

Holocaust lesson plans to teachers and uses "Life in a Jar" to demonstrate what students are capable of achieving. In addition, the Center has also produced a DVD to share Irena's story. Funds raised by the performance of the play and the DVD are for the care of those who worked to rescue Jewish children in Poland, like Irena.

When the students from Kansas met Irena, she told them they were "continuing the effort she began 50 years ago" and expressed appreciation, as we should, for their work to make this piece of history known. Now their efforts to share this story inspire others.

It is the hope of the project that all who learn of Irena Sendler's efforts to save the children of Poland will embrace their classroom motto, "He who changes one person changes the world entire."

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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 California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His 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. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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.)

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

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

WHERE'S THE BUDGET?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, we're going to talk about an interesting subject here this evening, and one that might seem a little boring to start with but actually has tremendous ramifications, and that is the question and the subject of budgeting.

Now, budgets are always kind of an unpleasant thing because there's a natural requirement of a budget to balance a couple of things, balance spending and how much money you take in. So when a family works on a budget, it may be a hard time because you have to make choices between what are you going to spend your money on and how much money do you have to spend. So budgeting is one of those tough things, but it's necessary for organizations in order to be organized enough to try to keep some semblance of economic sanity.

We're going to talk about budgeting some. And the subject is of some interest tonight because, if you think about a family, maybe some families budget in a much more formal process, others do it a little bit informally, but more or less what they try to do is keep how much money is coming in pretty close to what's going out. When they don't, they start to get some very high credit card bills. Of course, small businesses, very important for them to budget.

So who is it? Which one do you think forgot about budgeting? Fortune 500 corporations? No. Schools have budgets. But we find tonight this curious phenomenon, and this is a little bit like watching an eclipse or something. It doesn't happen very often. Since 1974, when the Budget Act was passed, it's never happened that Congress did not have a budget. And yet, this year, Congress, it's Congress that doesn't have the budget. Kind of an amazing thing.

We've heard our floor leader, Congressman HOYER, he says it isn't possible to debate and pass a realistic long-term budget until we've considered the bipartisan commission's deficit reduction plan which is expected in December.

That sounds a little bit like an excuse, doesn't it?

It's the first time we've done anything bipartisan in the last 18 months

if they did wait for it. And if it were bipartisan, I'm sure they wouldn't be interested in passing it.

Is it true that we have to wait until December to pass a budget? I don't think so. There's no excuse. There's a balanced budget resolution here. Here it is, actually, a copy of the front of the bill.

Of course, the trouble with this, this has a big problem. This is a Republican budget. This is a budget that's talking about getting the budget balanced by 2020. It's an austere budget. It's a tough budget. It's a budget that you'd argue about, but it's a responsible budget.

And I'm joined by some very good friends of mine on the subject of budgets. And we're going to move from budgets. We're going to end up answering at least one question. That is, well, why are budgets important?

I'm joined by my good friend from Arizona, Congressman FRANKS, an expert on quite a number of different subjects, and we're going to talk a little bit later tonight, too, about doing some oil drilling.

I believe you were, was it 16 or 17 when you had your first oil rig? But I yield time to my good friend.

□ 2130

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, in talking about the budget tonight, I guess I believe, Congressman, that the budget challenges that we have, the deficit spending and the debt, has the ability to challenge and damage this country perhaps in a way that no military power has ever been able to do.

We are around \$13 trillion in debt in this country. And if you try to measure that in simple terms, it almost boggles the mind. But if you try to put it in terms that we can understand, if we decided to pay that off at a million dollars a day. Let's say we just suspended the interest on the debt and we didn't go another penny in debt, and we said we are going to pay what we owe off before we go deeper in debt. Now that I suppose sounds outrageous for a place like this, but that's a very common-sense idea. And yet, if we paid our existing debt off at \$1 million a day, with no interest and no additional spending, it would take us around 40,000 years to do that.

