

You see, there is no freedom of speech in the Netherlands if a person is critical of radical Islam. Freedom of speech is a basic human right. Political speech and religious speech are the most controversial types of all speech. That is why these types of speech should be protected the most. Benjamin Franklin said, "There can be no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech." Geert Wilders is a champion of the public liberty and the free speech that guarantees that liberty.

And that's just the way it is.

PASS ANNUAL BUDGET

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

Mr. DJOU. Mr. Speaker, last month I left the Honolulu City Council for the great honor of entering this Chamber as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. Last week, my former chamber, the Honolulu City Council, passed its annual budget. The budget was \$3.5 billion. My position is that the Honolulu City Council budget is too big, increased taxes by too much, and increased government size by far more than the citizens of the city and county of Honolulu could afford. But at least the city and county of Honolulu passed a budget. It was \$3.5 billion. The Federal Government will spend that money in about 5 minutes.

Here today in mid-June, the United States Congress still has yet to pass a budget. If the Honolulu City Council, which I just departed, can pass a budget for \$3.5 billion, which the Federal Government will spend in just a few minutes, it is the responsibility of our government here in the United States Congress to pass a budget. We are spending far too much money. Even worse than that, we are spending far too much money on programs that are not working. Even worse than that, we have no plans to pay it back. Let us get to work and pass a budget.

ECONOMIC TURNAROUND

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask my friends to take a walk down memory lane and consider where our economy was at the beginning of last year compared to where it is today: 2009 had the biggest single year turnaround this Nation has seen in more than 30 years, going from negative 6 GDP in the first quarter of last year to plus 6 GDP in the last quarter. And we are currently in the midst of our fourth consecutive quarter of strong GDP growth.

We have had positive job growth for six of the past 7 months, and the stock market, which bottomed out at 6500 just before we passed the stimulus, is over 10,000 today. Housing starts are

up, consumer confidence is on the rise, the auto industry is coming back, and manufacturers are increasing orders and hiring back thousands of workers.

No, everything is not where we want it to be or even where we need it to be, but things have gotten better, and there can be no doubt that the bold action of this Congress is the reason why.

TWO MONTHS LATE ON PASSING BUDGET

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the House is 2 months late in passing a budget. In that time, unemployment has remained nearly 10 percent, and the national debt has now exceeded \$13 trillion. Last week, I gave the President a letter signed by more than 100 top economists from around the country that urges both parties to cut spending now in order to create jobs and boost our economy. Less spending, more jobs, it really is just that simple.

But the President responded Saturday night with a letter asking for another \$50 billion in stimulus bailout money. Without specifying where this money would come from, the President asked us to be patient with his administration for its continuing job-killing spending spree.

This money comes from our kids and grandkids who this year are going to get stuck with 43 cents out of every dollar the Federal Government spends. The debt is going to be laid on them.

The American people are shouting at the top of their lungs: Stop, and stop now. They are making their voices heard through YouCut, where more than 830,000 votes have already been cast to cut spending.

And today, on America Speaking Out, PAUL RYAN has posted a plan to cut spending now and to reduce the budget deficit. You can visit AmericaSpeakingOut.com right now and check out these ideas and vote on them in order to cut spending quickly.

FILLING THE DOUGHNUT HOLE

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

Ms. WATSON. Good news, Mr. Speaker, the first \$250 checks have been sent out, 3 weeks ahead of schedule, to about 80,000 people who are already in the doughnut hole. The rest will be mailed at monthly intervals through the year as more part D enrollees, about 4 million in all, hit that gap. The one-time rebate will be sent directly to anyone who falls into the Medicare part D doughnut hole during 2010.

Health care reform will eventually close the doughnut hole completely. Additional checks will be sent to seniors who fall into the doughnut hole every month or so after that, with a total of 4 million seniors receiving these \$250 checks in the mail. While the

Medicare part D program has helped millions of seniors obtain prescription drug coverage, there will be more.

CONGRESS ISN'T LISTENING

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, the American people know when they are being ignored. Congress just isn't listening. Unemployment is nearly 10 percent. The national debt is skyrocketing past \$13 trillion; and even more spending is coming down the pipe this week. Dependency on the Federal Government is rising at an alarming rate, and the Democrats have failed to even propose a budget.

Our Founding Fathers would not be pleased with this situation, and neither are the American people. That is why I am launching The Empowerment Project. To get America back on track, we must restore our founders' principles of empowerment by having more limited government, increasing personal freedom and responsibility, and having greater choices and opportunity. The Empowerment Project will work to highlight Member initiatives that empower the American people to prosper.

Our Nation cannot thrive if it is built on government dependency. It is time to put America back on the path of empowerment. To learn more about The Empowerment Project, go to my Web site at Randy.house.gov.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE ON RISE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, each month the numbers come in, and the signs are clear: Our economy is growing in the United States.

Consumers agree. Consumer confidence rose to the highest level in more than 2 years this month. I believe our economy is on the rebound largely because we are making the move back to a manufacturing and production economy and away from the paper economy of Wall Street.

Our manufacturing sector is up for the 10th month in a row. Manufacturing has added more than 125,000 jobs this year. Companies like Acutec in Crawford County, a manufacturer of aerospace parts, have been performing well and hiring new employees despite the recession.

