

year 2011; and throughout the next decade, the deficit will never go below \$700 billion a year. At the end of the decade in 2020, it will still be over \$1 trillion a year and the national debt's going to double within the next 5 years. We just can't sustain this kind of spending.

This President's proposed spending freeze that he talked about is a step in the right direction, but it's only \$15 billion. \$15 billion out of a budget of \$3.8 trillion is less than a drop in the bucket. So when he talks about freezing spending, that's not going to solve the problem. We need budget caps. We need spending caps that will be continual year in and year out if we're going to get in control of spending.

The President pushed through the stimulus package which ended up costing over a trillion dollars, and it hasn't helped unemployment at all. In fact, he said it was going to be no more than 8 percent, and it went up to 10½ percent and it's still over 10 percent right now.

The President says he wants to have another stimulus package. He calls it a jobs bill. It's going to cost billions of dollars more, and it's not going to create jobs; it's just going to increase the deficit more.

And CBO says that if we pass the energy tax he is talking about because of "climate change," it's going to increase taxes on energy by \$870 billion.

And then to cap everything off, the President continues to want to bring these terrorists to the United States for trial. These people are enemy combatants. As my colleague, DAN LUNGREN of California, talked about a while ago, they should be tried in a military court in Guantanamo where people won't be intimidated by them.

Can you imagine what it would be like to be on a jury with one of those people? Everybody on the jury would be scared to death that their life is at risk if they render a decision to put those people to death or cause them a great deal of harm. So we really need to deal with them as an enemy combatant. We need to deal with them at Guantanamo with a military tribunal and give them the justice that they deserve.

This is what is going on with this administration right now, and I hope that the President might be paying attention—I can't address him because we can't address people outside the Chamber—but if he were listening tonight, I wish he would take all of these things to heart because the American people are very concerned about the direction of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISION FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to continue the theme that my colleague just had, and that is the President's vision for these United States over the next 10 years. That vision is exemplified in his budget that he brought to Congress yesterday, which, for fiscal year 2011, which doesn't start until October of this coming fall, which spent \$3.8 trillion, a record, it would generate another deficit of \$1.3 trillion in 2011; it would have some \$2 trillion in tax increases over the 10 years; and it would accumulate \$8.5 trillion in cumulative deficits during that 10 years. It would double the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, I would argue that that's not much of a vision for America that my grandkids really want to look at and want to see.

To put that in context, if you look at the cumulative deficits during the 8 years of the previous administration, they total \$2 trillion.

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To put that in context, if you look at the cumulative deficits during the 8 years of the previous administration, they totaled \$2 trillion, a number that we ought to be embarrassed about. But if you look at the deficit in the first 15 months of the current administration, it is \$1.8 trillion, and we will surpass the \$2 trillion number some time during this second quarter. If you look at just the first quarter deficit under this administration in 2010, in 15 months, it is larger than all but two annual deficits in our Nation's history. Again, Mr. Speaker, that is not a vision for America that my grandchildren would embrace, nor is it one that we ought to embrace on behalf of our grandchildren.

My appeal tonight is to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee now takes up the President's budget, and I would appeal to my former colleagues on the Budget Committee to simply ignore this flawed vision for America. It is unsustainable, and it is not one that is worthy of us to even consider in the least.

What I would ask the Budget Committee to do instead is to bring forth a budget that truly addresses what I believe is the single greatest threat to our way of life that we face these days, and that is the growth of this govern-

ment as represented by spending growth, 29 percent growth in spending since 2008. And again, that is unsustainable. Our budget colleagues on the Budget Committee, Mr. Speaker, have the ability to do that. They have the ability to say let's put out a budget that truly does address this threat, this grave threat to our Nation's prosperity.

There are a couple of suggestions I would make. Let's roll back spending to fiscal 2008 levels and start the spending freeze there. Let's put a hiring freeze on today for all Federal Government agencies except perhaps DOD, Homeland Security, and maybe intel communities. That is a true action that every business and every family around this country knows exactly what it means and exactly why we have to do that.

I'm reminded of the folks, and you see them all the time, who are constantly searching for a way to lose weight. They are always looking for that new diet plan, and they are always willing to start, however draconian the plan might be, "tomorrow."

Well, Mr. Speaker, any of us can start a diet tomorrow, but we need a spending diet that starts today. And I ask that our Budget Committee brethren start that process. We need a spending diet that starts today, not 20 months from today when the President's statement of a freeze would actually start. His freeze won't start until October 1, 2011, and then it's a bit of a fig leaf at that.

Mr. Speaker, these are tough times. These are hard times. This isn't about being Republicans. This isn't about being Democrats. This is about a vision that we all ought to have for this country. That vision ought to include ways of fixing today's problems, however difficult those might be, with today's money. We have taken the process of using future generations' money to fix today's problem as far as it will go, and we simply cannot continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I would also ask that my colleagues consider a balanced budget amendment. If you were to ask me what is the most important constitutional amendment that we ought to be considering among that broad array of important constitutional amendments, it would be a balanced budget amendment that would force Congress to make those tough decisions; not a commission out there that could be some sort of a facade to try to get it done, but a true balanced budget amendment that every State government except one has to operate under.

Municipalities, counties, families, and businesses have to operate under the exact same discipline. We ought to be doing the same thing. Mr. Speaker, I would call for both of those things tonight.

HONORING THE U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER "MOHAWK"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the brave work and the supreme dedication of the command and crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*.

