

much looking forward to working with him on that.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the distinguished Senator from Oregon and appreciate his remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

OBAMANOMICS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the richest nan in the world, the new king of the hill. No, you won't find this financial titan in Forbes magazine's list of the world's billionaires. He hasn't started a mega-computer software company like Bill Gates. Nor has he made shrewd investments like Warren Buffet or even inherited this money like the Walton family of Wal-Mart fame.

No, the billions amassed over the years by those business magnates are chump change compared to that collected by the current champ, who has ascended to the title of the world's wealthiest man by collecting trillions of dollars in a mere 155 days.

He now owns two auto-manufacturing companies, oil sands and offshore drilling leases, interest in several hundred banks, and enough real estate holdings to make Donald Trump envious. In fact, managing this vast portfolio has become too time-consuming and too much for him to handle. He recently said, "I don't want to run auto companies. I don't want to run banks. I've got two wars I've got to run already. I've got more than enough to do. So the sooner we can get out of that business, the better off we're going to be."

I doubt even John D. Rockefeller, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Andrew Carnegie or William Randolph Hearst could ever have dreamed about having that amount of control. But despite his professed eagerness to divest himself of his newfound, unprecedented wealth, the reigning world's richest man, President Obama, seems reluctant to relinquish his vast holdings.

Indeed, I am beginning to think he actually enjoys this—well, what I call "Obamanopoly." Soon, he will own all the railroads, all the utilities, Park Place and Boardwalk. And when taxpayers pick up the yellow or orange cards from the stacks, they will have to dig deeper in their wallet to fund this high-stakes Obamanopoly.

OK, I realize that our President does not really personally own all this wealth. But while I am speaking tongue in cheek, my remarks do point to the very real serious consequences of an ever-expanding U.S. Government. I care a great deal for the President, and I don't want to personally offend him. But I think the point is made.

We are moving toward what I have referred to as the "Europeanization of America." On the spectrum between anarchy and a centralized government invested with complete power and control, our current government is so far removed from the limited government

that our Founding Fathers intended that they must be rolling over in their graves.

There is method to this unprecedented meddling in the private sector. As the government acquires more auto manufacturers, banks, insurance companies and other private-sector businesses, we become more dependent on the government. The Obama administration's answer to everything is to take control of companies, increase regulation and spend, spend, spend. They are now talking about taxing and taxing more.

Not only does the government have more control over the economy, but it has a freer rein to regulate and restrict free speech. Modern political thought is, in many respects, based on a distinction between the public and private spheres. Liberal democracies—using the word "liberal" in the classical sense—have historically been based on the notion that there are realms that are ripe for government involvement—the public sphere—and others that should remain unaffected by government—the private sphere.

This was one of the central ideas behind the drafting of our Constitution and the founding of our Nation. Indeed, the Founding Fathers were all too aware of the problems that could arise under a government that is too expansive and too powerful. As James Madison, one of the main architects of the Constitution argued, "All men having power ought to be distrusted to a certain degree."

Because of this inherent distrust of those holding power, our Nation's Founders devised a government that was allowed to exercise its enumerated powers. As Alexander Hamilton stated, when it comes to framing a desirable government, "[Y]ou must first enable the government to control the governed, and in the next place, oblige it to control itself." He also said, "Indeed, the genius of our Constitution is that it provides an effective government that is subject to strict limitations."

But it isn't only in the Constitution that we can observe the relevance of this public-private distinction during the Founding Fathers' generation. The beliefs, practices, and culture of that era further demonstrate just how separate and distinct our nation has traditionally viewed the public and private spheres. French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, in observing the uniqueness of American government and culture, described how private citizens in America addressed needs in their communities. He stated:

When a private individual mediates an undertaking, however directly connected it may be with the welfare of society, he never thinks of soliciting the cooperation of the Government, but he publishes his plan, offers to execute it himself, courts the assistance of other individuals, and struggles manfully against all obstacles. Undoubtedly he is often less successful than the State might have been in his position; but in the end the sum of these private undertakings far ex-

ceeds all that the Government could have done.

I believe this spirit of private determination still exists in our country today. I have argued many times that the American people are the most inventive and innovative people in the world. However, in an era when the President can impact huge portions of the American economy, that spirit is given little opportunity to work its magic in the private sector. Indeed, James Madison argued that "there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." I wonder how Madison would have viewed some of our current President's recent decisions.

