

and financial firms accountable to the American taxpayers.

Congressional Republicans are making backroom deals with the bankers. It is time for us to protect Main Street.

The same Republicans who deregulated the industry, and opposed reforms, now claim the Wall Street reform bill "allows bailouts." This is false.

Let's give Americans what they deserve—fairness in the financial system.

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time last year, we, for the first time in the 221-year history of our Republic, saw the appropriations process shut down, completely shut down. Never before had that happened. It was difficult to imagine that anything could be done to jeopardize and undermine openness, transparency, and accountability than shutting down the appropriations process.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe, but this Democratic majority has gone one step further. Incomprehensible, but they have now decided not to pass a budget at all. Now, in the last 17 months, we have witnessed an 84 percent increase in nondefense discretionary spending. And we all know that a budget is a blueprint and absolutely essential if a majority is going to make any attempt whatsoever to govern.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they have failed in the appropriations process, and now they have failed to come forward with even a budget. Our children and our grandchildren deserve better.

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, a recent Gallup Poll tells us that the American people rank the growing debt in this country as the single most threatening issue to the future of our country's well-being.

When the American public in their homes face a debt crisis, the first thing they do is prepare a budget so they can live within their means and start to reduce their debt burden. But this House, under the Democratic leadership, has chosen to prepare no budget. In fact, for the first time in modern budgetary history, they are telling us there will be no budget here in this House this year.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are crying out for us to get control of our spending. How can we control our spending without a budget? It's a crying shame there is no budget. No wonder we've got issues with jobs.

And by the way, when you're trying to create jobs, why do you shut down a major industry in the gulf and kill tens of thousands of jobs up and down the

gulf coast, stopping drilling in the Gulf of Mexico?

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today Republicans are on the floor of the House of Representatives speaking out on behalf of the American people that we believe that the leadership of this House of Representatives should bring forth a budget, a budget that would give the American people more confidence in this body. We are at record low numbers of people who have confidence in the leadership of the House of Representatives, the ability to lead this country in a direction that will bring us closer to jobs and addressing the issues of this Nation.

We just got the budget numbers that come in from May, and through May of this year, we have a \$936 billion deficit. Mr. Speaker, the American people understand that we must have a road map, a road map to lead America back to where we become an employer Nation again. Taxing, spending, and unemployment will not lead us that way.

I urge this House leadership, the Democrats, please bring forward a budget where the American people can be part of this debate.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR JOB CREATION POLICIES

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, sales are suffering, the economy remains stagnant, and millions of hardworking Americans are looking for work. Arkansans believe that the recent Obama-Pelosi health care bill, cap-and-trade, and other job-killing tax increases will hurt, not help, our struggling economy.

We should take action to help businesses get on their feet by focusing on job creation as opposed to some of the misplaced priorities. New taxes and health care mandates are harming smaller firms and businesses. The so-called stimulus bill is not creating long-term jobs but is increasing the budget deficit and sending the bill, plus interest, to tomorrow's taxpayers.

Congress must stop growing the tax burden and creating job-killing policies. Tax relief and incentives for small businesses would help all Americans, especially the middle class, and get our economy back on track. The key to this will be fiscal discipline. Now is the time to put a cap on Washington spending and to focus on the economic issues that matter instead of further inflating the national debt.

PUT PEOPLE TO WORK

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we just heard a very interesting 1-minute presentation that didn't make much sense. We have a world of hurt. People are unemployed. People are going to lose their jobs in local governments and State governments, and teachers are going to be laid off across this Nation. And to simply say we need fiscal discipline doesn't solve this problem.

The Democrats put out, without one Republican vote, an American Recovery Act a little more than a year ago, and it really worked. People did get jobs. Things were done. Infrastructure was built. We need to continue that, and we need to keep people working.

Yes, we need fiscal discipline, and I would be welcoming any idea from the Republicans on how they are going to do that other than simply say there ought to be. Yes, there ought to be, but we need right now to put people to work.

There is a program that's available that will be coming up that will stimulate small businesses. It puts forward major programs for the Small Business Administration to support loans. We also need to support the local governments. Yes, it's going to cost us some money in the short term, but we have a choice: We are either going to put people to work or we are going to have welfare. I want people to work. I want them to be taxpayers.

THE GULF OIL SPILL TRAGEDY

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

Mr. PENCE. The oil spill in the gulf is a widening tragedy of epic proportions. BP must be held accountable for every dime of cost that will affect the families and the environment and the communities of our gulf region. And this administration must be held responsible, responsible for failing to provide the kind of energetic leadership that the American people expect and the law demands.

What's obvious to Americans across the political spectrum is this administration has been a day late since day one. Unable to make this crisis a national priority, we now hear that the President is poised tonight to go to the Oval Office in the midst of explaining the Federal response to this crisis and use it as an opportunity to press for a climate change bill.

The American people don't want this administration to exploit the disaster in the gulf to advance their disastrous energy policies. America needs a new energy policy. But cap-and-trade won't cap that well. This administration should work the problem in the gulf instead of working their liberal environmental agenda.

