

capitalism. From Mexico to China to Japan, it is just not a fair fight. These unfair trade agreements have been draining the economic lifeblood of our Nation, and every single American knows it to be true. Free trade among free people should be a bedrock principle on which any trade policy is based. And without it, our workers and companies stand no chance.

It is time to wake up, stand up for this country, and renegotiate those trade agreements that keep moving jobs offshore and take more and more and more of our jobs every single year. The same countries block access of our goods into those countries. It hurts our workers, it hurts our communities, and it has hurt this country deeply.

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

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

WHERE'S THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, during the 5-minute speeches just a few minutes ago, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) was showing all of us this poster that he graciously made up: Where's the budget? That is what we will be talking about tonight because we have seen in this Congress this year that the leadership of the Congress is failing its responsibility, failing its duty, failing to bring us a budget.

Now, we saw the President put together a budget that he presented to Congress several months ago. We will talk about that a little bit. But under the Constitution of the United States—and I carry a copy in my pocket because I believe in this document as it was intended by the Founders, the people who wrote this document. One of the prime responsibilities of Congress is to pass a budget. From the original intent of our Constitution and what it says in the Constitution, the Congress should be making the budget, not the President.

Article I lays out all of the premises of the Congress of the United States. Section 1 says all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2 goes on and talks about how the House is made up.

Section 3 is about the Senate.

Section 4 talks about the times and places and manner of holding elections for the same.

Section 7 starts off: All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the

House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills. That is the first sentence of article I, section 7.

So all bills for raising revenue should start in the House. All budgets should be started in the House. And that's what our Founding Fathers meant to happen.

Section 8 lists the 18 things that Congress can pass laws about. There are only 18, folks. Obviously, we are passing laws about many more things than 18. In fact, in this little booklet, the Constitution of the United States, article I, section 8, starts right here and it goes to right here. It is one and three-quarter pages. That's all Congress has the constitutional authority to pass laws about.

And the 10th Amendment of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, says, and I want to read it to get it very clear so the American people can understand. It is basically one sentence. It says: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

In other words, Congress is only supposed to be doing the 18 things in article I, section 8. We specifically have enumerated powers. That is what limited government is supposed to be all about. It is supposed to be enumerated powers that we are given by the people. The Constitution starts off with very three powerful words: we the people. "We the people" is the most powerful political force in this country under our Constitution.

But "we the people" is not acting as strongly as it should have been. And one of the things that Congress is supposed to be doing is passing a budget. In fact, families all over this country, State and local governments all over this country, pass a budget. If we don't have a budget, how do we know how to set out bills proposing revenue? How do we know how to spend the money, the taxpayers' money that we take from them through taxes?

Madam Speaker, we are doing a lot of things here in Congress that we shouldn't be doing. But one thing that we should be doing is passing a budget. It is critical. Mr. GOODLATTE said during his 5-minute speech that he has introduced a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. I have done the same. Mine is a little different. There are three balanced budget amendments that Republicans have introduced. But how can we balance the budget if we don't have a budget? I believe very firmly that the Federal Government should not be spending any more money than it takes in year to year. We should be balancing our budget.

My State of Georgia has to live under a balanced budget. In fact, the general assembly just dismissed a couple of weeks ago because they were desperately trying to balance their budget, which they eventually did, in this

economic downturn. They were having tremendous struggles about how to cut the size of State government in the State of Georgia.

But the Federal Government should be doing the same, and the American people need to demand a balanced budget. Republicans are going to be offering a balanced budget. We have done it over and over again. In 1995, a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution passed the U.S. House of Representatives. It lacked one Republican vote in the U.S. Senate from being law today. Unfortunately, we could not get one Republican more to vote for a balanced budget amendment. We wouldn't be spending our grandchildren's future, as we are doing today. The outrageous spending that Congress is doing has to stop. The American people need to demand a balanced budget, but we need to demand from our elected representatives a budget.

It puzzles me why almost at the end of May, Congress still has not enacted a budget resolution and has totally disregarded the April 15 deadline. The deadline. We have missed that deadline, as we miss a lot of things around here.

But we have seen over and over again big bills, big spending bills, a stimulus bill that has been an abject failure. It has stimulated government; it has not stimulated jobs in the private sector but very minimally. Most of those are temporary jobs. We see unemployment recently was reported at 9.9 percent; but that doesn't tell the whole story. Over 50 million people, workers in America, are out of work today. We have had a rise in the unemployment rate, but the 9.9 percent does not tell the true story.

I was talking to one of the county commission chairmen in my district just a few weeks ago. And he said: PAUL, in our county the unemployment rate today is 10.7 percent; and 1 year ago it was 14.3 percent.

I said: Man, that is great. Where did the jobs come from? Where did you create all of the jobs in this county?

He said: PAUL, sadly, there are no jobs. We have not created new jobs here. People have just fallen off the rolls. They have gotten discouraged and are not on the unemployment rolls any more. In Georgia, we have furloughed teachers. At the University of Georgia that I represent in Athens, Georgia, we have furloughed a lot of the employees of the university. Teachers all across the State of Georgia are going to be put out of work because the State of Georgia just does not have the money in this economic downturn to continue to hire and continue to employ the teachers that we so desperately need.

