

Crowley for his lifetime of service and salute him as he retires after 28 years of honorable service in the U.S. Army.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,041,849,923,645.94.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,403,424,177,352.14 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE UAW

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the dedicated service of Ron Gettelfinger, the outgoing president of the United Auto Workers.

As UAW president for the last 8 years, Ron worked tirelessly to renew America's manufacturing sector, and move American manufacturing forward with focuses on advanced technology and renewable energy development.

During a time when American manufacturing was on the decline, and the American economy began sinking into the deepest recession in generations, Ron fought hard to keep jobs here at home, and was a leading voice for workers' rights.

Whether pushing for a fair wage or standing up for expanded access to health care, Ron Gettelfinger has been an unwavering advocate for all of America's working families. He understood that the middle class and manufacturing are the backbone of our Nation's economy and the root of America's prosperity.

His leadership will be missed.

NO, GOP, YOU DON'T GET THE CAR KEYS BACK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following article: "No, GOP, you don't get the car keys back" by Gene Lyons of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette as printed in The Baytown Sun, May 25, 2010.

One minor mystery of the Obama administration is whether the president has actually

believed that the nation's most intractable problems could be solved by the wonder-working power of bipartisanship and the emollient balm of his personality. He wouldn't be the first politician whose ego convinced him he could sweet-talk his bitterest opponents.

Many Democrats think that the White House's ultimately futile quest for Republican health care votes only gave GOP imaginers more time to frighten gullible voters with falsehoods about "death panels" and such, weakening public support.

Until quite recently, it's been much the same with jobs and the economy. Despite unanimous Republican opposition to the administrations' \$787 billion stimulus bill and universal predictions of doom, the White House has often acted as if the party's reasonable leadership would eventually return to the politics of negotiation and compromise.

Instead, we've seen the GOP increasingly dominated by its irrational Chicken Little wing, seeing grim portents and predicting doom. Continuing their party's decades-long war on Arithmetic, Republicans act as if the highest form of patriotism is to demand tax cuts even as a USA Today analysis documents that "Americans paid their lowest level of taxes last year since Harry Truman's presidency . . . Federal, state and local taxes—including income, property, sales and other taxes—consumed 9.2 percent of all personal income in 2009, the lowest rate since 1950, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reports." The historic average has been 12 percent.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the U.S. economy generated 290,000 jobs in April, the strongest month in four years. That brings new jobs created in 2010 to 573,000.

And how did GOP savants respond to the good news? Citing the unemployment rate, House Minority Leader John Boehner called it "disappointing news . . . Washington Democrats have no coherent agenda to create jobs, and no interest in doing anything but continue to spend money we don't have on 'stimulus' programs that don't work."

Don't work? The National Journal's Ronald Brownstein puts things in perspective: "If the economy produces jobs over the next eight months at the same pace as it did over the past four months, the nation will have created more jobs in 2010 alone than it did over the entire eight years of George W. Bush's presidency." It's a fact. Should current growth persist, the U.S. economy will gain roughly 1.7 million jobs this year. From 2001 through 2008, the Bush economy generated about 1 million.

Of course with 15.3 million Americans out of work, we're far from being out of the woods. Indeed, the nation's quickening economy has actually led to a slight uptick in the unemployment rate, as thousands who'd given up seeking work rejoined the labor market. But we can definitely see a path to greater prosperity.

Meanwhile, Republicans keep baying at the moon. On a recent "Fox News Sunday," former House Speaker Newt Gingrich gravely announced that "The (Obama) secular-socialist machine represents as great a threat to America as Nazi Germany or the Soviet Union once did."

Even host Chris Wallace was taken aback, asking "Mr. Speaker, respectfully, isn't that wildly over the top?" Gingrich didn't think so.

A sane political movement would keep a prating coxcomb like Gingrich off television. Whether Newt actually believes this rubbish, or is merely following the Tea Party fife and drum corps around the bend, strikes me as of little interest. Politically, it's pointless to

reason with crazy people—make-believe or real.

Speaking recently in Buffalo, president Obama signaled that maybe he gets it. "When I took office," he said "we were losing 750,000 jobs a month. . . . I had just inherited a \$1.3 trillion deficit from the previous administration, so the last thing I wanted to do was spend money on a recovery package, or help the American auto industry keep its doors open, or prevent the collapse of Wall Street banks whose irresponsibility had helped cause this crisis. But what I knew was if I didn't act boldly and I didn't act quickly . . . we could have risked an even greater disaster."

