

I talked to a Chevrolet dealer who was negotiating with a GMC dealer across the street. The GMC dealer and the Chevrolet dealer were right across the street from one other, and General Motors said, Why don't the two of you combine? And so the two companies were negotiating with one another on who would buy the other out, and it was a \$3 million to \$5 million purchase. Well, they couldn't reach agreement before the deal with General Motors took place, and they were going to close a whole bunch of dealerships. So what they did is they decided to close the dealership of the Chevrolet dealership down even though he was very profitable.

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And what that means, simply, is the GMC dealer across the street is going to get this Chevrolet dealership that would have sold for \$3 million to \$5 million to him for nothing. And so this dealer is going out of business, and it's going to cost him \$3 million to \$5 million because they closed his dealership. He sold as many cars as they asked him to sell, he was up to snuff on his payments and everything else that was requested by the company, and they knocked the legs out from under him as well, and it cost him \$3 million to \$5 million.

There was a GM dealer that came to me at this meeting the other day, and he had eight dealerships, and they closed one of them down. It's going to cost him several million dollars. But he can't complain publicly because GM is going to be closing other dealerships down in the future, and he's afraid if he says anything they will close some of his other dealerships down and cost him more money.

You know, I just don't understand this. We have the government, the car czars, if you will, now taking control of the entire auto industry. They're forcing the executives of the companies out of office and replacing them with hand-picked people by our government through the car czar and the Auto Task Force. So the government is taking over the auto industry and closing these dealerships, putting hundreds of thousands of people out of work, closing thousands of dealerships across the country, and actually hurting the American auto industry's ability to sell cars when they're in competition with car companies around the world. It just doesn't make any sense to me.

So, once again, here we have the government taking over an industry, socializing the auto industry, and really killing an awful lot of the people who work in it—not to mention the restaurants and the stores that surround these car dealerships who have been in business as well, and it's going to cost them jobs.

Government control of the private sector just destroys the private sector. And they want to now take over our health care industry. They're taking over the banks. They want to take over

the energy industry with cap-and-trade, which is going to cost every family in this country \$3,000 to \$4,000 more per year for energy.

We don't need socialism in this country. We certainly don't need it. And here's an example, the car industry, of what happens when government takes over.

CAP-AND-TRADE ALTERNATIVE

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

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, today I had interesting discussions in Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina. They were entitled, "What's wrong with cap-and-trade and what's right with using free enterprise to solve the challenge that we have?"

So what's wrong with cap-and-trade? We came to pretty solid agreement on that, Madam Speaker. It's a massive tax increase in the midst of a recession; it's a Wall Street trading scheme that really would make any trader on Wall Street that led us into this recent debacle blush; and it's really a proposal that's going to end up decimating American manufacturing because the tax on energy would be applied just domestically, it wouldn't be applied to imported goods. And the result is that we would export productive capacity from the United States to other countries that don't have a price on carbon. So it's a real problem, and it is something that we have got to stop in order to get to the better.

The better that we discussed is a proposal—actually, a bipartisan proposal at this point—that JEFF FLAKE and DAN LIPINSKI and I are supporting, which is a plan to basically do a revenue-neutral tax swap. It involves changing what we tax and causing free enterprise to fix the problem that some are trying to fix with cap-and-trade; but as I just pointed out, there are real problems with cap-and-trade.

So the way this revenue-neutral tax swap would work is we would reduce taxes on something we want more of, which is payroll, by reducing the payroll tax. That's 6.2 percent from the employer and 6.2 percent from the employee on the first \$106,800 worth of income. We would reduce that, and in an equal amount swap the tax, if you will, in an equal amount put a tax on carbon dioxide emissions. The result would be no additional take to the government, so it's revenue neutral. It would just free of from taxation something you want more of, which is income and labor and industry, and impose a tax on something you want less of, which is carbon dioxide.

