

PRESIDENT OBAMA WILL BRING ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE BUDGET PROCESS

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, tonight the American people will hear the truth about the fiscal situation that President Obama inherited.

There won't be any sugarcoating in the form of accounting gimmicks that hide the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, natural disasters and some Medicare payments. President Obama believes that government should be honest, and he is doing the right thing by eliminating accounting gimmicks. Such tricks gave the false impression that the government was actually addressing our Nation's fiscal mess when it really wasn't.

Mr. Speaker, tonight President Obama will level with the American people about the \$1.3 trillion deficit that he inherited from President Bush. In the days ahead, we will work with President Obama to make the hard choices necessary to put us back on a fiscally responsible path.

CONGRESS MUST QUIT SPENDING

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, last week it was my privilege during our work period back in the district to be at seven of my county courthouses. What I did was I met one-on-one all morning and all afternoon and we got locked into the courthouses in the evenings to talk to these people that we represent. And they are concerned. They are concerned about the spending that has been going on in this Congress.

I had one gentleman wait 4 hours, 4 hours, to come up and just sit across from the desk from me for 30 seconds and say we are spending too much money in this country. They are worried about what is happening to their future, to their kids' future and their grandkids' future.

You know, it is tough when you pick up the paper and try to explain it to them. They say, where is this money coming from that is being borrowed? Over the weekend we saw the Secretary of State was over in China with cup in hand saying we need you to keep buying our debt.

The folks back home are concerned about their future and they want this Congress to do something, and that means we have got to quit spending.

FIXING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, we just heard from the Republican side of the aisle that they are ready to make the tough

fiscal choices. Unfortunately, they are about 8 years and \$5 trillion short with their newfound fiscal conservatism.

Remember, George Bush inherited a surplus. What was the answer to the surplus? Tax cuts. Then we had the attacks of 9/11. What was the answer to that? Tax cuts. Then we had the misbegotten war in Iraq. What was the answer to that? Tax cuts. A war fought on borrowed money and tax cuts. And then we had the bank collapse and the recession growing into a depression. And what was the answer of George Bush? Tax cuts. And what is the answer of the Republicans today? Tax cuts.

For them to say they are for fiscal responsibility and honest budgeting after those 8 years is laughable. The Obama administration is going to give it straight to the American people tonight. They have made a hash out of it, and we are going to try to fix it, but it is going to take some time.

STIMULATE THE ECONOMY—DRILL OFFSHORE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, some day in the future we may live in a land flowing with renewable green energy, windmills on every corner, cute little battery-operated cars in every garage. But the path to blissful nirvana is long and we have just begun that journey.

Right now, our primary fuel source for vehicles is crude oil, whether we like it or not. We get most of it from the Middle East. We transfer billions of dollars of taxpayer money to countries that don't like us or respect us, countries that have ties to radical terrorists that want to kill us.

The American people support clean offshore drilling. It is good for the country. We will keep our money in America instead of sending it overseas. Offshore drilling creates high-paying jobs for Americans. We reduce the risk of oil spills from tankers from the Middle East. Oil companies will send millions of dollars to our Treasury for the right to lease offshore, and it can be done cleanly and safely.

But the new administration has blocked offshore drilling. With all the rhetoric about stimulating the economy, one would think that a real stimulus would be to drill off our shores and bring jobs and money to Americans instead of going into debt with the elusive stimulus package.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MIKE SHEEHY

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike Sheehy, the National

Security Adviser for the Speaker. Mike Sheehy has given three decades of service to his country, much of it here in the House of Representatives.

When the Speaker first appointed me to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence 6 years ago, Mike was one of the first people I turned to. His deep experience on intelligence matters, as well as his knowledge of the House and its Members, have served the Speaker and all of us well over the years.

Especially after the Speaker asked me to chair the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, I have frequently sought his advice on a wide range of issues, and I've found him to be always thoughtful and well-informed, and I might add, always calm. He is a consummate professional.

As he leaves his position here on Capitol Hill, I and others want to recognize him, thank him and wish him well.

\$410 BILLION "OMINOUS" APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(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, the House will vote on the \$410 billion "ominous" appropriations bill this week. The bill's text was finished weeks ago but kept secret from the American people, and now we know why. The legislation contains 9,000 earmarks to be approved, ironically, the same week as we had a fiscal responsibility summit.

Last night, my staff and I stayed up to read this bill, longer than the stimulus. We found no less than 12 earmarks for clients of a lobbying firm that was raided by the FBI 3 months ago. The leaders of Paul Magliochetti and Associates will likely go to jail, but their earmarks from this criminal enterprise are in this legislation, totaling over \$8 million of the taxpayers' money, all approved by the leaders of this House. This is irresponsible spending by a criminal enterprise to the detriment of this Congress.

PRESIDENT OBAMA WILL PRESENT AN HONEST BUDGET THAT CUTS THE DEFICIT IN HALF IN FIVE YEARS

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

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, President Obama inherited a fiscal mess created by 8 years of Republican economic and fiscal policies. Tonight, our new President will begin the slow process of restoring fiscal discipline to Washington. He will do that first by leveling with the American people about the true costs of the budget he'll release on Thursday.

Second, he will re-institute the pay-as-you-go guidelines similar to those that have been in place here in the Democratic House now for the last 2

years. The principle of pay-as-you-go played an instrumental role in creating the budget surpluses of the 1990s. Unfortunately, those commonsense principles were rejected by the Bush administration, and helped lead to the record deficit that our country must now address.

