

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee included in their investigation any activities that occurred prior to 2008.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee interviewed any Members in the course of their investigation.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee, in the course of their investigation, initiated their own subpoenas or followed the Office of Congressional Ethics recommendations to issue subpoenas. Therefore be it:

Resolved, That not later than seven days after the adoption of this resolution, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall report to the House of Representatives, with respect to the activities addressed in its report of February 26, 2010, (1) how many witnesses were interviewed, (2) how many, if any, subpoenas were issued in the course of their investigation, and (3) what documents were reviewed and their availability for public review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

TAX DAY

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, Republicans want Americans to believe that they are the party of tax cuts. Sure, they are—tax cuts for the rich. In these tough times, their brand of tax relief wouldn't help Sue and John, working parents who are raising three kids and who are trying to make ends meet.

Yet this Congress knows that America's future can't be based on huge tax cuts for the wealthy. We have to give real tax relief to real working Americans, and that is just what we've done. We've done it for 95 percent of working families, saving them up to \$800 a year. We've done it by making it easier for young families to buy their first homes, saving up to \$8,000, and we've done it by making it easier for parents to save up to \$2,500 to pay for college. This Congress has passed 25 different tax cuts, saving American families over \$800 billion, and more relief is on the way.

The overheated rhetoric of the minority is not based on reality. By any measure, taxes are lower today than they were under their leadership.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE AMERICAN TAX DOLLAR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, every American must file their income taxes by midnight tomorrow, and they understand that the United States Congress determines how much of their hard-earned money is taken for Federal taxes and how it is spent.

Since the Democratic majority and the Obama administration have been in charge of taxing the American people, we've seen a massive increase in taxes of \$670 billion and counting. Here are just a few examples:

Taxes on American families and businesses that don't purchase government-approved health care, taxes on medical devices, such as pacemakers and artificial limbs, taxes on businesses that provide pharmaceutical coverage for retirees, even taxes on those who go to tanning salons.

Yet, with all of these massive tax increases, the Democratic and Obama spending spree drove the Federal budget deficit to over \$1.4 trillion last year and has driven it to nearly \$1.6 trillion this year. To keep this spending spree going, they will be looking for even higher taxes. Just recently, one of the President's top economic advisers proposed a European-style value added tax that would hit every American, rich and poor.

Enough is enough. It is long past time that this Congress and this administration realized that we cannot tax and spend our way back to prosperity. How about a tax policy that we can believe in for a change? Let's get spending under control and reduce the tax burden on the American people.

NATION-BUILDING HERE AT HOME

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, after 8 long years, hundreds of billions of dollars of deficit spending and, most importantly, thousands of our brave soldiers killed or wounded, it is past time to reexamine our strategy in Afghanistan.

Instead of nation-building in Afghanistan, I believe we should be doing some more nation-building here at home. The American people deserve accountability in terms of how and when our troops will be returned to their families and in terms of how taxpayer dollars are being spent.

Today, Congressman WALTER JONES and I introduced legislation that would require the President to provide a plan and a timetable for drawing down our forces in Afghanistan and to identify any variables that could require changes to that timetable. I should

note that the bill does not set a specific date for withdrawal. The bill would safeguard U.S. taxpayer dollars by ensuring all U.S. activity in Afghanistan be overseen by the Inspector General.

We must aggressively go after al Qaeda and its allies wherever they are, but I am not convinced that a long-term occupation of Afghanistan in support of a corrupt, incompetent government is in our best national security interests.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, two Middle Eastern newspapers reported today that Syria has transferred scud missiles to a terrorist group in Lebanon. This repeats actions by Iran and Syria in 2006 when they gave cruise missiles to Hezbollah. It shows that the Syrians and Iranians have no wish to control their arsenals. They will transfer any weapon they own to terrorist groups. These reports tell us two things:

First, the U.N. army that we sent to Lebanon in 2006 is an utter failure that makes no effort to stop the largest missiles from deploying next to their very own U.N. camps. Second, it shows that, once Iran makes nuclear weapons, it will transfer them to terrorists like Hezbollah and who knows who else.

THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR THREAT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of great concern about the Iranian nuclear threat. As dozens of foreign leaders meet here in Washington to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, I am deeply worried that we are allowing the greatest potential nuclear threat in the world to go unchecked. Iran has repeatedly threatened to wipe Israel off the map. They have threatened to destabilize the entire Middle East and, with that, the entire global community.

In his last visit to the United States, former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that a nuclear Iran "represents as great a threat to the United States, to Europe and to the entire Middle East as it does to Israel."

The rest of the world should not expect Israel to do its dirty work. I agreed with that then. I agree with it now.

If we want to avoid a nuclear Iran—and I believe we must—and if we want to ensure that Israel does not have to take matters into its own hands, we must immediately enact strong, effective economic sanctions that make it

clear to Iran that we will not tolerate this pursuit of nuclear weapons. The alternative is simply unthinkable.

I look forward to passing a strong bipartisan/bicameral sanctions bill so that the President may sign this bill into law as soon as possible.

