

from \$1.8 trillion to \$1.3 trillion. That's how deep a hole we are in.

So when I say to the gentleman from Ohio, Madam Speaker, that we cut the deficit by two-thirds over 5 years, a 1.9 percent growth over a 4-year period, the slowest projected growth rate in the history of the country, that is a monumental achievement. And we do it all while preserving our commitment to our Nation's veterans, as the gentleman talks about, making sure every veteran's hospital in this country is adequately funded, and that every veteran in this country has access to the highest quality health care available anywhere in the world. We preserve that commitment while we do the best job we can at reducing the deficit that this President inherited, because we are not starting from zero. I think everybody realizes that. And it is pointless to talk about the past and to point fingers, but it is instructive to take a look at how we got here, why we are here, and the fact that we have very difficult decisions to make moving forward.

The only way we are going to bring down these costs and bring down the deficit and bring down the debt is by making the difficult choices, and that is what this Congress is going to continue to do.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think the other point there with the stimulus is because credit locked up, that clearly shut down, and still is, we are still getting calls in our office that people still can't get loans. So the TARP money and all of this other help that we have given to the banks has not yet kicked in. If there was not even the stimulus package, imagine what the economy would be doing, if there wasn't a little bit of money in everybody's paycheck. I ran into an operating engineer the other day who was finally getting himself back to work because of some road projects that were happening. All over Ohio, the Governor just made a tour around the State with different infrastructure projects that he was spreading around from the stimulus money. So we are filling this gap. There would be a complete shutdown.

And, yes, we are taking some of this money and, yes, we are borrowing money to make investments now. But imagine the tax loss we would have in this country if we weren't making any investments. And who knows what the yield will be from the investments we are making into energy and the NIH for the Cancer Institute.

I mean, what is the value in the long term of reducing the cost of cancer to our health care system, of Alzheimer's to our health care system? What benefits will stem cell research yield for our country in terms of health care? How many accidents will be prevented because of better communication with the investments into the health care information technology?

These are things that you can't put a price on. And it is the old saying, some people know the price of everything

and the value of nothing. And you can't always pinpoint what piece of research yielded the best benefits because all of this research tends to build onto itself.

□ 2300

And we are making these investments now, and we are going to find out in the long run that these were good decisions that we made, courageous decisions that the President has made.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Let's make no question that we want to show, and I am a 30-something here on the floor of the House of Representatives telling you and the American people that we will recover. We will recover. We will grow out of this recession, and we will be stronger for it at the end of the day.

And for those who suggest that we are spending a lot of money in this great recession that we find ourselves in, the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, in 1946 when the United States came out of the Great Depression and World War II, the government was spending more and borrowing more than the economy could produce, spending more and borrowing more than the economy could produce as a percentage of GDP and what the government debt was. Right now we are at about 50 percent of what the economy can produce.

And once we start growing this economy again, investing in the things that are going to make our country and our people stronger, we will see the difference. We will see the investments realized. We will see the tangible results coming back to us as we have a stronger workforce, a workforce that can critically think, multitask, problem solve, and be competitive with the Indians and Chinas of the world that have already begun investing in their workforce.

And I will tell you that the gentleman from Ohio is correct in his assumption that by making these strategic investments in our country, in our people, and in our way of life, we're going to be the producers of wealth once again, not just the movers of wealth. Investing in green energy, investing in the things that are going to transform our economy so that we have diversity. Can you imagine rolling into the gas station one day and having a choice between using traditional gasoline, biomass, ethanol, maybe even plug in our electric hybrid, or drive by the gas station altogether because we have a fuel cell that was researched right here in the 16th Congressional District of Ohio that allows you to get 100 miles to a gallon? Can you imagine how that would be transformational for our economy? These investments that we have in the American recovery package and the stimulus package are going to be what are going to make the difference and transcend our economy for years to come. And I say that in confidence as a 30-something.

And I want you to know that these challenges that confront all of us as

leaders are not Democrat or Republican challenges but American challenges, and we will recover with prudent investment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And I would be remiss if I didn't talk a little bit about what we are doing locally here in the last minute between Congressman BOCCIERI's district in Canton and my district in Akron to Youngstown and also Cleveland, all the way over to Congressman ALTMIRE's district over in the Pittsburgh area, creating a technology belt in which all of the health care and green energy and the legacy manufacturing that we have in this area can help stimulate this mega-region from Cleveland to Akron, Canton, through Youngstown, Warren, over into Pittsburgh, to try to plug into all of this because if areas like ours aren't benefiting from these investments, then really it's all for naught. It's the heartland of our country.

So with that I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family medical situation.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. CUMMINGS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of severe flooding and storms throughout eastern Kentucky.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WALZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WAXMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, May 15.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 15, 18 and 19.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today and May 18.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 15, 18 and 19.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today and May 13.

Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, May 13.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes

p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Glenn Thompson	2/27	2/27	Kuwait								
	2/27	2/28	Iraq								
	3/1	3/2	Afghanistan		25.00						25.00
	3/2	3/3	Hungary		229.43						229.43
Committee total					254.43						254.43

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON, Chairman, Apr. 22, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nita M. Lowey	1/28	2/1	Switzerland		1,858.14						1,858.14
Misc. Embassy costs									4,149.86		4,149.86
Michele Sumilas	2/17	2/20	Democratic Republic of Congo		1,310.00						1,310.00
	2/20	2/22	Rwanda		634.00						634.00
Commercial airfare							10,853.06				10,853.06
Misc. Embassy costs									782.00		782.00
Hon. Steven LaTourette	1/29	1/30	Brazil		438.00						438.00
	1/30	2/1	Argentina		698.00						698.00
	2/1	2/3	Panama		592.00						592.00
Hon. Nita M. Lowey	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,837.83						1,837.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,602.57		4,602.57
Hon. Betty McCollum	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,837.83						1,837.83
Part commercial airfare							4,481.10				4,481.10
Misc. Embassy costs									2,289.33		2,289.33
Hon. Marion Berry	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,602.57		4,602.57
Hon. Adam Schiff	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
Part commercial airfare							4,540.70				4,540.70
Misc. Embassy costs									996.00		996.00
Hon. Kay Granger	2/13	2/14	Mexico		700.00						700.00
	2/16	2/16	Mexico								
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy									4,603.47		4,603.47
Hon. Ben Chandler	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,602.57		4,602.57
Hon. Ander Crenshaw	2/15	2/16	Mexico		350.00						350.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Part commercial airfare							4,937.01				4,937.01
Misc. Embassy costs									3,606.57		3,606.57
Nisha Desai Biswal	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,603.47		4,603.47
Steve Marchese	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,603.47		4,603.47
Clelia Alvarado	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,603.47		4,603.47
Mike Ringler	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,603.47		4,603.47
Anne Marie Chotvacs	2/13	2/16	Mexico		1,050.00						1,050.00
	2/16	2/18	Colombia		861.00						861.00
	2/18	2/22	Peru		1,771.83						1,771.83
Misc. Embassy costs									4,603.47		4,603.47
Gregory Lankler	2/22	2/26	Kuwait		996.00						996.00
Part commercial airfare							4,053.57				4,053.57
Misc. trans. costs							155.00				155.00
Hon. John Salazar	2/16	2/18	Mexico		699.50						699.50
	2/18	2/20	Nicaragua		407.73						407.73
	2/20	2/22	Jamaica		775.68						775.68
Hon. Rush Holt	2/19	2/23	Israel		1,900.00						1,900.00
Commercial airfare							7,809.00				7,809.00
Adam Harris	2/19	2/23	Israel		1,900.00						1,900.00