Then, at a Manhattan fundraiser, Obama came up with the perfect metaphor. He said that Republicans had made a calculated decision to oppose all White House initiatives, and to hope for the worst. "So after they drove the car into the ditch, made it as difficult as possible for us to pull it back, now they want the keys back. No! You can't drive! We don't want to have to go back into the ditch! We just got the car out!"

Give 'em hell, Barrack. Over and over until they get the message.

GRANTING SUBPOENA POWER TO COMMISSION INVESTIGATING BP DEEPWATER OIL SPILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support for H.R. 5481 and am proud to be an original cosponsor.

I'd like to commend Rep. CAPPS and Rep. MARKEY for their leadership on this issue.

The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling must have subpoena power.

Last week, BP CEO Tony Hayward was anything but forthcoming in his answers before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

And through Congressional investigations, we have already learned that standard methods were not followed by BP and that shortcuts were taken to maximize profits at the expense of safety.

The Commission must have subpoena power and BP must be held accountable for the consequences of their unsafe approach.

We must take the necessary actions on behalf of the American people to ensure that reckless and careless decisions at the expense of our environment, our workers, and our economy are forever abandoned.

THANKING RUSSELL HENLEY, ERIK COMPTON, AND HUDSON SWAFFORD FOR THEIR FINE REPRESENTATION OF UGA AND THE STATE OF GEORGIA AT THE 2010 U.S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank three members of The

Bulldawg Nation who not only competed well at the 2010 U.S. Open Championship, but also represented our great state and flagship university with class. All three have displayed the fortitude and dedication that makes them great role models for young golfers today. Hudson Swafford battled back from shoulder surgery to compete in this year's Open, Erik Compton has survived two heart transplants, and Russell Henley has worked hard to receive numerous awards, including being named Golfweek's National Player of the Year after finishing No. 1 in the final Golfweek/Sagarin Performance Index for 2009–2010. Henley also tied with one other player for low amateur status at the 2010 U.S. Open.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending these young men. I also hope Members of the House will turn their attention to the attached article—written by author and Bulldawg great Loran Smith—on the class they exhibited at this year's U.S. Open.

FANS LOVE THE DAWGS; DAWGS LOVE THE OPEN
(By Loran Smith)

PEBBLE BEACH, CA.—At the par-4 dogleg No. 8 hole at Pebble Beach, hard by the Pacific Ocean, a fan yelled out as Russell Henley passed through in the second round on Friday: "Go Bulldogs!"

This obviously was a fan who had become attracted to the play of Henley, playing partner Erik Compton and Hudson Swafford, who was in the group behind them. If he had shouted the familiar "Go Dawgs!" it would not have given him away as a new Georgia fan.

"It has been amazing," said Compton, who missed the cut with a two round total of 158, 16 over par. "You won't believe the number of times I heard someone shouting, 'Go Dawgs!' It made me feel like I was back in Athens."

Compton has something to do with the regard for the Bulldog contingent in that his compelling story continues to attract attention. How many times do the TV networks and the Washington Post show up to interview a guy who is 16 over par?

It would only be natural that a player who has had two heart transplants would attract media attention, even when he misses the cut. That he wants to follow his dream of playing the PGA tour with his considerable challenge piques the media interest.

"Anyone going through what he has gone through makes it something special in the fact that he is here," said Chris Haack, his coach at Georgia.

There is more to the story.

"I think Russell and Hudson (Swafford) have enjoyed themselves and have played to the crowd," Haack continued. "They have made a lot of friends for the University of Georgia."

It would be easy to spot Henley and Swafford with their Georgia golf bags and Bulldog head covers. But they were not all show. They displayed shotmaking savvy that engendered respect.

"That is the thing that I have enjoyed the most," Haack added. "I think they showed the other players in the Open that they can play golf and should be joining them out here someday."

Haack met a couple from Colorado during the first round. When he showed up on the second day they were following his guys.

"We became Georgia fans after talking to you and watching your players," the Colorado couple said. "They are very nice, and it is fun to see them having such a good time and enjoying themselves."

Early in the week, Haack was in the middle of his summer golf camp when Swafford

called him and said, "Coach you need to come out here and see this place. You just won't believe how unbelievable it is."