□ 1700

JOB LOSSES DUE TO HEALTH CARE BILL

(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, I just returned from my district, where I had an interesting meeting with people representing one of my companies, that is one of the companies in my district that employs hundreds of people.

They told me that as a direct result of the passage of the health care bill and the reconciliation package they have laid off 75 people. Hundreds of jobs are in jeopardy. Why? Because they happen to work for a company called The Ed. Fund, a private sector firm that facilitated the availability of college, yes, loans. Thirty-one thousand people in this industry are in jeopardy of losing their jobs because we decided we needed to nationalize that industry.

It's not only the wrongheaded approach to the health care problem, it's an anti-stimulus, anti-job bill. Seventy-five jobs already lost in my district, hundreds in jeopardy, thousands across this Nation. Thank you very much, U.S. Congress.

SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest sympathy to the people of Poland in the wake of last week's tragic plane crash and to express my support for the resolution by the gentlelady from Pennsylvania that we passed this afternoon.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski, along with his wife Maria, the First Lady, military chiefs, civil leaders from across the political spectrum, and senior religious clergy perished in Saturday's crash on their way to Katyn, Russia, to commemorate another great tragedy in Poland's history.

At a time when global and domestic strife dominate our consciousness, these leaders were traveling in a historic effort to heal the deep wounds of the Katyn massacre in Polish and Russian history. These were men and women who stood up to tyranny and helped shape their nation's democratic transformation, but this loss was not Poland's alone.

From the outpouring of support by our Nation's 9 million Americans of

Polish descent, including those in New York's 21st Congressional District, and my very own family, to the President and First Lady's attendance at President Kaczynski's funeral this Sunday, America stands next to Poland in mourning. The solidarity of the Polish people in their grief and their quiet resolve to carry on is an inspiration to us all. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who were lost and all those that they have led.

RENEGOTIATE NAFTA TRUCKING PROVISION

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Obama administration has steadfastly refused to contest the improper and excessive tariffs of \$2.4 billion levied by Mexico because Congress terminated the cross-border trucking program due to serious safety concerns.

There is no drug testing in Mexico. There are no hours of service requirements in Mexico. There are no meaningful commercial driver's licenses issued in Mexico to know what the record of these drivers are. Congress overwhelmingly voted to terminate that program.

But it is rumored that next month when the President of Mexico comes to visit, the Obama administration is going to open the border full bore to Mexican trucks, jeopardizing the safety of the American public and jeopardizing millions of jobs in the trucking industry. They say they have no alternative, their hands are tied by NAFTA. Well, there is an alternative. And today I was joined in a letter to the President by 78 Members of Congress, bipartisan, saying renegotiate that one minor section of NAFTA that has triggered this dispute. Keep the current system.

The Mexican trucks bring the goods in 20 miles, they drop them, the U.S. trucks pick them up and distribute them in the U.S. No U.S. company wants to go into Mexico. And let's keep the Mexican companies out of the U.S.

HONORING LENORA "DOLL" CARTER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that you come to the floor of the House with joy and with sadness. And it is with both that I stand to honor a fallen friend, Lenora "Doll" Carter, a champion of a woman, and of course someone who led in our community.

Doll Carter was the publisher of the Forward Times newspaper in Houston, Texas. She and her husband Julius founded that newspaper in 1960, reporting on all of the civil rights matters, the assassination of Dr. King, the 1964

Civil Rights Act, and 1965 Voting Rights Act. And then his untimely death in 1971 caused this young woman and young mother, the mother of Karen and Constance, to take up the helm of this great paper. This paper became the third most read newspaper in the southwest after two of our major papers in Houston, and this lady became the doll of all of us. Her name clearly was a name that we favored.

Lenora "Doll" Carter was born in Arizona. But as her good friend John Smith said, Doll was not only a friend toward the advancement of African American achievement, overall she personified distinctive grace, character, and style as a champion for the common good. She was also my friend. She passed away this past Saturday. We honor her, we salute her. She is a great hero of America.

Doll, we will miss you. May you rest in peace.

TAX BREAKS FOR MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that the Democratic leadership in the United States Congress has given the largest tax cut to middle class America? Well, that is certainly not the narrative that you hear out there on the television shows and some of the radio shows, but \$288 billion in tax cuts for individuals and small businesses delivered with the Recovery Act.

Nearly 40 percent of that tax package was tax relief to middle class families, like the Making Work Pay Tax Credit, \$400 for a worker, \$800 per couple. Two hundred sixty thousand families in the 16th District are already benefiting. Eight thousand dollar tax credit for first-time homebuyers. Sixty thousand people in Ohio filed, totaling some \$402 million in tax credits. Expansion of the child tax credit. Up to \$2,500 in tax savings for families sending their kids to college. Two hundred sixty-four thousand Ohioans are benefiting. Five billion dollars to help businesses. Fifteen billion dollars to allow companies to carry over their losses.

This serves as a reminder that the recovery package is the single largest tax cut for American middle class families. Remember this tax day who was standing with you.

TAXES AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. You know, Mr. Speaker, I get a big kick out of my Democrat colleagues talking about how they are doing so much for the poor and underprivileged in this country and giving all these tax cuts. The