

part-time job to help in the matter. I have also gone back to college to further my education.

“Our lives are crazy with work, school, family, teenagers and obligations, yet we manage to pay our bills and make sure Uncle Sam receives his fair share. We have scaled back luxury items to achieve the goal of one day being debt free. We have a budget for our personal finances, and when the money is gone, we stop spending.

“The idea of Congress and our President has of spending money that does not exist is absolutely insane. What kind of message are we sending to our children when our government cannot even balance its own budget and abide by it?”

Madam Speaker, Mr. President, listen to the American people: Stop this spending.

CLEAN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HIMES. Good morning, Madam Speaker.

I rise this morning to address the importance of clean government and to urge my colleagues to support a number of measures that will come before this House to help assure that clean government.

Citizens deserve and expect to know that their elected representatives are acting purely in their best interests and they, particularly in this moment of crisis, should know that we act exclusively without conflicts of interest.

I am proud to cosponsor legislation that would prohibit Representatives in this House from taking campaign contributions from those for whom they have made appropriations requests. And I am proud to cosponsor a bill introduced by my good friend and fellow Connecticut Representative John LARSON. The gentleman's bill will make huge strides in removing the money that so sullies our politics. The American people deserve no less, and I urge my colleagues to support these bills as they approach the floor of this House.

STUDY FINDS MEDIA ACT AS SHILL FOR OBAMA

(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. Madam Speaker, network news programs gave President Obama over three times more coverage than President Bush at the same time in their presidencies, according to a new study by George Mason and Chapman Universities. During President Obama's first 50 days in office, the three network evening news programs devoted over 1,000 stories lasting almost 28 hours to President Obama—about half of their entire newscasts. By contrast, President Bush received less

than 8 hours of network news coverage at the same point in his Presidency, less than one-third as much. There is no reason to think the first 100 days are any different.

Furthermore, 58 percent of all network news evaluations of President Obama and his policies were favorable while only 33 percent of evaluations of President Bush were favorable. These numbers aren't even close.

Americans need the media to report the news objectively; not act as a shill for a Democratic President.

PRICE OF INACTION ON BUDGET IS TOO HIGH

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

Ms. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today we will have the opportunity to vote on the budget resolution, a budget which makes a sound investment in our Nation's future. I especially want to applaud the health care provisions in the resolution that will put us on track for improving access to quality health care for all Americans.

It is vital that we pass this bill with the reconciliation instructions intact so that we can achieve comprehensive health reform this year. The price of inaction is way too high. Fortunately, the steps we will begin taking through the budget resolution reconciliation instructions will yield very positive rewards.

This includes reform of the broken Medicare reimbursement system. The budget addresses problems with geographic variations in spending in health care. It invests in proven nurse home visitation programs for at-risk first-time mothers. And it improves the women, infant and children nutrition program.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on the budget resolution.

ARE WE SAFER?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, a lot of hype has occurred about the first hundred days of the new government. The question to be asked is, is America safer today than a hundred days ago?

Well, the government has determined to close Guantanamo Bay prison in spite of evidence these terrorists still want to harm us; the United States is considering canceling the development of the most advanced fighter in world history, the F-22; foreign computer hackers have gotten into the Defense Department system; North Korea launched its first ballistic missile while we did nothing but object; the United States now wants to scrap its missile defense system in Poland because the Russians are complaining, even though the system was designed to protect us from Iranian missiles, not the Russians.

The little fellow from Iran, Ahmadinejad, still boasts of nuclear destruction of Israel while mocking our President behind his back; Homeland Security leaked vital intelligence about national security; the defense budget is going to be cut so the new government can spend money on its own pet projects.

Hopefully, the new government will change this dangerous trend and remember the first duty of government is to protect the American people.

And that's just the way it is.

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, under Chairman SPRATT's leadership, the Congress is poised to pass a budget resolution. But unfortunately it's likely to be a party-line vote. The Republicans are asking us to trust them, they have a better way. The only sane response to that is, You gotta be kidding.

You had 8 years to manage this country's budget and you blew it. In fact, you took a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus and turned it into \$5.8 trillion of deficits. It's the worst fiscal management over a Presidential administration in American history. And now they want us to trust them?

In fact, we have stayed afloat by borrowing. And now our biggest debtor is the Communist Chinese dictatorship. They own more American debt than anyone else.

We have had more Americans unemployed, more Americans in poverty, and more Americans without health insurance. This budget needs to pass for the sake of the American people. We need to look back and realize who the American people can trust to be fiscally responsible.

HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Boy Scout program that has positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people in central Pennsylvania.