□ 1730

We just had a resolution that we all voted on, almost unanimously, to honor teachers. Teachers hold the future of our Nation, because what they teach our children is critical for the

safety and prosperity of America. Teachers are being put out of work in Georgia, but they're being put out of work all over this country. We have too many people in the administration in the school system. Unfortunately, teachers are losing their jobs and administrators are keeping their jobs.

But we absolutely have to have a budget. We absolutely must have something, a framework of how Congress is going to spend the taxpayers' hard-earned money. And Congress is ignoring the immediate budget picture. But we've also punted the long-term budgeting decisions to a deficit commission that is structured to avoid transparency and accountability. And it looks like we're not going to pass a budget resolution here in the House nor in the Senate. We may not even pass any appropriations bill.

But tonight we're asking, Where is the budget? It's nowhere to be found. I've been just joined by my good friend, Congressman JIM JORDAN, who is very much part of the Budget Committee and has been a stalwart in fighting for a budget that makes sense and informing Members, on our side at least, about the budget and what's going on. And he's here joining us, and hopefully we'll have some other Members.

I see MARSHA BLACKBURN, a stalwart conservative Congresswoman from Tennessee, from Nashville, a good friend, has joined us, and I appreciate you all joining us here tonight.

And so I want to yield time to Mr. JORDAN. And tell us about the budget. Where is the budget?

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Where is the budget?

I thank the gentleman for yielding, thank him for taking the time to do this Special Order this evening on a critical, critical issue.

You know, April 15, by law, the Congress is supposed to have a budget resolution in place. We're supposed to have a document that actually places the parameters, sets the framework for all the spending that the Federal Government plans to do. And yet, here we are, 5 weeks later, still no budget. And, frankly, all the talk from the Democrats in Congress is that they're not going to do a budget resolution.

Look, families have to do a budget. Small business owners have to do a budget. Local school boards do a budget. Village councils do a budget. Mayors and city councils, States, everyone has to do a budget. But somehow the Federal Government, the biggest spender of money in the world, is not going to put a plan together.

Who'd have ever thought we'd see this day? I mean, think about this past year. Who would have ever imagined we'd see the things that we have witnessed from this Congress? Talk about a VAT tax, talk about a—you know, a \$1.4 trillion deficit. Did you ever think we'd see that in America, a \$12 trillion national debt?

And again, the talk of not even putting a budget together.

Look, when the President—part of the reason I think the Democrats don't want to actually do that document and show the American people where they plan on spending their money is because the budget we got from the White House was so ridiculous. The budget from the White House that the President sent to Congress, sent to the Budget Committee, we heard testimony from the various Federal agencies. The budget they sent, by Budget Director Orszag's own testimony, was unsustainable because it ran deficits anywhere from 7 to 10 percent of GDP each and every year of the 9-year budget window. And so it's no wonder they don't want to deal with that document. It's no wonder they don't want to put together their own budget.

But, frankly, you shouldn't be able to take a pass. Families, taxpayers, business owners out there, they don't get to take a pass. They have to put their budget together, and the Federal Government should do no less.

You know, last year the RSC offered a balanced budget, a budget that actually got to balance. We're working on that document again. We plan to bring it forward. We plan to lay out there what a balanced budget looks like, what fiscal responsibility looks like. We plan to do what families and small business owners have to do.

So it's a troublesome day. It's a sad day today when we have here the Congress of the United States not doing their responsibility and not putting together a budget document.

I yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, Mr. JORDAN, you're exactly right. And I'd like for you to talk about the Republican balanced budget that we introduced last year and again you're working on it this year.

But you brought up the President's budget. TODD AKIN, our colleague from Missouri, was very generous to loan me this chart. This is about the President's proposed budget that he gave us. We don't have a House budget. We may not get a Senate budget.

This pie chart, I just want to pay attention to two figures. Total receipts proposed, \$2.56 trillion. Total outlays, \$3.834 trillion. Now, \$1 trillion is a lot. People can't get their arms around or mind around what's \$1 trillion. But if you subtract 2.5, in receipts, plus change from 3.8 plus change, you see we have a big budget deficit that's been proposed by this administration. This is actually unsustainable.

I've heard our colleagues on the other side talk over and over again about the deficit that was created by George Bush. And, in fact, all I hear from our colleagues over and over again is about the deficit, and they're still blaming the Bush administration.

Well, I've not been a great fan of the budget deficits that the Bush administration put forward, but if we look at this chart, these are the deficits under the Democratic budgets. This is in billions of dollars. We see in blue the defi-

cits, 2004, 5, 6, 7, that were under the Bush administration. We did have budget deficits, and that was wrong, absolutely wrong. The Federal Government should live within the means that it has. But look at this paltry amount compared to the budgets that have been proposed by this administration and others.

And you hear over and over again the Obama budget—of course, this goes out from 2011 to 2020. These are the proposed budget deficits that the Obama administration has proposed in his budget. Huge, compared to the budget deficits that were actual under the Bush administration. We shouldn't even have had those. We should have been living under a balanced budget since 1995. And I blame the Bush administration and the Republican Congress for—control of Congress for these budgets. But this graph right here was when Nancy PELOSI took over as Speaker of the House. We've got to stop this outrageous spending.

