

of concern to every American and every Member of this body.

But there are differences. On the issue of raising taxes, House Republicans are concerned that this would destroy jobs in an already troubled economy. We oppose plans that will continue to borrow and spend. We believe the American people should keep more of their own money and government should limit its own budget.

Fiscal responsibility must mean we limit spending, not just raise taxes in order to build more government. We stand ready to work with our colleagues to make these tough decisions.

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

GIVE OUR TROOPS THE BEST POSSIBLE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS

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

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited Iraq and Afghanistan for the first time as a Member of Congress.

The six-member bipartisan delegation met with soldiers, commanders, Iraqi and Afghanistan leaders and ordinary citizens. Though it was a truly eye-opening experience, it only strengthened my deep respect and gratitude for the men and women who serve in our military. They have always performed bravely and done everything we have asked them to do.

As we were in the Middle East, the President announced that an additional 17,000 troops would be sent to Afghanistan. Based on my observations in Afghanistan, a strengthened American presence is badly needed, along with a strong coalition. However, there should be a clear sense of mission with measurable goals in order to give our troops the best possible chance for success.

I look forward to working on the Armed Services Committee to ensure that we meet these goals and that our troops are always given the resources they need.

MONKEY BITE BILL

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in this House we passed a monkey bite bill, and whether one agrees with me that we spent millions of dollars to create a bureaucracy that does not solve the problem is insignificant.

What is significant is one considers the time we spent last year and this year. It is arguably the case that we have spent more time on this floor talking about monkey bites than we have in talking about a \$400 billion spending package.

The President was exactly right last night when he said Americans will work their way through the situation,

but history will judge whether the actions of this House have hindered or helped Americans in that quest to work their way through this situation and, indeed, the verdict may be mixed. But history will not forgive us if we abdicate our responsibility to be representatives of the people and know the details of the bills that come to the floor.

History will not forgive us if we simply declare an emergency and then wave our hands as billions and billions of American tax dollars just simply pass us by. Shame on us.

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HONESTY CONCERNING THE BUDGET

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when I listen to some of the comments from my colleagues on the Republican side, I am surprised by the remarks they make about tax increases. If you look at the economic recovery package, it actually has one of the biggest tax cuts in this Nation's history. For most people, unless they are at \$200,000 or above for a couple, something like that, they will actually be seeing a tax decrease or a tax cut as a result of the economic recovery package.

The President is being very honest about the budget. If you listened to him for the first time now, if you compare him to the previous administration, the budget is going to increase the actual cost of the Iraq war and the actual cost of Medicare reimbursements. A lot of those things were previously hidden.

In addition to that, most importantly, he talked about the need for deficit reduction. Yes, in fact we are spending money as part of the economic recovery package. We are giving tax cuts, and that does increase the deficit. But over the long term, over the 4 years, the goal is to cut the deficit in half.

It is a very responsible message that he gave last night; short-term efforts to achieve economic recovery, long-term efforts to reduce the deficit.

LESS GOVERNMENT AND REAL SPENDING REFORM NEEDED

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, last night we heard the President in this very Chamber make the call for Congress to rise above the politics and to work together for the benefit of the American people, even though this side of the aisle has been shut out of virtually all related legislation.

The President called for fiscal responsibility, and I couldn't agree more. But I am perplexed that he would make this call sandwiched between the big-

gest wasteful bills that the liberals in Congress have ever submitted. We need to stop the runaway spending to fund programs that don't immediately put this country back on track for economic stability and which create even more deficits in years to come.

It is very foolish to spend heavily on an unprecedented number of earmarks, only to attempt to balance the budget on the backs of small businesses and those who work and save. Governor Jindal pointed out in his response how effective less government, less spending, and real government reform can be in my home State of Louisiana.

I say that instead of increasing dependence on government to run our daily lives, I strongly suggest that we let the entrepreneurial spirit and the work ethic of Americans with real leadership from Congress create the pathway out of our economic problems.

CONGRESS IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address our current economic crisis and the critical need for a budget that offers hope and confidence to the American people.

My colleagues and our citizens understand our Nation's dire fiscal crisis. Our Gross Domestic Product continues to shrink; auto sales are the worst in decades; personal incomes are declining and job losses continue to alarm us daily. In my own district, one of the Nation's most affluent, demand for food stamps has grown 73 percent over the last year, and local officials say the need is much greater and many simply do not apply.

