

of the aisle increased the spending and increased the deficit beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

So I appreciate your thoughts. I too want to help stop putting debt on the backs of my children and my grandchildren. We both share that. And we all need to work together in a bipartisan way to help this President. As he has said, his desire is to slash the national debt in half, and I think we're going to work together to make that happen.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Reclaiming my time, if the President only slashes it in half, it's still the highest deficit that we have ever had.

I am one who likes to look forward. I may have only been here 3 years, but the one thing I have seen, if you take the entire history since the creation of this country, there have been 44 administrations. If you just take the first 43, from George Washington to George Bush, and you add up all the amount of debt that was accumulating, and that's from the creation of this country to our battles with Britain, to World War I, to the Depression, to World War II, Katrina, Afghanistan, Iraq, Vietnam, Korea, the creation of a highway system, it is equal to the amount of debt that is going to be doubled. That is something that cannot be maintained. That is something that cannot be happening.

The way to get out of it, you have to control your spending and you have to create jobs. That's why the power of the idea needs to win at the end of the day.

So we will continue to come up with the ideas. We will continue to try to work in a bipartisan manner, and we will continue to hand them to you. But the only thing I ask of you is when you see something that would create twice as many jobs with half the cost, let's put people before politics, let's put America first, and let's move forward to the future.

Mr. CROWLEY. I would ask the gentleman, as a point of clarification, was that from George Washington to the beginning of George Bush's term or the end of George Bush's term?

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. It's to the end of George Bush's term.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday next for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

CMS GAG RULE

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, we are now on day 5 of the Obama administration's gag order barring Medicare Advantage plans from telling their enrollees about the benefit cuts that will result from the Democrats' health care bill.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services actually overturned a Clinton-era ruling that said "prohibiting such information would violate basic freedom of speech and other constitutional rights."

Yesterday, Ways and Means Republicans formally requested a hearing to investigate the CMS gag rule.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to get to the bottom of this and find out if the administration is politicizing Federal agencies to stop Americans from learning the truth about his policies.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE PLAN

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of attention to the fact that Members of Congress held town hall meetings during the month of August, and there was much discussion about the passion that was expressed there.

Well, it's now September, and we're still holding town hall meetings. I had one last Saturday in my district. And let me tell you the passion is still there.

The average citizen in my district looks to Congress to do the right thing. And they are not satisfied. They are not pleased. They are not happy in any way, shape, or form with respect to the Obama health care plan and its various versions here in the House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

They have asked me to convey to my colleagues the fact that they are concerned about the size of government, the cost of government, the size of taxation, and the amount of debt we're imposing on our children and our grandchildren. They want us to get serious about those things. They don't want us to give up on them.

By the way, they're not mobs. They're not un-American. They are the very essence of America. They come to my meetings in ones, twos and threes. They are everyday Americans wanting a responsive House of Representatives that recognizes simple truths.

□ 1200

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.N.: HAVEN FOR INTERNATIONAL TYRANTS?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Libya is about to get \$2.5 million in aid from the American taxpayers. And \$200,000 each is marked for foundations run by Omar Qaddafi's two kids.

Omar Qaddafi is an international terrorist. He gave the order for the bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. And then he led the cheers for the killer when he was returned to Libya. Men, women and children boarded that airplane headed for New York's JFK Airport. A Libyan official checked a suitcase with a bomb in it. The airplane exploded, killing 243 passengers and 16 crew members, mostly Americans. Eleven people on the ground in Scotland were killed when large chunks of the plane fell out of the sky and hit their town.

What are we doing giving this man and his family U.S. taxpayer dollars? Has America lost its way?

The United Nations is starting to look like the bar scene in the Star Wars movies. Murderers, thugs, and terrorists freely roam the halls, and they are asked to speak before the General Assembly. There was a time when the United Nations was a threat to tyrants, but now it seems like it is their home.

Omar Qaddafi said at the U.N. that Lee Harvey Oswald, the person who killed President Kennedy, was an Israeli spy. He called for a civil war in Iraq. He condemned the war on terror in Afghanistan, and he said the swine flu is a biological weapon created in laboratories. Can't tell who he blames that on, however.

Omar also said in his 100-minute rambling rant that we should call the United Nations Security Council the terrorist council, made up of the United States and other nations.

Omar's twin terrorist tyrant, Ahmadinejad, also had some choice things to say at the United Nations this week. The little fella from the desert of Iran said that Israel is committing genocide. He said that capitalism has caused all of the misery in the world. The tiny tyrant also praised himself for his glorious election this year. You know, Mr. Speaker, that is the election where he and his government beat and killed unarmed peaceful protesters that opposed him.

He says the Holocaust is a myth. He wants the destruction of Israel and the United States, and he is building nuclear weapons. Who do you think those weapons are for? And what is the United States' reaction? Well, we canceled our missile defense system in Poland, a defense system that was to protect the United States from intercontinental ballistic missiles from Iran. And our Polish allies think we betrayed our commitment to them and Eastern Europe.

Mr. Speaker, has America lost its way?

And let's not forget Hugo Chavez, the tyrant of Venezuela who railed against the United States. He spoke also at the U.N. He is good buddies with the desert rat of Iran. And a New York district attorney recently said that there is evidence that Venezuela is setting up a Venezuelan missile crisis for the United States. Now isn't that lovely. Why do we send U.S. taxpayer money to the U.N. at all? Twenty percent of U.N. funds come from the United States, and the American public is asking: Why? Why do we finance the U.N. that embraces thugs, dictators, terrorists and everyone who hates America and Israel.

