

MR. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a codel to Iraq and Afghanistan. There's a lot to reflect on after a trip, especially the wisdom in a book entitled "Three Cups of Tea." It relates to our military involvement and misjudgments—first in Iraq and, potentially now, in Afghanistan.

Before I go further, let me say that we cannot do enough to recognize and honor our soldiers and their bravery and dedication and love for our country.

For a few brief moments, we got a taste of what they endure every day. Every member of the codel was equipped with body armor and helmets, and you quickly realize the dangers and stresses our soldiers endure every day. We owe them our gratitude, our support when they return, and the confidence in knowing that our government will only place them in harm's way as a last resort. We failed that responsibility in Iraq, and many are asking whether we may fail again in Afghanistan. We are the most powerful Nation on Earth, but our bullets and bombs cannot penetrate the corridors of history. And the book "Three Cups of Tea" provides a powerful reminder that we must silence the guns if we are to hear the voices of truth coming from history.

Greg Mortenson, who wrote the book, was in Afghanistan and Pakistan on the border. And he there met an Elder who said, "These mountains have been here a long time and so have we. You can't tell the mountains what to do. You must listen to them. So now I'm asking you to listen to me. By the mercy of Almighty Allah, you have done much for our people, and we appreciate it. But now you must do one more thing for me."

Mortenson said, "Anything."

He said, "Sit down. And shut your mouth. You're making everyone crazy."

Then he began to make tea. When the porcelain bowls of hot butter tea were in our hands, Mortenson said the Elder spoke and said, "If you want to thrive in Baltistan, you must respect our ways. The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger. The second time you take tea, you are an honored guest. The third time you share a cup of tea, you become family, and for our family, we are prepared to do anything, even die.

"Doctor Greg, you must make time to share three cups of tea. We may be uneducated. But we are not stupid. We have lived and survived here for a long time."

"That day, the Elder taught me," says Mortenson, "the most important lesson I've ever learned in my life. We Americans think you have to accomplish everything quickly. We're the country of the thirty-minute power lunch and the two-minute football drills. Our leaders thought their 'shock and awe' campaign would end the war in Iraq before it even started. The elder taught me to share three cups of tea to

slow down and make building relationships as important as building projects.

"He taught me that I had more to learn from the people I work with than I could ever hope to teach them."

There are many nations and languages and religions in the world today, but there is one thing true in all this diversity. Those who do not learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them.

After Vietnam, many Americans said it will never happen again. But it has. We were misled into waging a false war in Iraq, and now we are beginning to transfer soldiers from Iraq to Afghanistan. When will we learn?

Russia once and Britain twice believed that the tread of their tanks and the velocity of their shells could flatten the mountains of history in Afghanistan and pave the way for outside control. But the mountains are still standing and history has recorded new chapters which recount and reflect on the folly of nations that believe military power is all powerful. History tells us otherwise. The Iraq war was a mistake, and I fear we may be heading for another quagmire in Afghanistan.

"Three Cups of Tea" is now required reading for everyone in the CIA. It should be required reading for every Member of Congress.

We need to listen to the mountains.

SPENDING IS OUT OF CONTROL

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, things are happening so fast in this body and the other body and down on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue at the White House, I don't see how Members of Congress—let alone the American people—can keep up with it.

Let us just take a quick look at what happened in the last 7, 8, 9 weeks. We got the second tranche of the TARP bill. That TARP spending was \$700 billion. People can't get their arms around what \$700 billion is, but \$700 billion to save our economy.

And then the automobile industry had problems. And so we had an auto bailout, first tranche, of \$14 billion. And then we had to have an economic stimulus package because the economy wasn't responding as we wanted it to. So we passed an economic stimulus that was \$787 billion more; and with interest, that was well over a trillion dollars.

And we have an omnibus spending bill that's pending in the Senate right now tonight for \$410 billion. And the President has a budget he's proposing to the Congress for \$3.9 trillion, and \$635 billion of that is the first down payment on a national health care of a socialized medicine approach for helping us with our health care problems in this country.

Now, yesterday, Senator DODD and Senator SHELBY were talking to the

Fed and said, "We want to know where this money's been going." And the Fed said, "We're not going to tell you."

Now, can you imagine the Senate Banking Committee or the House Banking Committee being stonewalled by the Fed saying, "We're not going to tell you where we're spending these trillions of dollars"? And Geithner over at Treasury said he may have to put another \$2 or \$3 trillion into the financial institutions to keep the economy moving.

Now, you go past that and you say, What about taxes on the American people: \$1.6 trillion increase in the budget, and the 2001–2003 tax cuts that we've put in place are going to expire. When those tax cuts expire, that, in essence, is a tax increase. And this is no time for a tax increase.

And the death tax, which we were trying to do away with so we could pass businesses onto the next generation without a huge tax liability that would run them out of business, they're going to do away with the death tax cut.

Now, in addition to that, we have what's called a carbon tax or an energy tax. That's going to be \$646 billion in new taxes that's going to be passed on to the consumer every time they turn on their lights or buy a gallon of gas or use a lump of coal.

Now, they're going to reduce the mortgage deduction. If you've got a house and you've been deducting the mortgage interest on it, they're going to reduce. The administration and the Democrats in this body are going to reduce or try to reduce the amount of tax deductibility on your mortgage interest. And I'm sure that's going to be a reason to buy new houses when you do away with one of the incentives for people by doing away with part of their mortgage deduction interest on interest.