Home values, the largest source of wealth in my district, have declined by as much 32 percent. These are staggering declines. Through September of 2008, there were thousands of foreclosures in Prince William and Fairfax Counties. Stock in Washington metropolitan businesses has declined 41 percent in 2008, a tremendous decrease in value.

However, there is hope. President Obama outlined a vision last night for long-term financial stability. The significant investment in infrastructure, the expansion of the green economy, the call to bring fiscal sanity back to health care embodied in the President's message bodes well for the future. I support his economic endeavor.

THE BEST SOLUTIONS COME FROM MAIN STREET, NOT PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, last night the Chamber was

full as President Obama outlined his priorities to solve the challenges that face America. And no matter the issue, I think it is so important that we remember that the best solutions come from Main Street, and not from Pennsylvania Avenue.

The biggest challenge that our Nation faces is the economy. Growing and expanding our economy starts with true tax relief that allows middle-class families and small businesses to keep more of their hard-earned money. It also involves investing in infrastructure and workforce so that we will be competitive.

Today we are scheduled to begin debate on the budget bill. Unfortunately, this bill is loaded with earmarks, over 9,000. One business owner in Spokane recently asked me, "Do you in Washington, D.C. get it? Do you understand that small businesses, families, are having to tighten their belt, make tough decisions?"

We heard the call last night to start living within our means, and I applaud President Obama's commitment to reducing our national debt, just like families and small businesses have to do with their budgets. Now is the time for both parties to back up their promises for fiscal discipline.

I believe that the best solutions come when Republicans and Democrats work together. I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats to solve these issues.

PUTTING NATIONAL SECURITY IN PERIL FOR POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, since Mr. Obama became the President, the economy has been his focus. But through executive orders and not so subtle hints in recent speeches, his administration has put some effort into making America less safe than it was 2 years ago.

Some examples: Throwing out the case against the USS *Cole* bomber; the closing down of Guantanamo; limiting our interrogation techniques; cutting defense spending; and announcing a troop surge in Afghanistan without the proper infrastructure or funding to support it.

The French just today released five terrorists that the United States released to them for prosecution. If even one of the brave men and women who carry the burden of our security on their shoulders in Iraq and Afghanistan are harmed by the fact that American operatives can no longer get timely information from the enemy through interrogation or are attacked by a prisoner released because of the closing of Guantanamo, if even one of our men and women in uniform pay the ultimate price for these reasons, it will be a sacrifice made so that President

Obama can score political points with the liberal fringe of his party.

I am a United States Marine and I served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I will not stand by while our national security is put in peril for political expediency. Let us not betray those who sacrifice for our freedom.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 47) supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 47

Whereas there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States;

Whereas law enforcement officers selflessly protect the people of the United States and communities throughout the country from harm;

Whereas law enforcement officers serve the country regardless of the peril to themselves;

Whereas more than 18,340 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1792;

Whereas September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history with 72 officers killed while responding to the terrorist attacks;

Whereas 140 law enforcement officers were killed in 2008;

Whereas Public Law 87-726 designates May 15th of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and Police Week is commemorated during the calendar week containing May 15;

Whereas section 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, requires that the United States flag on all government buildings be displayed at half-staff on May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of the people of the United States for their service: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues and stand in full support of the consideration of House Resolution 47, which calls for Congress to recognize the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day, which is commemorated on May 15th of each year during what is referred to as National Police Week. House Resolution 47 was introduced by our colleague Representative TED POE of Texas on January 9, 2009, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on February 11th, 2009, by a voice vote.

The measure has the support and co-sponsorship of nearly 70 Members of Congress and is designed to acknowledge the work and commitment of more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving throughout our great nation. Daily, these selfless men and women place their lives on the line, confronting great risk and challenges in their service to our communities and our fellow citizens, which is why it is so befitting for us to consider the measure at hand, House Resolution 47, supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Over the course of 2008, our country lost nearly 180 law enforcement officers in the line of duty. In remembrance of these fallen heroes, today we in the House of Representatives take a moment to express our gratitude for the service of these courageous Americans by considering House Resolution 47.

By supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day, we are sending a strong message to our country's law enforcement community and their families that we recognize the sacrifices they have made in the name of safety and security for all of our cities, townships and localities.

I would like to specifically mention and thank those officers that serve throughout Bristol, Suffolk, Plymouth and Norfolk Counties in my own congressional district for their great work.

Commemorating Peace Officers Memorial Day dates back to 1962, when then President Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 designating May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Since that time, Congress has routinely expressed our support for the goals and ideals of this worthy cause.