The *Mohawk* has just returned from a 2-month deployment and is now home at Coast Guard Sector Key West. During their deployment, they were diverted to Haiti in response to the earthquake that hit on January 12. The *Mohawk* was the second cutter on the scene and the first to have Coast Guard crew members on the ground in Port-au-Prince.

On behalf of our grateful Nation, I thank each and every crew member for their role in this humanitarian mission. My most supreme appreciation goes out to Corpsman Second Class Elias Gomez. Corpsman Gomez will certainly be receiving commendations and awards in the coming months for his heroic actions in the gruesome scene that was Port-au-Prince.

Corpsmen Gomez set up a minihospital and triage directly in the streets of the capital. He set broken bones and he closed wounds, all the while having to create tools and making do with limited supplies. His actions were as resourceful, were as inventive and as innovative as they were lifesaving. Corpsman Gomez's "dirt medicine" was an example of American values at its finest. This great young American and father of four truly led by example, and I join with those whose lives he saved in thanking him for all that he has done.

Through efforts like those of Corpsman Gomez, the wonderful crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk* helped save countless lives and performed their mission in accordance with the best traditions of the U.S. Coast Guard. Their assistance was both essential and invaluable.

We have all seen the devastation that is present at the island nation of Haiti, and it is beyond words. The United States has a unique duty to protect, to defend, and to support freedom, and all peoples, around the globe. As proven by the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*, this noble cause lives on in our Nation's oldest continuous seagoing service.

The efforts of the command and crew of the *Mohawk* have supplied a lifeline of humanitarian assistance to Haiti and will certainly help ignite the spirit of hope for recovery in that devastated island nation.

Every day, I give thanks to our local Coast Guard personnel, no matter how they serve. Their efforts are first and foremost to safeguard our Florida coastline. This fact is never lost on me or anyone else in south Florida. We feel their presence every day and take comfort in the fact that the men and

women of the Coast Guard Sector Miami, as well as the Sector Key West, truly lived their motto, "Always ready."

We as a nation can never repay those who serve, but we can take pride in knowing that those men and women have served not just our community but our neighbors in need as well. Their humanitarian mission reminds us all of what it means to be an American and why we should be so proud to say, every day, "I am an American."

The commitment of the U.S. Coast Guard is illustrative of how we must all do our part to help with continuing relief efforts in Haiti. To each and every crew member on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*, I say thank you: Commanding Officer Robert T. Hendrickson, Executive Officer John J. Driscoll, Corpsman Second Class Elias Gomez, and all of the crew as well as the families who support these heroes, thank you. Your works are testimony to our great Nation. "Always ready," and we thank you for it.

Thank you, U.S. Coast Guard. Thank you, Coast Guard Cutter *Mohawk*. Welcome home. Godspeed.

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.)

ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IN WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago, our Nation received a very vivid reminder that Islamic terrorists are still at war with our Nation and are bent on killing innocent American citizens. On Christmas Day, an Islamic extremist attempted to blow up Northwest Flight 253 as it was on its final approach from Amsterdam into Detroit Metro Airport with a sophisticated bomb that was smuggled onto the plane in his underwear. This terrorist had been radicalized by al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula and trained in camps in Yemen.

Following his capture in Detroit, he was only questioned by FBI agents for a total of 50 minutes. Then, after that initial questioning, the bomber was sent to the University of Michigan Burn Center, which is probably the best medical care in the entire world, all at taxpayer expense. Then Attorney General Eric Holder had to decide how to proceed.

Did Attorney General Holder and the Justice Department immediately share the information that they had gathered, the intelligence, with senior in-

telligence officials? No. Did Attorney General Holder declare this terrorist an enemy combatant and turn him over to the military for further questioning? No. Did Attorney General Holder have the FBI continue the questioning in order to obtain more actionable intelligence? No.

So what did Attorney General Holder have the FBI do? He instructed them to give full Miranda rights to this terrorist, including the right to remain silent, and gave him not one, not two, but actually three taxpayer-funded attorneys. And guess what? After he lawyered up, he shut up.

The Attorney General did this even though this terrorist had fresh, firsthand knowledge of al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula, even though he had previously given actionable intelligence. And now we have made it very difficult to obtain any further intelligence, intelligence that could have led to the disruption of other planned terrorist attacks or assistance in unwinding this terrorist network.

And we need to ask the question, "Why?"

I believe that Attorney General Holder has built a culture within the Justice Department that seems to put the rights of terrorists ahead of the safety of our Nation. Let us remember that prior to becoming the Attorney General, Eric Holder and his law firm represented many, many terrorists pro bono; that is, for free. These terrorists were held in the military justice system, and they argued for their transfer to the civilian justice system, wanting to give them full constitutional rights. As well, he has placed other attorneys who have also represented terrorists held by our government into high-ranking positions within the Justice Department.

The Attorney General, Mr. Speaker, has not answered questions as to why senior intelligence officials were not consulted on how to proceed or why this terrorist was not treated as an enemy combatant. Mr. Speaker, it almost seems like Attorney General Holder has gone into the Witness Protection Program with regard to the Christmas Day bomber. If this Congress is to do its duty to provide appropriate oversight in the handling of these issues, Attorney General Holder must answer these questions.

Unfortunately, the lack of his consulting with intelligence officials or senior national security officials is nothing new. Attorney General Holder did not consult with senior military or intelligence officials before deciding to try Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other 9/11 conspirators in New York City. He did not consult with the police commissioner or the mayor about security concerns before making that decision. And now New York officials have finally come forward and objected to this trial being held just a few blocks away from Ground Zero because of