

which received \$13 billion. This comes after months of claims by Goldman Sachs themselves that they did not need the money. Then why take it?

Mr. Speaker, that's the real AIG outrage.

#### AIG SHOULD PAY BACK EVERY CENT THEY SPENT ON BONUSSES

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was as shocked as all Americans were to learn about AIG, the recipient of more than \$170 billion of taxpayer money, paying out more than \$165 million in bonuses to its executives. Where I come from, when you run your company into the ground, you get fired, you do not get a bonus.

Seventy-three people at AIG received bonuses of more than \$1 million; that includes one bonus of \$6.4 million, six more who received more than \$4 million each. Eleven people received retention bonuses, that is, bonuses specifically designed to keep valuable employees from leaving the company. Well, you know what? They have already left the company—take the retention bonus and then leave; all this from a company that is 80 percent owned by the taxpayer. The people of the United States are not going to stand for this behavior from these people; neither would I, neither should this House.

AIG should pay back every cent they spent on "performance bonuses," and the only reward they should get for their performance is a pink slip.

#### FORT DUPONT ICE HOCKEY CLUB

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the first annual Lawmakers versus Lobbyists Charity Hockey Game took place 2 weeks ago on Friday, March 6. The game was played at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex, the practice facility of the NHL's Washington Capitals.

The game was a fundraiser for the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club of Washington, D.C. The club is a developmental program that provides local, inner-city youth with an opportunity to participate in an organized ice hockey program.

More than \$25,000 was raised for this organization. The Lawmakers team was led by Senator JOHN KERRY, Congressman ANTHONY WEINER—who played goalie with his cat-like reflexes—Congressman PATRICK MURPHY, and me. Also, Bob Fisher, the assistant manager of the Cloak Room, participated in the Members' team.

The Lobbyists were led by Nick Lewis and Jeffrey Kimbell. Lobbyist Captain Nick Lewis and Lawmaker Captain Tim Regan squared off for the ceremonial opening face-off.

The Lawmakers won a hard-earned 6-4 victory in this inaugural contest. The

real winners, however, Mr. Speaker, of this game were the kids from the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club.

I yield to Mr. MURPHY.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it was a great charity event.

There are a lot of challenges facing our country right now where our focus is, but we took time out for the kids to make sure that we raised money. These kids could not afford to play the game of hockey, which really demonstrates and embodies the sense of teamwork and goal setting. It was great to be with those kids, with the first African American NHL player, who was also there. And I would also like to highlight the cooperation of the Washington Capitals.

I would like to say that our colleague from New York (Mr. WEINER), who got the puck of the game, who was our goaltender, a lot of folks did say that he had cat-like reflexes. He reminded me of a young Mike Richter, who most folks understand is a New York Ranger, won the World Cup for Team America that was played at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia. But Mike Richter is from the suburbs of Philadelphia, and I was proud of that comparison of ANTHONY WEINER to Mike Richter. I sometimes question the athletic ability of Mr. WEINER, but that day he really showed his skill.

Mr. WEINER. Will the gentleman yield so I may defend myself?

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I will yield.

Mr. WEINER. First of all, let me join with my colleagues in expressing the gratitude that we all have to the organizers that helped raise so much money for these kids that play in the inner city. They scarcely have rinks, unlike in Buffalo and some of our communities. It was really a terrific program. I'm glad we were able to do it.

"Lobbyists" is a dirty word in this town now—and sometimes they played a little dirty on the ice, but we will put that aside because the result was the same.

I just want to say, being a great hockey player in Congress is kind of like being the one-eyed man in the land of the blind; I'm not sure it says all that much. But I want to thank Congressman HIGGINS—who I believe scored two goals; I learned that by watching the news reports and hearing him say it again and again throughout his quotes—and also you, Mr. MURPHY. I have never seen a hockey player skate that slowly, but somehow you managed to get to every puck.

This is a great cause. Let's hope that we do it every 10 or 12 years or so because that's how long it takes us all to recover. I thank you very much for what you have done, and I thank you for persuading me to play in the game. It is true, I am cat-like in the crease. I curl up in a ball and just sleep through the game while you guys did the hard work.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### AMERICA'S ECONOMIC POLICY: SPEND, BORROW AND TAX

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's new economic policy is real simple; spend a lot of money, borrow a lot of money, and tax everybody, all in an effort to make the United States a country like socialist France. And the method to pay for these high-dollar programs that the administration is now funding is to tax everything, especially energy.

The first part of the "tax energy plan" is to tax energy consumption. Now we understand that every homeowner in the United States will be taxed approximately \$3,000 a year every year for the consumption of energy in that home. So every time you turn on the lights, you turn up the taxes. You use a little bit of heat to keep warm in the winter, you're going to pay the heat tax, all in an effort to bring revenue in for these high-dollar programs.

There are more ideas to tax energy. One is to increase the gasoline tax—not that we aren't paying enough for gasoline already, now we're going to pay 10 cents more a gallon in the gasoline tax. We use gasoline, we're going to give the government more money.

And then, thirdly, there is the mileage tax that is being proposed. What that means, Mr. Speaker, is for every mile you drive somewhere in the fruited plain, the government is going to track you with GPS, and at the end of the day you are going to get taxed on mileage tax. Being tracked by GPS by the Federal Government sounds a little bit like Big Brother out of "1984" to me.

Contrary to some places in the United States, where I come from we don't have mass transit. We don't have choo-choo trains that run and take everybody to work. I have an area made up predominantly of rice farmers, suburban areas, petrochemical areas, and we don't have high-dollar trains like the one that is being built from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, or from La La Land to Fantasy Land. People have to drive work trucks, that's what they drive, but now they are going to be taxed for driving. And of course that is taxing the American worker and the consumer.