A strong economy is one that makes things, produces goods and products that people want to buy here and all over the world. American can-do attitude and entrepreneurship will continue to lead us out of this recession. I am proud to support our American manufacturers, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

GUN RIGHTS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, too many people in Washington, D.C. are under the dangerous impression that the Second Amendment is obsolete and unnecessary. If they had their way, only criminals and agents of the State would be armed, while law-abiding Americans would be at their mercy.

While we can stop gun control in Congress, progressives and Washington, D.C. bureaucrats will use every tactic at their disposal to disarm the American public, including banning firearms on public lands.

That is why I have sponsored the Firearms Freedom on Federal Lands Act with Representatives Rob Bishop and Paul Broun. This legislation creates a statutory protection of gun rights, preventing land management agencies from restricting firearms on public lands, as they have done in the past.

The NRA has endorsed this measure, and I hope my colleagues will follow their lead and cosponsor this legislation.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF BARBARA GREENSPUN

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Barbara Greenspun whose recent death marks the end of an era in Nevada. With her sad passing, we have lost a remarkable individual who gave so much of herself to our community.

Together, Hank and Barbara Greenspun poured their heart and soul into the Las Vegas Sun, showing a dedication and commitment that would turn the paper into a leading publication. Then moving from behind the scenes to publisher after Hank's death, Barbara built upon his legacy as the paper earned journalism's most prestigious award, the Pulitzer Prize.

Known for her grace and generous spirit, Barbara also committed herself to a number of important causes, including higher education and women's health that touched the lives of so many. While she will be truly missed, her legacy will live on through her remarkable family, the landmark Greenspun building at UNLV, and the continued excellence of the Las Vegas Sun.

CONGRESS IS NOT LISTENING

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, an oft-forgotten dictum in Washington is that to govern is to choose. It is to choose between the dizzying array of wants,

wishes, and needs of the American people, while constrained by the Constitution, fiscal, and political realities of the day.

Sadly, the leadership of the majority of this House have punted on choosing anything. They have ignored fiscal realities, our present condition, and the constitutional limits on our authority, and simply enacted whatever they could twist enough arms to pass. This majority has made promises it cannot keep with money it does not have. It has not made hard choices; it has not governed. No place is this more evident than in the Speaker's refusal to pass a budget this year, the most basic fiscal document our Nation has.

The budget is the foundation of all the taxing and spending that the Federal Government does. It constrains the appropriators and sets the boundaries for the spending debate. In choosing not to pass a budget, the Speaker is failing in her responsibility to govern this House and our Nation.

The American people, though, are not standing idly by. They are suggesting difficult choices for the Speaker through the YouCut program. To date, the American people have voiced support for over \$60 billion in hard choices.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation governed by the people; the people are not being heard. This Congress is not listening.

AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about jobs: where we were, where we are, and where I hope that we will be in the next 10 years.

In the last 3 months of 2008, we lost an average of approximately 650,000 jobs per month. The first quarter of 2009 saw us lose over 700,000 jobs per month. In the first quarter of 2009, our economy shrunk by 6.4 percent.

We have stopped the bleeding. We have added jobs in six of the last 7 months, averaging almost 200,000 jobs, the majority originating in the private sector. If this pace continues, this administration will have added more jobs in 1 year than the previous Bush administration did in 8 years. I repeat, 1 year compared to 8 years. Our economy grew by 3 percent for 3 straight quarters of economic growth, 9 percent in 12 months. After February of 2009, household wealth grew for 10 straight months, regaining nearly 30 percent, \$5 trillion of the \$17.5 trillion of household wealth wiped out during the former Bush administration in its final 18 months.

We have stopped the bleeding. The economic policies of this Congress is investing in America. There is no snap-your-finger fix to our economy.

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PASS A BUDGET

(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, the House of Representatives has passed a budget every year since the Congressional Budget Act took effect in fiscal year 1976. To be completely accurate, there have been times under both Democrats and Republicans when a finished budget was not passed by both Houses. But this is the first time the House of Representatives has simply decided there is too much peril for the American public to see the numbers that they are pursuing, so they are going to stop the game before the coin is even tossed.

We have more than \$13 trillion in debt and a Presidential budget that puts the deficit at \$1.6 trillion and spends \$3.8 trillion. Even Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says this budget is, quote, "unsustainable."

Faced with similar challenges in your personal budget, there would be a talk around the kitchen table and the children's allowances would be cut, along with many other luxuries. It is that discussion that the majority seems unwilling to have under the theory that if they ignore it, it might go away. Unfortunately, the debt will not go away. The pain will be transferred to our children and grandchildren in the hopes that they will have the guts to face reality.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, Congress must decide whether to protect the interests of a few deceptive bankers who ruined the industry for others or to protect the hardworking Americans of this Nation.

House Democrats have already decided. We have decided to choose Main Street over Wall Street. We have decided to choose parents who want to provide for their children and for people who are saving for retirement. We have decided, Mr. Speaker, that the American people are more important than the overzealous bankers.

Maintaining the status quo is not the answer. Look at what the current situation has done to America. Eight million jobs were lost without the safeguards to protect Main Street. Millions of homes were taken in foreclosure due to subprime mortgage schemes.

American people deserve and want better. A CNN poll shows 6 out of 10 Americans support Wall Street reform. Republicans have blocked efforts to protect Americans. House Republicans voted unanimously against the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This act would reform Wall Street, reform executive pay, end taxpayer-funded bailouts, and hold banks