Mr. AKIN. That's really discouraging.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. My grandkids may not be around that long. But the real tragedy, of course, is that we're not paying this debt off at \$1 million a day as a country. That's a very nominal figure. We're going into debt thousands of times that much every day. The Obama administration is spending us into oblivion. There has never been a precedent. Since this Obama administration's taken place in two year cycles, they have put us at what looks like will be around \$3 trillion additional in debt. If we don't change that, I really believe that it could be the central figure in America's economic obituary.

Mr. AKIN. I very much appreciate your starting off on a very sobering kind of note because I wanted to get to that question about, well, maybe budgets sound boring, but what does it mean? And I think you put that in graphic terms. You are saying it's more damaging than some war that some foreign conqueror could wreak, more havoc than a war.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, Congressman, if we fail to put our economic house in order, we're not going to be able to project any military capability at all. You know, a government is what it spends. And one of the reasons that America has such a strong military capability is because we're so strong economically. We're the most powerful Nation economically in the world. We dwarf all other economies. But the way we're going, we could be competing with Greece for the instability that this administration seems to be heading our country toward.

Mr. AKIN. You know, you have been almost reading my mind, because I have some charts that do compare Greece to where we are economically, and they are spooky charts.

I am joined by another one of our good friends, my good friend from Georgia, Congressman BROUN. And I have to say I have got a couple of my favorite people to share an hour with on the floor tonight, both very articulate, but both very knowledgeable.

Congressman FRANKS, if you start to talk to him about missile defense and ballistics and all kinds of technical questions, he is a veritable Popular Mechanics walking on two feet.

And then my good friend Dr. BROUN, who spent years as a medical doctor, also has a whale of a lot of Georgia common sense. And I would like to welcome you, Dr. BROUN, or Congressman BROUN, or my good friend PAUL. Thank you.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. AKIN. I appreciate your yielding.

In fact, the quotes you have up there on the chart I think are very telling. Democratic Whip STENY HOYER, this is when he was the minority whip, 2006, as is indicated. He said, "The most basic responsibility of governing." And as you also very ably pointed out, JOHN SPRATT, who is the Democratic chairman of the House Budget Committee, Congressman from South Carolina, said also in 2006, "If you can't budget, you can't govern." If you can't budget, you can't govern. And it's just inane.

It's unconscionable that this leadership here in this House isn't even going to attempt, not even attempt to bring about a budget for this Congress to vote on. And why is that? Why would they not, particularly with these very strong statements that the majority whip, now STENY HOYER, made back in 2006 before they became the majority? JOHN SPRATT, when he was on the Budget Committee, not the chairman, as he is now, said if you can't budget, you can't govern. But they can't budget, they won't budget, and they are not

governing very well either. But why? Why is that so?

Mr. AKIN. I would like to jump in, if I could, because I think that's where we got to ask the question. This is, I guess, when the Republicans were in the majority, 2006. And they are saying the most basic responsibility is governing. This is Congressman HOYER. And now we don't have a budget, and he is one of the leaders.

Here we have the ranking member on the House Budget Committee, and he says, "If you can't budget, you can't govern." Well, that's what they are saying in 2006. But it seems like that's not where we are today, is it? Here's "Where Is the Budget?" This is something that was in *The Hill* newspaper. But it's kind of telling. "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."

That's why I am saying this is a little bit like one of those full eclipses of the sun. You have to wait for a certain number of years and be just in the right place to see it. This is unusual. We haven't seen this before. Unfortunately, it is not a good omen exactly from an economic point of view. According to what? The Congressional Research Service. They are the ones that keep records of all of this kind of stuff. So there isn't any budget, which does beg the question.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. AKIN, before you take that chart down, if you would yield for half a second, down at the bottom, I want to call attention to the viewers, this was an article, this didn't come from Glenn Beck or Rush Limbaugh or Sean Hannity, it came from *The Hill*, one of the *Hill* newspapers up here called *The Hill*, on April 14, 2010, this year, talking about this Congress, talking about this leadership. Skipping a budget resolution would be unprecedented.

Mr. AKIN. Unprecedented.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Unprecedented.

