

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 50 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

American people is a defining purpose of government.

We have to start thinking about the American people. They need a bailout. They need to be bailed out of their difficulties with insurance companies. They need to have a job. They need pension security. It is time to stand up for the people and stop these bailouts.

THE VETERANS' HERITAGE FIREARMS ACT

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

Mr. REHBERG. During World War II and the Korean War, veterans serving overseas often brought back firearms collected on the battlefield. These were trophies of their service, not tools for criminal activity. And yet, after fighting for the preservation of our freedom, a badly written law has made criminals out of American heroes. Unless weapons have been registered with the Federal Government, the veteran, or their heir, can be convicted of illegally possessing the firearm.

This is an offense of justice. That is why I have introduced the Veterans' Heritage Firearms Act, which provides a limited amnesty for veterans who possess these relics to register their firearms without fear of prosecution. This amnesty also extends to any lawful heirs who inherited these weapons.

It's time to stop treating our veterans like criminals. It's time to start treating them like the heroes that they are.

A DREAM TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, last week I received an e-mail from a constituent, Lori Adams, who runs the Silver Lake Country Market in Perry, New York. Her e-mail reads, "I thought owning a business would be a dream, but it feels more like a nightmare. I keep thinking we are gaining ground only to slide back. I've had to make tough choices to stay open. When I hear about the stimulus and the bailouts for people who made bad choices, I feel even more defeated. When is Washington going to realize it's the small businesses that are on the front-line of this crisis?"

This is an example of the countless messages I have received over the past weeks from families and small business owners struggling to survive and outraged by how Washington continues to spend their money without restraint. For every dollar this so-called "stimulus" devotes to tax relief for small businesses, Washington gets to keep \$6 to create new government programs.

We need a timely, fiscally responsible plan that helps small businesses innovate, creates good paying jobs and grows the economy for our families,

not adding to an already bloated Federal Government.

LET'S SUPPORT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday I spoke to some small business owners in South Carolina, including Betty Jackson at The Sunset Grill in West Columbia. They are concerned with the billions in spending some in Congress are proposing. They also know that we need to take action and create jobs. I was grateful to tell them that big spending is not the only solution. There are fiscally responsible solutions that put more money back into the pockets of taxpayers, help American businesses create jobs and help boost our housing market.

Congress does not have to choose between a big spending agenda and no action. We can create jobs while holding the line on spending. We can help small businesses without expanding government.

Our constituents go to work every day to make our communities wonderful places to live and to raise families. We must not forget, when we talk about billions of dollars in spending, that this is the taxpayers' money and not the government's money.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

SENATE COMPOUNDS WASTEFUL SPENDING

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is important that we continue to help the American people understand what is in this so-called "stimulus bill." The bill passed last week, but in addition to every Republican voting "no," there were 11 brave Democrats who also voted "no." That has not been told much on the news.

Here are some more facts about how the Senate, which is now debating the bill, has made this awful bill even worse. When the public knows the facts, it then can react and tell its Members what they should and shouldn't do. The Senate added \$88 million for ATV trails, park trails, fish and wildlife trails and fish passages. There is \$524 million to create 388 jobs in the United States through the State Department Capital Investment Fund. This equals \$1.35 million per job created. There is \$696 million for the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation, \$70 million for a support computer for climate research, \$34 million of renovations at the Department of Commerce and \$20 million for IT improvements to the Bu-

reau of Industry and Security. The American people are angry, and they should be.

□ 1415

WHERE DO WE BORROW IT FROM?

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, when we speak of running up \$2 trillion of debt to pay for this year of unprecedented spending, where does that money come from? We don't have it, so we borrow it. Where do we borrow it from? We'll borrow that \$2 trillion from the same pool of funds that would otherwise have been available for employers seeking to add jobs, or homebuyers seeking to buy homes or consumers seeking to buy new cars and appliances. But now that money won't be there for consumers or homebuyers or employers to borrow to expand the economy because government has borrowed it instead to increase government programs like the National Endowment for the Arts.

Madam Speaker, when are we going to stop hurting the economy and start helping it?

SO-CALLED ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, some people look at the huge, so-called economic stimulus bill and think it's a Christmas present. But the Federal Government is not Santa Claus. Elves are not producing this money. This money isn't free, and the American people will get the bill.

The \$1 trillion in spending and interest equals more than \$9,000 for every taxpayer. And the unprecedented deficit will inevitably hike inflation and damage the economy.

Only \$90 billion, or 12 percent of this spending spree, will stimulate the immediate creation of jobs which are needed now. Most of the spending doesn't occur for 2, 3 or 4 years.

It would be far more effective to provide tax incentives and investment credits to the small businesses of America that already create 70 percent of all the jobs.

FISCAL CONSERVATIVES

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, fiscal conservatives may be outnumbered today in the Congress of the United States, but we take our obligation to lead very seriously. We understand, with common sense, that each one of us as Americans are endowed