

CONGRATULATING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the boy's basketball team from Eisenhower High School—in my hometown of Rialto, California—for winning the CIF State title this past Friday.

With their 73-61 victory over the Rocklin Thunder—from Sacramento, California—the Eagles captured the first ever State title for a school from San Bernardino County.

The win was the 23rd consecutive victory to end the season for the Eagles, and came after tough playoff wins over State powerhouses Loyola and Leuzinger from Lawndale, California.

Everyone said they were too small, but led by head coach Steve Johnson, the undersized Eagles used speed and a tenacious defense to beat Rocklin.

On behalf of my family—Barbara, Joe Baca, Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer Baca—I want to thank the players, coaches, parents, and school administrators, who all contributed so much to Eisenhower's historic run.

On Saturday, April 11th, their courage and relentless efforts will be recognized with a ticker-tape parade in Rialto. I thank Eisenhower for the hope this achievement has brought to our inland communities during this time of economic difficulty.

TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard about the out-of-control spending, the borrowing, the increase in taxes, the bailouts, the AIG bonuses, the stock market drop, the job losses, more foreclosures, government-run health care, increased gas prices, the credit crisis, more jobs lost, the President firing the CEO of General Motors, and more jobs lost—and this only in the first 2 months of this Congress.

Now we face a budget this week that will increase taxes, increase spending, increase borrowing more than ever before in the history of this country. We are also poised to make serious cuts in military spending in uncertain times.

We need to take a serious look in the eyes of our children and ask ourselves if they deserve the future we are giving them.

FINANCIAL-AUTO INDUSTRY DOUBLE STANDARD

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment in President Obama's decision regarding General Motors and Chrysler. Personally, I feel that Rick Wagoner was treated shabbily.

Financial institutions were provided with hundreds of billions of dollars—significantly more than the recent GM and Chrysler requests for new loans totaling \$21.6 billion, at most.

The people primarily affected by yesterday's decision in the auto industry are those whose greatest daily concerns are their mortgage payments, their children's college tuition, and medical bills. Financial executives are concerned primarily with their own bonuses, awarded for what can only be described as massive failure.

The President has joined the chorus of caustic critics of the automobile industry while only giving faint praise to the high-quality vehicles produced by the American manufacturers like the Buick LaCrosse, which this year matched the Jaguar in J.D. Powers and Associates' rating for the world's most reliable car.

This double standard is offensive, Mr. Speaker.

PROTECT AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to the Employee Free Choice Act, the title of which betrays the true nature of this bill. It represents nothing resembling "free choice."

This "card check" legislation is un-American and would strip workers of their fundamental democratic right to a secret ballot. Without the protection of the secret ballot, workers are likely to be exposed to pressure and coercion from union bosses and organizers.

My question to those who support this bill is: Why are you afraid of a secret ballot? Can't we give workers credit for making the right decision for themselves?

In addition, a recent study has shown that increases in union workers under card check rules will likely lead to an increase in unemployment due to making their businesses less competitive.

At a time when we should be focusing on job creation, the majority is pushing through legislation that will put millions of American jobs at risk while simultaneously eliminating a cornerstone of American democracy—the secret ballot.

As a small business owner myself, I can tell you that this legislation is a poison pill for the economy. I urge my colleagues to vote against this leftist, socialist legislation.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COALITION

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

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition is committed to the adoption of policies that will put our Nation on a path towards energy independence

and a prosperous clean energy economy. With legislation to encourage environmentally friendly energy production, we can finally achieve this goal. We can turn our American ingenuity towards a new and vibrant clean industry that will create millions of new jobs.

We cannot ignore the facts of climate change. We have to act now to ensure that our children and their children will enjoy the same Earth on which we live today.

Solar, wind, biofuels, natural gas, advanced coal technology, and others are not just the fuels of the future. They are the fuels of today. They are ready for large-scale use in the global economy.

American companies are ready to lead the way, but Congress must first take action. As a member of SEEC and as cochair of the New Dem Energy Task Force, I encourage my colleagues to participate in the debate for a stronger energy-efficient America.

□ 1215

THE VOTE ON THE BUDGET

(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, we will vote on a budget this week, we will discuss spending and taxing, but we will not discuss how our kids will eventually pay these debts.

The Bureau of the Public Debt will now undertake a massive borrowing campaign. We used to borrow from about 45 major lenders, but that has now dropped to 16. Our biggest lender used to be China, but they are now reducing.

To fund the stimulus, the Bureau tells the Congress that we have to borrow at a rate of \$160 billion a week. And, last month Germany and the United Kingdom both failed to auction their debt because no one wanted to lend these governments more money. Each week, at four auctions a week, the United States will now risk the same fate.

What happens when this Congress runs out of other people's money?

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PLAN BEGINS GROWING JOBS

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, the fallout from the failed policies of the last 8 years will take time to turn around.

The Bush administration inherited a record surplus of \$5.6 trillion, and turned it into a record deficit of \$5.8 trillion. President Obama's budget is a long-term plan to turn the economy around and transform it for future prosperity, with targeted investments in health care, energy, and education.