The point that I was making in Greenville and Spartanburg today is, even if you think climate change is a bunch of hoey and there is no need to reduce carbon dioxide, I think conservatives can jump at the opportunity to reduce taxes on income. Because if you

reduce set payroll tax, you free up employers to employ more people and you free up the employee to have more of their own money. This is something conservatives should be very excited about. Even if we were switching to, say, a tax on sweet gum balls or sycamore balls, or acorns, it would be better than taxing payroll.

The problem with taxing payroll is you're punishing work. So what we do is free up from taxation payroll, impose a tax on carbon dioxide, and watch the free enterprise system, with that price signal, change where we are such that we would fix the national security problem we have—which is great exposure to OPEC and its control of our oil markets—and we would also create jobs by creating new industries in new kinds of technologies, and we would clean up the air.

The point that I was making in these meetings in Greenville and Spartanburg is, even if you think climate change is hoey, still the small particulates in coal would cause you to want to take action. The cleaner alternative of nuclear power will come to the market when the market says, oh, coal is now paying the full freight of its cost. If it is, nuclear becomes possible and we start building nuclear power plants.

Madam Speaker, the key to this is getting the economics right. If we do that, we can fix this problem. But it starts with stopping this cap-and-trade because cap-and-trade isn't the way to fix this problem. The free enterprise system is the way to fix it. And to win the triple play of this American century we can improve the national security of the United States, we can create jobs, and we can clean up the air. Madam Speaker, I say we come together and get that done after we stop cap-and-trade.

CONGRATULATING HUGH GRANT FOR WINNING 2009 KEYSTONE CENTER LEADERSHIP AWARD

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

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the winner of the 2009 Keystone Center Leadership Award for Leadership in Industry, Mr. Hugh Grant, chairman, president, and CEO of Monsanto Corporation.

Keystone Awardees have contributed to society in ways that reflect the spirit and mission of the Keystone Center and have demonstrated a history of achievement with a strong sense of vision, a proven ability to motivate others, dedication to team work and consensus, and the drive and ability to initiate fundamental and long-term positive change.

I commend Mr. Grant's exemplary leadership and the 20,000-strong Monsanto team for their extraordinary efforts and positive influence on American agriculture, technological innovation, and generous contributions to

international health, development, and their continued commitment to combating hunger.

Monsanto, under Grant's leadership, proves that free enterprise is the most effective way to solve seemingly intractable problems like hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. Not only has Monsanto provided a sustainable food source for hundreds of millions of people, but they have given hope to people who have been denied a future for far too long.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Hugh Grant and saying thank you to the entire Monsanto team. You put the power of innovation and enterprise to work for the world's poorest peoples and demonstrate true American compassion.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today, along with my other colleagues, in honor of Caribbean American Heritage Month. This month marks the fourth anniversary of officially recognizing Caribbean American Heritage Month. And I want to applaud you, Madam Speaker, the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, for introducing the legislation and getting it passed in February of 2006. President Bush officially proclaimed it for the very first time in June of that year.

The efforts to get us to that point began long before, though, with the Institute for Caribbean Studies, which started observing June as Caribbean American Heritage Month in 1999. So I want to also take this opportunity to applaud the work and leadership of its president, Dr. Claire Nelson, of Jamaican heritage.

I also want to recognize the Carib News Foundation for its work over the years to bring Caribbean and United States leaders together to discuss issues of common interest over the past 14 years. They filled an important gap.

Recent attempts to officially bridge this gap began in 1997, when President Clinton traveled to Barbados where the Bridgetown Declaration was crafted. This important declaration affirmed our common resolve to fight crime, vi-

olence, corruption, drug and illegal drug trafficking while, as President Clinton said, "promoting open and fair trade, protecting the environment, strengthening education, spreading telecommunications, and helping Caribbean countries diversify their economies and become more competitive as well."