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the Nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations in the world. 2009 marks the 75th anniversary of the Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp and the 80th anniversary of Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of the scouting program that has made such a difference in the lives of young men and women for eight decades. For nearly a century, the BSA has helped build

the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes—and through nearly a century of experience, knows—that helping youth is the key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society.

I congratulate the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council, a National Quality Council, for 80 years of service. I would also like to congratulate the Seven Mountains Boy Scout Camp, a nationally recognized camping program, on its 75th anniversary.

DONATE LIFE MONTH

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Caucus, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of Donate Life Month, honoring all of the men and women who have made the decision to give the gift of life through organ donations.

In 2007, over 28,000 people received transplants. Still, over 100,000 people are currently, today, on the waiting list. The numbers grow each day. Despite amazing advances in medical technology and the tremendous work of the transplant community, sadly, many of the patients will not live long enough to receive a transplant.

Today, each of you have an opportunity to make a difference in the life of a daughter or mother, a father or a brother or a husband that is coping with a life-threatening illness. I encourage each of my colleagues to make a pledge today that has nothing to do with politics but everything to do with making a difference and that is to join me in supporting Donate Life Month by becoming an organ donor.

AN AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, for decades, Washington has ignored the energy crisis imperiling our economy, our national security, and our planet. Now President Obama is committed to a comprehensive energy plan that will generate millions of clean energy jobs, break our dependence on foreign oil, and reduce the threat of deadly pollution.

With the depletion of the world's oil reserves and the growing disruption of our climate, the development of clean, renewable energy sources is the growth industry of the 21st century. President Obama says that our economic future demands we must lead the competition for clean energy. The President's energy policy will jump-start the creation of an American clean energy sec-

tor that will create millions of energy jobs.

His policy will break us from our dependence upon foreign oil and begin making America energy independent, and it will stop the pollution that we have going into our atmosphere. It is time to take a new tack on energy.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY

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

Mr. TEAGUE. Madam Speaker, when I was 17 years old, I went to work in the oil fields making \$1.50 an hour on a pulling unit to help support my family. Over the years, I have done just about everything there is to do in oil and gas around New Mexico. People know that I am an oilman, and I am proud of that.

In 2007 when I announced that I would be running for Congress, people were surprised to find an oilman like myself campaigning for energy independence through renewable energy. I told people in Hobbs, Roswell, Carlsbad and all across southern New Mexico that technologies like wind, solar and biofuels were not only good for the environment but would also create jobs in our communities and bolster our national security.

If we are going to keep up with an increasing demand for energy, we need to put Americans to work producing energy from the wind, the sun and such new and strange things as algae. Our energy future should not be defined by dependence on one source of energy, the vast majority of which we do not control.

Like I said, I am an oilman, always have been, always will be; but sometimes it takes an oilman to say it: America simply can't continue to be addicted to foreign sources of oil.

□ 1030

HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS (FAMILIES USA REPORT)

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the dramatic rise in the cost of health care for American families and the need to take action.

Yesterday, Families USA, a national health advocacy group, released a report that showed in my home State of Florida and all across the country, more and more families are dealing with huge increases in premiums and copays. The report explains that for many years now, rising health care costs have been devouring a larger and larger portion of family income. Health care costs were too high even before this economic crisis. And now the rising costs are a serious drag on economic recovery for middle class families and businesses, unless we act soon.

The Families USA report highlights how vital it is that we tackle health care reform now to help American families out of this middle class squeeze. Our health care reform efforts must be focused on making care more affordable for families and businesses.

To lower costs, we must focus on prevention, computerizing medical records, eliminating waste, and more cost-effective treatments.

Thankfully, the White House and many in Congress are committed to taking action this year.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 13, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 371, proceedings will now resume on the conference report to accompany the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 20 minutes of debate remained on the conference report.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) has 10 minutes remaining and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I get a little bit of a sense of *deja vu* this morning. We've kind of been around this vote a while. But we got some new news this morning that's troubling news. The economy in the first quarter of this year has declined by 6.1 percent, 6.1 percent negative economic growth, the worst drop in our economy now since the mid 1970s. And if you look at the data, it shows you that the American consumer is more or less hanging in there. It's the investment from businesses that has dried up. It is business investment that's not occurring in this economy that's creating this great recession leading to all these job losses.

So as we look at this budget, I think a few new points ought to be brought to light since we have been around this budget quite a bit, which is, number one, looking at the economic data underneath this budget. It shows you that the debt and deficits that are currently projected in this budget are going to go much higher.

If you take a look at the economic assumptions that the Office of Management and Budget uses, they're a whole lot rosier than what's occurring. If you look at their inflation projections, which inflation just came in at 2.9 percent this quarter, they're a whole lot rosier, meaning put reality into the