

Magliocchetti's firm "reflect a culture of pay-to-play in Washington." and ABC News indicated that "the firm's operations—millions out to lawmakers, hundreds of millions back in earmarks for clients—have made it, for many observers, the poster child for tacit "pay-to-play" politics . . ." (Chicago Tribune, March 2, 2009; ABC News The Blotter, March 4, 2009)

Whereas Roll Call has reported that "a handful of lawmakers had already begun to refund donations tied to" the firm "at the center of a federal probe . . ." (Roll Call, February 23, 2009)

Whereas, the persistent media attention focused on questions about the nature and timing of campaign contributions related to Mr. Magliocchetti, as well as reports of the Justice Department conducting research on earmarks and campaign contributions, raise concern about the integrity of Congressional proceedings and the dignity of the institution.

Whereas, the fact that cases are being investigated by the Justice Department does not preclude the Committee on Standards from taking investigative steps: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That

(a) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, or a subcommittee of the committee designated by the committee and its members appointed by the chairman and ranking member, shall immediately begin an investigation into the relationship between the source and timing of past campaign contributions to Members of the House related to the founder of the raided firm and earmark requests made by Members of the House on behalf of clients of the raided firm.

(b) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives within 2 months after the date of adoption of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

#### WHAT'S GOOD FOR DETROIT IS GOOD FOR WALL STREET

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this week, we saw the latest outrage from Wall Street when it was exposed that AIG paid out hundreds of millions of dollars in bonuses, much of which went to workers in the division that helped actually cause the economic meltdown, and all with taxpayers' money. The excuse we are given is that those are contractual obligations and they must be paid, and we are supposed to just accept that.

Let us contrast that with how American auto workers are treated when General Motors or Chrysler need bridge loans from the government. They are told that they make too much money and that their contracts are killing the companies, and that they must take less or else the Federal Government will let the companies die.

So let's get this straight; AIG employees, who helped implode the economy, are given bonuses with taxpayers' money because it's in their contract, while UAW workers whose companies were badly hurt by the economic meltdown—partially caused by AIG—are told that their contracts must be disregarded or renegotiated. That is a vivid example of the double standard where people who work on Wall Street get their contracts upheld, but people who work on the line, it doesn't matter, and let them eat cake. This is wrong, Mr. Speaker.

#### RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, like everybody else in this Chamber, I am outraged about AIG. They got \$170 billion in taxpayer funds to bail them out of a situation which was largely of their own creation. And they then made it worse by giving \$165 million in bonuses to people who had participated in the outrage about which all Americans are so infuriated.

The Federal Government is trying to save this corporation because it's too big to fail, but we don't have to save a bunch of money-grubbing rascals who had a part in the collapse of our economy, which they helped to bring about.

I am introducing a bill today which is going to address the problem. It is entitled, the "Responsible Corporate Executive Compensation Act of 2009." It will impose a 95 percent tax on bonuses paid to employees of TARP recipients.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill and help make certain that hardworking Americans are not the only ones who have to sacrifice during this time of severe economic stress and uncertainty.

#### WE OWE OUR VETERANS EVERYTHING

(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, last week the administration announced plans for veterans to rely on private insurance company payments for the treatment of their war wounds. The American Legion's Commander Rehbein and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Executive Director Reickhoff

have already expressed very strong concerns.

The government broke these soldiers in battles across World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. We, the citizens of America, owe veterans care through our government. Veterans should not depend on private insurance companies who bear no moral bond to soldiers or their pain.

One of President Washington's first missions was to care for veterans. President Lincoln promised "to care for him who bore the brunt of battle, his widow and his orphan."

President Obama eloquently portrays Lincoln as his hero, and it is clear what Lincoln would advise today.

Care for our veterans, Mr. President. Private companies owe them very little. We, the American people and our Federal Government, owe them everything.

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#### DISCRIMINATION IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, discrimination is alive and well all across America. You may not have heard about it on the radio or seen it on television, but it's still alive and well. You won't see it on television because discrimination today is beneath the skin, beneath the skin of our entire society, as insurance companies, omnipotent as they are, continue to discriminate based on the preexisting condition of a citizen.

These insurance companies no longer discriminate on the basis of skin color. Rather, they discriminate against women because of the calcium, or the lack of it, in their bones. They discriminate against people who may have coronary artery disease or any of a number of medical conditions.

The lessons of both my profession and my faith have made it clear: We are all really the same beneath our skin. We're all made of the same clay. And 40 years after the civil rights movement has established that all citizens of any color shall be able to drink from the same water fountain, sit on the same bus, and attend the same medical clinic, our Nation still remains divided, not by skin color but by skin chemistry.

Mr. Speaker, it's time we bring an end to discrimination in health care.

#### THE FLOGGING OF GRANDMA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week was International Women's Day to proclaim human rights for all women.

Obviously, Saudi Arabia didn't get the memo. In the name of religion, the

official Muslim religious police arrested a 75-year-old woman for accepting bread from two young men. The crime: She had the arrogance to be with males who were not blood kin.

