

We have had enough of the out of control government spending that is mortgaging our future and threatening our very way of life!

We have had enough of both major parties being arrogant and unresponsive to the people they were elected to serve!

We have had enough of seeing money taken unfairly from honest hard working Americans through excessive taxation and redistributed to individuals who have not earned the money!

We have enough of capitalism being targeted as the problem instead of the solution!

We have had enough of government being called the solution, when government is the problem!

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions to our elected officials have been answered only by repeated injury, if, in fact, they have been answered at all. A government so arrogant and unresponsive to its people is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We, therefore, the people of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, here in the Town Square of Ocala, Florida, on this 15th day of April, in the year 2009, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this city and nation, solemnly publish and declare that we are a free people, in this free and independent state, and that we have the power to demand that our government cease serving its own interest, and whatever political and ideological agendas it may be pursuing, and become the Government Of The People, By The People, and For the People to which we are entitled as Americans. And that for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

As Your people and as a Nation, we hear Your summons: "Sing a new song to the Lord."

Our song, Lord, is the song of freedom. As our ransom, You have set us free. As Your children, we chose to resemble You in all our choices and decisions.

Throughout our history, some others have been shocked by the rhythm of our song; others have been inspired to find their own voice and enter the song.

But the song of true freedom is planted within us by You, O Lord. Your spirit finds expression and touches others around the world because Your song of

freedom comes from our hearts. So all honor, power and glory go to You, Lord, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCHWARTZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WHY THE BUDGET IS IMPORTANT FOR HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, as we mark President Obama's first 100 days in office this week, the House will vote on the President's budget which sets a new vision of hope and responsibility for America.

As vice chair of the Budget Committee, I know that this budget is fiscally responsible and it sets forth a path to meet our Nation's greatest challenges. With more than 47 million Americans uninsured, this budget includes critical language ensuring that Congress will act this year to expand access to care and to reduce costs.

Soaring health care costs are impeding our economic competitiveness, straining the Federal budget and causing families all across this country to make difficult choices about their health and well-being. This budget sets the context for this important work that Congress will do to find a uniquely American solution to health care access and costs, one that includes innovation and technology, incentives for an effective delivery system, a renewed commitment to prevention, and consumer protections in the private-public marketplace.

We cannot sustain the status quo, nor should we. Now is the time to finally get health care to all Americans. We should pass the budget resolution and begin the task ahead.

A BUDGET OUR CHILDREN WILL LIVE TO REGRET

(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, this Congress has voted for unprecedented debt,

and a look at Treasury's borrowings shows a stark picture. On Monday, we borrowed \$98 billion. Tomorrow, we will borrow another \$61 billion. On average, Congress is forcing the Treasury to borrow \$157 billion a week.

Over the first 100 days, our debt has increased by more than \$5.5 billion per day. China has cut its lending to the United States by 95 percent, effectively canceling this Congress' credit card.

Let me finish with a couple of personal facts.

With only 111 million Federal taxpayers, the rate of spending by this Congress in the first 100 days has shown the congressional leaders put each taxpayer into debt at a rate of \$1,400 per week, \$3,200 per quarter, and over \$9,000 each just for the first 6 months of this Congress. That's quite a record, a world record, and one our children will live to regret.

HONORING ROBERT DANA

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a man who has affected the lives of countless Iowans, Mr. Robert Dana. His life and work are shining examples of Iowa's long tradition of excellence in literature.

For 40 years, Mr. Dana taught at Cornell College where I was honored to teach and now represent as part of Iowa's Second District. While there, he had a tremendous impact on students, developing young writers' minds and pushing them to new heights.

After leaving Cornell, he continued to inspire Iowans serving two terms as our State's Poet Laureate. Mr. Dana has used his signature poems to give an everlasting voice to official Iowa events. With his poetry, R.P. has captured the feeling Iowans have for their towns and land.

Thank you, R.P., my former colleague, for your contribution to Cornell College, to Iowa, and to American literature.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO NORTH CAROLINA SHOOTING VICTIMS

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, eight people died 1 month ago when a gunman opened fire at the Pine Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center in Carthage, North Carolina. On that dreadful day, the staff and residents at Pine Lake Center responded very effectively and professionally. Equally professional and effective were the law enforcement community and the citizens of Carthage and Moore County.

This cruel and unforgivable act imposed upon Pine Lake that day did not succeed in defeating the spirit of the

Pine Lake facility, Carthage and Moore County.

Mr. Speaker, we extend our condolences to the survivors of the eight whose lives were so brutally taken on that ill-fated day.