THE U.S.-MEXICO PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. This last weekend, I was part of a delegation to Campeche, Mexico, as part of the U.S.-Mexico parliamentary exchange. This was the 49th annual U.S.-Mexico parliamentary exchange, and I rise today to emphasize the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

Our topics included three major areas:

We talked about border security, what we need to do on both sides of the border to improve security, to reduce the flow of drugs from Mexico into the United States, and reduce the flow of weapons from the United States into Mexico;

We talked about how to expand our economic partnership to create jobs in both nations. Mexico, depending upon how you measure it, is our second or third largest trade partner, and we continue to grow our trade;

And finally, we talked about immigration. However frustrating it is for the United States to deal with this issue, it's even more frustrating for Mexico to see many of their best and brightest fleeing northward. And the Mexican Government resolves to take action on this issue. Likewise, it's critical for our country to replace our broken immigration system with one that works for the United States.

PASS A BUDGET

(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, we have heard today some comments from our friends on the other side of the aisle about fiscal responsibility and about creating jobs, but the one thing we haven't heard from them is anything about the budget.

If they were from Hollywood, they would be up here saying, "We don't need no stinkin' budget." If they were involved in, oh, Presidential politics a few years ago, they would say, "Where's the beef? Where's the budget?"

Fiscal responsibility starts with knowing where you are and where you are going. Every family in America adopts a budget, but I guess we are too big to fail. We are too big to create budgets because we can just print money after money after money. The fundamental proposition is, as stated by the chairman of the Budget Committee a couple years ago, if you can't budget, you can't govern.

They've told us they can't budget. They're proving to us they can't govern. The problem is this is not a game; this is not a Hollywood movie; this is real life, and real people are hurting.

Let's get down to the business of helping people by being responsible here, and let's start with a budget. Everybody understands that, perhaps, except the Democratic leadership.

PASS WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a financial system that protects their savings and their money. Until this Congress passes the Wall Street reform package, America's families and small businesses are at risk. By supporting reform, we support the kind of financial stability that supports job creation.

Regulation, effective regulation, is the unbiased referee that protects us as we compete. Everyone benefits when Americans' savings are protected and small businesses can get loans. Yesterday's laws do not protect us today.

I commend Chairman FRANK and Senator BAUCUS for their hard work going on right now to get a final version of Wall Street reform before this Congress for the American people.

AMERICANS WILL BE FORCED TO CHANGE THEIR HEALTH CARE PLAN

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the selling of ObamaCare to the American public has been trademarked by one empty promise after another. On September 9, 2009, President Obama infamously promised Americans, and I quote, "If you are among the hundreds of millions of Americans who already have health insurance through your job, nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have." Yet yesterday, in an ironic twist, the Obama administration released draft regulations indicating that up to 69 percent of employer-provided plans may be forced to change their health plans when the new health care law's mandates and requirements begin.

Speaker PELOSI was quoted as saying that we will have to pass this bill to find out what's in it. As the fine print is being placed, we are learning bad news daily about this unpopular law.

Mr. Speaker, I again ask: How many promises will ObamaCare have to break with the American people before we repeal this disastrous legislation?

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG DOUGHNUT HOLE

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. About 80,000 senior citizens and people with disabilities have already fallen into what we call the doughnut hole. What is that? That is a gap in Medicare prescription drug coverage and is a result of—you know, we just heard criticism of so-called ObamaCare—but the Republicans passed a bill called Medicare part D.

But what it says is that Mrs. Jones, after a certain amount of money that has been spent on her prescription drugs stands in line at the drugstore and says, I'm ordering a refill of my prescriptions.

And the druggist says, Well, Mrs. Jones, that will be \$100.

She says, What do you mean, I thought I was insured?

They say, Oh, no, you've gone over the amount of money that the government will give you, and now you're going to have to pay \$3,000-plus out of pocket in order to get covered again.

Well, we finally have done something about that, and checks are going to start going out this week to people, the 80,000 that have fallen into the doughnut hole, of \$250 to try and help them pay for that, and we're going to ease out the prescription drug doughnut hole.

LEADERSHIP REQUIRES MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, you know, America is broke, and it's time for us to start making tough decisions. Continuing debt spending is actually the easy choice. Leadership requires making tough decisions, and yet we stand here today as Members of Congress with the majority not even sending up a budget.

Now, the Obama administration did propose a budget. It was \$3.8 trillion funded with revenue that totaled \$2.2 trillion. The majority doesn't even seem to want to address the budget. Now, when we were in the majority, JOHN SPRATT said, If you can't forward a budget, you can't govern, and yet today we don't see a budget.

All across this country, American families have had to readdress their budget, make tough decisions in their family households. That's what you do during difficult times. Businesses have had to make tough decisions, and yet this Congress is refusing to make the tough choices. Instead we continue the deficit spending, tacking on debt to the next generation.

America deserves better. Our children and our grandchildren deserve better than continued deficit spending.

STAND UP FOR HARDWORKING AMERICANS

(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, I rise today to call on Members of Congress and the Wall Street reform conference committee to stand up for hardworking Americans and send us a strong bill that protects the interests of those on Main Street who have been continuing and will continue to pay the price for Wall Street excesses.