

in. It was projected that we're going to have unemployment going down. If you pass the stimulus bill, it's going to go down here; if you don't pass it, it may get up to 8 or 9. In fact, we passed the stimulus bill, it gets to 9.7.

If you take a look at the other graphs—I don't know that I have that graph here today—what you find is that the employment in the private sector has been going steadily down and the government employment has been going steadily up. So, so much for the first step of economic policies in the administration. That was followed, of course, by all of these different nifty big tax increases. Now, that says something's wrong when you have a recession and you're doing tax increases.

I'm joined in the Chamber tonight by a fellow that is very aware of how these things interact, has done a fantastic job for his district, and I'd like to invite him to join me in our discussion tonight, Congressman SCALISE, please.

Mr. SCALISE. I'd like to thank my friend from Missouri for leading tonight's discussion about the economic problems that we're facing today in our country. And of course, as you showed those comments from Henry Morgenthau, who was the Treasury Secretary under FDR, who in fact not only pointed out the problems of the massive spending back then, but really was kind of prescient because some of the things he talked about back then are still as relevant, if not more, today because he predicted the problems, he discussed the problems of government spending and borrowing and borrowing and borrowing with no results, and in fact with detrimental results because of the damage it's done. And of course here we are today seeing the results of that same failed policy of history, unfortunately, repeating itself.

Mr. AKIN. We just didn't learn.

Mr. SCALISE. And of course those who are running things right now—the liberals who are not only in the White House, but here in Congress—have not learned the lesson of history. And there is that saying that if you don't learn from history, then you're doomed to repeat it. Unfortunately, we've been trying to prevent history from repeating itself, and yet we're seeing that happen right now.

I represent southeast Louisiana, and of course we are battling this devastating oil disaster—

Mr. AKIN. Maybe I should just interrupt for a moment and recognize, gentleman, you have really studied up on the whole oil spill situation and shown tremendous leadership there. I'm very thankful for the fact that you have stepped into what appears to many Americans and many conservative Congressmen as a leadership vacuum. You have really stepped in, and I'm very thankful for you doing that. I would encourage you to make the connections here.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman for his kind comments. All I've been

trying to do is not only represent the people of my district and my State, but also to make sure that the President is meeting his responsibility under the law. And of course under the law in this case, with the Oil Pollution Act, the President himself is responsible for directing the recovery, and the responsible party, BP, is responsible for paying.

BP ought to be paying. The problem is the President is allowing BP to still run the show on the ground in too many different areas, which is not his job. And now something that has really added insult to injury is that the President came out a few weeks ago with this ban, this moratorium on offshore drilling across the board, not focusing on finding out what went wrong on that rig, why the Horizon exploded—and we still continue to battle this oil today. In many cases our local leaders tell me, including just yesterday, our local leaders are spending more time fighting the Federal Government than fighting the oil, which is inexcusable, and it's still going on to this day.

Mr. AKIN. Could you hold that right there for a minute because I think you're on something that I think we ought to be exploring a little bit here tonight, but we do have an item of business.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ARCURI).

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5175, DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY CASTING LIGHT ON SPENDING IN ELECTIONS ACT

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-511) on the resolution (H. Res. 1468) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5175) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign influence in Federal elections, to prohibit government contractors from making expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish additional disclosure requirements with respect to spending in such elections, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE ECONOMY AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I think we were just talking a little bit about the situation in the gulf that's gotten everybody's attention.

My background is engineering, gentleman, and my first reaction when there's a problem is, how do you fix it? That's the first thing I'm saying. What has puzzled me and actually made me pretty frustrated is it seems that the administration is more interested in affixing blame than they are in fixing the problem.

I recall that President Bush took a whale of a beating after Hurricane

Katrina because it took him about 2 or 3 days after he had been rebuffed by the Governor and the Mayor of New Orleans, it took him a couple of days before they sort of got going. And then of course our FEMA didn't respond very well; the Federal response was a bit weak in terms of the magnitude of the disaster. And yet, by comparison, what we're dealing with here in the gulf is it took 50 days for the President to call the head of BP. Now, he had the power, if I'm not mistaken, is it right, he had the power to basically declare that a national emergency, get together a team of people, a fusion cell, get the very top resources in America. They could have pulled that together, they could have processed the different questions, sorted through the conflicting claims and started to put this thing together, put together a series of, We're going to do this, this and this. If this doesn't work, this backup plan is already getting set up.

