

pretax income, which would be an even higher percentage of their disposable income.

These numbers are one more piece of evidence showing that the time is now for comprehensive health care reform. We must reduce health care costs for middle class families.

DEAD PEOPLE GET STIMULUS CHECKS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to give away taxpayer money, the Social Security Administration is even sending so-called "stimulus" checks to dead people. An 83-year-old man in Maryland said his mother, who has been dead for over 40 years, received one of the \$250 stimulus checks.

Even though the 83-year-old son didn't receive one of the checks, I guess because he's still alive, I'm sure he appreciated the government thinking about his mom by sending her a check so close to Mother's Day.

It does seem a bit odd that it takes the government 40 years to figure out somebody died. Anyway, the Social Security bureaucrats admit at least 10,000 other dead people received checks too. That would be about \$2.5 million in money. I wonder how many other free checks were sent to dead people that the Social Security folks don't even know about.

Maybe since the bureaucrats are giving money to dead people, they should go ahead and register them to vote as well. Get the community group ACORN involved. Apparently, ACORN has a reputation for successfully registering dead folks to vote. Then the dead people can get free money and vote too. What a deal.

And that's just the way it is.

CLEAN ENERGY FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, America can become the world leader in the new clean energy economy. But to ensure our economic recovery is sustainable for years to come, we intend to pass comprehensive clean energy legislation that will create millions of new American jobs that can't be shipped overseas; reduce our dependence on foreign oil; increase production of cleaner, renewable energy sources; crack down on heavy polluters who have damaged our air and water quality; and give American entrepreneurs and innovators the tools they need to stay competitive in this global economy.

The Energy and Commerce Committee is currently considering draft legislation called the American Clean Energy and Security Act, or ACES. The legislation will reform our coun-

try's energy policies by limiting the amount of pollutants industries can emit into the atmosphere and by investing in a clean energy economy that will lead to new jobs, new businesses, and less dependence on foreign oil. This act will invest in American jobs that can't be shipped overseas. Whether it's the ingenuity and innovation to create new technologies or the manufacturing that builds windmills, we will create millions of jobs here at home and make America the world leader in the 21st-century clean energy economy.

DAWN JOHNSEN

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President's nominee to head the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel is truly from the radical fringe, which is why her confirmation is running into so much trouble in the Senate.

That person is Dawn Johnsen, a former attorney for one of the Nation's largest and most radical abortion groups. Ms. Johnsen's own quotes speak for her radical views. She equated pregnancy to slavery. She said that laws restricting a woman's "abortion choice are disturbingly suggestive of involuntary servitude." She's likened pregnant mothers to "no more than fetal containers." And she claims that abortion is "a relief" rather than the traumatic experience it truly is for women.

Her appointment is a slap in the face to fair-minded Americans. And now Senator REID has indicated he does not have the votes to bring her nomination to the Senate floor. The President should take a cue from the Senate and withdraw this mistaken nomination, a nomination that runs counter to the values of the American people.

POSTVILLE RAID ANNIVERSARY AND COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 1-year anniversary of the raid at the Agriprocessor plant in Postville, Iowa.

On May 12, 2008, ICE agents arrested nearly 400 immigrant workers, this despite the horrific stories of worker abuse at the plant. This is a clear example of the misplaced priorities of the Bush administration, who fast-tracked criminal cases against undocumented workers.

Last year I traveled to Postville and witnessed firsthand the deflated spirit of families who were torn apart from their loved ones. These raids not only affected the families of the detainees but the whole community of Postville, which to this day has not fully recovered.

This is an example of the ugly consequences of enforcement-only approaches to immigration reform. We need a real reform that reflects America's needs. That's comprehensive immigration reform.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to learn from the past and work with CHC and President Obama to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

THE GLOBAL WARMING BILL

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, you can be assured of a couple things: The global warming bill reportedly that will be taken up next week in the Energy and Commerce Committee will raise energy costs and create massive job losses.

How do I know this? It happened in southern Illinois in 1992, where we lost 14,000 coal miner jobs. The State of Ohio lost 35,000 coal miner jobs.

Why in the world in this economy would we make it more difficult to compete in the international arena by raising energy costs?

I hope my Democratic friends are ready to answer that question.

THE NEW ENERGY ECONOMY

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, it's nice to see a Speaker from Colorado in the chair.

I want to respond to my friend from Illinois who just spoke about the loss of thousands of jobs in the coal industry.

The purpose of our bill is to move forward into a new energy economy, and there will be opportunities for those in the coal industry, but we have to find ways to capture the pollution that is set off by the coal. And so there are thousands of jobs in the technology and research of how we can use a cheap and plentiful resource like coal, but we need to burn coal so it doesn't continue to pollute the atmosphere.

We also need to use renewable energy wherever we can, and we need to be efficient in how we use our energy.

That's the new energy economy, and there will be thousands and thousands of jobs in that economy. It's good for national security, it's good for the climate, and it's good for jobs. We must do it now.