Mr. AKIN. Unusual. And what are the implications of all of this? You know, the Congress didn't pass a budget, but the administration sent us a budget. This is kind of a complicated looking chart. But this isn't very complicated in a lot of ways, because this thing is receipts. This is the money coming in. And this is outlays. Now, this is the sort of chart that you need to have some first-graders, because they could give us some real wisdom.

We could say which one of these circles is bigger? Is it the red one or the blue one? The red one is bigger. So we're spending more than what we're receiving. That says your budget's in trouble. That's not very complicated. And it's so much in trouble that the U.S. Congress doesn't want to acknowledge that fact. They say, well, if we don't see it, maybe—it's like at night, you know, when you have a bad dream. If you pull the covers up, maybe it will go away. That seems where we are.

My good friend from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, I think that one of the disappointing things for me in this body, and in all due respect to the majority, is that they seem to hold themselves unconstrained to the truth and the things that you mentioned. It almost seems that they feel like they can hold themselves to be able to take a vote here and repeal the laws of mathematics. And we're facing a day of reckoning that is coming pretty quickly.

There are a lot of things that are beginning to snowball. Not only is this administration spending and deficit spending in an unprecedented way, but we're fast approaching where the baby boomer generation, of which I am sort of kind of on the tail end, barely old enough to be a baby boomer—

Mr. AKIN. I am on the front end. So let's talk about that.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. But the point is, this has been the most productive generation in the history of this country. And the baby boomer generation is beginning now to start to retire. And that means two things: that productivity is going to be dramatically reduced, and of course then they are going to go on Social Security and begin to put a drain on the system. And we absolutely are in an unsustainable circumstance at this moment. And for all the things that we try to do, the Democrat majority simply is ignoring that reality.

I have two little babies at home, 22-month-old twins, and they are the greatest joy of my soul. And I will just say to you that the idea that we're robbing them of God knows what, I mean it's almost like they could be facing a complete economic meltdown, and it could happen way before they get old enough to deal with it. But we actually, in my judgment, have generational theft here. And it is something that is a disgrace. And I think it's fundamentally immoral. And we don't have to do that.

All we have to do is say that whatever else we're going to do, we're going to do like families. We're going to have a budget. We're going to say we're not going to spend more than we take in. We may not be able to pay this debt off tomorrow. I already said it might be 35,000, 40,000 years the way we are going just at a million dollars a day paying it off. But we're not going to go further in debt. And that's something this Congress should have the courage to do.

Mr. AKIN. I think that Congress has tended—our job is to spend money. That's what Congress is designed to do. Of course we do too good a job of it. And the question is we have been overspending for a long time.

□ 2140

We overspent when President Bush, we Republicans, when he was in. And I know you gentlemen joined me in some very tough votes in saying, no, we can't do that. But we have overspent to a degree all the way along. But what

happened is we've taken this thing to an entirely new level. And I have some charts that I think explain that. But I want to hear from my good friend from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I want to add to what our good friend from Arizona was just saying. In Scripture, Proverbs tells us a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children. And the inheritance we're leaving to our children's children is a mound of debt that they'll know we'll never overcome.

We've got to stop the spending here in Washington. We have to stop this outrageous growth of the Federal Government—outrageous, unacceptable to the American people—robbing our children and our grandchildren not only of their economic future but also of their freedom. And that's exactly what we're doing here in this Congress.

And it all started with the TARP funds that President Bush and Hank Paulsen pushed through. I voted against those TARP funds in 2007. I guess it was in 2008 when it was pressed forward by President Bush and he was wrong and I voted against him, and many Republicans did at the same time, voted against him. But it has been magnified. It has been grown at a tremendous exponential rate: the red ink, the debt, the spending. And I think the reason we're not going to vote on a budget, not even have a proposed budget by the Congress, is because this majority does not want any constraints on their spending. They don't want any.

And a budget, if you follow it, constrains spending. That's what it's designed to do. And it also puts forth all of the parameters and would show the American people the increasing debt that is going to be pushed off on future generations.

So we're going totally against what Scripture teaches us when God tells us a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.