I want to yield to my good friend MARSHA BLACKBURN from Nashville, Tennessee, who represents a huge swath through the middle of Tennessee, and she's a great warrior on this issue. And I want to welcome you, Mrs. BLACKBURN.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you, and I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

And my wonderful district that goes from Memphis to Nashville and all the way to the Kentucky border, of course, right now we're fighting floods, and so many of our residents have been, are suffering the adverse effects of all of those floods. And we remember them every day and want to let them know that we're thinking about them.

I'm glad that we're talking about the budget issue because budgets are to lay out the priorities of the Federal Government, and they're to define for our taxpayers and our constituents where this money is going to be spent. And as the gentleman just said, it is our responsibility. This is supposed to be done. Congress is charged with having control of the purse of the Federal Government, and we are to do this, as the gentleman said, by April 15 every year.

Now, what some of my constituents are asking me, as we talk about fiscal responsibility, is: Why aren't they doing a budget this year? What are they afraid of? And what is the reason that they would choose not to do a budget?

Because budgets are to outline those priorities, and they're to be a roadmap. And you know what is so interesting is so many of our constituents like following the budget process. When we send that link to the President's budget, when we send that link through our Blackburn Report to the budget document that the House has under consideration, they follow it, and they like to see where their taxpayer dollars are being spent.

I had one constituent who said, you know, I think this is so disrespectful of

the American taxpayer that they would, in their arrogance, say, Trust us. We don't have to do a budget document. Just trust us. We're going to keep spending. We're not going to curtail our spending. Just trust us.

And the American people are listening to that, and they're saying, You've got to be kidding.

As Mr. JORDAN said, you know, families do this, small businesses, everybody's been tightening their belts. Our colleges, our universities, our counties and our cities, they're all doing their budget hearings right now, and they're perplexed that Congress would consider moving forward.

Now, the gentleman from Georgia talked a little bit about past spending. And I think as we talk about deficits and the debt, that the gentleman from Georgia and I probably agree that—and I know I certainly talked with President Bush and I think he did, too, many times. I felt that President Bush spent too much.

CBO says when you look at the years of Republican control from 1994 to 2006, our average annual deficit was about \$104 billion per year. And then you go in, and the gentleman has the chart that shows what happened when there was Democrat control of Congress, the 3 years that they have had it, 2007, 2008, 2009.

Well, our \$104 billion a year deficit, which was way too much—we should never have a deficit, or it should only be in extenuating circumstances. We all support a balanced budget. We support a balanced budget amendment. We support bringing that in, like the RSC did last year, having a balanced budget.

But when you look at the fact that \$104 billion, as opposed to \$1.11 trillion, which has been their average annual deficit, it causes people to say, My goodness. You mean our average annual deficit has become their monthly deficit?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Say that again so the people who are listening can understand that, if you would, please, won't you.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Our average, under Republican control, the average annual deficit has become what now, under Democrat control, they are running in deficit averaging on a month. And I think that's what causes concern to people.

April, the deficit was four times what it was last year. These are numbers that cause people to say, Wait a minute. We have to put the brakes on. We are on the wrong track, and it is time for Washington to get its fiscal house in order.

You know, one of the things that I will ask when someone says, Well, we need to be spending more on this and we need to be spending more on that; people need to be paying more in taxes so that the Federal Government can spend more, is, Well, how much is enough when it comes to taxes? How much is ever going to be enough? How

much spending is ever going to be enough?

And those are questions that, when you stop and think about it, is there ever going to be a time when those that want to spend taxpayer money get enough?

I think we would all agree, Washington does not have a revenue problem. Washington has a spending problem. And the way we begin to get the spending under control is to have a budget that is going to spend less. That is going to be the first step.

Now, the gentleman from Georgia had the charts, and he was talking about an estimated, I think it's \$2.3 trillion in revenues and the \$3.8 trillion in outlays, and that was the budget that the President had proposed.

And I ask the gentleman, do I have my figures correct? \$2.3 trillion and change for the revenues and \$3.8 trillion and change for the expenditures?

□ 1745

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. According to this chart, you are close; it is \$2.567 trillion in revenues, and then \$3.834 trillion in outlays.

I yield back.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We know that since the time that that budget was presented to us we have passed a health care bill. And we know that last week even CBO came back and said guess what, we misfigured. We are going to change these projections. So already those expenditure and outlay projections are off because we have the trillion dollar-plus health care bill that we are going to be looking at.

That is something that certainly is on the minds of the taxpayers. They want to see the out of control spending stop. And I think that they are sending a message loud and clear. The focus should be on the economy. It should be on jobs. Constituents every day are saying, Where are the jobs? You have stimulated big government, but you haven't stimulated Main Street. Where are the jobs? And they are focused on the out of control spending from Washington on programs they do not want. And they know that not only they the taxpayer, we the people cannot afford, but the Federal Government cannot afford to be spending our money on those programs.

I yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Ms. BLACKBURN.

You are exactly right. Not only did we have the health care bill that was passed by this House, passed by the Senate first and then came over here, not one Republican voted for that bill. We just heard from CBO just this last week I think it was when they said, Oops, we made a mistake. It's going to cost at least \$115 billion more than we first estimated. One hundred fifteen billion dollars more. That's not a paltry sum. And actually, it's going to still continue to climb. I think that the

government takeover of health care is going to be an even bigger bill.

