

than the space shuttle, and the Aries rocket to send into space. But the alleged savings are more than offset by unintended consequences, because the industrial base that builds the rocket to put people towards the moon also builds the rockets to shoot down incoming missiles from North Korea, Iran, and other bad guys. And if you take the space component away, the defense side costs doubles, triples, maybe even more. And the Augustine report, which this administration is not following, noted this potential industrial-based problem, but NASA either refused to pay attention or chose to ignore the warning.

Regardless, the solution to escalating defense costs and to maintaining the dominance in space will be dependent upon fully funding the Constellation program. And, Mr. President, anything less than that is totally unacceptable.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, "Alice in Wonderland" is in American theaters now, but not even my fellow Kentuckian Johnny Depp could argue that down is up when we're talking about Federal taxes.

As you've heard this morning, even President Reagan's domestic policy adviser has said that taxes are considerably lower by every measure since President Obama became President.

This Congress has done an incredible job in lowering taxes for the American people. This year, the average refund for working families will be \$3,000, which is a 10 percent increase over last year. We are taking less and less out of the American working family's paycheck. In fact, the Federal taxes as a percentage of the national economy is at its lowest rate in nearly two generations.

No, only in a fantasy world like "Alice in Wonderland" could you claim that this Congress has not done a great job in lowering taxes for the American public, and we will continue to make sure that American families have the best standard of living we can possibly create.

DUBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention today to the DuBois Area Middle School and its outstanding level of excellence. It has been awarded, for the second time, the designation of the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch program.

The National Forum sponsors this program, and schools are chosen for the honor of achieving academic excel-

lence based on the rigorous 37 criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. They must be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

The school is one of 15 in the State and only 200 nationally ever to be honored as a School to Watch. It is the first school in the State to receive a redesignation for 2010 to 2013, and it first achieved the honor in 2007.

The National Forum looks at these schools as part of the effort to identify and learn from high-performing middle schools, and to have the Schools to Watch serve as resources for other schools. There are 18 States participating in the program.

To achieve this award, high-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their path towards excellence. They have a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decisionmaking.

And I want to congratulate Principal Mike Newman and the teachers, students, personnel, and parents that are responsible for this fine school.

LET'S PUT EVERY OPTION ON THE TABLE FOR BORDER SAFETY

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a trip to Arizona's border, and I thank the men and women at Customs and Border Protection for allowing me an inside look into their operations.

One the most striking things I saw is the toll that violence has taken on our border communities, and tensions are high. As the cartels become desperate to keep smuggling routes open, our border agents and their vehicles are hit with rocks, shot at, and assaulted on a nightly basis.

I am convinced that our border personnel need more equipment and manpower to prevent the violence and keep Americans safe. There is no silver bullet for fixing our border. A solution will require a comprehensive approach to security. We must put every option on the table, including the use of the National Guard.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush left this country with a \$1.3 trillion debt when President Obama came into office a year ago, and the economy was in free fall.

One of the things that was done over the course of the last year was to provide this country and working Americans with tax cuts across the board, \$800 billion in tax cuts, greatest tax cut for working Americans at any time in our history.

Now, the Republicans are complaining about everything under the sun, but they're not complaining about those tax cuts because they know they're real, whether it's earned income tax credits, college tax credits, accelerated depreciation for small businesses, net operating loss carryforwards all across the board. To this point, in Colorado, the average Coloradan receives \$1,096 in tax cuts this year above what they got before. That's to get this country back on track, not leave it in a financial disaster, as President Bush did.

We are moving in a new direction, and tax cuts are some of the things we're using to get this country back on track.

DON'T RETREAT FROM THE SPACE RACE

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama will be speaking this week at the Kennedy Space Center. And while the President's budget cancels the Constellation program, it also jeopardizes NASA's Michoud facility, which is the premiere manufacturing facility with the unique capabilities and skilled workforce that can't just be rebuilt again once it's wound down.

The United States should not retreat from the space race. It not only threatens our national security, but it also makes us beholden to foreign countries. In fact, just last week a Japanese newspaper said, "Once the leader in space development, the United States' space exploration policies are now drifting aimlessly." And they later went on to note that the clear winner from this retreat will be Russia.

Now, we should not cede our space exploration superiority to countries like Russia or anybody else. It jeopardizes our national security. It's a bad policy. The President needs to reconsider.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to travel around my southern Minnesota district talking to local business owners on the best ways to grow and revitalize our economy. Businesses, working families, including the Mayo Clinic centered in my district, talked about the improvements to the health care system was a good first step in moving that. They also explained to me that the policies on tax relief that you heard here help.