Mr. AKIN. The point you bring up, gentlemen, I was not a Boy Scout, but we had a bunch of boys that were Boy Scouts. And one of the things that they learned, which we did, because my wife and I were outdoors people and did a lot of backpacking and canoeing and all, is that when you come to a campsite, you always want to leave it better than the way you found it. It was just sort of like a tradition among outdoorsmen. And that tradition very much reflected the mindset of my parents' generation, the people that fought World War II. My father is 89 and was with Patton in the Army.

But there was a general way of thinking in that generation. And the mindset was that they were going to sacrifice a lot of things they wished they'd had as kids in order to give their kids something better. They're going to leave the campsite better than it was left for them.

And so my parents' generation, if they made a mistake, it was they tended to spoil us. They tended to give us

everything we wanted, whereas they had had to really—the other generation, they might not have had a college education but said, My son is going to be a doctor. My son is going to be an engineer. I'm going to make sure they have enough money to go to college, which I didn't have a chance to do. And that was their mindset. And that's what breaks my heart about such a boring subject as budgets is because of the fact that we're not following—we're leaving that campsite look like a dump truck full of litter just got dumped on it. We're leaving litter that our kids can't pick up, our grandchildren won't be able to pick up. And that's just wrong. And it is not the American way.

And yet what's it spring from? Our own selfishness politically that we have to appease—which is wrong in the first place. It's theft and we're going to steal money from a lot of people that aren't even alive yet and we're going to spend it and hand it out to people. And that's a sad place to be in.

So we're doing two things. So we're increasing taxes radically, but we're increasing spending even more. The ironic thing is that when you increase taxes, you also kill the goose that's laying the golden eggs and you start to take in less revenue.

Here's a list of some of them. This cap-and-tax bill that we passed. This thing is supposed to be about global warming. It's supposed to be about reducing CO₂. The only thing this thing does is create more taxes and more government regulation and probably more CO₂ to boot. If they wanted to stop CO₂—if people were honest about stopping CO₂—let's assume you're a greenie and that your CO₂ is really bad and we've all got to stop breathing. How are you going to do it? You're just going to double the number of the nuclear power plants and you wipe out all the equivalent of all the CO₂ burned by every passenger car in America. But that's not what this bill does. It supposedly is about global warming, but in fact it's just more taxes.

And the health care tax thing. This deal here, that bill, they had to struggle to keep it under a trillion dollars. The President said, I won't do it if it costs a dime. No. He did it because it costs more than a trillion. So there's another great big tax. Death tax. Capital gains. They're going to expire. So we're going high in taxes. But does that mean we're cutting back on spending? No.

This, my friend, is why if I were a Democrat I wouldn't want to put a budget out there. Take a look at that picture. My friend from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I just was responding. I think if we could explain why they are not putting a budget out is because they do not want the American people to see what they're really doing.

Mr. AKIN. I don't think they want them to see that graph.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I don't think they want them to see that. Fun-

damentally, you're correct. I was touched by the gentleman's understanding that this is really about—and we always forget that true statesmanship is not just about the next election. It's about the next generation. And I'm always in memory of how my parents worked so hard. My dad worked in the mines and everything else he could think of doing, and he is probably listening to us tonight. But I'm just so thankful for a father that gave everything of himself to try to make it possible for me to have a better life than he did, and I wouldn't be here without that. My mother worked in nursing homes. And you know, they gave everything they had to us.

And here we're doing exactly the opposite. Not only are we spending our children into an oblivion of debt, not only are we teaching the next generation that they don't have to be responsible, not only are we seeing government take over most of our major industries now whether the auto industry, the health care industry, the insurance industry, the banking industry. I don't know what's next. We're teaching our young kids something that is very, very frightening.

And I just think that more than anything, Mr. AKIN, that you pointed out the real issue here. It is a lack of commitment to the future generations. And this Democrat majority has done for spending what Stonehenge did for rocks. There is no one that can touch them. They can talk about Republican deficits. And from my part and yours and Mr. BROUN's here, you know we worked here when we were in the majority. Our votes reflected a desperate commitment to balance this budget.