We could have managed the process. Instead, after 50 days he calls the head of BP and just wants to ream the guy out. Well, BP did a terrible job, but after the crisis started it was the administration's problem to deal with, and I didn't see it fixing the problem. Am I mistaken in that? I mean, that's just an outsider looking in. I'm up in Missouri, we don't have too much coastline up there.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, obviously you've been studying this. I know you, and I have spoken about the problems on the ground, and I appreciate your concern and the interest you have in trying to help us. I wish that the President had that much interest in helping us in the day-to-day problems we're facing. Just the other day I was talking to one of the local fire chiefs who was there on the ground after Katrina, who is there on the ground right now battling the oil, and he said that the level of government dysfunction is higher today—more dysfunction today—than it was during Katrina. A case in point just happened yesterday when this sand barrier plan that our Governor and our entire congressional delegation fought for over 3 weeks to get the President to finally approve. In fact, last week, when the President gave his address to the Nation from the Oval Office, he actually bragged about the fact that he approved this sand barrier plan. Well, yesterday the Federal Government shut it down.

Mr. AKIN. Wait. The President approved the sand barrier plan that we've been waiting a month to get approved, and now it's been shut down by the Federal Government?

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Mr. SCALISE. It was shut down yesterday by the Federal Government. Spoke to our Governor's office about it. They basically said it was a Federal agency that shut them down. I talked to the Federal agency today, and they said they didn't shut them down. We went round and round, and of course

they were shut down by the Federal agency. Again, this is a classic problem we have had every day.

Mr. AKIN. The Federal agency said they didn't shut them down. Yet, in fact, they weren't telling the truth. They did shut them down.

Mr. SCALISE. Yes. I don't know whether the people in D.C. didn't know what their Federal agents on the ground in south Louisiana knew what they were doing, but it's happening every single day. It seems like we have problems like this every day, so you can't just say it's miscommunication. Clearly, it's a lack of leadership. The President, under the law, is responsible for that leadership, and clearly, he is not doing his job, and he is not engaged.

Mr. AKIN. It is a vacuum of leadership, isn't it?

Mr. SCALISE. It is very sad that it is a vacuum of leadership, because the law is clear that, under the Oil Pollution Act, when there is a spill, the President is responsible for directing the recovery, and the responsible party, in this case BP, is responsible for writing the check.

Now, for whatever reason, the President is allowing BP to still make decisions on the ground even though they have proven they are incompetent. Yet he is not doing his job. The President is not doing his job under the law. Now, if he doesn't like that law, he should try to repeal it, but in the meantime, he ought to follow the law.

Mr. AKIN. The thing that struck me about it was—because I heard about this sand barrier thing. I mean there are a lot of different ways you could try to mitigate the oil that is in the water. There are dispersants. You can put hay in the water. There are a lot of things. One thing you could do is you could dredge up a little sandbar, which is very flexible. I mean you could pump it away a week later if you wanted to. That sandbar could protect these very delicate ecosystems along the edge of the water. They could trap the oil.

You know, some years ago, there was a place that had some good food in Missouri. It was one of those truck stop-type places, and it had a picture that was kind of a cute one. It had a beautiful John Deere green wagon, and it had these two little kids dressed up in the high-bibbed, blue-and-white-striped overalls. One of them had a handle on the wagon and was pulling on it. The other one was pushing. Apparently, the wagon had sort of gotten stuck in a bump, so he is looking back over his shoulder, and the caption reads, "Are you pulling or pushing back there?"

I've got to think of poor Governor Jindal. You're trying to get permission to build a sand barrier to try to protect your environment, which is what the Federal Government is supposed to be demanding that we do. We have all of these expensive bills to supposedly protect our environment. He says let us build a simple sandbar to catch the oil on it, and then we can take it away

later. Yet it takes the government a month to try to make a decision. The oil is already into all of these delicate ecosystems while the Federal Government is dithering around, trying to make a decision.

If I were the Governor of that State, I'd be jumping up and down mad. It's just a vacuum of leadership is what we've seen. Now you're saying the President said they could build them, and then they can't build them. There is no one in charge, it seems like.

Mr. SCALISE. You know, the gentleman is correct about not only the Governor but about the people, who all throughout the gulf coast are jumping up mad because they're seeing this kind of dysfunction, this lack of leadership from the President, every day in different ways, and there is no reason for it. The President is giving speeches, talking about how he is in charge, but any time anything goes wrong, you can't find anybody who is in charge. Nobody takes responsibility. Nobody wants to be held accountable. Yet nobody wants to actually help us solve the problem.

You were talking about food. Just Monday, I was in New Orleans. I ate at one of the great restaurants, Drago's, and I was eating my shrimp po-boy. The seafood is still great to eat. Unfortunately, a lot of the seafood beds are closed right now. There are still seafood beds open, and when you can find good seafood, it's still good to eat, and the shrimp po-boy I ate was wonderful. The problem, though, is with some of those seafood beds we've been trying to protect. Just weeks ago, some of those seafood beds had no oil. Today, oil is starting to come in.