Now be very clear about this. If you think it's a game of he said, he said and back and forth and the pundits on TV can tell one way to think, this is a

very simple proposition. This Congress has cut taxes for the middle class more than any Congress in history.

Go do your own taxes, compare them side by side, apples to apples, and you'll see that's true. What that means is 98 percent of southern Minnesota has benefited from the working class tax cuts.

Families and students are eligible for up to \$2,500 in tax savings. First-time home buyers got \$8,000 to buy their homes—others, 6,500—revitalizing the housing market.

Taxpayers are eligible for making their homes energy efficient and growing the renewable economy. By enacting these job-saving incentives, small local businesses can grow and expand and inject consumer demand in the economy. Those are facts, not political myth.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO BELIEVE?

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, you know, Groucho Marx said years ago, Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?

I just have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, about the American people looking in this morning to hear Democrats talking about having cut taxes more than any other Congress in history.

Let me see if we can do this. They passed a budget with record taxes and spending, will add \$1 trillion to the national debt in the next 10 years. They passed a national energy tax called the cap-and-trade that will cause utility rates to go up on small businesses and family farms and businesses across this country by hundreds of billions of dollars. And we just passed ObamaCare with \$600 billion of tax increases. So now they're standing in front of the American people on the day before Tax Day, on the day before tens of millions of Americans are going to take to the street and say enough is enough, and expect you to believe that they've been cutting taxes.

Well, I think the American people know better. I think the American people know what we really need here in Washington, DC, is less talk and more action. Let's cut taxes across the board for working families, small businesses, and family farms. Get government under control. Get government out of the way. This economy will come roaring back.

□ 1045

CONSTELLATION

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, before I left for the Easter district work period, the Space and Aeronautics Sub-

committee held a hearing on the proposed changes to NASA's exploration program. The administration is advocating an extreme change by canceling the Constellation Program, which I feel would be a mistake especially since the Constellation Program has passed their preliminary design review, a significant technological milestone.

Back in 2008, the media portrayed thrust oscillation as a "serious concern," but the program design review, the team spent about a minute on the issue of thrust oscillation. Why? Because the problem had been solved.

To me, this is just another indication of why cancellation would be a mistake. It wouldn't just be throwing money, money already spent, \$9 billion, hardware already built, a workforce already in place, but a process in standard of doing business and fixing problems that NASA has developed for over 50 years.

America has been the leader in human space flight for half a century, and this administration's budget proposal puts that at risk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HAITI DEBT RELIEF AND EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY ACT OF 2010

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 4573) to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 3, line 4, after "provision" insert: "*before February 1, 2015*,".

On page 3, lines 18 and 19, strike "relief" and all that follows through "Haiti." and insert: "*relief and debt service relief for Haiti and, before February 1, 2015, to provide grants for Haiti*,".

On page 4, line 7, after "Haiti's future" insert: "*and future generations*,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the majority leader for bringing this bill to the floor promptly following its passage in the Senate, and I thank my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee, especially Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Ranking Member SPENCER BACHUS, and Subcommittee Chairman GREGORY MEEKS, for their support for this bill. I also thank my senior legislative assistant, Kathleen Sengstock, and the Financial Services Committee's senior professional staff member, Daniel McGlinchey, for their work on this bill.

I first introduced this bill after the terrible earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12. I have visited Haiti twice since the earthquake, and I have seen the widespread devastation it caused. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, that is USAID, 230,000 people were killed and 1.3 million people were displaced from their homes. There is a desperate need for clean water, food, shelter, and basic sanitation. Three million people, one-third of the country's population, were affected by the quake.

According to the U.S. Treasury Department, as of March 1, Haiti owed \$828 million to multilateral development institutions. This included \$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, \$284 million to the IMF, \$39 million to World Bank Group's International Development Association, and \$58 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. In addition, Haiti owed approximately \$400 million to other individual countries.

H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010, would free Haiti from the burden of international debt. The bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the U.S. executive directors at multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to seek to achieve three things: number one, the immediate and complete cancellation of all debts owed by Haiti to these institutions; second, the suspension of Haiti's debt service payments until such time as the debts are canceled; and, three, the provision of emergency, humanitarian, and reconstruction assistance to Haiti in the form of grants so that Haiti does not accumulate additional debts.

The bill also directs the Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State to use all appropriate diplomatic influence to secure the cancellation of all