COMMEMORATING THE 28TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 28th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, a

time when thousands of officers come to Washington, D.C. to honor officers who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. It's a time of remembrance and an opportunity to provide comfort and appreciation to the families of fallen officers.

The motto of Police Week is: "Never Alone, Never Forgotten." And it must ring in the Halls of Congress not only this week but every day. That's why I have joined Congressman STUPAK in introducing the Law Enforcement Officers' Procedural Bill of Rights. This bipartisan legislation ensures that police officers will receive a fair process and proper protections in administrative proceedings.

I want to thank all the law enforcement community and officers who commit their lives to serve us. From the officers who protect us here at Capitol Hill to those police officers that defend us back in our districts, this country is a safer place because of the work you do.

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AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Afghanistan yesterday on a delegation led by the gentlewoman from California, SUSAN DAVIS. We are all blessed by the sacrifice of our servicemen and women, our diplomats and other civilians in harm's way. We were moved by the courage of the Afghan women, in whose success rests the future of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for the President and this Congress to be straight about what it means to win in Afghanistan. Our spending must reflect our goal, and right now it does not. This is not a 90 percent, in-out, 2-year military operation, and everyone there knows it. Winning requires a long-term plan to return 90 percent illiteracy to literacy, to grow food crops to replace poppies, to transform a 16th century economy to the 21st century.

It's a generation of change, and we have to have a plan while we are there and one for leaving. We best honor our men and women who serve and give their lives by being honest. They stand on the wall. They hold the line. They cross the wire. And the least we can do is prepare the American people to match their sacrifice with real and long-term commitment for Afghanistan and for our own national security.

YEAR OF THE BAILOUT

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, last year should be remembered as the year of the bailout. This year is not much better under the current leadership in

Washington. Incredibly, banks that want to repay the money they got from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, as it is referred to, are being stopped by the Obama administration from repaying the funds.

After accepting TARP bailout funds and, in some cases being forced to accept bailouts, many banks have had enough and they are ready to return the money. You would think that would be easy, but the government won't let them pay back the TARP funds. The vague guidelines provided by the Obama administration for returning TARP funds are creating a regulatory uncertainty that is bad for our economy and bad for us taxpayers.

We deserve to get the bailout money back from the banks as quickly as possible, which is why I have introduced the Bailout Freedom Act to ensure sure we have a clear and timely process for making that happen. Once banks are certified to be well capitalized by the regulators, the Federal Government should allow the TARP bailout funding to be paid back.

From the beginning, I have opposed the bailouts and the growing encroachment of the Federal Government in our daily lives. Now we must reverse that course of the current trend and allow TARP bailout funding to be paid back.

Please join me in supporting the Bailout Freedom Act.

GLOBAL WARMING IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, two-thirds of the American people believe that global warming is a clear and present danger, yet there are still Members in this House that deny it even exists.

Fortunately, many here are working diligently to craft a bipartisan and commonsense energy plan that makes polluters pay, provides for middle class energy tax credits, and creates a new industry and lots of good, clean, green jobs. In the process, we will reduce our reliance on foreign oil from nations that mean to do us harm and put us on a path towards being faithful stewards of this beautiful planet that God has loaned us.

But the science deniers don't care about any of that. They choose, instead, to twist the simple idea that polluters should pay for what they pollute into the same tired argument that it is somehow a tax.

The American people are speaking loud and clear. They want Congress to do something about global warming. At least some of us are listening.

DOD NEEDS MORE TRANSPARENCY IN BUDGET PROCESS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the House Armed Services Committee. I am concerned that the Department of Defense has become less open and less accountable. Recent actions taken by the Pentagon has limited transparency and congressional oversight.

First, for the first time ever, non-disclosure agreements have been required of senior defense officials working on the budget.

Second, for the first time, routing ship readiness reports are being classified. This hampers Congress in its important oversight function of the military. The Army was even a no-show at the House Armed Services Committee hearing on its top acquisition project.

Do we want to wait until war to discover we have a hollow fleet or inadequate equipment? Congress has the constitutional duty to raise and support armies and navies.

This responsibility requires candid answers from our senior military leaders about the FY 2010 budget approval. To quote our President, "A democracy requires accountability, and accountability requires transparency." Where is this promised transparency?

CLEAN ENERGY FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, America can become the world leader in the new clean energy economy. To ensure our economic recovery is sustainable for years to come, we intend to pass comprehensive clean energy legislation that will create millions of new American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, increase production of cleaner, renewable energy sources, crack down on heavy pollutants who have damaged our air and water quality, and give American entrepreneurs and innovators the tools they need to stay competitive in the global economy.

There is also the Energy and Commerce bill called the American Clean Energy and Security Act. It will invest in American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. It will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. It will be consumer focused and increase production of cleaner, renewable energy sources.

SERIOUS ECONOMIC IMPACT WITH EPA CO₂ RULES

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have a memo and article, "OMB Memo: Serious Economic Impact Likely with EPA CO₂ Rules" and also the article that is from the Dow Jones Newswires that brings attention to this. I have both documents right here, and I encourage my colleagues to read both of these documents.