That's what this whole barrier plan is about—protecting our marshes, our estuaries, and the pelican nesting areas. In some of the other areas that haven't been affected by oil, we are trying to keep the oil out, and so we've come up with a plan. Unfortunately, the Federal Government didn't have a plan. So you would think that they would be working with us to help us implement our plan. In fact, they've been fighting us. It took us over 3 weeks to get the President to finally approve the Governor's plan, but he only approved 25 percent of it. He spoke last week in his national address as if he'd approved the whole plan. There is still 75 percent of that sand barrier plan that has not been approved, so there are still a whole lot of seafood beds and marshes that haven't been protected.

Here we had at least 25 percent that we were working with to build up these barriers. Then yesterday the Federal Government comes and shuts it down. Again, this is something we fought for for over 3 weeks, and the Federal Government finally permitted. They were so successful, supposedly, that the President bragged about it on national TV. Then yesterday they just shut it down quietly, but we're not going to let this go by quietly because this is something that is their job, and they're not doing it.

Mr. AKIN. The question that raises my blood pressure is it seems to me like President Bush was almost accused for bringing on Hurricane Katrina. Yet we've got one of the biggest leadership vacuums in terms of this oil spill every time you hear about something. There was also that moratorium about we're not going to drill any more wells at all. The equivalent would be, if an airplane falls down, we're going to cancel every air flight in America. You know, there were some reasons there was this disaster. From what we're hearing, there were enough coverups and different things, so we don't really know exactly what happened. Though, apparently, the equipment, at least if it's functioning properly and has been properly checked out, should work. So there was some human error involved, clearly, and possibly some equipment that was not properly inspected. There are some problems, but that doesn't mean you shut every oil rig in the gulf down while you're trying to figure out who did something wrong.

Wasn't it over 100,000 jobs that were just going to, all of a sudden, disappear?

Mr. SCALISE. That's exactly correct.

In fact, when the President came out with this ban—and he calls it a temporary pause—if they do what the President said he wanted to do, which is for 6 months to allow no drilling in the gulf, ultimately, those rigs, each of them, will lose about \$1 million a day. They're being lured by other countries, countries that want these valuable assets and the skilled workers that go with them. Now some of them are starting to go to places like Brazil and West Africa. So, over the next couple of weeks, you will see a chipping away of not only the ability to generate natural resources in America, which provides billions—\$6 billion by last estimates—of Federal revenues that will go away but of also the jobs. In Louisiana alone, it will be over 40,000 jobs that we will lose.

Mr. AKIN. Is that 40,000 jobs just in the oil industry alone?

Mr. SCALISE. Just directly related to those rigs. Of course, you've got service industries, and you've got restaurants. You've got all of the secondary spending that goes along that you can't even calculate because it's so big. These are high-paying jobs. These are skilled jobs that will leave our country, and some of them are already starting to.

Ultimately, if you go back, the President is trying to say this is a fight between safety and jobs. Unfortunately, he probably—or maybe he hasn't even read the recommendations of his own scientists who came up with a report. Right after the explosion on the rig, they asked to have a panel of scientific experts, who were assembled by the President and by the Secretary of the Interior, put together a report. They asked for a 30-day report. Sure enough, this panel of scientists came back with

a 30-day report of specific recommendations to increase safety, to make sure you go and you inspect every rig. For the ones that are working, fine, like every other one is, and you allow them to do what they're doing. If there are any problems you find, you address those problems, but you don't shut down an entire industry because one company didn't follow the rules.

In fact, the Federal regulator, under President Obama, didn't enforce the laws that were on the books. The recommendation came back and said to look at these safety guidelines we're giving you, but don't shut the industry down. Well, the President conveniently discarded, threw away, the recommendations of the scientific panel, and he recommended the moratorium. They actually pointed out, No, we didn't. You're misstating what we said. They apologized for that, but they still went forward with this moratorium.

Then, just yesterday, a Federal judge in New Orleans said, You cannot have this moratorium because it's not based on fact; it's not based on science, and it doesn't help safety. In fact, it could decrease safety. Yet they still continue to ignore the fact that they are throwing away science and are trumping it with politics. They are playing politics with this decision, and they are still going to try to ignore now a ruling of a Federal judge and of their own scientific experts to run 40-plus thousand jobs in Louisiana and over 150,000 good, high-paying jobs in this country to foreign countries and are going to make us more dependent on Middle Eastern oil.

Mr. AKIN. Just from what we've talked about in 10 minutes tonight in terms of this leadership vacuum, we are seeing a threat to 40,000 jobs. Just in your State alone, it's 40,000. We're not talking about the barbers and the restaurateurs and all of the other people who are supported by it. It's just 40,000 hard jobs which are being thrown down the drain when a panel of people who really have studied and know the industry are simply saying, Look, go out to the different oil rigs. Make sure that they're inspected and up to spec because, by the way, MMS, the Federal agency supposedly doing this, has not done that. Make sure that they're up to spec, and then let them go ahead because there is nothing wrong.

