

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 256. An act to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine.

FUNDING WARS AND MOVING JOBS OVERSEAS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. It is good our administration is reaching out to the Muslim world. It is bad to spend another \$100 billion to keep wars going which will kill innocent Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

It is good we try to create an incentive for people to buy efficient cars. It is bad that vouchers will not be expressly for the purpose of purchase of cars made in America. It is even worse that we tie such an incentive to a war-funding bill: cash for clunkers and bunkers in the same bill; cash for more war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; cash to help China sell its cars to Americans.

Meanwhile, back in the U.S. of A., factories and auto dealers are closing. People are losing their businesses, their jobs, their homes, their health care, their investments, their retirement security.

Who are these people who keep coming up with these innovative ideas to keep wars going and to move jobs out of America? Who are these people?

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are eager for this discussion, this debate on health care to move forward. We are eager to talk about health care in committee, on the floor, in hearings, at news conferences, wherever people want to talk about a health care system that ensures more quality, widespread coverage, and accessibility.

In fact, we have a plan that will be based on five principles, and today I want to talk about one of those principles, which is just simply to make quality health care coverage affordable and accessible for every American, regardless of preexisting health conditions. That is a statement that almost every Member of this House I believe would agree with, and our debate is just simply how we get there.

We need to be committed to get there. We need to ensure that everybody has not just access to health care because of certain Federal regulations. Everyone can get into a health care environment if there is a crisis, but we want to be sure they have coverage that gets them into health care through their entire life and through all the needs of their health care.

Affordable, accessible, quality health care is something we are eager to debate. We have the plans that will get there, and we hope that a competitive marketplace allows more choices.

SUPPORT THE SAFER GRANT PROGRAM

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a bill I have introduced to help our brave firefighters continue to protect us in these tough times. The SAFER Grant Program helps our fire departments hire the staff they need by funding some of the salaries of new firefighters.

In a district like mine, where we are fighting five wildfires as we speak, this program is crucial to ensuring our firefighters are well-staffed. With tight budgets, the cost-sharing requirement in SAFER has become too tough for our fire departments to meet. Congress waived that requirement in the Recovery Act, but did not include grants from fiscal year 2008, which are still being distributed.

My bill would extend the cost-sharing waiver to fiscal year 2008, allowing our fire departments the flexibility they need to keep us safe, especially during our fire season.

DEMOCRAT PAYGO: YOU PAY, THEY GO ON SPENDING

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, later today President Barack Obama will push Democrat lawmakers to follow pay-as-you-go budget rules. PAYGO rules, as they are known, in theory would require new Federal spending or tax cuts be offset by spending cuts or even tax increases elsewhere. Now, this may sound reasonable to some Americans, but the devil is always in the details, and the American people have reason to be skeptical about newfound calls for fiscal responsibility from this majority.

Under Democrat control, the Federal budget deficit is projected to approach nearly \$2 trillion. In the last several years, non-defense spending has increased by 85 percent. The President and the Democrat's budget just passed will double the national debt in 5 years and triple it in 10. And now calls for new budget rules?

With Democrat plans for more borrowing, more spending, more bailouts, and more debt, the Democrat definition of PAYGO is all too clear to the American people: you pay, and they go on spending.

BRINGING ABDUCTED AMERICAN CHILDREN HOME

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission

to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned of a situation concerning a constituent of mine, Randy Collins, whose ex-wife abducted their son and went to Japan. The last time Randy Collins saw his son, Keisuke Christian Collins, was on June 15, 2008.

According to the United States State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services, the United States has received notices of 73 cases of parental abductions involving 104 children just for the country of Japan.

Unfortunately, many people are not aware of the severity of this situation and how it affects so many American lives. Once taken to Japan, American parents are unable to see their children because parental visitation rights are not recognized, they are not protected by Japan, and abduction by one parent is not considered a crime.

As an ally of the United States, I urge the Government of Japan to sign the 1980 Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and respect the rights of our American parents.

YES, MR. PRESIDENT, WE ARE OUT OF MONEY

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, in a recent interview with C-SPAN, the President made the very telling statement, "We are out of money."

Yes, Mr. President, as of April 27, this country ran out of money. And yet that has not stopped the liberals in this Congress from passing record-setting spending bills. These bills were sold to the American public as necessary to stimulate the economy.

Unemployment insurance claims reached a record high for the 17th consecutive week and unemployment has reached 9.4 percent, which he promised would not happen upon signing this infamous stimulus bill. The \$1 trillion spending that was supposed to stem the economic recession was nothing more than the fulfillment of a very liberal political agenda.

Reckless spending, a total disregard for fiscal accountability, and rocketing us into another inflation-debt spiral is not the solution. Now, even Socialist and Communist countries across the world are rebuking us for excessive spending and government takeover of the economy.

Bigger government is never the answer to America's biggest challenges. American individualism, innovation, and ingenuity will, even after 200 years, remain the only way to economic prosperity.

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, it has been barely over 100 days since the Recovery Act was passed by this Congress and signed into law by President Obama. Since the recession began, Americans have understandingly been worried about our Nation's future and their own economic future.