HAWAII AND AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY ACT

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, this Congress is committed to energy self-sufficiency as a matter of national security. Hawaii's situation is especially acute as Hawaii is the most oil dependent State in the country and has the highest fuel and electricity costs nationwide. Thus, Hawaii is particularly aware of the need to change the status quo and focus on achieving a clean energy economy.

Recently enacted legislation has given consumers and businesses in Hawaii and across the country incentives to invest in clean and renewable technologies, and more will be accomplished through the American Clean Energy and Security Act on which we are working.

Our actions result in real decisions by real businesses. For example, because we extended the solar tax credits, a solar panel company and a local business in Hawaii got together to install photovoltaic panels on the roof of the business, which now generates 95 percent of its electricity from these panels.

Our work on the American Clean Energy and Security Act will help States like Hawaii reach our energy goals.

HOMELAND SECURITY PARANOIA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a recently released secret memo by Homeland Security, America now faces new serious threats. I am not referring to al Qaeda, the Somali pirates, or radical Islamic terrorists. The memo states we are in danger from people who are concerned about our porous borders, gun owners, returning military veterans, the recent tax protestors at the TEA parties, and those who want to protect the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, these Americans simply disagree with the administration on certain issues. But by disagreeing, they are now labeled and vilified by Homeland Security as extremists and threats to America. So because of Homeland Security paranoia, is the cloak and dagger agency going to watch these people and spy on them under the guise of national security? We shall see.

This is a dangerous policy and attack on individual liberty and a denial of free speech. Homeland Security should do their real job like finding radical Is-

lamic terrorists who want to kill us in the name of religion rather than making a watch list and snooping around in the private lives of patriots who are just exercising their absolute right to disagree.

And that's just the way it is.

A HUGE BET THAT IS WORTH MAKING

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this week more than 100,000 people will gather at Churchill Downs in my district for the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby. They will be placing big bets. And this week, this Democratic Congress is going to be placing a big bet, too.

We're going to pass a budget resolution that makes a huge bet on America and the American people. By investing in targeted ways and developing a health care system that provides affordable, quality health care for every American, by creating a new energy system and a new energy direction in this country, and investing in higher education so that every American has the tools necessary to bring us into the 21st century, we will be making a huge bet that the American people can grow us out of the huge hole that we're in now.

I am proud that we're willing to make that bet, and I urge all of my colleagues to join us in betting on the American people.

DON'T PLAY POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 8 years since the tragedy of 9/11, and America has not experienced another catastrophic terrorist attack on our home soil, not due to blind luck but due to hard work. Homeland Security during this period thwarted attacks through enhanced interrogation of suspected terrorists. This is a fact. For this, we should thank them, not mire them in millions of legal fees.

But in recent days, more sympathy has been shown to current and potential attackers than to the men and women hired to prevent their deadly acts from coming to fruition. Memos detailing American interrogation methods were selectively released by the administration for political reasons, when other memos showing their life-saving results have not.

Most Americans believe releasing this important information has endangered many innocent Americans in the future and subjects us to future terrorist attacks. Shouldn't we remember it was the self-paralysis of our intelligence systems that led to 9/11 in the first place? Why should we go back?

FUNDING TO CDC FOR POSSIBLE FLU PANDEMIC

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, we are still learning the details of the new influenza outbreak threatening our country. I want to take a moment to praise our colleague, Chairman OBEY, who tried to make sure that the Centers for Disease Control were prepared for a possible pandemic by providing funding in the stimulus package for flu vaccines and preparation.

Unfortunately, the politics of "no" trumped common sense when, in order to get three Republican votes, the Senate removed \$462 million for the Centers for Disease Control and \$900 million for pandemic flu preparations.

Mr. Speaker, the choices we make here in Congress are more than just cable news sound bites. Our choices have consequences. Let me remind my colleagues that the 1918 flu epidemic killed more people than all of World War I. We must reconsider and revisit the funding issue for pandemic flu preparation. It could mean the difference between life and death.

NORTHERN ROCKIES ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION ACT

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

Mr. REHBERG. Congress is moving forward on the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. Montanans have a long and proud heritage as good stewards of our land. Working together, folks in Montana have found solutions that work for everyone—without top-down meddling from Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, this bill throws that consensus approach out the window.

Take a look at the cosponsors. The vast majority of them are from districts east of the Mississippi, and 17 cosponsors are from California; none from the districts actually impacted by the legislation such as Idaho, Wyoming, Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington, and, of course, Montana. That is right. None.

Montanans don't tell folks from New York or San Francisco how high to build their skyscrapers or how many lanes their freeways need. We let you deal with your problems, and we respectfully ask that when it comes to the Northern Rockies, you take into consideration the opinions of those of us who live there.

NORTH KOREA FREEDOM WEEK

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and raise awareness of the 2009 North Korean Freedom Week.