We have drilled thousands of wells in water, and they have worked fine. Just because one goes bad, you don't shut the whole industry down. So we are threatening 40,000 jobs. Also, in spite of what the panel recommended the President do, we are continuing to endanger the environment, and they are always screaming they care so much about the environment. Though, they are the very ones preventing you from trying to protect the environment.

The thing that strikes me is: Why do we put so much trust in the competence of the Federal Government? That's what is striking me. That's part of the reason I thought it was good to

take off a little bit and talk about the gulf situation.

We've got this proposal now. The President wants to use the fact that a company mismanaged its oil well and that he and his administration have made a complete mess of the management of that crisis to say now what we need to do is to have the Federal Government do this cap-and-tax bill, which is more taxes, more red tape and government regulation. When the last government agencies didn't even do their jobs, now he wants us to buy more of this, not to mention the fact that we've already passed this huge tax increase for health care. Now we're supposed to trust the Federal Government to take care of our own bodies. We took a look at what it's doing down there in the gulf. I sure don't want the Federal Government tampering with my body. I'll end up with two left arms, which would be a pretty terrible fate for a conservative like me.

Mr. SCALISE. You know, if you look at what the President said in his speech last week, I and many others were angered by the fact that he spent almost as much time trying to exploit this crisis to promote his cap-and-trade energy tax as he did in talking about the oil spill and how we can battle the oil and keep it out of our marsh. In fact, if he just were doing his job and were focusing on what his responsibility is under the law, then he actually would be focusing exclusively on helping us battle the oil instead of, not only blocking our attempts on the ground, but of then diverting it and trying to exploit it to talk about this cap-and-trade energy tax.

Then you go into so many of the other things that are happening on the ground that are causing so much frustration for our local leaders, who should all be not only working with the government to battle the oil, but they should be empowered. They should be given ideas from Federal agencies.

Look, I'm for smaller government. Right now, we've got the largest government in the history of our country, but whether you're for bigger government or for smaller government, I think we should all be able to expect competent government. Clearly, we are not getting that now.

Mr. AKIN. Well, you know, the thing that strikes me—and maybe it's because I'm an engineer and I see it this way. For most Americans I know, if you've got this big hole in the middle of the gulf and if it's pouring out all of this oil all over the place, the reaction of most people is, Well, let's fix it. You know? Let's get the job done. Whether you believe in big government or in little government, what you want to do as Americans is to have this "can do" attitude. Well, we made a problem. Now we've got to get in and fix it. We've got to figure out what we did wrong. We've got to make sure we don't make those mistakes again, and we're going to move forward.

I don't like being negative. I like fixing problems, and I know you're the

same kind of temperament. We've been kind of complaining about the fact of a vacuum of leadership in the administration, and it's a vacuum that's evident in the gulf oil spill. It's evident in Afghanistan, and it's evident in a lot of policies. Let's stop for a minute. I don't want to be negative. Okay. Let's say that we are President and that we have this oil spill. What would be an appropriate response?

My thinking is I know the military has these things they call "fusion cells." They're teams of people who get together. It's a clearinghouse for all kinds of information. You get the top resources all over America of what you need in different areas. You put a plan together and say, This is our first attempt to stop this well up. If this doesn't work, we're going to do this. That means we've got to have this, this, and this piece of equipment ready to go. It means we've got to clear this, this, and this with this agency.

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We've got Governor this; Governor this; Governor this asking for permission. We've got to consider that, take a look at the law, move fast if we have to change the law or change some policy, and we need to get back to them within 12 hours. And you've got a whole team that is on top of it, managing this thing. That's my sense of where we would be going. You have to be able to look at all of the data, get the right people in the loop, and make decisions. We're not seeing any of that.

Mr. SCALISE. No. Another thing that needs to happen is you need to have a real clear command structure on the ground where decisions are made quickly and decisively; and if things go wrong, there are people you can hold accountable to go fix them. Not to sit around and point fingers, but to get things done. The problem that we continue to have—and we're over 2 months into this now and there was no excuse for these kinds of delays 3 or 4 days after the rig exploded, but especially 2 months later, when everybody knows how important this is, how much national significance it has not only for the 11 lives lost, for the environmental damage, but now for the economic and energy security issues that are being raised, you would think that this would be the number one priority of this President and he would be focusing all of his resources.