And, third, President Obama is expected to propose mandatory, across-the-board spending cuts to offset any new initiative that expands the government's red ink.

Mr. Speaker, these reforms will help us cut the budget deficit in half over the next 5 years, which is not bad, considering what we inherited from our Republican friends.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND WORLD OF CONGRESSIONAL BUDGETING

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, welcome to the Alice in Wonderland world of congressional budgeting, a place where Congress calls for fiscal responsibility, but then spends well beyond our means, even as the budget deficit grows to over \$1.4 trillion.

We're all too familiar with the litany of the spending that's already occurred this session; \$350 billion for the TARP bailout, \$787 billion for the pork-filled stimulus bill, and this week, right after the so-called fiscal responsibility summit, Congressional leaders will bring up a giant omnibus spending bill that will spend another \$410 billion, an 8 percent increase over funding from last year, and has over 9,000 earmarks. My constituents aren't seeing an 8 percent increase in their paychecks.

The nonpartisan Brookings Institution also cited recently, and I quote, "these are just not deficits as far as the eye can see, but they're trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see."

Mr. Speaker we're making sacrifices every day. Congress should continue to do the same.

CHRYSLER PLANT'S FUTURE IN FENTON, MISSOURI

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, Chrysler Corporation has a proud history of producing cars, trucks and vans in the Fenton, Missouri, plant. The workers there helped Chrysler survive its darkest hours in the 1980s, and helped it thrive during the 1990s and 2000s.

The U.S. Government has stepped in to help our American automakers survive and to protect American jobs. I was truly disappointed to read in the St. Louis Post Dispatch that the Fenton, Missouri, plant may be at risk under Chrysler's viability plan. By almost every measure, the Fenton, Mis-

souri, plant has the key ingredients to be part of the survival and success of Chrysler.

The workforce at the plant is among the most productive in the industry, and the plant itself has had a half billion dollars invested in it for flexible manufacturing to give it the ability to build the cars of the future today. The manufacturing technology reduces the carbon footprint, and provides long-term savings and energy use. This state-of-the-art plant and its record-setting workers are the example of what can help the industry and Chrysler survive and thrive in the future.

MAKING QUALITY CARE ACCESSIBLE TO PATIENTS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, tonight President Obama is expected to unveil some of his health care reform, and I hope to work with the President to lower costs for American families and make health care more accessible without dramatically raising taxes.

Some of my Democratic colleagues advocate for government-run universal health coverage, but coverage alone does not guarantee access. Too many rural communities currently lack doctors, and Medicare payment cuts and frivolous lawsuits have driven providers out of business in underserved communities.

Health care reform should be based on three basic principles, information, choice and control. Information that provides real information to patients and doctors, choice that allows freedom of choice to choose a doctor and develop a doctor/patient relationship, and control, which creates real portability for families.

Working together, I believe we can achieve real results and make health care much more affordable and accessible. We all agree that our system will make America more competitive and give families peace of mind. And that's why we need to work together to put the doctor and patient back in control.

BUSH BUDGET LEGACY—DEEP DEFICITS AND ECONOMIC DECLINE

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, over the last 8 years, the Bush administration turned our budget situation from rosy to grim. President Bush and the Republican Congress pushed their economic policies as an answer to the prolonged growth that never came. They let budget rules lapse and enacted expensive tax cuts for the wealthiest few, with no offsets.

Now it turns out, instead of spurring long-term growth, these trickle-down policies have cost our Nation dearly.

Our economy nationwide and in my home State of New Jersey is in worse shape than ever.

As a result of the economic deterioration that occurred under President Bush's policy, the projected deficit for fiscal year 2009 has reached an unprecedented \$1.2 trillion. This deficit did not arise overnight, and out of the blue. President Bush inherited a healthy \$5.6 trillion surplus.

And so, Mr. Speaker, we need to bring our country back to fiscal responsibility.

ACT FISCALLY RESPONSIBLY AND IN A BIPARTISAN MANNER

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago this body spent over \$1 trillion of taxpayer dollars on programs that will grow the size of government, but won't stimulate the economy to help us get out of this financial crisis.

Consumer confidence remains low, and fear of the future remains, as evidenced by the lowest Dow since 1997.

Last week I held two town hall meetings in my district in Northwest Louisiana. In both meetings, the feelings were the same. People are scared and they are angry. They are looking for solutions. Instead we give them wasteful spending and social programs funded with one-time money. Now we hear of a plan to finance this with taxes on the back of small businesses and on the taxpayers themselves.

To help this economy, we must allow business to expedite depreciation schedules, eliminate capital gains taxes and reduce payroll deductions and dedicate dollars to infrastructure projects, including I-49 in Louisiana.

As we move to consider the half trillion dollar omnibus, I urge my colleagues to act fiscally responsible and in a bipartisan manner.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. I rise today to urge my colleagues, our leadership, Speaker PELOSI, President Obama, to work with CHC on comprehensive immigration reform.

Two weeks ago this legislative body passed a significant bill that will help our devastated economy. We cannot forget the other gaping wound here, our broken immigration system. We are making a big mistake if we continue to ignore the 12 to 14 million undocumented immigrants who are part of this economy. This is not something that we should sweep under the rug with more unrealistic enforcement-only fixes to the immigration system. Enforcement-only approaches makes the situation worse by generating an underground economy and encouraging