Ours is a government that from the very beginning has been limited in what it can do and how far in may encroach into the private sphere. Those limits are not defined by the Nation's economic circumstances or political winds. There is not an exception in the Constitution that allows popular Presidents to exercise more power than unpopular ones. Ours is the oldest functioning constitutional republic on the planet, not because of change, hope, or adaptation, but because of consistency and respect for the limitations imposed upon our institutions. I believe many of the times we have struggled have been those in which we have strayed from the principal obligation that our Constitution imposes on the Federal Government—the obligation to control itself.

One such example—one often cited by the administration and my Democratic colleagues to justify the steps the President has taken—is the Great Depression. Some may say the Great Depression was the last time we saw such an expansion of government power. It came in the form of FDR's New Deal, which is now the model for how the majority and this President intend to remake the Federal Government and our economy. They credit the New Deal with ending the depression and claim that this new expansion will cure our current economic ills.

I hope, for our country's sake, that they are wrong.

What New Deal proponents don't mention when making their case, is that even with Roosevelt's policies in place, the depression lasted for over a decade and, in fact, deepened in the late 1930s. Coincidentally—and I use that word sarcastically—the New Deal's supposed effect wasn't fully realized until the United States entered World War II.

Now, I don't mean to argue that our current situation is directly comparable to the Great Depression. I would say it is far from it. But I do hope that the Democrats' long-term plan isn't to keep expanding the Federal Government for several years, wait for an unforeseen outside calamity to take place and rescue the economy, and then take credit for the recovery.

To be sure, Roosevelt's New Deal was not without some success. But it largely failed to restore prosperity to the American economy because instead of implementing policies aimed at fostering economic growth and expansion, it was designed as a top-down restructuring of the economy—making the government the major decisionmaker in economic matters. The results were labor policies designed to preset wages at levels preferred by unions, regardless of market conditions; trade and manufacturing policies designed to set production at levels other than those set by supply and demand; and taxes on businesses that stifled growth and prevented them from hiring new employees.

Sadly, the President and the majority leadership in Congress have apparently decided that despite all these shortcomings, the New Deal should be repeated. We have seen it in the President's efforts to seize control of auto companies, only to hand it over to his labor union supporters. We see it in proposals here in Congress to use the bankruptcy code to basically preset interest rates for lenders—and at a time when credit is already getting harder to come by. And we are seeing it in their proposals to raise taxes on small businesses despite harsh economic times and rising unemployment.

President Obama may be the richest man in America these days, but he is doing so on the back of the American taxpayers. If history is any indication, his efforts will not leave anyone else in America any richer or better off.

It is not hard to find examples of the government growing at an exceptionally fast pace. Just by looking at the number of government employees as a percentage of America's population, one can easily see how we have increased the size of the government. In 1815, the U.S. numbered 8.3 million people, 4,837 of which were government employees. In other words, only about one-twentieth of 1 percent of Americans worked for the government. In 2007, our Nation numbered 281 million Americans, 2.7 million of them government workers. That is nearly 1 percent of the population, or about 20 times the number of government employees in 1815. That percentage will certainly increase, given this President's budget, which contains 121 new government programs.

Another indication of the growth of government power can be illustrated through the amount of government spending. Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development figures show that government spending in the U.S. is on the rise, comparable with that of many European countries. In fact, government spending has decreased in most European nations, while it has increased in the United States.

In France, for example, government spending is close to 50 percent of GDP, while England's government spending is roughly 44 percent of GDP, and Ger-

many's is 45 percent of GDP. In the United States, Federal Government spending has been around 20 percent. However, to accurately compare the U.S. to European nations, it is necessary to include State and local spending.

Once that is factored in, U.S. Government spending exceeds 37 percent of GDP, and that is before President Obama's stimulus package and budget for this year are taken into account. Thus, it is almost a forgone conclusion that by the end of this year, total government spending in the United States will approach that of many European governments. We have jumped way ahead from the 2008 figure, with the current figure on that chart, just barely behind the European countries.

If you take a look at President Obama's past 5 months in office, you will see the largest proposed 10-year spending increase in our Nation's history. We have a stimulus bill worth \$787 billion, or close to \$1.3 trillion if interest is taken into account. We have nearly exhausted the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program, and we have a budget proposal estimated to create a \$9 trillion deficit over the next 10 years. According to the Congressional Budget Office, that is what is going to happen.