But this Democrat majority has completely left all reason to the wind. They've tried to spend and tax and borrow our way into prosperity, and I just don't think I've ever seen in my lifetime a more dangerous situation for us economically. And in the final analysis here, they are also doing everything they can it seems to crush business and job growth.

And so it just seems like all of these things are coming together, and I don't know where it ends, and I don't know what to do. It's almost you have to be an alarmist to tell the truth here.

Mr. AKIN. I thought it would be appropriate to talk about what these bars mean. It's pretty straightforward.

These were Republican years under Bush, and this shows the deficit. We're not proud of this deficit. Shouldn't be any. The worst year under Bush was this one where Speaker PELOSI ran the Congress. So this was Bush's worst year for deficit right here.

So we go from 2009 to 2010 with President Obama, and he's three times the Bush level of deficit and this year is even higher.

Now, one of the ways to measure these things is this deficit is a percent of our gross domestic product, all of the stuff that we make in America.

This is running at about 3.1 percent. This is about 9.9 percent right here. Now, these numbers have consequences, and the consequences are your children and your grandchildren. But it also could precipitate a crisis a lot sooner, and we really don't know what that crisis looks like.

What happens when you go to the bank and your ATM doesn't work? You worked all of your life and you have savings in the bank and there isn't any money in there because you can't get any money out because the dollar bill isn't worth anything. Have we ever experienced that before? We've seen some high inflation that's not pretty. What happens if the banking system just stops working because we pushed this too far?

□ 2150

What is the civil unrest? What happens with our just-in-time food inventories when there is no more food on the shelves and when there is no more gasoline at the gas pumps because we have pushed this too far? How far is too far? I don't know, but I know this: This isn't the right direction that we are going.

I yield to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. AKIN, you are exactly right. We have seen historically what happens when this sort of thing occurs. All we have to do is look off our own Florida shores, at Cuba, under the Communist dictatorship of Fidel Castro. I'm old enough to remember when Mr. Batista was overthrown by Castro. I'm old enough to remember that Cuba, prior to the Communist takeover of their country, was a very vibrant community and very economically sound. There were some inequities and problems there. I'm not trying to promote Mr. Batista's governance down there by any means, but on the other hand, where are the Cubans today?

The debt created by Fidel Castro and by the socialistic mentality, which is the same mentality that Fidel Castro had, is very pervasive here. It is the same mentality we have here with our leadership, both in the White House as well as here in Congress, today, under Democratic leadership. It leads to economic ruin. It leads to abject poverty for everyone.

Former Prime Minister of England Margaret Thatcher at one time said the problem with socialism is, eventually, you run out of other people's money. That's exactly what happened. You had a chart up there about the taxes. You had it up there as "cap-and-tax." I just want to quote President Obama about a couple of things about that so-called "cap-and-trade" bill that we passed here in the House. The Senate has been dealing with that.

As you said, Mr. AKIN, it is not about the environment. In fact, the President, himself, said that he needed that for revenue, revenue to pay for ObamaCare. Now, that's not a direct quote of the President's, but that's

what he said. He said he needed the revenue from the environmental tax, which was really an energy tax, a tax on all energy—gasoline, electricity and everything. He needed the revenue so that he could pay for his medical program, for his socialized medicine that we forced through here in Congress. That's why I call it "tax-and-trade," not "cap-and-tax," but you can call it "tax-and-tax," I guess, or any of those. Also, the President said very clearly—and I can quote him on this. He said that this energy tax would necessarily skyrocket the cost of gasoline. It would necessarily skyrocket the cost of gasoline.

Mr. AKIN. I think he also promised that nobody making less than \$250,000 would be taxed, right? Yet, if you flip on a light switch, you are going to get taxed.

How do you square those?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Everybody is going to get taxed. So that was a falsehood. In Georgia, we call that a bald-faced lie. The promise that we had that people who made under \$250,000 would not be taxed is totally wrong, and he knew it. In Georgia, the people just say it's a bald-faced lie, meaning that he knew very well that he was not telling the truth when he said that.

