

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, over the past weekend, President Obama sent a letter to Congress. He said we need to spend \$50 billion “as quickly as possible” in order to “jump-start private sector job creation.”

I’m not sure if the President has read the unemployment reports lately, but 16 months since his trillion dollar stimulus bill became law, the private sector is still struggling under the tax and regulatory burden of an ever expanding Federal Government. Unemployment is at 9.7 percent, and frankly, the last thing the private sector needs is the fear of higher taxes to pay for more wasteful government spending.

What this country needs as “quickly as possible” is for House Democrats to put forth an annual budget and for Congress and the President to have the courage to make real spending cuts. We can’t keep spending billions of dollars and calling it “emergency” spending so that it doesn’t have to be paid for, because eventually it will have to be paid for, and the American taxpayers know that day of reckoning is coming.

It is time for Democrats in this Chamber to stop talking about fiscal discipline and actually do something about it. As your majority whip said over the weekend, this economy is your baby. So take responsibility, put a budget on the table, and let’s debate it and give the American people a chance to hear which party is listening to them.

GIVING SMALL BUSINESS THE RESOURCES THEY NEED

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the engines of our economy, and their success is critical to our economic recovery and long-term economic growth. Sixty percent of new jobs are created by small businesses, and over half of this country’s economic growth since World War II has been from innovation and new technologies. We can and should empower the businesses and entrepreneurs who make our economy go by creating favorable conditions for businesses to start, to expand, and to put people back to work. That’s why I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Jobs and Credit Act designed to increase small business lending, help small businesses hire new workers and expand their operations. When I talk to small business owners back home in Missouri, the number one issue they identify as an obstacle to hiring people is access to credit. We must continue to focus on promoting our small businesses to grow this economy and to get people back to work.

OIL SPILL NOT AN EXCUSE TO KILL JOBS

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the horrific environmental and economic damage in the gulf continues, but it seems like the administration wants to move on to other things before the leak is stopped and the oil cleaned up. The President spent a significant part of his speech Tuesday night talking about imposing new costs on energy and cap-and-trade climate legislation.

We all know how important it is to have less dependence on fossil fuels, especially from foreign sources, and encourage clean energy production. The question is whether we do that by imposing new costs on the American people because of global warming. We should not impose new taxes on energy just based on the hope that clean energy will become more cost feasible.

I don’t have to remind anyone that we have unemployment near 10 percent. Making it more expensive to run factories and small businesses will not bring back jobs.

We certainly need clean energy, and I’ve been proud to see sensible solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric projects move forward in my district. What we don’t need are job-killing taxes on what BP chairman calls the “small people” that will make it even more difficult to recover jobs not only along the gulf coast but across our Nation.

FIDEL CASTRO’S ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENT REGARDING ISRAEL

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage at Fidel Castro’s recent anti-Israel comments. In response to Israel’s interception of the flotilla in May, Fidel Castro published a statement in which he absurdly asserts that Israelis would like to send Palestinians to be cremated, as the Nazis did to the Jews.

Castro’s comments are outrageous and cruel. He ignorantly disregards the horror of the Holocaust and the suffering of the Jewish community. To suggest that Israel will consider a Nazi-inspired genocide of the Palestinians is inexcusably malicious.

This propaganda was not only published by the Cuban regime but then widely distributed. His offensive comments clearly portray the prejudice and anti-Semitic position of the Cuban regime. Castro’s words cannot shame or erase the democratic tradition in Israel and the strong relationship Israel shares with the United States.

I ask my colleagues to continue to work with Israel towards a peaceful solution for the Israeli and Palestinian people. And I encourage my colleagues to view Castro’s comments for what they are, the dangerous scheme of a brutal dictator, designed to hurt the people of Israel and obstruct the peace process.

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HONORING THE SERVICE OF HARRISON FIRE CHIEF JOHN NEAL

(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, I rise today to honor Harrison Fire Chief, John Neal, who has devoted his life to the citizens of Harrison, Arkansas, and is now retiring from duty after 21 years of service.

During his time as chief, John has exhibited his ability to lay the groundwork to ensure the people of Harrison’s safety by instituting more pre-fire planning, better building inspections and construction plan reviews, along with assisting in better public education of fire safety. He went above and beyond and worked with all of the fire departments in Boone County, making the county a much safer place to live.

Chief Neal is an outstanding leader. John has been married to Mary Lu for 30 years, has five children, and he looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren.

I wish him continued success in his future activities. And today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief John Neal, who will be missed, but I’m confident will continue his dedication to his community and his State.

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT SENIORS

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

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Speaker, in these difficult economic times, the face of retirement is changing. Today, seniors are staying on the job longer—not just because they want to, but, frankly, because they have to. That’s why I’m introducing two bills that will begin to address some of the challenges that we see facing our older workforce.

The Older Americans’ Job Opportunities Blueprint Act expands the work opportunity tax credit already available to over a dozen specific parts of our employment pool that will now benefit employers in hiring older Americans. For the first time in our history almost 20 percent of our workforce is 55 years and older; this is very different than we’ve had in the past.

I have also introduced the Back to School Act, which will give seniors financial assistance to take courses if they want to change their careers or to make them more competitive in the workforce.