To put that another way, Federal spending would be nearly 24 percent of our Nation's GDP. Government spending, alone, in 2009 will reach 27 percent. That is Federal Government spending alone. In 2009, it will reach 27 percent. When you add in State and local spending, that would put us nearly on par in total government spending with Germany. You can see from this chart, we are almost right there.

The American people, especially Utahans, are speaking out against this increase in the size of government. They are organizing "Tax Enough Already," or TEA, rallies around the country, and they are fed up with government bailout after bailout. They correctly wonder when or if this government expansion will ever stop.

That is why I have introduced two pieces of legislation to reduce government spending. One is called the Limitation on Government Spending Act, the LOGS Act, to limit government spending to 20 percent of GDP. The second is called the Stop TARP Asset Recycling Act, the STAR Act, and that is to prevent perpetual bailouts and to repay our national debt with returned TARP funds—don't just take them and spend more. Give them back to the taxpayers. Give them back to the government so we can pay down some of these deficits and some of these problems that are going on. They are two very important bills.

Let me discuss them again. The Limitation on Government Spending Act would limit government spending to the national historic average of 20 percent of GDP. While I believe government spending should be much lower than that, the least we can do is ensure

that government spending does not get out of control like the way it is currently headed.

Furthermore, the Stop TARP Asset Recycling Act would require all funds paid out of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP—and that amounted to \$700 billion—as to all those funds that are returned or paid back, they must be placed in the general fund to pay down the Nation's debt instead of being recycled back into TARP or more spending. Otherwise, TARP could become a revolving slush fund for the Treasury Department to bail out or seize companies. It is time we put an end to that.

The Obama administration's honeymoon is over. More Americans than ever agree we need to rein in this administration's runaway government spending. I might add, we better be prepared for massive taxation too. Their belief is to spend and tax and build the Federal Government at all costs. More Americans than ever agree we need to rein in this administration's runaway government spending.

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll, barely half of Americans are now confident that President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus measure will boost the economy. Think about it: barely half of all Americans. Furthermore, a USA Today poll reveals that a 51-percent majority disapproved of the job he has done in controlling Federal spending. Even President Obama agrees with this.

After the massive amounts of government spending he has signed into law, President Obama had the audacity to proclaim in an April 18 weekly address that we need to restore responsibility and accountability to our Federal budget. Who are we kidding? The President cannot put us on the course to a \$9 trillion deficit and then tell us we need to be more fiscally responsible. That is akin to someone killing their parents, and then complaining about being an orphan.

In the same address, the President continued this hypocrisy by saying, "We are on an unsustainable course" and "we need to restore the people's confidence in government by spending their money wisely." But wait. It gets even better. After signing into law a \$787 billion stimulus and a \$3 trillion deficit, he nobly stated:

If we want to spend, we need to find somewhere else to cut.

If you doubt the hypocrisy, you do not have to look further than the current health care debate or the cap-and-trade program he proposes to pay for by levying even more taxes. The closest the President has come to cut spending was by calling upon his Department heads to find \$100 million in savings—\$100 million. I guess you would call that "pocket change" we can believe in.

Enough is enough. No more spending. No more taxes. No more government expansion. We are not looking for a new New Deal. We are looking for

smaller, more efficient government. We are not looking for another government bailout. Whatever happened to: Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country?

Where “Obamanopoly” is concerned, it is time to say: Game over. It is time to pull the reins on this headlong rush toward the Europeanization of America. As former President Gerald Ford said:

A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away.

I am concerned about what is going on. I admit that President Obama is a very attractive human being. I personally like him. But I think this tax-and-spend set of policies we are seeing is taking our country down to the point of ruin, and we have to stand up and stop it. I have to tell you, if we do not do it, our kids and our grandkids and our great-grandkids—and Elaine and I have all three—are going to be paying a huge price.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, yesterday I was unable to be here for the consideration and final passage of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act because of a death in my family, but I would like to submit my support for this important legislation for the RECORD.

Whether it is a natural disaster or an act of terrorism, we must maintain the ability to respond quickly and efficiently to security challenges. No job is more important than keeping our citizens safe, and no one does that job better than our front line public safety officials. This legislation provides them with the resources they need.

My fellow Connecticut residents and I know first hand how important it is to be prepared. Just last week, officials from FEMA and DHS toured Farmington and Wethersfield after tornadoes toppled trees and utility lines, damaging buildings and closing roads. The worst of the storm hit Wethersfield square-on, severely damaging 70 houses and leaving several to be condemned.

