

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, President Obama said from the outset that we need a bipartisan plan that creates jobs first and foremost. House Republicans are prepared to work with our new President on a plan that does just that. Why? Because Americans are looking for real solutions to the legitimate economic problems facing families and small businesses around our country.

Americans like Dan, a constituent of mine, who worked for 30 years for a company in my district. He was laid off last month when his company downsized. His wife e-mailed me recently saying, and I will quote, "We struggle, but we manage to pay our mortgage, not spend more than we have, and we have learned to cut back. Please stop the insanity of more taxpayers' money going out in the 'stimulus' handouts."

This is the first time that this couple has contacted my office. They didn't contact me because of the burdens they are facing. They contacted me because of the burdens this trillion dollar-plan will place on future generations. This couple has two college-age sons, both who were aspiring to have advanced degrees. In addition to the debt they will incur for their education, she's very concerned about the debt their sons will have to shoulder as a result of our actions.

Madam Speaker, there are men and women like this couple all across our country who deserve better than this \$1 trillion handout. It creates too few jobs, piles too much debt on our children and grandchildren, and includes too much wasteful spending.

In short, I don't believe that it meets President Obama's standard, a standard where he wants to preserve and create new jobs in America, as do Republicans here in this Congress.

My colleagues and I, I think, are offering a better solution—an economic recovery plan that will create twice as many jobs as the plan proposed by the House Democrats last week, in half the time and at half the cost. This fast-acting tax relief lets families, small businesses, homebuyers, and job seekers keep more of what they earn and, in fact, does create twice as many jobs.

After Wednesday's vote, President Obama said, "I hope that we can continue to strengthen this plan before it gets to my desk." Well, on behalf of the couple that contacted me in my district, and millions of other Americans, let's hope that the Senate can do a better job and, when we get to conference, have a bill that really will help American families and small businesses create new jobs in America and heal our ailing economy.

A REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Our Nation is in a recession, and millions of Americans are hurting. Many have lost their jobs. Many more millions worry that they will be next. It is absolutely right that our new President and this Congress take decisive action to stimulate this economy. But the legislation brought to the floor last week and the legislation being considered on the Senate floor this week in the form of the Democrat stimulus bill is not the answer.

Last week, House Republicans unanimously rejected the so-called stimulus bill that was brought to the floor by Democratic leadership, and we urge our Senate colleagues to do likewise. House Republicans unanimously opposed the Democrat spending bill for a variety of reasons. But, among them first, the bill that Democrats brought to the House was not about stimulating this economy, but more about stimulating government and debt.

It included wasteful government spending that has nothing to do with creating jobs. As I asked on this floor last week, what does \$50 million to the National Endowment for the Arts have to do with creating jobs in Indiana? What is \$400 million for climate change research going to do to move people from the unemployment line to the factory line?

In legislation before the Senate this week, \$20 million for the removal of small- to medium-sized fish passage barriers; or \$25 million to rehabilitate off-roading trails for ATVs is not going to put this economy back on track. And it was exactly that kind of wasteful government spending that resulted in unanimous Republican opposition last week.

Well, the average American is starting to catch on. We are starting to see support for this so-called stimulus bill eroding around the country. And leading economists are catching on as well. As the Republican leader just said moments ago, we opposed this bill unanimously, not just for what was in it, but for what wasn't in it.

The Republicans have what we believe to be and what history proves is a better solution to get this economy moving again. Republicans proposed a broad range of fast-acting tax relief proposals that would bring immediate relief to working families and small businesses, giving the American people and American families more of their hard-earned dollars to get this economy moving again.

The bill that House Democrats brought to the floor last week was not then about stimulating the economy. Under the guise of stimulus, House Democrats brought a partisan bill to the floor. It was really more of a wish list of longstanding liberal priorities that have little to do with putting our economy back on its feet.

Now, having originally promised that a stimulus bill would be temporary and

targeted, House Democrats brought to the floor this week, and the Senate is considering now, legislation that is more about, as the Speaker said, and I quote her with great respect, "taking America in a new direction."

Well, respectfully, Madam Speaker, I thought what we were doing was trying to pass a temporary stimulus bill that would create jobs, not reorder all the priorities of the Federal Government along liberal Democratic lines.

The truth be told, not only are the American people catching on about this bill, but many leading economists are. Some 300 economists recently published a full-page newspaper advertisement opposing this bill. Conservative economist Martin Feldstein, who last year declared his support for a fiscal stimulus bill, came out late last week describing the legislation that came before the House as "an \$800 billion mistake."

Feldstein wrote, I believe in the Washington Post, "The problem with the current stimulus bill is not that it is too big, but that it delivers too little extra employment and income for such a large fiscal deficit. It is worth taking the time to get it right."

House Republicans, leading economists, and average Americans are opposing this so-called stimulus bill for one reason, and one reason only. It won't work. And it's a disservice to taxpayers.

More big government spending on a liberal wish list of programs won't cure what ails the American economy. And House Republicans do have a better solution—fast-acting tax relief for working families and small businesses. And, according to analysis and economic models used by President Obama's own economic advisors, when those models are applied to our plan, the results are clear—not the 2 million to 3 million jobs that the Democrat plan boasts that it will create in the next several years. Rather, 6 million jobs would be created under the Republican proposal, at half the cost. Twice the number of jobs at half the cost.