To the religious police in Saudi Arabia, her behavior cannot be tolerated. So the 75-year-old woman was hauled off to court, and a judge ordered her to receive, get this, 40 lashes and 4 months in jail with deportation to follow. And the two boys who were kind to her by giving her bread: lashes and prison for them too.

The official Muslim religious police are feared by women in Saudi Arabia because they enter homes to enforce dress codes, prayer times, and segregation of the sexes. Flogging women in the name of religion for accepting bread from young men seems to be anti-social action and contrary to basic human rights.

So much for the idea of helping the widows and the orphans. Maybe next year grandmas in Saudi Arabia can celebrate International Women's Day without being flogged by their government.

And that's just the way it is.

#### THE ECONOMY

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

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, mistaken policies, misplaced priorities, and profound irresponsibility have brought us where we are today. President Obama and this Congress are committed to real change. And what is that change? We propose solutions, real solutions. An honest budget, rejecting gimmicks, and eliminating the wasteful spending that has brought us to this trillion dollar deficit that we now have today.

What the American people need are tax cuts, and 95 percent of Americans will now receive a tax cut. What do the American people need? A double commitment of the investment of Pell grants, of looking at a commitment to Head Start, and so many of the other vital areas.

When we look at this Congress, we are committed to fixing health care, not to be a party of "no," but to say that we are going to address what is happening for struggling homeowners.

The American Recovery Act addressed and is helping us to bring forward 3.5 million jobs to help stabilize the State budgets and to dig us out of this fiscal mess that we inherited over the last 8 years.

We can recover, we must recover, because as Americans, failure is not an option.

#### ENERGY

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, as regards to energy, I'm an all-of-the-

above-type person. We need a diversity of energy sources. But we will not be carbon free for generations. Our need for plastics, fertilizers, lubricants, and fuels so dictates.

So given the fact that we're not going to be carbon free, it seems like domestic energy production should be encouraged. If we've got to have something, it's better for us to buy it from ourselves, for our workers, for the money to stay here.

In Louisiana alone, my home State, oil and gas production in the petrochemical industry employs 320,000 people. They work as welders, pipe-fitters, on barges, engineers. Countless small businesses with another 100,000 or so workers. Yet the President's budget contains at least eight separate tax hikes specifically targeting domestic oil and gas production.

Tax hikes create uncertainty, uncertainty creates caution, and caution inhibits economic activity. As we seek energy security and to create and preserve American jobs, I have to ask why are we punishing the industry which contributes both?

#### FORMER VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY'S ATTEMPT TO REWRITE HISTORY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday former Vice President Cheney made the latest in a series of outrageous attempts to rewrite history. He suggested that America was less safe now than under President Bush. Well, as a former journalist and editor, I'm compelled to do a little rewrite of his story.

I think it is important to note that under President Bush and Vice President Cheney, we let Osama bin Laden escape. We took our eye off the ball in Afghanistan and moved to Iraq. We went into Iraq with no plan for victory. We heard from Vice President Cheney that we were going to be greeted as liberators, that WMD would certainly be found, and that this war was going to be very short and cost us very little money.

My editing of Vice President Cheney's statement on Sunday would be that he did not exactly tell the whole story.

Fortunately, the American people know the whole story. They know that we are much safer now with President Obama in the White House. So as the recently departed Paul Harvey would have said, "And now you know the rest of the story."

#### CALLING FOR THE PREVENTION OF BONUSES PAID TO AIG EXECUTIVES AT TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE

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

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, the American people were outraged yesterday, and with good reason, when they learned that the bonuses of \$165 million were going to executives at AIG, an insurance company. They are the very executives who drove the company to the ground and helped create the economic problems we're facing today. Instead of getting bonuses, they should be fired.

AIG is now 80 percent owned by the Federal Government, which is the American people. This is an outrageous injustice at taxpayers' expense.

I have been in business 30 years. We always pay for results, proven results, in this case something that would be a return to the American people. But that hasn't happened. This rewards greed and recklessness.

AIG recently reported in a 2008 fourth quarter more than \$60 billion in losses, all while the unemployment in America hit a 25-year high.

I ask the President to use all the power at his disposal to prevent these bonuses from being paid at taxpayers' expense.

#### CALLING FOR 100 PERCENT TAX ON "PERFORMANCE" BONUSES BY ANY COMPANY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OWNS A MAJORITY STAKE

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, we all know the news yesterday that AIG is paying over \$100 million in bonuses. I find this an absolute outrage. I'm glad the President has directed the Treasury Department to use all legal means to restrict these bonuses.

But we in Congress can actually make the laws, and here's a law we should make: Tax the bonuses of any company in which the government owns a majority stake at 100 percent. I have introduced this bill today—tax so-called "performance" bonuses at 100 percent.

Bonuses are supposed to be given to someone who has done a good job. But AIG, as my colleague said, and we've found something we agree on, lost over \$70 billion in the last quarter. We put in \$170 billion of taxpayers' money. They don't deserve a bonus. They deserve better management. They deserve certainly a restriction on the bonuses that they have. And I really applaud President Obama, who said yesterday that this isn't just a matter of dollars and cents; it's a matter of fundamental values.

I urge my colleagues to join me in taxing this bonus.

#### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET: TAXES TOO MANY TOO MUCH

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