It is rare that a tornado touches down in Connecticut, but it reminds us that disaster can happen anytime, anywhere.

At these moments of crisis, we must be assured that our communities have the first-responder personnel, training, and equipment necessary to keep families safe.

That is why I authored and continue to support the Assistance to Firefighters, FIRE, Grant Program to help equip and train firefighters, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, SAFER, Grant Program to increase the number of firefighting personnel.

We have made the Federal Government a partner to our Nation's fire-

fighters and because we did, we have delivered more than \$55 million to Connecticut communities in the last decade.

This year's bill includes \$420 million in SAFER grants—double the amount appropriated last year. This funding will help to stem the tide of layoffs so that our communities can be protected by an adequate number of dedicated firefighters.

In addition, I was pleased that the Senate accepted an amendment I offered that provides an additional \$10 million to the FIRE Grant Program. This increase will help more local fire departments equip and train first responders in Connecticut and across the country.

The bill also provides \$300,000 for the Coast Guard Academy in New London to begin work on Eagle Pier, which will be the permanent home of the EAGLE, the historic tall ship seized from Germany during World War II.

For more than 60 years, Eagle Pier was the home of the Coast Guard Training Vessel EAGLE, but in recent years, as the aging pier has fallen into disrepair, the EAGLE has been homeported at a pier at Fort Trumbull.

The EAGLE is a Connecticut icon and one of only two remaining commissioned sailing vessels in American Government service, the other being Boston's USS Constitution.

In addition to showcasing a rich history, the EAGLE serves as a modern day seagoing classroom for Coast Guard Cadets, providing hands-on maritime instruction to supplement the students' rigorous classroom workload.

This bill makes important investments in our domestic security, first responders, and the State of Connecticut, and I am proud to support it.

AMENDMENT NO. 1430

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today, I join with Senator SANDERS, my colleague from Vermont, and Senator CARPER, my colleague from Delaware, in supporting an increase in funding for two essential programs in the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security appropriations bill to support our brave firefighters: assistance to firefighter grants, AFG, and staffing for adequate fire and emergency response grants, SAFER.

The Assistance to Firefighter Grants, AFG, Program, commonly referred to as fire grants, helps fund the purchase of urgently needed emergency response equipment, apparatus, and training. The AFG Program relies on direct input from the locally affected fire services in the grant process to ensure funding reaches those agencies that are most in need. A fiscal year 2007 review of AFG by the Department of Homeland Security found this program to be 95 percent effective, the second highest rating of any program at the Department.

A recent needs assessment survey conducted by the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company found that 60 percent of respondents report that their local

fire department has delayed equipment replacement purchases due to the economic downturn, and 50 percent reported that if economic conditions do not improve in the next year, it could affect their ability to provide service to their communities. Local fire department and EMS agencies need fire grants to continue to ensure the safety of citizens across the country.

A fire company in McAdoo County, located in east-central Pennsylvania, used its fire grant to purchase an automatic defibrillator. The biggest killer of firefighters in the line of duty is heart attacks, and now the brave men and women at McAdoo Fire Company are better protected as they risk their lives every day to help those in emergency situations.

SAFER grants assist fire departments in the hiring of career firefighters and the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The single most significant challenge facing volunteer fire service is recruitment and retention. Over the past two decades, the percentage of volunteer firefighters under the age of 40 has shrunk from 65 percent to 50 percent. The SAFER Grant program was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, “front-line” firefighters available in their local communities. SAFER grants enhance the ability of local fire departments' to comply with staffing, response and operational standards.

The Center Township Volunteer Fire Department, located in western Pennsylvania, received a SAFER grant in March of 2009. With that funding, they can recruit more volunteer firefighters and retain those who already give so generously of themselves in efforts to protect and help others. SAFER grants are particularly beneficial to municipalities that are growing by expanding the number of firefighters in conjunction with increased population growth and greater housing development. I am proud of the courage and self-sacrifice of volunteer firefighters in my home State and across the Nation and want to ensure that the Federal Government supports their dedication.

This amendment offers critical funding assistance to emergency first responders and ensures that the safety of our citizens remains a national priority.

COMMENDING NORM COLEMAN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to speak in honor of the service of my good friend, Senator Norm Coleman. Senator Coleman was among the more thoughtful and intelligent Senators that I have known. His presence in this Chamber will be sorely missed.

Senator Coleman came to the Senate with more insight into the lives and needs of his constituents than most obtain after years of service in Congress. He was elected mayor of St. Paul, MN,