Congress, of course, focuses a lot of our attention on new entrants or future entrants into the U.S. workforce, but the reality is that seniors are putting off retirement until much longer, and it’s time that we change the way our Nation thinks about retirement. I am excited to introduce these two pieces of legislation that will give

older Americans a chance to continue working.

BUDGET WOES

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, Congress is now 2 months late in passing a Federal budget, and the majority has shown no indication of considering one any time soon. This fiscal irresponsibility on display in Washington is affecting American citizens and further damaging our economy and job growth. In fact, we hear hints that the budget isn't late, it's actually not coming at all, and the majority may avoid considering one altogether to evade calling further attention to an addiction to reckless spending. Given that the Federal debt has gone up by nearly \$2.4 trillion since January, 2009, undoubtedly congressional Democrat leaders fear that they will soon be forced to account for their reckless spending.

America needs a pro-growth economic policy to promote job growth and business development. Instead, we face massive deficits and excessive government bailouts. As the clock ticks on an increasingly late budget, I will continue to fight for government accountability and reform.

PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I testified before the Ways and Means Committee about U.S. trade with China because I'm tired of seeing millions of American jobs lost to China because of blatantly unfair trade practices.

China is playing us for fools regarding the Government Procurement Agreement, the GPA. Upon joining WTO in 2001, China said it would sign the GPA as soon as possible; 9 years later it still hasn't happened. Since that time, we've lost 2.4 million American jobs—68,000 in Michigan, 4,700 jobs in my district alone—due to China's unfair trade.

It's time that we get tough. We need to show China that we're willing to be strong until they open their procurement markets to us. I've introduced H.R. 5312 as a way of addressing the issue, to limit the amount of U.S. Government procurement of Chinese goods to the amount of American goods purchased by the Chinese Government.

How about fairness for a change? How about no more U.S. census materials paid for by our tax dollars made by Chinese workers? Please join me in protecting American jobs.

DEBT AND SPENDING

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about debt and spending.

This Nation today is \$13 trillion in debt, and the Democrat majority intends to spend another \$1 trillion to add to that debt limit by the end of this year; \$14 trillion of debt, that's unconscionable.

You look at the budget that's coming from this administration that was proposed this year, \$3.8 trillion, and we only have \$2.2 trillion in revenue. That's \$1.6 trillion in deficit spending, all of it on the credit card, and the credit card is maxed out.

People back home ask me, why do you keep spending? Why does the Congress keep spending like this when you don't have the money? I think there's two reasons. I think one is this Democrat majority wants to grow government as much as it can while it still has the super-majorities to do so. I think the second reason is they really want to overhaul our tax system, and they want to do that by creating an economic crisis to justify implementing a VAT tax and reaching back to the high rates of taxation that we had back in the Carter administration.

This is unconscionable behavior, and if it doesn't make you mad, it ought to.

TIME TO END AMERICA'S OIL ADDICTION

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. It's time for America to end its addiction to oil. Our national security is at stake. We spend \$1 billion a day sending our money overseas to the oil companies, many of them owned by foreign nations, some of whom are not at all friendly to America.

I hear a lot of whining from the Republican side of the aisle about, well, we can't do that. Well, we cannot continue doing what we're doing today. We see the risks—\$20 billion worth of economy destroyed along the gulf coast. Big Oil has had its day, \$12 billion. You want to save some money on that side, let's retrieve the \$12 billion subsidy that we send to the oil industry every day.

It's time for us to move to renewables. It's time for us to protect our coasts. On the west coast, we do not want new Federal oil leases, and therefore the West Coast Oil Protection Act must be passed. No more Federal leases off the west coast. Move to renewables. Let's retrieve our \$12 billion annual subsidy that we give to Big Oil. Let's not send \$1 billion a day of our money to the foreign countries.

WE NEED A BUDGET

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans say the growing national debt is the greatest threat to our country, according to a recent Gallup poll. Since Democrats took control of Congress in 2007, the national debt has grown by \$3.5 billion a day. Since President Obama took office, the debt has increased by \$4.8 billion a day.

To control spending and reduce the national debt, we need a responsible budget that addresses our fiscal crisis. But as American families make tough choices with their household budgets, the Democratic majority in the House has yet to even propose a national budget. If a budget is not approved this year, it will be the first time since the Budget Act became law in 1974.

Congress should listen to the American people, get government spending under control, and approve a national budget.

WE NEED CLEAN ENERGY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after weeks of outcry for action to acknowledge that BP has caved to pressure, and to discuss yesterday's steps by BP to finally put working families and small businesses ahead of shareholders and short-term corporate profits.

Had BP acted with rigor and integrity from the beginning, we would not be forced into having this conversation right now. However, their shortsightedness has demanded a swift and aggressive response, which the President has provided.

In the short term, we must stop the oil from continuing to spill and subsequently clean up our shores, making BP pay the tab. Our energy future is bright; it is filled with diversity, with clean energy and American jobs for America's workers. Let us heed the devastating message that this disaster sends to us. Let us build the strongest, most powerful and most competitive clean energy economy in the world.

We can and we must rise to this challenge. Our children's future depends on it.

ISRAEL

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for Israel and its right to defend herself and her people against potential terrorist threats.

As the world watched, Israel took action to prevent a flotilla from reaching the Gaza strip because Hamas terrorists could have smuggled in weapons that would be used to take the lives of innocent people.

Israel is a good friend and a true ally to America. We must not turn our back