

During the omnibus debate, we offered a plan that would freeze spending through September 30, but my Democrat colleagues passed a bloated bill with wasteful spending and some 9,000 earmarks.

Now Republicans are prepared to offer a better budget solution to create jobs, rebuild savings, and restore fiscal sanity here in Washington. The question is: Will Democrats work with us?

Unfortunately, the President's budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much from our kids and grandkids.

The Congressional Budget Office just last week reported that the President's budget is actually \$2.3 trillion more costly than the White House initially claimed. In fact, his budget adds more to the debt in the first 6 years than his 43 predecessors have accumulated over the last 220 years. And his national energy tax will cost families up to \$3,100 more each year.

All of this spending and taxing and borrowing begs the question: What in the world is the White House thinking?

President Obama should ask Speaker PELOSI and Senator REID to delay congressional action on this budget so that mounting concern on both sides of the aisle about his budget can be addressed. I think it is time to get back to reality. Our Nation is in serious crisis, and we need better solutions than what Washington has given the American people so far this year, and I and my Republican colleagues will be offering them.

RESPONDING TO WALL STREET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday Wall Street won three great victories. First, a plan was announced under which Wall Street puts up 6 percent of the money, assumes 6 percent of the risk, and takes 50 percent of the profits.

Second, the Senate announced that it was going to back burner the proposal to use the Tax Code to recoup the unjust enrichment received by certain executives on Wall Street.

And finally, the media continued its condescending drumbeat in which speaker after speaker in the media says the only proper approach is that one must denounce Wall Street, and then capitulate to Wall Street. And any of us who want to actually do anything that Wall Street disagrees with are just a bunch of angry peasants with pitchforks.

Well, let me say, anger is no vice and gullibility is no virtue, and faith in Wall Street is not the one true faith.

We have got to be willing to take action that Wall Street disagrees with and to deal with an establishment press which will then say we are governing out of anger. I am very angry, but I am not blinded by my anger. I am

also not blinded by a gullible faith that whatever Wall Street does will be in the national interest.

First, let's take a look at this program where we put up 94 percent of the cash, Wall Street puts up 6 percent of the cash, but Wall Street gets 50 percent of the profit. You know with a deal like that, you could probably get Wall Street to buy lottery tickets for \$3 a piece. They will put up not \$3 a piece, but 6 percent of the \$3, the Federal taxpayer puts up the rest, and then the winnings are split 50/50. Even if the average lottery ticket only pays out 20 cents for every ticket, that is a winning investment for Wall Street.

For us to give them half the profit while they take only 6 percent of the risk is a massive transfer of wealth from the American people to the hedge funds on Wall Street.

Second, let's look at this issue of bonuses and compensation. Now we passed a bill in this House last week that was imperfect. It was imperfect because it left alone million-dollar-a-month salaries, and it allowed any of the big Wall Street firms that were planning to pay multimillion-dollar bonuses to simply recast their compensation and call it million-dollar-a-month salaries, or raise them to \$2 million a month, and the bill we passed would have no effect.

Third, the bill we passed last week, while it would deal with the AIG bonuses, did not deal with the Merrill Lynch bonuses. That is why today—and I hope to have some additional cosponsors before I introduce the bill—but later today, I will introduce legislation that will impose an excise tax that doesn't look at bonuses separate from the rest of the compensation package, but looks at the entire compensation package. It says if the package is over half a million dollars a year and you're working for a company that would be in bankruptcy right now if you weren't bailed out by the Federal Government, then in effect you are being paid that enormous salary with taxpayer dollars only because the taxpayers came through and bailed out the company that is paying you that money. And for that reason, we are going to insist that unless you want to face a major tax, you return to your employer all of your compensation in excess of half a million dollars. This is an approach that I think is fair. It is not punitive. It is not confiscatory. It simply takes from executives the huge amount of compensation that they received only because the rules of capitalism were suspended and their companies that should be in bankruptcy or receivership are instead operating independent of receivership and are paying salaries that exceed what should be paid to an entity that is dependent upon the Federal Government.