Mr. AKIN. You know, the funny thing is that we need to learn something from history, and the Democrats have got something they could learn from. It's Henry Morgenthau. He was the Secretary of the Treasury under FDR. They had a recession, and by his policies, they managed to turn it into the Great Depression. After 8 years of government spending, which is what we have seen—just incredible levels of government spending—he makes FDR look like a piker. He makes George Bush look like Ebenezer Scrooge.

So here is Henry Morgenthau before the House Committee of Ways and Means. He says this:

We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before, and it doesn't work. I say, after 8 years of the administration, we have just as much unemployment as when we started and an enormous debt to boot.

That is Henry Morgenthau. He is a contemporary of little Lord Keynes, that not so bright British economist.

Here is a Democrat who just says, Hey, we tried it for 8 years, and it doesn't work. So what are we doing now? We are going right back around, and we are overspending. We haven't learned our lessons.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. AKIN, if I might, if you would yield a minute.

Mr. AKIN. I do.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Just recently, just last week, our President went before the G-20, I guess is what it's called now, and he was encouraging them to spend, spend, spend. As you brought up Lord Keynes' name, there is something called Keynesian economics, which basically says that you get out of recessions and depressions by the

government's spending money, but it never has worked, and it never will work. It's just like socialism never has worked and never will work.

It seems as if the arrogance of this administration and of this leadership and as if the ignorance of both are leading us down the same path that FDR and Henry Morgenthau went down in the Great Depression. World War II didn't get us out of the Depression. It wasn't World War II that got us out of the Depression. It was cranking up the manufacturing sector and the private sector's actually starting to create new jobs because of the need for increased manufacturing that got us out of the Depression. Actually, the Depression didn't end until after World War II. It was private enterprise and free enterprise and what's called supply side economics, which most people don't understand and which, I think, a lot of economists don't understand.

Yet we certainly know that this administration and the leadership of this House and the Senate have absolutely no clue about what creates jobs or about what creates a strong economy. It is less government, less spending, more manufacturing, more free enterprise. Having the small business sector expand and having consumers with money in their pockets to be able to go buy goods and services, that is what is going to create jobs. That is what is going to get us out of this recession that we are in today.

In fact, some economists now are saying that we are beginning to go into a depression. The policies of this administration and the policies of the leadership of the House and the Senate, of the Democratic Party, are going to do the same thing that they did under FDR and Henry Morgenthau. They are going to create greater debt, and they are already doing it. They are going to create greater spending. They are going to create greater problems for the future of this Nation. The question is: How are we going to ever recover? I'm not sure.

Mr. AKIN. I'm not sure about the intent.

Yes, your whole idea about little Lord Keynes and his idea about spending one's way into prosperity strikes me about like grabbing your boot loops and trying to fly around the room, you know? I don't know if he was a boot loop kind of guy, but anyway, he was certainly different in his view of economics.

My good friend from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, I just want to agree with Congressman BROUN, you know, when he talked about what brought us out of the Depression. The postwar industrial machine in this country was astounding.

One of the things, it seems, that this Democrat majority simply does not understand—and it's probably because most of them haven't been in small business or in the real world many times; they don't sign the front of a check, you know, but usually sign the

back of it. The reality is that they forget that the monetary system is a reflection of the method of the productivity mechanism that we have in this country.

All economy, ultimately, and in the most fundamental, substantive analysis is about productivity. You know, that means that people have to work and create goods and services. When we don't have people working, when we don't have jobs, then it doesn't happen. When you take government money and when you say, well, we're going to spend our way into recovery, it does two things.

First of all, it either takes the money directly out of taxpayers' pockets—it has to come from somewhere, right?—or they have to borrow it. If they borrow it, then it makes less capital available for business and for those groups that actually create jobs. They don't seem to understand that, unless the 300-plus million people of the country are working and creating jobs and creating goods and services, no matter what our monetary policies are, nothing will work, and the economy will fail.

I guess I just want to add, Congressman, that the highway of history is littered with the wreckage of governments that thought that they could create and maintain productivity in markets better than free enterprise could. It has just been an element of history, and I don't want to see this country join that litany. This administration is driving us head on in that direction.