And when local leaders have ideas like our local leaders have had ideas, the Federal Government is right there working with them saying, How do we get this done today instead of 3 weeks going by, fighting with the Federal Government to get approval for things that should have been approved on day one, if this was the top focus. And then where the Federal Government is even coming up with ideas.

I watched the movie "Apollo 13," and it's an inspiring movie. It's one of those movies you watch if you really want to get your juices boiling. And

you can see what American ingenuity is all about. This was a case where the American spirit was alive and well and those NASA folks sat in that room and said, We're not leaving until we get our men back home safely. "No" was not going to be an answer and no excuse was going to be accepted. You don't have that same can-do spirit today by the Federal bureaucrats, who continue to block our attempts to protect our marsh, to keep the oil out of those seafood beds, to protect those pelicans and the other wildlife that are threatened every day, when we have ideas to protect them.

Again, if they've got a better idea, wonderful. We'd love to hear. Unfortunately, not only did they not have any ideas to help us, but they're spending their time blocking our attempts to save our marsh. And there's no excuse for that.

Mr. AKIN. It's got to be terribly, terribly frustrating. As I took a look at it, my daughter actually was taking a biology class and she did a paper on the whole oil spill and some of the different technologies for mitigating all this really raunchy oil that's floating around. One of the things is there's a company that has in barrels a powder-like yeast—these little critters that will eat that oil. When the critters eat the oil, when they get done eating it, if there's no more oil, they just die because there's no more food and other creatures can eat them, and the whole thing just cleans up the mess biologically, naturally.

Now, I don't know whether that's a great solution or not, but it sure seems to make a lot of sense. And then you've got other people in the Midwest areas, we've got plenty of straw and hay. And there's even these YouTube's and people are saying, Here's one way to fix it. Put a bunch of straw and stuff in this water. All of this very sticky oil clings to the straw, you bring it in, pile it up, and burn it in an incinerator or whatever. But Americans have ideas how to do this, and our government is standing around saying, You can't do it. No, we don't like that idea either. In the meantime, the oil is piling up on the shores, and we're just asking for some legitimate government.

My friend, Congressman BROWN from Georgia, is here, a medical doctor and also a guy with some strong ideas and a lot of common sense. It's a pleasure to have you.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. AKIN. I appreciate you yielding me some time. As you were talking about putting straw or hay on the oil, we can make electricity out of that. Just think about that. What better source of electricity than doing that?

Before Mr. SCALISE leaves, I want to just tell him just for his edification—I think he knows what I'm fixing to tell the American people and Madam Speaker—is that we recently—in fact, just in the last day—sent a letter to the Internal Revenue Service to ask them to give a special exemption for

taxes on the money of all the people who are being harmed economically by this disastrous oil spill. They won't have to pay taxes on the money they get, which is absolutely fair.

We saw that happen. The Internal Revenue Service was going to tax the recipients money that they received in Hurricane Katrina, as you know, in your own home city there in New Orleans. And Congress had to act to say to the Internal Revenue Service, Don't tax that money. But I wrote the Internal Revenue Service and said, Please give a special exemption to all those businesses and individuals that have been harmed. And it's absolutely critical because these people have been out of work, many of them for 2 months now. They're struggling just to make ends meet. And it's absolutely critical.

And I hope that the Internal Revenue Service and this administration will immediately give a special exemption to all those people who are harmed—those businesses and those individuals that are harmed. And I hope that the American people will just have a tremendous outcry and have a heart for those that are harmed and say to this Federal Government, to the Internal Revenue Service, Don't tax these folks. And I've made an appeal to the Internal Revenue Service and hope you all will join me in trying to get the Internal Revenue Service to not tax these people who are already damaged and already hurt, and it's only fair to those people.

I just wanted to tell my good friend from Louisiana that we're fighting for folks—not only those in Louisiana, but those in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, and all over the gulf coast. It may even affect people on the east coast. It may even affect my own home State of Georgia. So we're fighting for those folks, and hopefully the administration will come forward to say, Don't tax these benefits because they're not benefits. They're actually moneys to just try to help them get their lives back on track.

Mr. AKIN. That all goes to the same thing we're just talking about. I don't really naturally like to be dumping on people for mismanaging something, but this is so outrageous. I mean, the only thing that could top the outrageousness of BP is the outrageousness of the administration to be sitting here 2 months after this situation without a clear-cut plan. I would think the President would have some boards like this and say, Look, the first thing we've got to do—and this is just like somebody has been hit in an automobile accident. They're bleeding. You're a doctor, Dr. BROWN. And you stop the bleeding, is one of the first things you do.