And now there are going to be new energy taxes on energy companies—you know, those mean old energy companies that produce energy to keep the lights on in this place and other places, and so we can drive our vehicles and

that sort of thing. But the energy companies are going to pass that tax on to the rest of us. And what that means, you cut through all the taxes, because of the new energy tax on energy companies, every American is going to add 41 cents to their gasoline; in other words, that's passed on to us. You add on the mileage tax, you add on the 10-cent tax for using gasoline, and now we've got another 41 cents that will be passed on to the American consumer.

Now the new cap-and-trade idea—it really should be called cap-and-tax—is sending energy companies packing their bags. Mr. Speaker, what I mean by that is, they're leaving town. The taxes are too high. They're not going to stay here any longer. It's been reported by different media sources that the new country, the new place for energy companies to move is a place called Zug, Switzerland. You've probably never heard of it. You have to look it up on a map to find it. But the tax rate for corporations in that area of Switzerland is 9 percent. The corporate tax in the United States on those energy companies is 35 percent. No wonder they're leaving town. They can't afford to do business in the United States.

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The U.S. energy companies are going someplace else because of the overwhelming tax structure here.

Mr. Speaker, the answer is not to tax more but to allow more energy production, novel thought that that is. Rather than run energy companies out of town, maybe we ought to let them expand in the Outer Continental Shelf. That would actually create thousands of American jobs. We wouldn't be sending money overseas to OPEC. We'd keep that money in the United States. We'd keep the lease revenue that those oil companies have to pay for to get that oil out of the Outer Continental Shelf. We'd keep that lease revenue in the United States. And we'd also keep the tax revenue in the United States.

But, Mr. Speaker, the new French economic plan is tax anything that produces in this country, and now we're going to tax energy out of the energy business, including consumers that use energy. I guess next year, Mr. Speaker, we'll all wonder why we're just freezing in the dark because we don't have any energy because it all left town.

And that's just the way it is.

#### SECURITY CHALLENGES ARISING FROM THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, students of history know that hyperinflation in Germany was a significant factor in the rise of Hitler. The economic decay of the Soviet Union led to

regime change across Eastern Europe. And a serious economic crisis preceded the French Revolution. So the record is clear that economic crises can have consequences for national security of the highest order. Here in the United States, our economic strength has always been the foundation of our national power and our national security. Economics plays no less important a role in the fate of many other nations.

Knowing this, the House Armed Services Committee decided to explore how the current global financial crisis is affecting national security by holding a hearing last week with a distinguished panel of economic and national security experts. We had been working to hold such a hearing since November, but the urgency of this effort was only emphasized when the Director of National Intelligence, Admiral Dennis Blair, stated in this annual threat assessment that the global financial crisis represents the primary near-term concern for U.S. national security. During our hearing, we learned more about the many ways the world has been thrown into serious turmoil by this sudden global shock and that many if not most of the international consequences are yet to come.

We learned that, at a minimum, the global financial crisis will exacerbate an already growing set of political and economic challenges facing the world. In country after country, the crisis is increasing citizen discontent and anger toward their leaders and providing an excuse for authoritarian regimes to consolidate their power. It distracts and strains our allies and generates conditions that could provide fodder for terrorism. Financial turmoil can loosen the fragile hold that many countries have on law and order and increase the number and size of ungoverned spaces.

While most of the experts we heard from agree that the strongest economies will weather this storm, it is the fragile states that worry me the most. Emerging democracies throughout Eastern and Central Europe, Africa, and Asia will turn to the Western world for support. If we cannot or do not help them, they may be forced into economic alliances of necessity with long-term consequences. When Iceland recently turned without success to its friends in the West, it found a "new friend" in Russia. Jamaica has received significant financial assistance from China. The list of countries in critical regions in need of such assistance is long indeed. Economic pressures within European countries might even become so severe as to seriously weaken or unravel the ties that bind the countries of the European Union and NATO Alliance together.

Perhaps most serious, at a time when U.S. leadership is sorely needed, our international credibility is at an unprecedented low. The crisis is causing the emerging nations to question the Western model of market capitalism. Flawed policies, poor decisions, weak

regulation, and questionable behavior have led to a widespread perception that American-style capitalism is unsustainable. This perception may be the most corrosive effect of the current crisis.

Mr. Speaker, our response to the global economic crisis must be far reaching and far seeing. We must restore our economy, maintain and enhance our key instruments of national power, including the Department of Defense, and take an approach with the world that reestablishes our credibility and claim to world leadership. We must support our friends and maintain our alliances. We must not become so self absorbed that we fail to recognize our long-term strategic interests. And we must be very clear, in today's world a strong national defense is not a luxury, it is an imperative.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1388, GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-39) on the resolution (H. Res. 250) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

#### THE PLIGHT OF THE IRAQI REFUGEES CONTINUES

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the President has announced a plan to re-deploy troops from Iraq, and if you're watching the nightly news or pick up a paper, you might think that the occupation was actually over. But when was the last time you saw a major TV news story from Iraq or some ink at least above the fold about Iraq?

Sadly, the United States' occupation of Iraq is far from over. The need still remains for a stable nation and a stable Iraqi Government that is able to provide basic services and a sense of normalcy and support of the rule of law for everyone in Iraq.

Almost 6 years ago today, the United States military was mobilized in a preemptive attack on Iraq. By now we all know there were no weapons of mass destruction. However, destruction was left in the wake of the invasion. Both the Iraqi and American Governments