The bill will also provide that if the Treasury issues executive compensation regulations, people will be able to receive restricted stock without limitation.

So I look forward to getting additional cosponsors for my tax bill and responding to Wall Street logically and without gullibility.

SECOND AMENDMENT VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for weeks and weeks now, Democrat leaders in both the House and Senate have engaged in parliamentary contortions to block every Representative in this body of both parties from being able to offer even one amendment to the 1,200-page \$10 billion omnibus lands package that contains over 170 individual bills. Since over 100 of these bills were never voted on in the House, this giant piece of legislation needs careful review in a fair and open process. Yet, fair and open consideration is precisely what Democrat leaders have denied in this House.

Today, the House Rules Committee will meet to decide how the most recent Senate-passed omnibus lands bill will be debated and voted on in this House, presumably tomorrow. While there are many areas of this bill that need improvement, there are several that rise to a serious level of concern. Let me cite four of them:

First, addressing prohibitions against American-made energy on public lands, prohibitions that would deny job creation in the energy sector on public lands;

Second, ensuring our border security by making certain that provisions of this bill don't ban the use of vehicles and other technology to patrol our border;

Third, ensuring that public lands continue to be open to public enjoyment. That includes wheelchair access for the disabled who would be banned under this bill, as well as access by Americans using bicycles and motorized bikes for recreation.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, an area of the bill that rises to a very high level of concern after a Federal judge's ruling last week, and that is the protection of Americans' second amendment gun rights on public lands.

Specific amendments have been filed with the Rules Committee to address each of these issues. Democrat leaders should now provide the House with a chance to vote on them. But more specifically, Mr. Speaker, the House must act on the omnibus lands bill to immediately protect the second amendment rights of Americans. Last week, Democrat leaders in the House and Senate added the Altmire language to the omnibus land bill to prevent the Federal Government from banning hunting and fishing on certain types of Federal land. At the time this amendment was added, the right of Americans to carry concealed firearms on park lands and wildlife refuges was in accordance with State laws, and that was already recognized in Federal regulations.

However, last Thursday a U.S. District Court judge based in Washington, D.C. single-handedly decided to block this second amendment policy. Now there is a giant hole in the current Altmire language, and Congress must fix it. Congress must not allow one Federal judge to single-handedly deny Americans their second amendment rights on Federal land.

I have introduced an amendment, along with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) to the omnibus lands bill that would write into law the very protections struck down by this lone Federal judge. The House must vote on this amendment to repair the big void in the current Altmire language contained in the omnibus lands bill. There should be no excuses, no more delays, no waiting for another day or another bill. The omnibus lands bill is the best place to fix what this Federal judge has done.

If we are going to pass a 1,200-page bill that dramatically expands Federal lands in our country, Congress must protect American second amendment rights while on these lands. The Constitution and the second amendment should not be pushed aside by an activist judge and a complacent Congress. House leaders must allow a vote on the Hastings-Bishop amendment to the omnibus lands bill to protect the gun rights of Americans when we take up this bill presumably tomorrow.

2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this week the House Budget Committee will mark up the concurrent budget resolution for fiscal year 2010. Over a month ago, President Obama submitted a budget plan focusing on economic recovery, strategic investments, and most importantly, fiscal responsibility. At this critical juncture in our history, President Obama's budget addresses the mistakes of the past, makes much-needed investments in the future, and will create a better future for all Americans.

As we debate the merits of this budget resolution, we must not forget that President Obama inherited deep deficits and an economic crisis from the Bush administration. This chart shows the budget deficit over the years of the Clinton administration, and what the Bush administration did to the budget. The Bush administration left behind a \$1.25 trillion deficit, a high unemployment rate, and an economy on the verge of collapse. President Obama came into office merely 2 months ago, but he has already successfully proposed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which will create or save 3.5 million jobs.