I would say, Well, we've got to stop that oil coming out of the floor of the ocean, and here's the plan to do it and we'll do this, this, and this, in this order. And it's going to require these resources and we're putting the team together and the plan to do that. Now we've got this situation with jobs down

there. And Congressman BROWN's got an idea to help on the income tax side of it. Congressman SCALISE has got a plan as to what to do with some sand berms to stop this oil from coming into the harbor. And you put the team together to make decisions and deal with this. And so instead of fixing blame, you fix the problem. And all we've heard is the government getting in the way.

My understanding is private companies have more oil booms out there to collect oil than the Federal Government did. And there are types of booms—I heard they're called fire booms—where they're a material that's more or less fireproof. It corrals the oil. Light the oil on fire and they can burn the stuff up before it drifts onto the shore and causes a lot of trouble.

And the thing that drives me crazy is here is this example of the government just totally failing and the gall of the administration to turn around and say we've got to pass a great big tax increase and we're going to give the Federal Government power to tell you you've got to put a 220-volt plug in your garage for your electric car and you can't build a wing on your house without making sure the carbon footprint is right and we're going to tax anybody every time you flip a light switch and we're going to try and pass this piece-of-trash bill, and the excuse for this is the fact that we haven't dealt with the problem in the ocean. I don't understand how people can have such great, great faith in the Federal Government. It just blows my mind.

And, of course, you know, gentleman, the health care bill. Every day that comes out, we find more and more problems, all things that we were saying were going to happen. And it shows that the real objective here isn't health care at all. That's the ironic thing. This Obama benchmark progress report. Here's the thing about jobs. Is it going to help with jobs? No. It fails this measurement. Costs. Today, I want to lay out the details of a plan that not only guarantees coverage for every American but also brings down health care costs. Is it going to bring down health care costs? No. The whole thing is a scam because all it does is businesses will dump their employees in the Federal Government.

And so why do we have so much trust the Federal Government should be entrusted with health care? You're a doctor. Would you want to trust your body to the Federal Government when we've seen this record?

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. AKIN, you're exactly right. The American people get it, though. The administration doesn't. That's the problem. In fact, whether it's the oil spill and the disaster that's going on there and their disastrous response to that or forcing ObamaCare through against the will of the American people, all this administration is showing the American people is its arrogance, its ignorance, and its incompetence. That's exactly what the

American people have seen. In fact, just on the oil spill, just the other day I was talking to a fireman in my district and he asked me about this oil disaster and the poor response that this administration has shown. This working guy, just a guy trying to make a living and take care of his family and struggling to make ends meet, asked me if this administration was purposely not responding to this oil spill just so that they could force through their cap-and-trade. I call it tax-and-trade. Because President Obama himself said this was about revenue. He had to have that revenue from this energy tax to pay for his health care plan for ObamaCare. And that's what we see over and over again.

And the American people get it. They understand that this administration is bungling the oil spill, the ObamaCare, and you're talking about a budget. We're asking, Where's the budget? Back in the ObamaCare debate, the leadership here in the House said that they were going to deem and pass. Deem and pass. That sounds like a bad place in a spaghetti western where the bad guys are setting up to ambush the good guys. And that's exactly what was happening.

Now, on the budget, Leader HOYER is saying that we're not going to have a budget and that they're going to deem the budget. So we're having another deem and pass by the leadership in the House to not even set forth a budget. And why? Because Democrats don't want to—a lot of the Democrats, particularly Blue Dogs, don't want to vote and those vulnerable Democrats don't want to vote for the massive debt that's being created and incurred—or already incurred, actually. Tremendous debt that's already incurred by this administration and by this leadership in the House and the Senate. They don't want to have to vote on that again because they're scared what the American people are going to do in November.

Mr. AKIN. The funny thing is, the very words they spoke kind of come back to condemn them. They're kind of condemning themselves because here's the Democratic whip, Congressman HOYER, he's saying, Budget is the most basic responsibility of governing. That's 2006. The most basic responsibility of governing is what? The budget.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Passing a budget.

Mr. AKIN. And here's the guy in charge of the budget, Congressman SPRATT. If you can't budget, you can't govern. So this is what they're saying in 2006. And now we take a look at what's coming forward and we say, Where's the budget? Here's the Hill: Skipping a budget resolution this year would be unprecedented. The House has never failed to pass an annual budget resolution since the current budget rules were put into place in 1974, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

So, since 1974, Republicans and Democrats have met in this Chamber and every year they put a budget together. Some of them were a lot better than others. Some were tighter. Some tried to balance the budget. But they have always had a budget. Didn't always get passed. Didn't get taken care of. But they always had a budget. Until when? Until this year. And why? Why is it Democrat leadership says it's absolutely essential to have a budget, and they don't have one this year? Why do you think that is?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Before you take that down, if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. AKIN. I do yield.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. The folks watching on C-SPAN tonight, Mr. AKIN, may wonder if Congressional Research Service is some far-out right-wing group that might be trying to hammer the Democrats and trying to castigate them in a negative light. But that's not so, is it?