Upon his return, he submitted the Caribbean Basin Trade Enhancement Act, which Congress passed. The cooperation was further affirmed with the historic meetings held in June of 2007 between the heads of Caribbean governments and the Bush-Cheney administration and this Congress. This commitment was renewed and reinvigorated at the Summit of the Americas held in the Caribbean nations of Trinidad and Tobago in April of this year with the active participation and leadership of our President, Barack Obama, who set a new tone for our relationship with the region.

But the relationship has even predated the birth of this Nation. In 1751, our very first President, George Washington, reported to have had family connections in Barbados, traveled there with his brother for a health-related matter in November of 1751. They stayed 2 months, and he is said to have been enchanted by the island and the Caribbean.

Over the years, many Congressional Black Caucus members have worked tirelessly to raise awareness and keep us focused and invested in ongoing affairs in the Caribbean. We have done this through Chairman RANGEL's efforts with the Caribbean Basin legislation and other initiatives, Congresswoman WATERS, who worked so hard to save the banana industry and who was then Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She and I traveled to Barbados in 1997 for that historic meeting.

I also want to recognize the special work done by Congressman DONALD PAYNE, who is the founding Chair of the Friends of the Caribbean Caucus, and Congressman KENDRICK MEEK, Congressman GREGORY MEEKS, and of course Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE. But, truly, all of the Congressional Black Caucus members are champions of the causes of the Caribbean.

Last year, one of our great achievements, led by Congressman DONALD PAYNE and you, Madam Speaker, Congresswoman LEE, in one of those great efforts, PEPFAR was extended to all of the Caribbean for the very first time. Two months ago, health ministers and CARICOM leaders met to draft the 5-year plan which would build on the PANCAP, the Pan Caribbean Partnership, to address HIV and AIDS in this region. The Shirley Chisholm United States Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of 2009, introduced, again, by Congressional Black Caucus chairwoman and Madam Speaker LEE, is now working its way through Congress. It will help to build a stronger Caribbean workforce and promote greater

collaboration between the United States and the Caribbean, as well as a sharing of values and culture.

Madam Speaker, I do have a few colleagues here with me this evening, and I would like to yield some time to them so that they may bring some remarks about the special month that we're celebrating in which we are recognizing the contributions of people from the Caribbean to the United States.

So at this time, I will yield such time as she might consume to Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. I would like to thank the gentlelady for yielding. And I would like to associate myself with your comments, your remarks, your historical context for this Congressional Black Caucus' hour commemorating Caribbean American History Month. I want to thank you, my colleague, DONNA CHRISTENSEN, for all of your work and advocacy being part of the U.S. Caribbean, the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Caribbean American Heritage Month. I thank my friend, the gentlelady from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE, for her very hard work and her enduring commitment to the people of the CARICOM region and for ensuring that every June we bring recognition to the many contributions made by Caribbean Americans and people of Caribbean descent, and the issues facing the nations of CARICOM and the Caribbean American Diaspora.

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I have the honor of representing New York's 11th Congressional District, previously represented, in part, by Shirley Chisholm, the first African American Member of Congress and the child of Caribbean American immigrants from Barbados and Guiana.

Other prominent Caribbean Americans that we may be aware of or have known throughout our history includes such luminaries as Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, the founder of Chicago; Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, who was born in Nevis; actor and social activist Harry Belafonte; revolutionary Marcus Garvey; noted journalist Gwen Ifill; Hazel Scott, the first woman of color to have her own television show; Malcolm X, revolutionary; our own Attorney General Eric Holder; former Secretary of State Colin Powell; super model Tyson Beckford; athlete and coach Patrick Ewing; boxer and athlete Lenox Lewis; and Wyclef Jean, performer and philanthropist. And the list goes on and on.

As a child of Jamaican immigrants, I have been an outspoken advocate for Caribbean Americans and Caribbean issues and concerns my entire public life and proudly carry forth my district's rich Caribbean heritage. The success of the Caribbean immigrant and their Caribbean American descendants has been evidenced in just about every field of endeavor.