You know, you talked about, historically, our total GDP in this country—and one of you can correct me if I'm wrong—is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15 to \$17 trillion a year.

□ 2200

Whenever our debt approaches 100 percent of the GDP per year of a country, historically and empirically that has almost always precipitated a major meltdown. I'm not talking about just a recession or even a depression, I'm talking about a cataclysmic meltdown that leaves a country having to start over from the beginning. And I don't want to see us go in that direction.

Mr. AKIN. Gentleman, you expressed that in good scholarly terms about your debt being as high as your GDP. But just trying to put that as a family—if you're a family and you make \$100 a week and your credit card bill is \$100 a week, you're in trouble. That's what you're saying. In fact, you're more than in trouble. And I think that's what you're talking about.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, in this case, the Democrats are way past that because that would mean you're spending as much as you're making. They're spending more than the government is taking in. That's deficit. I'm talking about something a little different. I'm talking about the debt—the total debt to GDP ratio. And in this case we're not there yet. I think that we're some-

where at about \$1.4 trillion, \$1.3 trillion deficit and about at \$13 trillion debt. And \$13 trillion debt would be up somewhere against around a \$15 trillion to \$17 trillion GDP annual economy. What's 13 into 17? We're not at 100 percent yet but we're starting to get there. Whenever it goes to 100 percent or 105 percent, historically there's usually some type of major meltdown. I think that's a reflection not so much of arbitrary numbers but of sort of human nature. We begin to think, Oh, we'll never be able to pay this off. Let's just quit. The capital begins to run away from the markets. People begin to hoard what they have. Just like in the Great Depression. It wasn't that all the money disappeared. It wasn't that all of a sudden capital vaporized. People put it in their pockets because they no longer trusted their government. They no longer trusted that they could put their capital at risk and have any real assurance that they had even a possibility of getting it back. And that's where this government is failing the people. They are destabilizing this economy so badly that capital is afraid to even get in the game.

Mr. AKIN. Yes. And that's one of the factors that totally destroys jobs—and that is the uncertainty factor. So if you want to ruin jobs, raise taxes a whole lot, create a lot of uncertainty, and then spend way beyond your means. That's what we're doing. It's a war on business.

There are a couple of different things. We talked about these tax increases that the Democrats did. Here's something they didn't do at all. They haven't fixed the problem with Freddie and Fannie. These are two timebombs ready to go off again. They started the big crisis before when we mismanaged Freddie and Fannie. As much as people go "boo" and "hiss" at George Bush, in September 11, 2003, he was asking for authority to regulate Freddie and Fannie because they were out of control. And the Democrats blocked that legislation in the Senate, and now we have a meltdown on our hands. So there's some things that are taxes, some things that are spending, and some things that are no action at all that all feed into this problem. So this sounds kind of boring.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Let me ask you something. I want you to make this clear, if you don't mind, Mr. AKIN. We hear from our Democratic colleagues over and over again that all this is Bush's fault. We're still hearing that on this floor. It's Bush's fault. President Bush in 2003 was trying to rein in Freddie and Fannie. The Bush administration said that there was a problem. And I think you're fixing to show us an article.

Mr. AKIN. This doesn't say Rush Limbaugh here. This says: The New York Times. This is the New York Times. Not exactly a conservative newspaper. September 11, 2003, the headline is: The Bush administration today recommended the most signifi-

cant regulatory overhaul in the housing finance industry since the savings and loan crisis a decade ago. Under the plan disclosed at a congressional hearing today, a new agency would be created within the Treasury Department to assume supervision of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

So this is 2003. They saw it coming.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. And who blocked that?

Mr. AKIN. This then resulted in Republicans in the House passing a bill. Where's it go then? We sent it to the Senate. What happened in the Senate? You needed 60 votes to pass it. And so what happened? The Democrats killed this in the Senate, just like they killed the energy bill in the Senate that was designed to help us with gas prices; just like they killed, as you know, gentlemen, the tort reforms in the Senate to reduce health care costs; just like, as you know, my friend from Arizona, they killed the associated health plans that we passed time after time here on the floor to try to allow small businesses to pool their employees to get a better price on health insurance.