Because of the Recovery Act, we have created and saved over 150,000 jobs, cut taxes for 95 percent of Americans, and made funds available for over 4,000 transportation projects across the country. We have made progress in a short time, but there is still a lot more to do on the road to recovery. I commend President Obama on his efforts to speed up those efforts to get Americans back to work even faster.

The Department of Transportation is quickly putting \$27.5 billion to work creating jobs in my home State of Missouri and across the country to rebuild and repair highways, roads, and bridges. By the end of 2010, the funds will have created or saved an additional 150,000 jobs.

Investments in our national transportation system are critical to our long-term economic success, and part of getting there will be putting people back to work rebuilding America on the road to recovery.

CAP-AND-TRADE DESERVES TO FAIL

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, cap-and-trade threatens to be a well-intended disaster. Under the ruse of reducing carbon emissions to clean the environment, cap-and-trade will hobble the economy. By some estimates, it reduces GDP by \$9.6 trillion over two decades, eliminates 1.1 million jobs per year, and increases the Federal debt by 26 percent. Electricity rates jump 90 percent, gas prices 74 percent, and natural gas prices 55 percent.

Cap-and-trade is designed to disguise what it truly is, in the words of Mr. DINGELL, "a great big tax." It imposes higher taxes on producers, so producers pass higher prices to consumers. The authors are targeting the producers so that the producers increase the prices on consumers. If the authors targeted consumers rather than the producers, it would connect them too much, and therefore, they must distance themselves from the families who bear the costs.

The authors know the effects. They are hiding from them. It is underhanded, it is subterfuge, it deserves to fail.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT JEFFREY ALAN HALL

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Alan Hall. On June 1, 2009, Jeffrey was killed in action in Afghanistan. As north Alabama mourns this sudden, devastating loss, I would like to recognize Staff Sergeant Hall and his entire family's sacrifice.

Jeffrey was an 8-year veteran of the United States Army, earning many well-deserved awards and decorations, including two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal, and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

Staff Sergeant Hall is an inspiring example of someone we can all look up to and inspire to be like. He put the safety of all Americans before his own, and the people of this Nation will be forever grateful. He motivated and inspired those who were around him, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him, as well as those who never had the honor and privilege of meeting him.

Our country has lost a great soldier and an even better son. All of us in north Alabama are deeply saddened by the loss of Jeffrey. On behalf of the entire community in the Tennessee Valley and across Alabama and the Nation, I rise today to join Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, the United States Army, and the family of Jeffrey Hall in honoring his service, memory, and life.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the government-run health care plan that my Democratic colleagues are pushing will lead to health care rationing and, ultimately, months of wait time for patients seeking treatment.

Today, I want to read a testimonial from a Canadian citizen who has experienced firsthand the ill effects of their government-run health care.

"When I came to the major hospital in downtown Toronto with appendicitis, I had to wait overnight until a doctor saw me, but they did not have a CAT scan machine available, so they sent me home. I had to return to the hospital the next day, and at that time they rated me 'less urgent.' When I asked them why, they told me I received the less urgent rating 'because I have not died yet.' Again, it took many hours before I was able to see the doctor. Then I had to wait hours for an operating room before I was told that only those who would otherwise certainly die would receive surgery. However, the vet care in Canada is private, so there is nothing like this when it comes to taking care of my dog. The doctor is always available for a dog, but not for a human."

Mr. Speaker, health reform must not preclude man nor his best friend from access to quality health care.

H.R. 1550, THE CONSUMER ASSISTANCE TO RECYCLE AND SAVE (CARS) ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider the CARS Act of 2009. This legislation is critical, not only to spur growth in America's auto industry, but to save and create jobs throughout the economy.

History shows that one of the quickest ways to end a recession is to sell more automobiles. New car sales constitute a major percentage of the Nation's consumer spending, and increasing vehicle sales also stimulates demand for raw goods, from which automobiles are manufactured. Production of glass, steel, plastics, and other primary materials will be increased as more new cars are sold, creating jobs throughout the economy.

Similar programs have shown proven results abroad. In Germany, sales were boosted roughly 40 percent. Many other nations have acted to strengthen their economies with policies designed to sell more automobiles, and the U.S. should not be left behind.

We must pass the CARS Act today to create a recovery, not just for our auto industry, but for the entire economy.

U.S. JOURNALISTS ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, two American journalists, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, are reporters for Current TV. They were in China near the North Korean border making a film about the horrible sex trafficking between North Korea and China. The North Koreans claim they crossed the border illegally, so the Communist court sentenced them to 12 years at hard labor. That's some border enforcement policy.

The conditions in these prison camps are harsh. Some reports say a quarter of the inmates die of starvation every year. The prisoners do backbreaking work in factories, coal mines and rice paddies. They're also used in experiments involving biological weapons. I guess the Communists didn't get the memo on human rights.

Now we hear that the journalists may have actually been kidnapped and forcibly taken to North Korea. Anyway, they are being used as political prisoners to try to force this administration to give more concessions and American money to North Korea.

North Korea is starving. The Communist regime is bankrupt. But they want to be able to sell nuclear technology to terrorist nations, so they're holding these journalists ransom until they get their way.