The plan takes steps to reduce health care costs, one of the largest contributors to the deficit and a growing burden on American businesses like the auto industry. The budget includes \$2 trillion worth of savings, ending the war in Iraq, cutting programs that are not effective, and ending tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas.

My constituents who are struggling to make ends meet continue to urge me to support this budget. The American people understand this commonsense blueprint for change is exactly what we need for these challenging times. They understand it cuts taxes for 95 percent of Americans, cuts wasteful spending, cuts the deficit in half over 4 years. What this budget grows is jobs. We can't afford to wait.

SMALL BUSINESS

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

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, small businesses created over 80 percent of the jobs in this country in the past decade, yet Washington continues to apply erroneous legislation that hurts and dampens the entrepreneurial spirit we have in this country.

Whether it is health care costs, high taxes, or promoting legislation which opens businesses up to more frivolous lawsuits, Washington is making it very difficult on hardworking Americans when we ask them to shoulder more burdens which they continually face.

That is what I heard yesterday when I conducted a small business roundtable in my district. One of these small business owners said, "We don't want to depend on the government for anything, but they can help us by understanding that the burdens they are placing are trickling down and breaking the backs of small business."

We can start to change that by passing H.R. 1552, legislation I have introduced with my colleague from Maryland, FRANK KRATOVIL, that will give a boost to new small businesses by increasing the maximum tax deduction on their startup costs from \$5,000 to \$20,000. This bipartisan initiative will provide firms with the much-needed resources they need.

ENERGY

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon for 1 minute, 60 seconds, during which this great Nation will send \$200,000 abroad to pay for foreign oil, each of those dollars hard earned in one of our factories, small businesses, or offices.

My colleagues, we have failed to act on energy for far too long, we, who represent a Nation who has always taken the hard choices and done the right thing to invest in our future.

Much is said in this House about our children. Now the eyes of those chil-

dren are on us, and they have one question, and that question is: When all the work, when all the world, and when all of us stood waiting for you to do the right thing to act on our behalf, to change the way we use and get energy, did you act? Did you act for us, or did you just kick the can down the road one more time?

REAUTHORIZE THE PATRIOT ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, FBI Director Mueller in his recent testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee urged Congress to renew what he called exceptional intelligence-gathering tools. Earlier this month, I introduced legislation to do just that.

The Safe and Secure America Act extends for 10 years the sunset on two expiring PATRIOT Act provisions: Roving wiretaps, and Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act business records.

Director Mueller reports that obtaining business records "has been exceptionally helpful in our national security investigations."

And the roving wiretap authority means that agents are no longer required to obtain a separate warrant for each phone, cell phone, or device a suspect uses.

I hope Director Mueller and the administration will ensure that these critical national security tools are reauthorized and kept in place.

THE BUDGET

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Democrats' budget resolution.

At long last, we have an honest budget that will mark another significant step forward on the road to recovery. This budget reverses 8 years of absolutely failed policies under the Bush administration which led to record deficits, a doubling of the national debt, and loss of 4.4 million jobs since the end of 2007.

Mr. Speaker, this budget makes necessary investments to lead the country toward a future of economic prosperity, creating good-paying American jobs by investing to reform our health care system, developing and manufacturing clean energy economy, and upgrading our educational system so our children can compete in the 21st century global economy. The budget returns fairness and fiscal responsibility by cutting taxes for the middle class.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this budget is clear. It is a clear choice to invest in our country's future, and I urge my colleagues this week to vote "yes" on this budget resolution to support House Democrats and to end 8 years of failed Bush policy.

TAX, TAX, TAX . . . SPEND,
SPEND, SPEND

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Tax, tax, tax, spend, spend, spend. Sounds like the movie Groundhog Day. Doesn't it? Well, actually, that would be an insult to my most famous constituent, Punxsutawney Phil. It is the Democratic budget.

Mr. Speaker, as the budget comes to the floor this week, the American people deserve to know the truth. This budget will increase taxes on every single American. This budget will stifle economic growth. And, this budget will increase the tax burden on small businesses, the very segment of the economy that is best equipped to get us back on track.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the change the American people voted for in November. At the current pace, the 111th Congress is going to leave one legacy for which it will be remembered, and that is a legacy of debt for future generations, \$9.3 trillion in debt over the next 10 years, if the President's budget is rubber-stamped by this Congress.

It is time for the American people to hear the truth. This budget taxes too much, spends too much, and borrows too much.

BUDGET FACT CHECK: RESPONSIBLE SPENDING TO GROW AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the President's budget includes \$2 trillion worth of budget savings through ending the Iraq war, cutting programs that are not effective, ending tax breaks for corporations that ship goods overseas, and asking those who make over \$250,000 per year and have had huge tax cuts over the past 8 years to pay a little more. It includes key integrity initiatives to protect taxpayers' money by rooting out any waste, fraud, and abuse.

The President's budget also contains critical investments that will grow the economy. It makes critical investments in the modernization of our Nation's infrastructure, and it helps small business and innovative companies grow their bottom line by eliminating the capital gains tax on small business. It improves opportunities for future generations. It makes the \$2,500 American opportunity tax credit.

Let's make a difference. Vote for the budget.

THE BUDGET

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