

make hard choices and prepare the Nation for a new age." He went on to say that "our time of standing pat, of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions, that time has surely passed." I could not agree more. For years I encouraged the Bush administration to adopt this process. They did not. We have also reached out to the new administration and his economic team.

This is an economic, moral, and generational issue, and I am astounded as we prepare to debate the stimulus on the floor that we are doing so without having bipartisan entitlement reform as part of the underlying package.

PRESIDENT NOT WELL-SERVED BY SOME ECONOMIC ADVISERS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, today's headlines are pretty grim about job losses across America. The Bush legacy lives on.

George Bush has made a horrible hash out of this economy with his trickle-down economics favoring those at the top, with his deregulatory policies, dismantling those things which protect consumers, people's 401(k)s and their investments from fraud and abuse, and with his unnecessary war.

President Obama sees and realizes the pain across America and wants to take positive steps to put people back to work and get this economy back on course. That is the good news.

The bad news is that I don't believe the President is well-served by a number of his economic advisers. Some of them do not now, nor have they ever believed, that rebuilding the foundations of our economy with investment in infrastructure, putting millions to work, increasing the wealth of the country, making us more efficient and competitive in the international economy, delivering our goods more fuel effectively, getting people out of congestion in their cars and getting them to work more efficiently, they don't think those are good investments. They say that is not what we want. They want tax cuts. They want other spending that is more immediate. We do not need another consumer-driven, borrowed-money—because all this money is borrowed—bubble for this economy. We need to get back to basics. We need to rebuild our foundations.

Unfortunately, this bill dedicates about 6 percent, 6 percent of \$825 billion, to our transportation infrastructure. In contrast, the Chinese are spending, over the next 2 years, \$600 billion on their transportation infrastructure to make their country more fuel efficient, to make their country more competitive. And we in the United States can only come up with \$40 billion for transportation infrastructure?

They say that it can't be spent quickly enough. That is not true. The

list of deferred maintenance in projects is long. The known need far exceeds that short-term outlook, just for this year's deficiency in investment. We could spend much more, we could spend it more productively, and we could put millions of Americans back to work.

For every \$1 billion we spend on transportation infrastructure, by the most conservative of estimates, you get a six times multiplier effect in the economy and you put 28,000 to 30,000 people to work. For a dollar in tax cuts, you get back, depending on whether or not people spend them or use it to replenish their depleted savings, very, very little stimulative effect.

The Bush tax cuts, \$160 billion borrowed last spring, gave us a whole one-quarter of one percent bounce in one quarter for the economy. \$160 billion borrowed, an obligation for the next 30 years for our kids and grandkids, and that is what we got? No, we need more substantial investment.

There a lot of talk about "shovel-ready." There is a lot of talk about infrastructure. We need to deliver on those promises, and thus far this legislation that is being proposed falls short.

I don't fault my colleagues here. It is coming from the Senate. It is coming from downtown. But we can do better. We are the people's House, the House of Representatives. We don't need to have \$275 billion in tax cuts and we don't need to take those dictates from somewhere else, and particularly the President's advisers when they are wrong.

I know the President's heart is in the right place. I am hoping we can do a better bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DEFAZIO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, our God, Source of life and love, hear the prayer of Congress, both for the good of this Nation and the good of humanity around the world. Help this Congress and the President to discern Your will in our day. By drawing upon the truth taken from a diversity of opinions, may a solid foundation be formed upon which a stable future may be built.

May short-term gains or self-interest never prove to be an obstacle to true

vision. Rather, Lord, grant depth perception, clear analysis, and creative response to the needs of our time for solidifying the common good. For we freely choose to be Your people, and act accordingly, 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 gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LUJÁN 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.

TIME TO BUILD UP AMERICA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. At a time when millions of Americans are losing jobs, homes, pensions, our government is prepared to give another trillion dollars to the banks, ready to compound the moral hazard by nationalizing banks, which are allegedly profit-making entities. This is anti-democratic.

Instead of nationalizing banks, we should nationalize the money system by placing the Federal Reserve under the U.S. Treasury, end the fractional reserve and stop banks from lending credit into circulation. Then, instead of borrowing money from the banks and creating debt, government can spend the money into circulation to rebuild and restore America with money for jobs, housing, health care, and education. I will soon be introducing legislation to accomplish this.