The President's budget continues the path toward economic recovery and fiscal responsibility with many necessary investments in education. The Presi-

dent's budget expands access to college education by making the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent and indexing Pell grants to keep pace with inflation and the skyrocketing cost of college education. The President also doubles funding for early Head Start and expands Head Start.

The President's budget calls for improving and expanding access to health insurance and lowering the cost of health care for every American. The President's budget includes several provisions to improve quality and efficiency in the health care system, saving the American people approximately \$300 billion over the next 10 years. The President believes that the only way to rein in the cost of government for the foreseeable future is to address the costs associated with health care, and this budget does that.

The President's budget also ensures that the Nation honors and cares for our veterans when they return home by increasing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs by \$25 billion over the next 5 years. This increased funding will help the VA reduce their claims backlog and modernize and improve VA hospitals and facilities. These investments in the VA will help address the large influx of new veterans into the VA system from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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So, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most telling feature of the President's budget is that it is an honest measure of where we are and of where we are going. The Bush administration used phantom budget tactics to keep the costs of many expensive measures out of the budget. Unlike budgets submitted in the past few years, the Obama budget honestly includes the cost of our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and other items that we know we must pay for and have paid for every year such as the Medicare Doctor's Payment Fix and the Alternative Minimum Tax. President Obama's budget takes the necessary steps to put the budget back on a fiscally sustainable path once the economy recovers. The budget proposes to cut the deficit in half by 2013. Additionally, the President's budget proposes to restore the fiscally responsible pay-as-you-go rules, which were critical in turning the budget around in the 1990s.

Many may claim that the President's budget will cause deficits, but those who advocate the problems with the President's budget fail to remind themselves that the policies that they, in fact, are advocating are the policies that got us in the ditch we are in today. What they forget is that this Nation had to endure 8 years of failed economic policies, which produced one of the worst recessions in 70 years, the worst job growth since the Great Depression, an increase in the number of Americans living in poverty, and an increase in the number of Americans living without health insurance.

Furthermore, the Bush administration degraded the Federal budget's condition from healthy to weak, converting a 10-year \$5.5 trillion surplus to more than a \$3 trillion deficit—a swing of more than \$9 trillion over 8 years and an average of over \$1 trillion a year.

Mr. Speaker, these policies have failed. It is time to turn to the policies that work. The President's budget does just that. As a member of the House Budget Committee, we look forward to Wednesday's markup to ensure that the congressional budget resolution reflects the priorities of the President's budget.

CONSISTENCY, NOT CHAOS IN OUR PUBLIC LAND POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am sure we all know the old story of the newlywed couple whose wife on her first meal that she prepares of a cooked ham presents the ham, and the two ends have been cut off.

When her husband asks why, she says, "I don't know. That's the way my mother did it," and when the mother-in-law shows up, they ask why, and she says, "I don't know. That's the way my mother did it," and when the grandmother finally arrives and they ask why she cut the ends of the ham off, the grandmother simply says, "I have a small oven. A full ham won't fit."

There are many things we do in government that are traditions that are as totally illogical as cutting the ends of the ham off. Only in a Federal court in this United States can we find a special interest group that can track down a maverick judge that contends that 8 months of study by the Department of Interior is, in fact, a last-minute review and because, in January of this year, the Department of Interior and the National Park Service finally updated its rules to allow concealed carry on national parks lands and make it consistent with our policy of concealed carry on all public lands.

You see, the national forest does not prohibit someone with a valid concealed carry license from going on public lands. The Bureau of Land Management, which manages some of our national parks, does not prohibit a valid concealed carry permit for going on their lands. Even President Clinton gave an executive order saying that our policies should reflect the State prerogative and authority. Only the National Park Service has tried to prohibit that practice, and the National Park Service is not just things like Yellowstone. It is virtually impossible, or at least it will challenge you, to try to get from Virginia into Washington, D.C. without either driving or walking on National Park Service land. You go in and you go out. There are no signs to tell you what you were doing, and indeed, law-abiding citizens have been