We saw Congress pass a nonstimulus bill, which is what I called it at the time. That's been an abject failure. That's another trillion dollars that we don't have the money. We have seen bill after bill come to the floor of the House passed by the Democratic leadership, forced down the throats of the American people, with just outrageous spending of money that we just do not have. That's the bottom line. We have got to stop the spending, this outrageous spending. We need to have a budget. The Federal Government needs to live within its budget, period.

Mr. JORDAN, I yield to you.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I just want to pick up where the gentlelady from Tennessee was talking about. She says it's irresponsible not to do a budget. It most certainly is. Thirty-four days and counting. April 15, here we are May 19, 34 days the Federal Government hasn't done what the law tells us we are supposed to do in putting a budget resolution together. It is irresponsible, it is arrogant.

It is arrogant to not go through the markup, not have the debate, not have the hearings, not put that out there so the American taxpayer, the American family, the American small business owner can see how in fact this government plans in fact to spend their money.

But it is not just irresponsible, it is not just arrogant, it is immoral to do what this government is doing. It is just plain wrong to tell future generations of Americans, to tell our children and our grandchildren you are going to have to deal with a \$12 trillion debt and counting and growing. You are going to have to pay that back. That is just plain wrong.

I mean one of the things that makes our country so special, one of the things that makes America the greatest Nation ever is the simple concept that parents make sacrifices for their children so that when they become adults they have life better than we did. And then they in turn do it for their kids, and each generation has done it for the next, and we get to be America, the greatest Nation ever, the highest standard of living in human history. And now for the first time we have the political class in this town telling the next generation, telling future generations, You know what, we are going to live for the now, we are going to spend for the moment, we are going to live for the moment, and we are going to send the bill to you.

It's not just arrogant and irresponsible; it is wrong. It is just plain wrong. This money has to be paid back. Way back in one of my first economics classes in college we learned a simple thing: There is no free lunch. You have to pay it back. Somebody's got to pay this back. And it shouldn't be put on the backs of our kids and our grandkids.

Think about where we are at today. And as we talked about the budget that the Democrats are proposing, the budget that the President sent to Capitol Hill makes matters worse. But where we are at today, we have to pay this year \$200 billion just in interest on the debt. Within a couple years the interest payments alone will be a billion dollars a day. So it is not just arrogant and irresponsible, it is immoral. It is just plain wrong to do this.

That's why, because they are addicted to spending, they don't want to actually make cuts like we do in our budget. That's why they don't want to do this process. That's why they don't want to have a budget. And it is just, as I said, it is just plain wrong. And I appreciate the gentleman taking this hour to talk about this most fundamental issue, this most basic issue, and let people understand what in fact is really going on with their government today.

With that I would yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. JORDAN.

I agree with STENY HOYER, the majority leader for the Democratic Party here in the House. When he was talking about passing a final budget and a spending blueprint, he said this, quote: "It is the most basic responsibility of governing." The Democratic leader, STENY HOYER, said passing a final budget and a spending blueprint is the most basic responsibility of governing. They are not governing. They are not doing what they should.

It is also real interesting to me, in 2006 the House Budget Committee chairman, JOHN SPRATT, said, quote, "If you can't budget, you cannot govern." "If you can't budget, you cannot govern." Quote and unquote. JOHN SPRATT, the Democratic chairman of the House Budget Committee. They are not governing. They are being irresponsible. The American public deserve better.

We have been joined tonight also by my good friend from Texas who has been an individual that has spent many hours, as I have, here on the floor talking about the ObamaCare bill and about ethics in governing. We are very honored to have Judge JOHN CARTER from Texas.

I yield to you.

Mr. CARTER. I thank my friend for yielding.

You know, some of the Members of this august body that are living just a normal life, they ought to be looking at this, and folks back home ought to be looking at this and thinking how can you spend all that money without having a budget? And then they think about what kind of a great deal would it be at my house if I could just say, you know what, kids, mom, I tell you what, let's do, let's just do whatever makes us happy. Let's pick up all the pet projects in the world that we favor and let's just spend our money on that. Let's go out and buy the things we want to buy. Let's go places we want to

go and do things we want to do. And just throw that budget that we used to have, throw it in the trash, and this year let's don't budget. Let's spend the money. And hey, mom, I don't want you to worry that we don't have a budget because we don't need a budget. Hey, we will borrow the money to pay these bills. That's no problem. And if we can't get somebody to loan us the money here, we will go to China and get the people in China to loan us the money to pay these bills, and we will be fine.

And oh, you are worried about paying it back? Hey, let the grandkids pay it back. You know, they are going to have a good life. Surely they are going to have a good life. And they don't need as good as we got. So let's let them pay it back, and let's put it on their shoulders. And if they are smart, they will figure out a way to stick it down on their grandkids' shoulders. And we will just keep this runaway spending going forever.

I don't think that most people would see that as a way to run your household. Or the businessmen that are sitting down at the board meeting, and they are saying, you know, we had a budget last year, but this year let's throw that budget out and let's just do what we think is going to make us do well this year for ourselves personally, and let's don't worry about what's going to happen in the future because we will borrow the money from China, and then we will put it down the road, far enough down the road that we will get other people's grandkids to pay for it.

