

HONORING TARAVELLA HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the J.P. Taravella High School Marching Band and their director, Neil Jenkins.

Taravella was selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee as the only high school marching band from the State of Florida to participate in the 2009 Inaugural Parade, and these students from Coral Springs made us all proud. Their journey was possible because business owners and citizens from across our community came together and they raised \$150,000 to make the trip.

I hope that being in Washington D.C. for this historic inauguration was as meaningful to these young musicians as it was for me. I know they will carry memories of this extraordinary event with them for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to these fine students, their parents, teachers and chaperones for being part of the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade.

MOUNT AIRY GRANITE BEARS FOOTBALL TAKE STATEWIDE TITLE

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last month the Granite Bears of Mount Airy, North Carolina, notched one final win in their perfect 2008 season. The Bears won a decisive victory over Williamston in a North Carolina 1-A State high school football championship game on December 13.

The Bears 37-14 championship victory was reminiscent of their triumphant 2008 season, in which they allowed only 80 points in their first 15 games. In the playoffs Mount Airy dominated every opponent they faced, scoring 261 points to their opponents' meager 26 points.

Coach Kelly Holder and the whole Mount Airy team, led by quarterback Aaron Wheeler, made the Mount Airy community glow with pride when they capped their perfect season with the State title. And with 16 seniors filling the team's roster, the State championship is a crowning achievement for a team of young men who have played together for so many years.

I congratulate the players, coaches, parents, teachers and fans for a perfect season and State championship. The Mount Airy Bears deserve to be celebrated for making this community proud in their 2008 season.

KNOXVILLE UTILITIES BOARD, BRIGHT LIGHT OF CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, with news reports that 68,000 jobs were shed just today, a bright light of corporate responsibility is emerging from my district in Tennessee, which should be applauded and hopefully be an example that is followed around the Nation.

The Knoxville Utilities Board announced that it will not follow through with previously planned electric and water rate increases due to the current economic situation. Oftentimes, the national news reports only stories about businesses behaving badly. But business is not the enemy. KUB employs many people in my district and supplies vital public services. KUB announced that it will hold off on all utility rate increases as long as possible, and they will instead follow through with new cost management measures in order to help out its customers during this hard time. True success in the business world comes when you not just not watch out for your bottom line, but for your employees and customers.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to commend the staff at KUB and its board of commissioners for acting in the best interests of the people they serve and the Nation. I encourage other businesses to follow their lead as we navigate through this economic downturn.

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SPEECH IN OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL WAIVER ON EMISSIONS

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the President not to waive the Federal law on emission standards that is currently protecting Californians from Governor Schwarzenegger's crusade to save our planet by destroying our economy. Putting aside the highly questionable junk science behind the Governor's proposal, the net effect would add up to \$5,000 to the price of a new car.

Automobile sales normally account for one-fifth of California's sales taxes, which have already fallen by \$1½ billion over the past 12 months. Ironically, the Governor's also asking the President to bail out California's growing budget deficit at the same time.

So I would respectfully suggest to the President that California's economic folly is not something that he should be copying.

BURGESS QUESTIONS SENATE CONFIRMATION OF GEITHNER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we heard this evening the unwelcome news

that the Senate, the other body, had confirmed the nominee for Secretary of the Treasury. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am that the Senate saw fit to do that. This is going to be a distraction at a time when our Nation's financial state deserves close attention. How can we ask our citizens to pay their taxes if we appoint tax evaders to head the Department of Treasury?

I think it would have been appropriate to resist the temptation to be impulsive and instead take the time to make sure that the candidate we put to this high office is someone with more than just a solid resume. Make sure it is someone who will make a personal commitment to upholding the law.

Tax evasion, be it by design or inattention, trivializes other citizens' duty to pay their taxes, and it makes the tax burden of proof even that much greater for those who do bother to follow the law.

We have called this a time of change in our Nation, but this decision is another illustration of the perception that Washington is a place where the well-connected are given special privileges. At a time where Americans are losing faith in Congress, it is imperative that we convey it's not okay to appoint leaders who break the law. It's time to bring credibility and integrity back to this government.

AIR FORCE ONE—MADE IN FRANCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the name Air Force One really says it all, doesn't it? It's the number one plane—the most sophisticated and advanced piece of aviation technology, designed specifically for our Commander in Chief, the President of the United States. It's a national symbol.

Since the inception of Air Force One, it has been made in, of all places, America. Now it seems that the Pentagon thinks it would be better for a foreign company to build the next flying White House—a French company at that. Well, excusez moi, but that just ought not to be.

Mr. Speaker, if anything should be made in America, it ought to be the most important military aircraft we have. The Pentagon wants to let the French, the French-based Airbus, to have a crack at it. But, au contraire, mon frere.

I have filed the Air Force One Built in America Act to ensure that Air Force One is made in America by Americans. Outsourcing Air Force One is not an option. It's un-American. If the Pentagon has their way, au revoir, American jobs and national security. What's next? Are we going to replace the American apple pie with crepes?