Mr. Speaker, since nobody else over at the U.N. has said it, I will, and I will say this without apology: The United States is the greatest country in the history of the world. We have more freedom and liberty than any people in the history of the planet. We have done more than any other nation to help some of the most ungrateful people around the planet in history.

We should not abandon our missile defense system in Poland. We should reevaluate our financial commitment to the United Nations, and we should never give American money to tyrants of nations in the hope of a blissful illusion of buying peace.

Mr. Speaker, has America lost its way? We shall see.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. NYE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### MEDICARE AND GAG ORDERS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Congressional Budget Office headed by Mr. Elmendorf, who is the director, told Senator BAUCUS that his plan to cut \$123 billion from Medicare Advantage, the program

that gives one-fourth of seniors private health insurance options, will result in lower benefits and some 2.7 million people losing their coverage.

Last week, Mr. BAUCUS ordered the Medicare regulators to investigate and likely punish Humana, Incorporated for trying to educate enrollees in its Advantage plans about precisely this fact.

Jonathan Blum, who is the acting director of a regulator office in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who used to work for Senator BAUCUS, said that a mailer Humana sent to its customers was "misleading and confusing to beneficiaries who may believe it represents official communication about the Medicare Advantage program."

Mr. Blum has also banned all Advantage contractors from telling their customers what Mr. Elmendorf has told Congress. Mr. Blum, as I said, happens to be a former senior aide to Mr. BAUCUS and a health adviser to the President Obama transition team. So for the record, CBO's Director Elmendorf says that cuts to Medicare Advantage "could lead many plans to limit the benefits they offer, raise their premiums, or withdraw from the program."

But they want to put a gag on the deliverers of this coverage because they are writing to their patients, to the people they are covering, and telling them that they are going to lose coverage if this bill passes, that Medicare Advantage is going to be gutted. Senator BAUCUS is now saying we want to put a gag in the mouths of people who are providing this coverage so they can't tell the senior citizens of this country that they are going to lose Medicare Advantage coverage.

That is a violation of the First Amendment. And, secondly, I don't know of any rule that would allow Senator BAUCUS to do this. This is absolutely a terrible thing. And Mr. Blum doesn't have the authority to do this. Mr. BAUCUS, Senator BAUCUS, does not have the authority to do this, and yet they are gagging the health care providers, the people who are insuring these people and providing coverage, by saying you can't tell them that they are going to lose Medicare Advantage.

The plan of Mr. BAUCUS and other plans here in the House and the Senate are going to cut \$500 billion out of Medicare, and most of it is coming out of Medicare Advantage and they are trying to keep the seniors in this country from knowing it until they get the job done. That is criminal.

First they violate the First Amendment rights of these companies. And, second, they gag them and threaten them with criminal prosecution or some kind of penalties if they don't adhere to what Senator BAUCUS or Mr. Blum says. And then they don't let the American people, the seniors who vote more than anybody else, know that they are going to lose Medicare Advantage and they are going to take \$500 billion out of Medicare coverage.

Seniors need to know this, and yet they are gagging the people who are trying to get the facts out. This is just dead wrong. It should not happen. This is government control in its worst form, and it is something that we should not tolerate.

In addition, I want to read into the RECORD a letter that I got from Dr. Ned Masbaum, who is a forensic psychiatrist in Indianapolis, and he wrote this about the American Medical Association:

"Dear Congressman Burton,

"Thank you for your very well-thought out letter. When I heard about the new AMA position supporting socialized medicine, I felt a sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach. I have been a member of the AMA for over 40 years. Unfortunately, it has gradually become a leftist political cheerleader with the usual pro-abortion and anti-Second Amendment drivel. However, this illiterate position for socialized medicine betrays its own members and the American citizenry. It is so blindsided that it also eliminates the need for the very existence of the American Medical Association. If we all become serfs for the government, we no longer need a formerly scientific professional organization.

"With the AMA headquarters in Chicago, the AMA president and his ilk must have been polluted with Chicago-style politics and their brains have turned to mush.

"This morning, I had a lengthy teleconference concerning the issue with the executive vice president of the Indiana State Medical Association, James G. McIntire, J.D. Apparently ISMA has not yet taken any position. I have also written a letter to the president of the AMA, a copy of which is enclosed, advising my opposition and the intent to resign as a member.

"Please keep up the good fight."

This is the kind of information that needs to get out to Americans. Seniors need to know they are going to lose coverage and \$500 billion is going to be cut out of Medicare.

CARMEL, IN,  
July 22, 2009.

Re your letter of 20 July concerning the AMA.

Hon. DAN BURTON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BURTON: Thank you for your very well thought out letter. When I heard about the new AMA position supporting socialized medicine, I felt a sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach. I have been a member of the AMA for over 40 years. Unfortunately, it has gradually become a leftist political cheerleader with the usual pro-abortion & anti-second amendment dribble. However, this illiterate position for socialized medicine betrays its own members and the American Citizenry. It is so blindsided that it also eliminates the need for the very existence of the AMA. If we all become serfs for the government we no longer need a formerly scientific professional organization.

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