That doesn't make sense. And it doesn't make sense to the American people. It means that you are just—and you know, I get really excited when I hear like I heard the other night, when I heard some of my colleagues from the other side over here talking about what a wonderful job they had done, and they talked about PAYGO. PAYGO has saved the world. My gosh, we have just absolutely saved the world with PAYGO because we are paying for what we are spending unless it's an emergency. And so far everything we have done we have declared an emergency on. So, well, we didn't quite get PAYGO done, but that's okay, we believe in it. And it's something we believe in.

What we are hearing from folks back home is, hey, times are tough. We need jobs, and you are doing your little pet projects down there, and you are spending this money that we are never going to be able to pay back, or we are afraid we will never be able to pay back, and we don't want to be Greece. You know, poor Greece. Right now they are kind of the poster child for what happens when you don't pay your bills.

Well, if you crunch the numbers and we continue down the road that the Obama administration is taking this country, at the rate of acceleration of deficit spending that the Obama administration has given us, and by the

way last night there were some charts put up there and just conveniently the deficit numbers on those charts stopped at the end of the Bush administration, so we didn't get to see that other line that the Obama administration put on there that drops clear off the charts. There you go. That one didn't happen to be on the charts when we were told the figures never lie. So it stopped right there at 2007. Let's look at it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Let me reclaim my time and just explain this chart.

Mr. CARTER. Because their chart would have been upside down because it was below the line.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. We can turn it upside down.

Mr. CARTER. That's the way it ought to be. Turn it upside down.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. We will turn it upside down. And then we will be coming from the right to the left.

Mr. CARTER. And we got to see last night all those Bush blue lines. And we did get to see the first little Obama line right there. But that's not an Obama line yet, that's just a Democratic Congress line.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. That's a NANCY PELOSI line right here.

Mr. CARTER. That's a NANCY PELOSI line. And then look what's happened since. And so it's true, figures don't lie. You just don't show them all, it makes a little bit of a difference. So I am glad you got that chart out. I just brought it up because I kept wanting to go raise my hand and say, Aren't there supposed to be some more lines on there?

But anyway, that's another story. Back to what our folks back home were saying. They are looking at that, and they are saying, Who is going to pay for that? Well, it would be their grandchildren and our grandchildren and our colleagues across the aisle's grandchildren. I personally don't have any yet, but I am praying every night to have some grandchildren. When I do, I certainly don't want to start them out behind the eight ball.

In fact, we most of the time work to try to make sure that we start our kids out ahead of where we started out if we can, just like our friend Mr. JORDAN said a minute ago. And that's kind of what makes America great. Now, there are people that say, well, we have been deficit spending forever. But you know, these numbers we see here are on new ideas and new concepts. We don't see the threats, the outside threats the American people face, like the wars and so forth, being that big number. This is new energy, which may be a great idea, but thus far it's not replacing the energy we have got. And it's new projects and it's new concepts of, what I would call in nice language, a centrist form of government. And what we are really seeing here is a group of folks running amok with spending and not even being willing to do what their leader said the most basic responsibility of governing is, to have a budget.

Well, why didn't they do that? Well, I think it's because we are too busy doing pet projects and making sure that we change America. It's more important to change than it is to get it right.

□ 1800

And I think that's a question we need to be asking ourselves. We didn't know what "change" meant. Now we're starting to get a glimmer of what change means. And is that the change we want?

I yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I appreciate it.

I just wanted to put in my two cents about the question you just asked about why the Budget Committee hasn't passed out a budget, why the House hasn't passed a budget. We have an April 15 deadline by law. A budget is supposed to be passed. The Senate hasn't passed a budget. We've been very busy this whole year, you know, Mr. CARTER, since this year started under this administration. We've passed all of these big spending bills, and it is my belief that we don't have a Federal budget because they can't balance the budget. They can't show to the American people how awful the spending is up here, how outrageous, how egregious the irresponsibility is, and they do not want anybody to hold them responsible.

My 19-year-old son, Collins Broun, comes to me when he needs some money. And he's been in school. He's a freshman in college. And he's had some little jobs, but he doesn't have a budget because he depends on me to provide his needs.

Well, this government is relying on taxpayers, and the PAYGO, Mr. CARTER, that you were talking about that we keep hearing touted by the Blue Dogs on their side about how great it is. We've suspended PAYGO over and over again on a health care bill the American public still doesn't want. They want it repealed. We, as Republicans, want to repeal and replace it. There's been a nonstimulus bill that's been an abject failure that's going to be over a trillion dollars. This has created some government jobs and some temporary jobs, but hasn't stimulated the private sector.

Most jobs that were created in the private sector were small business. Businesses are scared to death. They are not creating any new jobs because they look at these budget deficits and see spending bills that this Democratic Congress has been passing over and over again—most times without any or sometimes with only very minimal Republican votes for them. But we've seen just over and over again these huge bills. They haven't taken the time. And I don't think they want to be held responsible, frankly. So I think that's a big part of the reason.

So to answer your question, I think that this Congress won't pass a budget in the House, probably not in the Sen-

ate because they don't want to be held responsible. They want to continue to do what even the majority leader said. It's the most basic responsibility of government. They are not doing it. JOHN SPRATT said if you cannot budget, you cannot govern. Well, they're not governing. All they're doing is spending.