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NEW STIMULUS MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they say we have to spend more money that we don't have to stimulate more spending by the American people. This is supposed to save us all from economic chaos. I think I'm missing something here. How does borrowing money just to spend it help out the citizens who not only have to come up with the money in the first place but also have to pay the interest on the government's shopping spree?

This stimulus package, which filters money to special interest groups, will cost \$825 billion. But if we add up last year's so-called stimulus package that didn't work, and all the bailouts to the special interest groups, like the big bank robber barons, the Congressional Budget Office says we will have to borrow all the money to pay for it. That means a total of an additional \$2 trillion in deficit.

So, Mr. Speaker, how does borrowing money just to spend \$825 billion make sense? Why don't we just not spend the money in the first place. Let all Americans have an across-the-board tax cut, those Americans that do pay taxes, and let them decide how to spend their money. Cut the corporate income tax, then businesses can stimulate the economy by hiring more workers.

But, Mr. Speaker, that is not going to happen because the mindset in the United States now is that the government is smarter than the people. So government saves us all from ourselves.

Thomas Jefferson knew better. He said a long time ago, "I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the money and labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them." Oh, I wish we'd have listened to Thomas Jefferson. If this prediction is true, then there are going to be a lot more unhappy Americans because wise ole Uncle Sam is planning to spend our money in the name of stimulating the economy.

Here are a few examples in the \$825 billion stimulus package. I like this one. The National Mall is going to get

some new grass that will cost \$200 million. That is about \$1.5 million per acre. Mr. Speaker, what kind of grass is that? Gold-plated AstroTurf? I'm sure that spending this money will help the economy way down there in Dime Box, Texas.

Here's another one: \$726 million for after-school snack programs for school children. I'm sure our school kids need more snacks at taxpayer expense, but does anyone really think that will help the economy? Probably not.

What is \$825 billion anyway? Well, since Uncle Sam doesn't have the money left in his bank, that means every man, woman, child, and illegal in the United States will have to eventually come up with \$2,700 apiece to pay for Uncle Sam's spending appetite.

All this stimulus package does is put us more in debt to China, which weakens our dollar and our national security. The government needs to put the money back where it belongs, in the hands of the people who earned it. Let Americans decide how to spend their money. After all, it doesn't belong to Uncle Sam.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FOCUS ON EDUCATION SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight, as we sit here in this Chamber, all across America there are school superintendents, there are boards of education, there are boards of finance that are grappling with the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression. And as we know from press reports all over the country, hundreds of thousands of school teachers have been given layoff notices. Forty-four States are now in deficit; \$95 billion for 2009 fiscal year, \$145 billion for the 2010 fiscal year, as all these local officials, who have the responsibility of making sure that we have school programs that our children can have an opportunity to thrive and grow, are bracing themselves for Governors who inevitably are going to be reducing State support for education.

It is in that context, Mr. Speaker, that as we proceed as a Congress to take up the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on this Wednesday, that I think it's important to focus for a minute on the education spending which is included in this legislation.

Under this measure, under this recovery act that President Obama and the congressional leadership have voted on last week, over \$145 billion will flow

out directly to school districts across this country. For example, there will be \$13 billion to pay for Title I, a Federally-mandated program which has been underfunded as part of the disgraceful unwillingness of the Federal Government to pay for the No Child Left Behind Act over the last 6 years. And \$13 billion of additional funds will go out to pay for special education. Again, a disgraceful nonfunding by the Federal Government since 1975 when Gerald Ford signed the Special Education Act into law, mandating that all these local officials, again, who are trapped tonight, have to come up with the resources to pay for the special education needs of children all across the country.

And \$14 billion to pay for school construction. Again, directly to local communities so that they will have the funds to modernize and retrofit schools all across the country and immediately putting to work the construction trades, which is the hardest hit sector in the American economy.

A \$79 billion economic stabilization fund, which will flow directly into States through your education cost sharing formulas all across America to make up for the inevitable shortfall which Governors and State legislators are going to be forced to cut back on as they deal with, again, this historic economic downturn.

President Obama understands that we must act with this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act with funding for education; number one, to make sure that hundreds of thousands of teachers are not going to be laid off, along with staff, who, again, we entrust with making sure are children are going to be educated every single day across this country.

He also understands long term that the failure to step in and avoid larger class sizes, which will result in teacher layoffs, is going to ensure that our economy will grow not just in the short term, not just as we get through this economic crisis, but also to make sure that long term that America's competitiveness will be maintained.

We know what is happening across the world today. That there are countries which are beating us in science, in engineering, in math. And if we allow as a Congress to step back and leave local communities on their own, with declining property tax revenues and declining State support for public education across this country, we will damage not only this country in the short term, but we will damage it in terms of our long-term ability to compete and thrive and grow as a Nation.

This past Saturday, I sat down with school superintendents all across the Second Congressional District of eastern Connecticut to talk about the dilemma with which these school superintendents and boards of education find themselves in. Again, all of them are in the process of coming up with contingency plans to lay off staff and teachers across their district.