, not-for-profit health care system, where all \$2.2 trillion that is spent for health care will be spent for health care for people and not for profit for insurance companies. Insurance companies make money not providing health care.

With so many Americans without health care today, it is urgent that we recognize the value of H.R. 676 to provide Americans with the coverage they need, plus we stop this system which is excluding people from being able to get the care they need because of the cost of premiums and copays.

This is a moment that we need to seize. H.R. 676, universal, single-payer,

not-for-profit health care. Let's move from bank care to health care.

NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. When we invest in the mentoring and education of our children, we provide them a strong foundation for their future success. The National Guard Youth Challenge Program has a proven track record of teaching the leadership, citizenship and life skills that can make a difference in so many lives.

I am particularly proud to have members and supporters of the program here on Capitol Hill today, including General John Conaway, chairman of the National Guard Youth Foundation, and also Colonel Jackie Fogle, Director of the South Carolina Youth Challenge Academy, as they celebrate and bring recognition to the extraordinary work that they are doing on behalf of our Nation's youth.

I am grateful to have introduced legislation that would help expand the resources for these programs to ensure they continue to have a positive impact on the young men and women in our communities. I am particularly grateful to see the plans for success in Guam with Governor Felix Camacho and First Lady Joann Camacho.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ALVIN KING

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Memphis, Tennessee, my hometown and the site of Tennessee 9, a great leader in our community passed away, a gentleman by the name of Alvin King.

Alvin King was 73 years old, and during his time in Memphis, he was a political leader. He was an African American gentleman. This is Black History Month. He was the third Memphian elected to the House of Representatives in Tennessee since reconstruction in 1868, and he served in the House of Representatives for 24 years, the third longest serving African American in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

I served with Representative King for 10 of those years when I was a senator and he was a very capable, well-liked and effective legislator.

He did something that is I guess embodied in our President, Barack Obama, showing that people can get beyond race. Alvin King was born in the civil rights era when it was important

in his district that he was African American and that his district elect an African American.

As time went on, he saw the need for people to reach across and get votes from people, regardless of race. And he said in 1991 in a mayoral race when he supported a candidate other than the candidate I supported that black people will vote for white people and white people will vote for black people as long as race isn't the issue, and he supported a white candidate who was the incumbent mayor because he had worked with him as a State legislator, and that was the cause of his defeat in 1992. But he was early in the call for biracial voting.

When I ran for office the first time for this seat that I was successful in 2006, it wasn't particularly popular for African Americans to come out and support me openly. Many did or I wouldn't be here. But he was one of the first, and there wasn't an issue in his mind about race. It was about who could go the best job.

Alvin King was a leader. He leaves three sons and a daughter, a daughter, Esperanza, who he loved as well as his three sons, but who serves as an intern in my office and was the apple of his eye; his sons Alvin, Samuel and Ashley, and his wife, Rosalva, who he dearly loved and will miss him dearly, as will I and the City of Memphis.

REPUBLICANS SAY "GET SERIOUS ABOUT FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY: FREEZE SPENDING NOW"

(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, during these challenging economic times, American families and small businesses are making sacrifices to make ends meet, and Congress should do the same.

With all the talk about fiscal responsibility in Washington, D.C., it is time for our Democratic colleagues to put our money where their mouth is, and Republicans are willing to come together across the aisle and make the hard choices necessary to put our fiscal house in order.

Judging from what is scheduled to come to the floor tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, it looks like the majority just doesn't get it. Just slightly over one week after passing a \$1 trillion so-called stimulus bill, Democrats in Congress are planning to pass another big spending bill, \$410 billion, 9,000 earmarks as usual, the largest increase in discretionary spending since the Carter administration.

House Republicans and millions of Americans are saying enough is enough. Let's do what every American family, what the every small business is doing. Let's freeze Federal spending immediately and come together to get this Congress' house in order.