Mr. CARTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I'll yield back to Mr. CARTER.

Mr. CARTER. One of the reasons you have a budget is so you can make legitimate estimates on how much you're going to spend. If you don't make a budget, you're not tied to a legitimate estimate and what your revenues are going to be coming in to pay for it. That's what you do to make a budget. Everybody back home knows that.

I'm not going to mention the company, but it was a good-size company. I met with one of their folks the other day, and they just finished charting out at their board of directors at just what increasing the health care costs for covering the 26 year olds, in other words, carrying the children of their employees to 26 years old, what it was going to cost their company.

Now, they're a good-size company—\$28 million. Now that's missing it just a little bit, isn't it, for one company is looking at \$28 million just to carry children to 26 years old?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Above what they're spending now.

Mr. CARTER. Above what they're spending now on their health insurance.

Now, I don't care how big you are. That's a big chunk of money, and it would shock anybody from the biggest corporation in the world down to the little mom-and-pop to have that kind of percentage of your revenues all of a sudden by government action going out the front door.

That's the kind of thing when you don't think things through and figure out what it's going to cost that those things jump up and bite you. But in this instance when we don't figure out what it's going to cost, it's the American people that get jumped up and bitten, and that's what I think we're seeing happen right now. And I think that's unfortunate.

I yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I agree with you it's not only unfortunate, but it's irresponsible.

We're seeing Congress spend money, tons and tons of money that we don't have, trillions of dollars that we don't have, for programs that America doesn't want. It's not in the best interest of America. It's killing jobs. Killing jobs. And it's just not responsible governing.

We've been joined also tonight by my good friend from New Orleans, Louisiana, STEVE SCALISE, who's also been a great fighter for us here on the floor on many issues—on health care and

other issues. And I want to welcome Mr. SCALISE, and I'd like to hear you impart some knowledge in this.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank my colleague and the gentleman from Georgia, and I appreciate you bringing this issue to the forefront because what we're talking about here is responsibility.

And Speaker PELOSI, when she took the gavel 3½ years ago—she's been Speaker for 3½ years—and they talked about doing things differently. They laid out all kinds of promises. They bashed Republicans for being fiscally irresponsible. And yet all we've seen from Speaker PELOSI and her liberal lieutenants who are running this Congress is spending at unprecedented levels. This year a trillion and a half dollars. They're breaking records every day on deficit spending that is being dumped onto the backs of our children and our grandchildren, denying opportunity to the next generation.

And yet when you look at what families are doing across this country—these are tough economic times. People are looking to Washington saying, Where are the jobs? Why isn't Washington focused on creating jobs?

And we've come up with ideas and solutions that we've put on the table to create jobs, to cut taxes, things that have been proven to work to get the economy back on track, and every time we've been turned away. And yet when families are tightening their belts, they're pulling back. They're cutting their budgets.

Our States: in Louisiana, in my State, we've got a Governor right now, our Governor's cutting the budget to balance it. They're going to balance the budget this year even though it's tough economic times, like most States are doing. And like most families are doing. And Washington seems to be the only place where they not only don't get it, but at a time when everybody else is cutting back and tightening their belts to live within their means, Washington's spending out of control in record levels.

And now, as you pointed out, they haven't even brought a budget to this House floor for next year. No budget. Haven't even brought a budget. Now, we think they should bring a balanced budget. In fact, we've proposed a balanced budget. They haven't even brought a budget, any budget.

Maybe you'd say, well, maybe it's because Congress is so busy dealing with so many important issues and creating jobs and all of these other things. Unfortunately, that's not the case. They brought the government takeover of health care. They had time for that. Something that's going to run millions of jobs out of this country, billions of dollars in new taxes. They brought this cap-and-trade energy tax, a tax that would add thousands of dollars to every family's electricity bill.

Just look at today's agenda. My colleague from Georgia, as he points out, they haven't brought the budget. You say, well, maybe that's because there's

a lot of things on the agenda other than a budget that is so important. Let's look at some of the votes we took on the House floor today. We named a post office. We congratulated a basketball team. In fact, we even honored a courthouse. Honored a courthouse. That's what was on the agenda of the United States House of Representatives today.

And yet they haven't even brought a budget to this floor—not only a balanced budget like we think they should bring, but the President's budget—the only document that's sitting out there. The President's budget doubles the national debt in 5 years. Doubles it.

Now, we want to say rein in that spending. Rein it in. Stop this out-of-control spending.

They started last year with the stimulus bill, \$787 billion of money that we don't have. But they said, Oh, it needs to happen so we don't exceed 8 percent unemployment. Well, today we're sitting at 9.9 percent unemployment. It just keeps going up. Millions more Americans have lost their jobs in the year and a half that President Obama has been President. Speaker PELOSI has been running the House, HARRY REID's running the Senate. They control all of government. And all you see is out-of-control spending, more lost jobs, and hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes. And you wonder why businesses in this country are afraid to hire or afraid to invest, why families are scared to death looking not only at their own pocketbooks, but more concerned with what Washington's doing to deny them, and especially our children and grandchildren, more opportunities.

So I think we need to keep this focus up. We need to address this problem. We need to balance our budget.

I yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. SCALISE. You're absolutely right. The budget resolution simply sets forth an annual framework of priorities, sets forth the framework for taxes and spending. It's one of the few pieces of legislation that Congress must pass annually. We're not seeing that happen.

Since 1974 when Congress passed the Congressional Budget Act, which created the modern budget process, Congress has failed to enact a budget resolution only four times since 1974. This year will be the fifth. But it's the first time in history, the first time in history that the House does not make any attempt whatsoever, no attempt, to pass a first version of a budget bill—never since 1974 when the Congressional Budget Act was passed. That's just unconscionable.

Mr. CARTER. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Absolutely.

Mr. CARTER. So if I understand you, those other budgets you're talking about, those four others, there was—in those cases there was an attempt to pass a budget, but they never could reconcile. Maybe they couldn't rec-

oncile the differences with the Senate or they couldn't even reconcile it within the Congress, but they certainly made a good-faith effort to try to get a budget passed and didn't get it done. Is that what you're saying?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. That's absolutely correct. In fact, an attempt was made to pass a budget. Through our legislative process, they did all of the things. A budget resolution was presented, an attempt was made to pass a budget resolution. And only four times since 1974 has a budget resolution not passed. But this is the first time in history that there is no attempt whatsoever to even pass a first version of a budget in the U.S. House. It's unconscionable.

I yield back.

Mr. CARTER. It seems to me you ought to at least try. I mean, it's almost like, you know, my wife, one time my son wanted to know—he had to drop out of baseball to play football, and he wanted to go back and play baseball. And he was all hanging around the house all moping around. And his mother said, Well, you know what? If you don't try, the answer is “no.” So why don't you go ask the coach if he will let you back on the baseball team.

Well, I'd say to the Budget Committee of the majority party, if you're not even going to give it a try, of course we're not going to have a budget. Let's at least give it a try. Let's at least see if we can't come up with an idea.

And I kind of like Mr. SCALISE's idea of this time let's try to put a balanced budget before the American people and see what happens there.

You know, it was the Republicans back during the Clinton administration that battled and battled and battled Bill Clinton who vetoed and vetoed until they finally got their consent of a balanced budget amendment done. They had a route for a balanced budget, and they fought the administration until they got it there. And it had a lot to do with some of the prosperity that took place in that decade. That seems to be lost in history. Revisionist history is actually current event in this place. It's constantly changing what really happened, when things really happened.

The welfare reform was really done by the Congress, but somehow that got forgotten. There's a lot that gets forgotten. And right now they're forgetting to do a budget, and it's time for the Democratic Party and their leadership and this House to do a budget and it would go forward and let us see just what you're going to spend and where the revenue is coming from. I think it's only logical that they go forward on that.

I yield back.

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Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, thank you for yielding back.

What are the consequence of not passing a budget? Well, first thing if we

don't pass the budget, then there's no cap on discretionary spending for this fiscal year. So they can spend whatever they want to because they have no constraints within a budget.

I've got a friend whose wife said, Well, we have got plenty of money in the bank. I still have checks in my checkbook.

Mr. CARTER. I've heard that before.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. That's the way this majority is acting. They still have the checks in the checkbook. They still have a credit card that is being held by the Chinese.

But where does the money come from? With all this deficit spending, this outrageous spending that Congress has been doing, it is going to come from our children and great-grandchildren. They are going to live at a lower standard than we live today, be the first generation that has lived at a lower standard than the previous generation, and it is because of this “gimme now” attitude that this Congress, under the leadership of NANCY PELOSI, has been doing.

So passing a budget will at least help stop this outrageous spending and will put some caps, maybe, on the discretionary spending for this year.

Also, not passing a budget means that Congress will not muster the leadership to set any kind of framework for paring back the entitlement spending. We have got to control entitlement spending.

Our colleague who is the ranking member on the Budget Committee, PAUL RYAN, introduced a bill in the last Congress, in the 110th where you and I both were here, that would set forth some parameters for controlling entitlement spending. We have got to do that. There is no question. In fact, about two-thirds of the Federal budget is on autopilot, and it just continues to grow exponentially.

We have got to change the whole budgetary process, and that is what I hope to see us do. And I think Republicans have that as part of what we want to do once we get control back of the House, is to change the budgetary process so that we balance our budget and we control entitlement spending. It is absolutely critical.

But thirdly, most importantly, not passing a budget means not carving out priorities for the spending and giving us an extension of the tax cuts that were put in in 2001 and 2002, even for low-income families. So we are going to see tremendous increases in taxes for everybody in this country, even the people who can afford it the least, those on limited incomes, fixed incomes, and the poorest people in this country.

In fact, we hear over and over again that our Democratic colleagues are interested in the middle class; but, actually, the middle class and the lower economic rungs of the ladder are going to be hit hardest by the health care bill that was passed, ObamaCare, by the nonstimulus bill that's been an abject

failure, and all the outrageous spending that our Democratic colleagues have been doing here in the Congress.

Beyond all these things, not passing a budget signals to the American people that we are not going to be held accountable. We are not going to deal with the Nation's spending addiction that Congress has, the deficit challenges that this government has.

We have got to stop it.

Families all over this country are balancing their budgets. My State of Georgia and many States have to live under a balanced budget. I believe the Federal Government should live under a balanced budget. But we are not even having a budget.