Haack was torn emotionally. He wanted to be here, but he felt responsible to the kids in his camp. At first, he hesitated.

"I haven't made any arrangements," Haack said. "I don't even have a place to stay."

With that, Swafford caused Haack to rethink his plans with an invitation to room with him. Haack discussed it with his campers, fully expecting to stay in Athens if there were any expressions of disappointment. The campers told him he ought to strike out for Pebble Beach.

"I was excited about coming out here when I got the call," Haack said. "The fact that two of our players are competing in the Open is special, and it doesn't happen very often. Might not ever happen again. The players arranged a player instructor pass for me which gave me access to the practice tee. I have had a great time. Who wouldn't enjoy Pebble Beach?"

In the first round, when Swafford was leading briefly at 2-under par, the text messages began streaming in. All Haack could think about was that his players had to be getting attention for a lot of recruiting prospects.

"These boys have done Georgia proud," he said. "I'm grateful that they wanted me to come out and join them."

In the background, the waves of the Pacific were crashing against the rocks along the 18th fairway and sea otters were cavorting energetically in the ocean. The Georgia contingent, enjoying themselves to the fullest, realize that there are few golf experiences to compare to the Open at Pebble Beach.

For Henley, there is something extra. He now has a chance to become the low amateur by nightfall Sunday.

HONORING RON GETTELFINGER
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP OF THE
UAW

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, when people think of achieving the American Dream, it is largely a middle class dream to which they aspire. People want to be able to have a stable job, own their own home, get their kids a good education, and maybe have a little left over to invest in a boat or an RV to relax on the weekends. They do not need to have the biggest house on the street or the most expensive car; they just want security for themselves and their family.

In my humble opinion, there is no place that embodies the ideal of the American Dream better than the state of Michigan. The reason for that, Mr. Speaker, is that for all the great inventions to come out of Michigan, perhaps the best is the American middle class.

Over the last 100 years, GM, Ford, and Chrysler were some of the largest companies in America and they provided jobs for millions over that time. People from around the country and around the world flocked to Detroit for a brighter future and a chance at achieving the American Dream.

As these companies prospered, the Big Three and the UAW collaborated for decades to provide good-paying jobs, health benefits, and a secure retirement of millions of workers

and their families not only in Michigan, but around the rest of the country as well. There were some bumps in the road in that relationship, but both management and labor prospered from the success of these companies. The result was the creation of the American middle class.

Unfortunately, the last few years have not been as kind to the domestic auto industry as the previous 100 years had been. We can talk about all the different reasons for that, but the point is that the president of the UAW was put in a position that no other UAW leader had ever been.

Ron Gettelfinger had to negotiate significant reductions in pay and benefits for his members, and then convince those members that these actions were necessary to save the companies on which their livelihoods depended. Some called it the most difficult job in Detroit—and they may have been right.

Ron Gettelfinger in some ways represents the perfect image for the UAW. He works hard. He doesn't seek out the media spotlight. He simply tries to do the very best he can for the men and women who have placed their trust in him. He is just like so many hard-working men and women of the UAW.

And in what was a true crisis that threatened the American Dream for so many, Ron Gettelfinger stepped up to the plate. As he had always done, he fought for the best interests of his members—which ultimately meant sacrificing some hard negotiated benefits so that the Big Three could survive.

And let there be no doubt, were it not for his practical and pragmatic leadership, the fate of the Big Three could have turned out very differently. The end of GM and the likely liquidation of Chrysler were very real possibilities. Instead, Ford, GM, and Chrysler are now moving forward in a profitable way that ensures future generations will also have an opportunity at achieving the American Dream through the auto industry.

As Ron moves on to a new chapter in his life, I wish him the very best and I thank him for the quiet courage and dedication he showed in a very difficult situation. All of us and all of Michigan owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

SUPPORTING THE IMPORTANCE OF
BRAILLE IN THE LIVES OF
BLIND PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in supporting the designation of July 2010 as "Braille Literacy Month," and in congratulating the National Federation of the Blind for seventy years of outstanding service. I am delighted that we have this opportunity to reflect on the progress made to services for the blind, and to build on this progress for the future of Braille literacy.

One-hundred-eighty years ago, the first Braille book was published—an accomplishment that has since allowed for millions of people, who are blind or of low vision, to read, write and communicate. For a person who is blind, Braille has become a basic skill that lies