

We salute Corporal Ouellette's selfless sacrifice, service and bravery. America was honored to call him our son.

WHITE HOUSE BUDGET

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next week the House is going to vote on the administration's budget that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. Every day, American families need to make tough decisions to balance their budgets. If they end up in the red each month, they are in trouble. But not the Federal Government.

The administration says spend, spend, spend. The White House budget raises taxes on hardworking Americans in the middle of a recession. Americans say "no new taxes." They don't want us to raise taxes during a recession. They know that it is not the way to get this economy moving again. Our children and grandchildren deserve better. Let's clean the budget up.

We used to say, "It's the spending, stupid."

A PROMISING BUDGET

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this Congress' Budget Committee worked long into the night last night to prepare a budget for the House to vote on. It's a budget that cuts the deficit by two-thirds by the year 2013, and gives a tax cut for 95 percent of the American people.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, the middle class and 95 percent of the people will get a tax cut, not simply the upper 1 percent who have gotten the tax cuts while we have been Bush-whacked over the 8 years of the Bush-Cheney Presidency and a Congress that's now run off the tracks and threatened the world's economy.

We're going to invest in health care to give people affordable health care, invest in education so the Chinese don't lead us in science and math, and we can maintain our position as the world's number one economic power and also invest in renewable energies so we're not dependent on Middle Eastern oil, and a Defense Department that needs to protect those routes to keep America secure; a budget that is a promising budget for the future to create jobs.

I am proud of the Budget Committee and look forward to supporting the President.

NO NEW TAXES

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, this budget of the President taxes too much, it borrows too much, and it spends way too much money. And the focus of the White House should be on what they can do to generate economic growth rather than finding new ways to tax our families, hardworking families. And we hear they are going to be taxed to the tune of \$1.9 trillion—with a "T"—in new taxes.

My constituents have had enough of this economic abuse and so have our children and our grandchildren. They don't want the government to continue to spend money they have not made for programs that they do not want. They are worried about the future of their small businesses, they are worried about their retirement plans, and they are worried about the future of those children and grandchildren. So Republicans are offering an alternative that will be there to help ensure our economic prosperity.

I would encourage all of my colleagues to support this alternative because Americans deserve more than wasteful government spending at unprecedented levels. They deserve freedom and economic prosperity.

□ 1015

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

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

Mrs. CAPPS. This week, once again, we observe Cover the Uninsured Week, something we do every year. You know, the United States is a world leader in so many respects, but are we ever a poor example to follow on health care coverage.

As many as 47 million Americans lack insurance, and many more we know are underinsured. In most instances, they lack access to quality health care, especially primary and preventive care.

Our country has dug itself into a hole so deep, I'm afraid there isn't one simple solution to the puzzle of covering the uninsured. Thankfully, we have already begun to take important steps, such as expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program and assisting unemployed individuals struggling to pay COBRA premiums.

But we have so much more work to do. We must finally extend coverage to all Americans, and we must do it this year.

Let's give real meaning to the phrase "cover the uninsured" and have something to celebrate next year.

OBAMA'S BUDGET BORROWING TOO MUCH

(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, it's becoming increasingly clear to Americans all across this country that President Obama's budget spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. No one in the history of the world has ever borrowed so much money. How much? Right now we're borrowing about \$1 million each minute.

The Obama budget would double the national debt in 5 years, triple it in 10 years. Think about the impact that's going to have on our country. The Federal Government is showering itself with money while small businesses and families all across this country are continuing to have to tighten their belts and make tough decisions.

I think about my son, Cole, who will be 2 next month, and by the time he's my age, he's going to face a doubling of the tax burden. It's not sustainable. It is not fiscally responsible. We can do better and we must do better.

History teaches us that the Pharaohs drove Egypt to bankruptcy building the pyramids. At least they got pyramids. All we're going to have is a mountain of debt.

WHO SHOULD GET THE BONUSES

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus. There has been a lot of talk and controversy on the floor about bonuses for America's executives. Let me tell you who I believe really deserve bonuses.

It's the energy entrepreneurs who are working every single day to develop the new technologies that will end our dependence on foreign oil. It's the people on Long Island who are working on LED lighting and biofuels; the people at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, who are working on battery storage; the people at General Motors who are working on plug-in hybrids; the people at Brookhaven National Labs who are working on nanotech; the venture capitalists and the investors and the engineers and the researchers and the developers who are bringing new technologies to market which will reduce our dependence on foreign oil once and for all, which will create a new generation of jobs, which will expand our economy, and which will reduce energy costs.

Those are the people who are creating a new future for America's economy, and those are the people who we should be rewarding with bonuses and our appreciation.