Mr. CARTER, what do you think we are going to do? Are we going to continue spending? I yield.

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

These are serious times, and we have serious issues to deal with.

Recently, I was privileged to be in a meeting with some conservative economists, and I say that because I want to make sure that we are pretty clear they are conservative. They gave us a whole bunch of projections of spending and projections of debt-to-income, both government debt and private debt to GDP and bank deposits. And they said, but cutting through the chase is, if we continue the policies of the Obama administration into a second term, if he wins a second term, in the third year of his second term we will be Greece. That is pretty serious.

And, you know, you talked about the middle class. I bet if you questioned everybody that lost their job and is out of work and what class they were in, they would all tell you they were in the middle class, because we all consider ourselves to be middle class in this country. We are sort of proud to be middle class.

So these concepts require work, and that means a budget.

I yield back.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. CARTER.

Just in closing, in the last minute that we have, Americans know that you can't manage what you can't measure. If you don't have a budget, you can't measure anything. You can't set out spending priorities. Failing to enact a budget blueprint just doesn't allow Congress to measure any spending priorities that we see coming forth, and just see big spending after big spending bills.

Democrats are purposefully deciding to not pass a budget bill blueprint to hide the fact that our country's financial picture is in terrible shape and we are going down the same road that Greece is going down.

American families know that this is irresponsible. Congress needs to get its house in order and lead. It can start by passing a responsible budget resolution. American people need to ask: Where is the budget?

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAFFEI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PERRIELLO. Mr. Speaker, Americans are sick of it. They are sick and tired of hearing excuses and finger-pointing. They are sick and tired of other people not having to play by basic rules of decency and fairness. They are sick of it, and they should be. They want Wall Street to play by the rules. They want Washington to play by the rules.

One of the most important moves we can make right now is for the Senate to see through to completion their efforts to clean up the financial system so that those who work hard and play by the rules, save up a little, put it into their home values, put it into their 401(k), know that other people aren't able to gamble away their retirement security and their future. Basic rules of decency and fairness.

We need those similar rules in Washington. That is why many of us have fought hard to make sure that we reinstate PAYGO legislation that the other side of the aisle let die a few years ago that simply says, anything you do, you've got to pay for it. These are the rules of everyday Americans back home on Main Street, and it is time for those Main Street values to apply to Washington and to Wall Street.

But Americans are also sick and tired of those who put slogans ahead of solutions. They want us to solve problems, and none is greater than that of the jobs crisis we face in this country.

On Wall Street, and maybe with our friends in the Senate, there is a sense that this recession has passed and the urgency is gone. But every weekend we go home and we talk to business owners who can't get credit. We talk to people who have been looking for job after job after job just so that they have the dignity of knowing that they can support their family; hardworking people who are willing to go back and get that additional degree or certificate but need to know that there is going to be a job on the other side. What they ask us to do is to come here, play by rules of decency and fairness, and focus on solving problems.

We have an opportunity here before Memorial Day to make the most of the summer construction season, to make this an opportunity to rebuild America, but specifically, to rebuild America's competitive advantage in the world.

This crisis didn't begin a couple of years ago. It began a couple of decades ago, as we saw more and more borrowing from the financial institutions, overleveraging, and the consumer market with consumer credit to cover for falling wage rates, and in the government sector. That cannot go on forever. But at its core was an issue of whether we can continue to compete in

the world with a living wage and middle class incomes and jobs.

The answer is to reward innovation and stop bailing out failure. This solution that both parties have had at times of bailing out failure will not succeed. We must begin again to reward innovation, research and development, and creativity so that we can be building the jobs of the future here in the United States.

Many of us have worked hard day and night here to focus on pragmatic solutions, like the HOME STAR program that will help thousands, hundreds of thousands of people renovate their homes and their offices. It will help reduce pressure on an electric grid that is way out of date, and it helps put people back to work in construction and in manufacturing, the insulation, the double-paned glass, the window films that are manufactured right here in the United States.

But we also know that the key of this new job creation, this new competitiveness revolution that we must have in this country, is an understanding that two out of every three new jobs created in this country are created by small business. Small business is the engine of job growth even as big business is too often the engine of our politics.

We must make sure that we are getting those Main Street values and those Main Street businesses back into the equation that have too often been choked out, rolled out by big business for photo ops and by politicians for photo ops, but forgotten when it gets down to policy.

Well, we have been hard at work on programs to get direct lending to small business, get support to our community banks that still tend to support those small businesses, the homegrown businesses that stay in our community, where the CEO still knows the name of every worker, the name of their spouse and their kids, wants to give them a decent wage and help them be able to support their family. These are concrete solutions that make sense back on Main Street instead of the kind of bomb-throwing that goes on here.

And one of the great freshmen in our class who is also focused on the solutions-oriented approach, this pragmatic approach, what I would call a postpartisan approach that doesn't focus on how we can bring everyone together by watering things down but how we can leave our partisan divisions behind by getting better ideas that help create that competitiveness revolution, JARED POLIS, who has been successful in the private sector, in the nonprofit sector, as well as the government, to talk some about these solutions-oriented approaches that we have.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Virginia.

Like many Members of Congress, I listen to, I visit the small businesses in my community in Colorado. Small businesses are really the backbone of our country. When I visited one of our