Better solutions. Let's put politics aside and do what is best for the American people.

 STIMULATING THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I want to thank my colleagues for the great information that they have shared today and how they have laid out the issue that we're dealing with, but I want to add some more to that.

Yesterday, the Treasury Department announced that it will need to borrow \$493 billion in the first 3 months of 2009, the highest amount ever borrowed in the first quarter. This is on top of the record debt racked up in the last

quarter of 2008—\$569 billion. It is important to emphasize here that the only money the Federal Government has is that which it takes from tax-paying citizens or borrows from foreign countries. We have never in the history of our Nation taken on this much debt this quickly. For those keeping track at home, that's \$1.062 trillion in 6 months. Did I mention that this is more than \$1 trillion in new debt in a mere 6 months does not include the so-called "stimulus" plan, which now costs \$900 billion? Folks, the Federal Government is broke. Every single dollar of new spending is added to our national debt. And how do we pay back this debt? That's easy. New taxes. Higher taxes.

In the meantime, we keep hearing how this borrow-and-spend stimulus plan is going to quickly create jobs. How does upgrading the Department of Agriculture's computers create jobs quickly? Or \$650 million for DTV coupons, or a billion for Census follow-up in 2010 or \$7 billion for a GSA fund that is already running a surplus?

Well, this kind of spending doesn't create jobs. It creates debt. It has no business in legislation billed as "job creating." Some of this spending may actually have merit, but it belongs in the budget process, not tacked onto a must-pass bill because it couldn't stand a chance in the actual budget.

This kind of back-room deal-making and wasteful spending is just the kind of Washington business-as-usual that Americans are tired of. If we are going to have an economic recovery package, let's do it right.

Despite our colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying we do not have a plan, Republicans have proposed a package of tax relief and unemployment assistance that will create twice the jobs at half the cost. Let me repeat that. The Republican proposal creates twice the jobs at half the cost. And the GOP plan addresses the underlying cause of our economic distress in the U.S. housing market.

I want to thank my colleague from Virginia, ERIC CANTOR, for helping to spearhead this plan and for setting up a helpful Web site that discusses the Republican economic recovery plan at republicanwhip.house.gov. This plan will help small businesses start hiring and will get the housing market moving again. And it acknowledges that every dollar the government borrows today must be paid back by our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren tomorrow.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, may the gifts of Your Presence, unity and peace, inspire aspirations of greatness in the people of the United States and in their representatives serving here in the 111th Congress.

With a great diversity of backgrounds and opinions, while facing wedge issues that so easily divide people, encourage all Americans to work hard at understanding complex problems with depth and clarity of thinking. Teach them to be patient and persevering in their relationships with others, and help them to transcend differences by praying for one another.

Then, both in dialogue and debate, develop within Your people better skills of listening. I am sure even You, Lord, would prefer us to simply say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening," rather than go on and on with our complaints and petitions. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, this week we have yet another opportunity to ensure that every child in America has access to health care. And during these tough economic times, it is even more critical that we move quickly and send the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to President Obama for his signature.

In my State of North Carolina, there are about 240,000 children enrolled in the program. But we still have an estimated 296,000 children who lack health insurance. By passing this bill, Madam

Speaker, we can reduce that number by 46 percent. Our children need health insurance now.

I hope you will join me in approving this important bill this week when it comes to the floor.

BAILOUT BONUS BANDITS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, more fallout continues from the bailout. Congress gave the people's money to AIG last year in the amount of \$152 billion. AIG has decided to spend \$400 million on bonuses for 400 executives. That sounds like about \$1 million per executive to me.

But they aren't alone. The Wall Street fat cats demanded and received \$350 billion in bailout money, and gave \$18 billion to their big-shot executives. Do you know that those are the same executives that helped get us in this current economic mess? It looks like they are being rewarded for bad conduct.

But the real problem is the bonus money doesn't belong to AIG or the "Wall Street Banking Boys Gang." It's one thing for a free market, private company to spend their money any way they choose. That's capitalism. But the free enterprise system was altered when those companies started demanding and taking taxpayers' money. Most normal citizens who are scraping to make ends meet, like the Joe Sixpacks in America, don't like the way the bailout bandits are spending and wasting their taxpayer money.

Madam Speaker, when Big Business gets in bed with Big Government, in the morning, the government mistress will tell Big Business how to spend the money.

And that's just the way it is.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. There's talk now that the banks will receive an additional \$1 to \$2 trillion in bailout funds. That would bring the total amount to \$2.7 trillion, which equates to about a little bit more or less than \$9,000 per person. I want you to think about that in terms of the fact that there are 50 million Americans without any health insurance and another 50 million who are underinsured. Health care for the American people should be a defining purpose of our government. And yet, we are giving money to these corporations and these banks who won't create jobs, who won't save homes and who will hoard the money.

It's time that we had a universal health care system such as is provided in H.R. 676, the bill that I'm cosponsoring with JOHN CONYERS, that once and for all says that the health of the