BUDGET GIMMICKS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President has disparaged budget gimmicks and declared “a return to honest budgeting.” Yet his plan then goes on to claim \$1.5 billion in war “savings” that are nothing more than an illusion, just the kind of gimmick he has disparaged.

The President’s budget claims \$1.6 trillion in “savings” and \$1.5 trillion in “deficit reduction” by claiming the already determined drawdown in troops as a reduction in spending. Put another way, the administration budget assumes an elevated path of war spending that was never going to be followed, and then claims savings through a reduction that was going to occur anyway.

This war games budget gimmick ends up representing three-quarter of their so-called savings.

The President isn’t making any attempt to reduce spending. He has constructed an unrealistically high future spending projection, and then claimed as savings the difference between this fictional budget world and reality.

We need to get spending under control, not budget gimmicks.

HONORING MRS. MYRTIS DENSON MAYO

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

Mr. CHILDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of America’s most exceptional women. Today is indeed a grand day in Prentiss County, Mississippi, because today, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Myrtis Denson Mayo and all who love her are celebrating 102 years of a life well-lived, one who has sewn every garment she has ever worn. A rich life rewarded by 6 children, 19 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and 20 great-great-grandchildren. Her extraordinary life is one of a great faith in God, with a love and appreciation for all mankind.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this humble and gentle lady and commend her on her 102nd birthday, and further, I am proud to be one of the thousands of people positively influenced by my wife’s grandmother, Mrs. Myrtis Denson Mayo.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT CONGRESS TO PUT ITS FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

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

Mr. PENCE. After years of runaway spending at the Federal level, the American people want this Congress to put our fiscal house in order. Instead, President Barack Obama has brought forward the most fiscally irresponsible budget in American history. The President’s budget spends too much, borrows too much, and taxes too much, and the American people know it.

The American people don’t want more spending, more government, and

more bailouts. They don’t want to see this President’s budget result in, as CBO projected, nearly \$1 trillion in annual deficits for the next 10 years.

The President’s budget would actually double the national debt in just 6 years, and even worse, the President’s budget pays for all this spending with higher taxes on virtually every American, small business, and a light-switch tax that would raise utility rates for every American household by more than \$3,000.

Today, Republicans will continue to offer better solutions, unveiling today a blueprint for recovery that’s built on fiscal discipline, growth, and reform.

Let the debate begin.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE, MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISRAEL). Pursuant to House Resolution 281 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1404.

□ 1023

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1404) to authorize a supplemental funding source for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities on Department of the Interior and National Forest System lands, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a cohesive wildland fire management strategy, and for other purposes, with Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 25, 2009, all time for general debate had expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1404

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act” or “FLAME Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Flame Fund for catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities.
- Sec. 3. Cohesive wildland fire management strategy.
- Sec. 4. Review of certain wildfires to evaluate cost containment in wildland fire suppression activities.
- Sec. 5. Reducing risk of wildfires in fire-ready communities.

SEC. 2. FLAME FUND FOR CATASTROPHIC EMERGENCY WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means the following:

(A) Public lands, as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(B) Units of the National Park System.

(C) Refuges of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

(D) Lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Indian tribes or individual Indians.

(E) Lands in the National Forest System, as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(2) FLAME FUND.—The term “Flame Fund” means the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund established by this section.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to Federal land described in subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph (1); and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land.

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF FLAME FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement Fund.

(2) CONTENTS.—The Flame Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

(A) Amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (c).

(B) Amounts transferred to the Flame Fund pursuant to subsection (d).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Subject to subsection (e), amounts in the Flame Fund shall be available to the Secretaries to pay the costs of catastrophic emergency wildland fire suppression activities that are separate from amounts annually appropriated to the Secretaries for the predicted annual workload for wildland fire suppression activities, based on analyses of historical workloads and anticipated increased workloads due to changing environmental or demographic conditions.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Flame Fund such amounts as may be necessary to carry out this section. It is the intent of Congress that the amount appropriated to the Flame Fund for fiscal year 2010 and each fiscal year thereafter should be not less than the average amount expended by the Secretaries for emergency wildland fire suppression activities over the five fiscal years preceding that fiscal year.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DESIGNATION OF FLAME FUND APPROPRIATIONS AS EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(A) the amounts appropriated to the Flame Fund should be designated as amounts necessary to meet emergency needs; and

(B) the new budget authority and outlays resulting therefrom should not count for the purposes of titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(3) NOTICE OF INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—The Secretaries shall notify the congressional committees specified in subsection (h)(2) whenever only an estimated two months worth of funding remains in the Flame Fund.

(d) TRANSFER OF EXCESS WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION AMOUNTS INTO FLAME FUND.—