Mr. AKIN. The Congressional Research Service is a bunch of professionals that are paid by the U.S. Congress and they try to be as objective as they can. They're not always right. But they at least have very good access to historical records and the history of the Congress. This statement that the House has never failed to pass an annual budget resolution, that's a historic fact.

So what we're seeing here is we're in uncharted ground, at least since 1974, that there is no budget. Well, why is there not a budget? You made reference to it. And here's the nasty little picture. We were told that George Bush spent too much money. President Bush.

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Mr. BROUN of Georgia. And he did.

Mr. AKIN. And he did spend too much money. In fact, you and I, gentleman, voted "no" on some of the things he wanted to spend money on. His worst budget, though, was when Speaker PELOSI was in charge of this Congress in 2008, right here. That was his worst deficit, \$459 billion in deficit that year. Not proud of that, \$459 billion. The people said that Bush spent too much money. And here we come to the very first year of President Obama, and it's \$1.4 trillion. That's three times the worst Bush deficit. And so if you had that followed by an even bigger deficit this year, you had unemployment at 9 percent, if you were one of the Democrats, would you want to pass a budget right now? I think they're running for cover.

You know, we have an expression in Missouri, it's called "hunkered down"—"hunkered down like a toad in a hail storm." It seems like to me, if I had anything to do with that level of deficit spending, I would be hunkered down. In fact, I think I would have resigned and gone to try to do something else with my time because this is totally destructive to our country.

And you raised the question, Is the objective to precipitate such a crisis that they consolidate power in the Federal Government? At least it seems like to me the American people are going to go, Oh, my goodness. You're going to need to create an awful good crisis for us to ever trust the Federal Government with the kind of quality of leadership that we've been seeing.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. AKIN, if you would yield.

Mr. AKIN. I do yield.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Saul Alinsky in his book "Rules for Radicals"—and I am reading the book to try to garner some information about the battle plan of the progressives. There's another word for progressives in my opinion; it's socialists, Marxists. You can use other terms.

Mr. AKIN. Well, Saul Alinsky was a Communist, wasn't he?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. He was.

Mr. AKIN. And that's a historic fact that he was a Communist. And Obama studied under him, right?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. That's what I understand. In fact, he dedicated the book "Rules for Radicals" to the first great radical, Lucifer.

Mr. AKIN. The first great radical, Lucifer, Satan.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. It is right there in the book. That is the first thing I looked at.

Mr. AKIN. Did he have all of his bolts together? What was his problem?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, Lucifer rebelled against our creator, God, and was thrown out of heaven. And we're trying to fight all of those spiritual wars today because of that. But the thing is, what the progressives or radicals or socialists—whatever you want to call them—are trying to do or the proposal from people like Saul Alinsky and others is that you just totally destroy your enemy, and then you build up a socialistic society out of it.

I've had person after person in my district, just working folks—not politicians, just working folks, say to me, PAUL, why is President Obama trying to destroy the free enterprise system? Because that's exactly what he's doing. I hear that over and over again from lower middle class working people all the way up to small businessmen and -women who are just saying, Why are we trying to destroy the free enterprise system? Why are we creating all this debt? And the people in my district in Georgia are just seriously questioning all this huge debt. What this chart shows is the deficits for each year. That doesn't reflect the debt that's accumulated. The debt would be an exponential curve if we showed that.

Mr. AKIN. Yes. Now an average guy on the street—let's just say they're reading some newspaper headlines over the last 18 months. Now what's the impression they get? First of all, there's this huge bailout, a Wall Street bailout. So you get these firms on Wall Street that are getting billions of dollars of taxpayers' money. That, of

course, makes people get really happy and excited about that. So we're bailing out Wall Street first of all. Now there are people that are making a case that the economy was in very bad shape and that we had to drop \$700 billion. We didn't vote for that. But there are people that make the case that, Well, there were these things that were failing.

So we drop all this money into Wall Street. We bail out banks. We bail out insurance companies. And then the bailout fever really gets started, which we predicted would happen if the Federal Government basically opens the kitty to any group that wants to bail out anything, and we start buying out Government Motors—I think it used to be called General Motors before—and Chrysler. So we're doing that. And then we decide, Hey, it would be a great idea if we bailed out college kids who want to get loans. The government's going to take that over. And now the government is in the process of collecting other things that it can own. Of course notably, 17 percent of the free side of the economy which used to be where you worked, Doctor, in health care. So now the government's taking over 17 percent of the U.S. economy in the health care area. They're nibbling and just salivating about taking over the energy business.