Banking is not a proper function of the government, but oversight is. The Treasury Department should not be outsourcing to the Fed its oversight responsibilities. The Fed, which failed miserably to oversee banks, should be put under Treasury instead.

It's time for our government to operate in the public interest, not in the interest of private banks. It's time for us to stop bailing out banks and begin building up America.

THIS IS NOT A STIMULUS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have significant concerns

about the spending bill before us this week. How will billions spent on school snack programs and repairs to the Smithsonian Institution stimulate the economy? How will \$3 billion being spent for a prevention and wellness fund stimulate the economy?

It is clear that this spending package has become a one-stop shop for every item on a spending agenda—a massive, unprecedented spending bill aimed to bypass the normal appropriations process and subsidize a broad range of existing and new government programs. We must do better, and together we can do better to create jobs.

A targeted stimulus package of tax relief and assistance for small businesses would fuel this Nation's entrepreneurial spirit and help private industry and individuals create jobs. Our focus should be on growing the American economy and not on growing an already massive government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. Speaker, New Mexico is known as the Land of Enchantment because of our people, beautiful landscapes, clear skies, and fresh air. My district is home to millions of acres of Federal lands and countless natural resources—resources that create opportunities and challenges.

One challenge my district faces is water availability and allocation. Water projects on either side of the State have been long planned, and now may come to fruition. As someone who tends to the acequia, the ditch on our small family farm, I know the importance of water to rural economies across America.

Land, water, and sustainability are not only fundamental to life in my State, they are fundamental to rich cultures and traditions that make New Mexico great, like acequias and land grants, which are an essential part of the rural economies of my district.

Let us work together in protecting New Mexico's rich culture and traditions.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, I am writing to resign my position as the United States Representative for the 20th District of New York

effective Monday, January 26, 2009. Governor David Paterson of New York has selected me to fill the vacancy left in the U.S. Senate by Hillary Rodham Clinton's resignation to become our Secretary of State. My letter of resignation addressed to the New York Secretary of State is attached.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve the constituents of New York's 20th District in the House of Representatives for the past two years. I hope to build on the work I began in this district, to help all of the people of New York.

I also want to thank you, Madam Speaker, my colleagues in the House, and in particular the New York Congressional delegation. I am so grateful for my time in the House, for and the honor working with so many outstanding Members. I look forward to continuing our work and collaboration to build a better New York and a better America.

Thank you and God bless,
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND.

Attachment:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,
Washington, DC, January 23, 2009.

Hon. LORRAINE CORTES-VASQUEZ,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington Avenue, Albany, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY CORTES-VASQUEZ: This letter is to inform you that effective immediately, I resign my seat in the United States Congress in order to assume my duties as United States Senator.

Very truly yours,
KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the whole number of the House is 433.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

NATIONAL DATA PRIVACY DAY

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 31) expressing support for designation of January 28, 2009, as "National Data Privacy Day".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 31

Whereas the Internet and the capabilities of modern technology cause data privacy issues to figure prominently in the lives of many people in the United States at work, in their interaction with government and public authorities, in the health field, in e-commerce transactions, and online generally;

Whereas many individuals are unaware of data protection and privacy laws generally and of specific steps that can be taken to help protect the privacy of personal information online;

Whereas "National Data Privacy Day" constitutes an international collaboration and a nationwide and statewide effort to raise awareness about data privacy and the protection of personal information on the Internet;

Whereas government officials from the United States and Europe, privacy professionals, academics, legal scholars, representatives of international businesses, and others with an interest in data privacy issues are working together on this date to further the discussion about data privacy and protection;

Whereas privacy professionals and educators are being encouraged to take the time to discuss data privacy and protection issues with teens in high schools across the country;

Whereas the recognition of "National Data Privacy Day" will encourage more people nationwide to be aware of data privacy concerns and to take steps to protect their personal information online; and

Whereas January 28, 2009, would be an appropriate day to designate as "National Data Privacy Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of a "National Data Privacy Day";

(2) encourages State and local governments to observe the day with appropriate activities that promote awareness of data privacy;

(3) encourages privacy professionals and educators to discuss data privacy and protection issues with teens in high schools across the United States; and

(4) encourages individuals across the Nation to be aware of data privacy concerns and to take steps to protect their personal information online.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELCH. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Vermont?

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today of House Resolution 31, introduced by Representative