And then for charitable institutions—and this is happening so fast, you can't keep up with it. Charitable institutions—your church, the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts of America, all of those whom you support and give money to—they want to reduce the tax deductibility for those contributions. Every charitable institution in this country ought to be marching on this Capitol saying, "Hey. Enough. We need those tax deductions so we can encourage people to help us so the burden of helping people in this country doesn't fall completely on the Federal Government."

But sometimes I wonder if this White House and this administration and the Democrats don't want the government to take over everything in a socialistic approach to government.

Now, the 2010 budget would increase the national debt by \$12.3 trillion over the next 10 years, \$12.3 trillion more. And that is more of the debt that's been accumulated since the beginning of the Republic in 1789 until today. That's how fast we're spending this money.

And in 2007, when my colleagues on the other side of the aisle took control of the Congress, CBO said we would have an \$800 billion surplus in 10 years; and after 2 years of their leadership, instead of an \$800 billion surplus in the next 10 years, we're going to have a \$7.8 trillion deficit. Now, they'll try to blame that all on the White House, but they were in charge of the spending because they had control of both Houses of Congress.

Now, there was an article written just yesterday saying the money supply in this country has been increased by three times almost, 271 percent. What does that mean? That means we have almost three times as much money in circulation. It's being hoarded by a lot of people because they're scared to death. But when that money gets into circulation, we're going to have very high inflation. You're going to see the cost of bread and milk and gas and everything go through the roof.

Well, Mr. Speaker, there is so much more to tell and so little time. I will be back, and I hope the American people are paying attention, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT DANIEL TALLOUZI

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

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Daniel Tallouzi of New Mexico's First Congressional District.

Staff Sergeant Tallouzi was a vibrant young Son of Albuquerque and a graduate of Valley High School. He loved to make his family laugh and followed in the honorable footsteps of his three uncles and older brother, Christopher, to serve in the United States military.

Daniel Tallouzi served in the rank of staff sergeant at the young age of 22 until his post at Camp Taji in Baghdad was hit by a mortar explosion in September of 2006. Staff Sergeant Tallouzi suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of that attack, and sadly, he succumbed to that injury this past Saturday. My heart goes out to Staff Sergeant Tallouzi's mother Mary, a single parent who left her job to spend every waking minute at her son's side during his rehabilitation.

Staff Sergeant Tallouzi's death is a tragic reminder that we must do all we can to provide our veterans returning from combat with the very best treatment, counseling and care.

Ms. Tallouzi, on behalf of the people of Daniel's congressional district, I ex-

press my heartfelt condolence to you for the loss of your son and my deepest gratitude for his sacrifice to our country.

Thank you.

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

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

INHUMANE ECONOMY

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

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, we live amid an inhumane economy. We need to look no further for proof than the unemployment figures released today from my home State of Michigan, an unemployment number that has climbed to 11.6 percent and has seen tens of thousands of my friends and neighbors lose their jobs.

As people know, Michigan is an automotive and manufacturing State. We get sicker quicker, and we heal more slowly in difficult times. But I encourage them to make no mistake, what happens in Michigan will happen in the rest of America. And we cannot let that continue.

One of the things that has caused the current crisis we are in is a theory. Many of us have heard it. Namely, it is the theory that some institutions are too big to fail. And yet, after the loss of millions of jobs and the expenditure of hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars, we find out that these institutions were, in fact, not too big to fail; they were too big to succeed.

Over the decades, this problem has arisen, and yet, if we look back over those same decades, there were voices of reason warning us that we should seek a more humane economy. And I quote one of those individuals:

"Even as the drive toward bigness (and) concentration . . . has reached heights never before dreamt of in the past, we have come suddenly to realize how heavy a price we have paid: in overcrowding and pollution of the atmosphere, and impersonality; in growth of organizations, particularly government, so large and powerful that individual effort and importance seem lost; and in loss of the values of nature and community and local diversity that found their nurture in the smaller towns and rural areas of America. And we can see . . . that the price has been too high. Bigness, loss of community, organizations and society grown far past the human scale—these are the besetting sins which threaten to paralyze our very capacity to act, or our ability to preserve the traditions and values of our past in a time of swirling, constant change.

□ 1945

"Therefore, the time has come when we must actively fight bigness and

overconcentration, and seek instead to bring the engines of government, of technology, of the economy, fully under the control of our citizens, to recapture and reinforce the values of a more human time and place.

"It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community to better their lives and their children's future. It is the lesson that government can follow the leadership of private citizens; that men who are citizens in the full sense of the word need not belong to the government in order to benefit their community. And it is the lesson that if this country is to move ahead, it will not be by making everything bigger, not by piling all our people further on top of one another in huge cities, not by reducing the citizen to the role of passive consumer and recipient of the official vision, the official product." These were the words spoken on September 17, 1966 of the junior Senator from New York, Robert Francis Kennedy.

Today, as we seek a better world and a more humane economy, we should remember his words. For after trillions of dollars in potential government expenditures, the amassing and concentration of power in Washington, we can see that we are no better off, as the unemployment figures in Michigan portend. What we really have to do is realize that as the dot-com bubble was replaced by the housing bubble, we must not attempt to replace the housing bubble with a government bubble. For when that bubble bursts, what will be left?

What we need to do is seek a way to free the entrepreneurial spirit of the American people, to allow them, with their own hands and genius, to rebuild their lives, to rebuild and restore order, opportunity, and prosperity to our chaotic economy, and to preserve the cherished America we all call home. We will.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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