So if you're an average guy on the street, and you start connecting the dots—which many people may not. But when you start to think about it, the government's taking over everything. So it's not an odd thing for somebody just taking a look at the headlines and looking back at the last 18 months to say, Holy smokes, what's going on here?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. In fact, it's my understanding that we've nationalized more of our private economy in our country just since the Obama administration took over from the Bush administration—we've nationalized more of our private economy under this administration than Hugo Chavez has in Venezuela, in the whole time the Communist dictator Hugo Chavez has in his country down there in Venezuela.

Mr. AKIN. I know America likes to win, but I don't know that we want to do better than Hugo Chavez. That's not exactly where most Americans want to be going, I don't think.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, during the Bush administration, we had the TARP funds, the Troubled Asset Relief Program that the Bush administration promoted. It was actually through his Secretary of the Treasury, Hank Paulson, who came to us and said, 'The sky is falling, we had to pass a TARP or the economy would crash. I voted against that because I wasn't in favor of bailing out the incompetent Wall Street bankers for their malfeasance. I want to bail out Main Street, small businessmen and -women. I want to bail out the small community banks by getting the Federal regulatory burden

off them so that they can compete in an open marketplace.

I believe very firmly that the free marketplace, unencumbered by government regulation and taxes, is the best way to control quality, quantity, and costs of all goods and services, whether it's banking services or health care, in my business as a medical doctor, or selling tires and gasoline and automobile parts and appliances, like my dad did, or any other good or service. The best way to control it is through an open marketplace unencumbered by taxes and regulations. And the more taxes and regulations we put on business and industry, the higher the price goes, the quality goes down, and we have less of those things for the people who are consuming. And we're going to see that in health care.

Mr. AKIN. Well, I appreciate, gentleman, your perspective on all of these things, and I appreciate you sharing what a lot of your constituents are telling you because it very much reflects what I am hearing when I go home. And the question mark is, Really, what is the game plan of this administration? It seems that one thing you can say, whether it is the Katrina oil spill, whether it is the attempt to try to do the cap-and-tax or cap-and-trade or whatever you want to call it—a government takeover of energy is what I would call it—and whether you want to talk about socialized medicine, whether you want to talk about a whole series of different things, it seems like the pattern is that every single thing the administration does is to try to create an entitlement class, a victim class, a group of people that are totally dependent on the government. And perhaps the worst of all of those things, as you know, Doctor, is the socialized medicine, because if your body is physically dependent on the government to give you your health care, it makes you truly one of these dependent classes. And it seems like the government is trying to turn all of us into a bunch of people totally dependent to the government—in fact, slaves to the government. It reminds me as we start approaching the Fourth of July how it was that the people in this country said, We really don't want the government to be our master. We don't really believe the philosophy that the government should provide everything for everybody. And I think the public is waking up to this.

I would be happy to yield you a minute if you'd like, gentleman.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, thank you. I appreciate you yielding back. We have got about 2 more minutes left. I just wanted to add something to what you just said about being enslaved. My good friend Star Parker who, by the way, is running for Congress in California, in Los Angeles, whose welfare mom got saved. She accepted Jesus Christ as her own Lord and Savior. She started looking at her lifestyle, and she started trying to break out of that welfare state that she was in and had a

great deal of difficulty. She wrote a book called "Uncle Sam's Plantation" where she described all that. And she's been a great voice against this government largesse—socialism, if you will, because she knows how it destroys families, it destroys communities, it destroys everything. And we are headed in a direction in this country where freedom is being taken away from the American people.

The American people need to stand up and say "no" to the steamroller of socialism and say "yes" to freedom. Let's stop all this government spending. Let's stop all this bigger government and government takeover, and let's put us back on the course of the Constitution with limited government. And that's what the Tea Party movement is all about. I yield back.

Mr. AKIN. I really appreciate you mentioning Star Parker. She is really a fun person. She has a great personality, is a lot of fun. She's cute, and she is very articulate. And she has an amazing story about how the government tried to trap her into all of this welfare stuff and all of the behaviors that would destroy her life. She came out of it through the power of Jesus Christ, started her own business. Now the government gives her trouble. While she is trying to run a business, doing the right thing, the government is taking shots at her. And she says, Whose side are you on, government? You know, when I was doing the wrong stuff, you were encouraging me. When I am doing the right things, you are giving me a hard time. What's the story here?

As I said, I started with a picture of that little green wagon and those two kids. One of them pulling, the other one pushing. The guy looking over his shoulder said, Are you pushing or pulling back there? You know, it just seems like, is the government trying to help us or is it trying to destroy us? And it seems like every decision we have seen is more dependency on Big Government.

Thank you, Doctor. It's a pleasure to join you, and God bless America.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2194, COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2010

Mr. BERMAN (during the Special Order of Mr. AKIN) submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2194) to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 111-512)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 2194), to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to