

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

on Israel at this critical time. We must stand with them. We must support them and their right to protect and defend the safety of their people and the sovereignty of their nation.

The Israeli Government just announced the decision to appoint an independent public commission to review the circumstances surrounding the flotilla raid. This commission will be headed by a retired Israeli judge and will include two Israeli experts in international law and two high-ranking foreign observers. This action demonstrates Israel's commitment to act within the law and to hold itself accountable in good faith to the international community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STEWART WINSTEIN

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in sorrow at the news of the death of my friend, Stewart Winstein, from Rock Island, Illinois.

Stewart was one of the most respected and admired leaders in my community and built a strong reputation for local activism, public service, and the belief that politics could be a driving force for positive change in the lives of everyday Americans. It's a legacy that will be sorely missed in Rock Island, the city that Stewart loved and called home.

As a child of the Great Depression, Stewart and his family faced great poverty. It was a powerful influence on him and I'm sure formed much of his success as an attorney and a founding force of the Rock Island Democratic Party.

As one of the greatest advocates for working men and women that I knew, I think his legacy will be that he wanted to make sure that other families didn't have to face economic hardships that he knew too well. And as many in the Quad Cities can attest, whether it was working people or the vast number of clients he represented, it is a legacy of great success.

Stewart had a huge impact on my life. He was a valuable teacher who led by example, and I learned by witnessing firsthand the contributions he made to the Democratic Party, numerous charities and local government. Above all, I was proud to call Stewart my friend. My thoughts go out to Stewart's family, especially his beloved son, Arthur.

□ 1030

GROWING DEMOCRATS' PROGRAMS

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the dire warnings of economists and the vivid lessons of Greece

and of other debt-burdened European countries which are collapsing under their cradle-to-grave welfare systems have done nothing to restrain the Democrats in Washington. They have failed to heed the warnings from abroad, and they continue to simply declare their out-of-control spending as emergency spending to try to cover up their fiscal irresponsibility.

As a constitutional conservative with grave concerns about the Democrats' out-of-control spending, I support a different plan. I say balance the budget; cut the deficit; pay down the debt; fire the czars; and grow the economy.

With President Obama in control, the term "GDP" has taken on a whole new meaning—growing Democrats' programs.

JOSH CONFERENCE

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

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, we are 2 weeks into the hurricane season, and already the first tropical depression has formed in the Atlantic. If one of these storms were to strike the Gulf of Mexico, with millions of barrels of oil on top, the results would be disastrous to the communities along the gulf.

To make sure our region is prepared to deal with the effects that a hurricane or a tropical storm could have, this past Monday I held a joint oil spill-hurricane planning conference in Bay County, Florida. The conference brought together representatives from Federal and State emergency response agencies, and it brought together military leaders and key local stakeholders to discuss the hazards associated with a hurricane's impact on the oil spill and to discuss the threats posed to our area by having oil propelled inland.

Working together, we identified several planning and action items that need to be taken to better brace for the effects that a storm would have on our communities now that there is oil in the Gulf of Mexico. I plan to deliver these action items to the President and to urge him to incorporate these recommendations into a Federal hurricane preparedness and response plan so that our communities and people can be better protected.

North Florida is already feeling the significant economic and environmental distress from the BP oil spill. It is our responsibility to take steps to safeguard our region.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5297, SMALL BUSINESS JOBS AND CREDIT ACT OF 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1448 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1448

Resolved, That during further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5297) to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1436, it shall be in order to consider the amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution as though they were the last two amendments printed in part C of House Report 111–506.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR). The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1448.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1448 is a structured rule, providing for further consideration of H.R. 5297, the Small Business Lending Fund Act. It provides for the consideration of two amendments which were initially cleared as PAYGO-compliant but which were subsequently deemed to violate PAYGO after the first rule was adopted. These amendments have been revised to comply with PAYGO rules, and this rule treats them as part of yesterday's rule.

Mr. Speaker, in 2008, after years of lax regulation and Wall Street roulette, our Nation's economy fell off a cliff. Within a matter of months, many Wall Street giants fell, and they took the livelihoods of thousands of small businesses with them. Since that time, we have taken bold action to stabilize the economy, to invest in economic growth, and we are in the process of putting in place new rules to protect against the casino-like atmosphere that existed on Wall Street.

Yet for small businesses, they are still feeling the pinch. Accessing capital to build, to grow, to diversify, and to hire new employees remains a pressing challenge. In September of 2008, there was an earthquake on Wall Street, and the aftershocks are still being felt on Main Street. The purpose of this bill is to help those small businesses deal with the aftershocks of that credit crunch from a year and a half ago.

The underlying bill, the Small Business Lending Fund Act, establishes a process for community banks to lend responsibly to small businesses. Because of a mistake, two of my colleagues, Representative SCHRADER and