Now we were accused of doing nothing. We didn't do nothing. We sent a lot of legislation to the Senate where they didn't have 60 Republican votes, and it was killed by Democrats. Here's what happens here. But have we done anything about Freddie and Fannie? No. It's still hugely in debt, and we're just basically bailing it out all the time. What's the result of that going to be? It's going to be a lot of trouble.

Here's one of the pains. This is what hurts, one, is unemployment. Look at the private-sector employment numbers here. Look at the red line. That's the public-sector employment. Have we created jobs? Sure have. We hired a whole lot of census workers. But the jobs that pay for the government are going down because these policies make a difference in peoples' lives.

Whenever I think of unemployment—you gentlemen are both gentlemen. Both of you have wives and kids. And I suppose that somehow wired back in the back of our minds, certainly in the back of mine, when I have a wife and kids, I need to take care of them. That's the fundamental thing that I'm supposed to do as a dad. If I fail at that, then I'm a miserable failure in my own mind.

And I'm picturing a set of policies that the Democrats proposed to put people into houses they couldn't afford to pay for, so they're going to default on their mortgage, and they and their kids are going to be sitting on a sofa out on the street as they have been thrown out of a house. That, to me, is kind of a nightmarish thing. And that's that unemployment. It looks like a boring number on a chart, but it's people who are hurting. It's people who are living back with their parents. It's parents who are digging into their savings to take care of their kids because there are no jobs. So these things may be boring, but they sure have a lot of pain

associated with them and a lot of consequences associated with them.

This was a promise that if we gave lots of money to different States that had been mismanaging their budget with this supposed stimulus bill, I think it was supposedly \$787 billion, but turned out to be \$800 billion. And we spent all this money. And this is what's supposed to happen. It's supposed to reduce unemployment. Here's what the unemployment really is. Because we didn't learn from Henry Morgenthau. You have can't spend your way into prosperity by spending Federal money. These things have consequences. They hurt people. This isn't just boring numbers on a graph. That's actually what the actual unemployment is. So there's a consequence to these policies.

The tragedy is there are solutions to this stuff. It isn't that hard to do. What we ought to do is just learn from JFK. We can learn from Ronald Reagan, but try to be a little charitable. JFK got it right. There's a solution to this. We don't have to do this. All we've got to do is simply cut spending and cut taxes. Everybody knows that.

I've used the analogy—were you a pilot, Congressman FRANKS?

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I never was.

Mr. AKIN. Was it you?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I'm a pilot, yes.

Mr. AKIN. You're a pilot. I think we used this analogy the other day on the floor, because I remember as a kid the biplanes and the early days of flight. My science teacher flew glider planes and designed some of the glider planes that were used in the D-day invasion. He was a guy that hated what he called "fizzle ed" because he wasn't in great shape and he didn't like the football jocks. But the ironic thing was he got an award to the National Hall of Fame of Glider Pilots, which is an athletic type of thing because he could do all kinds of aerobatic loops with his glider planes. And he taught me some basics about flying. And what caught my attention was, in the early days of flight you get in an airplane and you do one of these deals where you don't have enough power and you pull the airplane into a stall and the airplane falls over backwards and it'll start to spin. And it was called a graveyard spin, I guess. When pilots got into those things, they kept flying the airplanes into the ground, which ruined their whole afternoon.

Finally, somebody realized—I guess a smart pilot decided to gamble his life. He said, I think there's a way out of this problem. And it's counterintuitive. And that is, when you're in that spin, the temptation I guess of pilots is to pull the stick back and try to get the nose of the plane up so you don't fly into the ground. And that just makes it worse.

□ 2210

So this guy, when he's in this graveyard spin, he says, I'm going to do it.

And everybody is watching him. Here goes another guy who is going to fly his airplane into the ground. And instead, he kicked the rudder to stop the spin, pushed the stick forward until the airplane stabilized. And then he pulled the stick back and pulled it right out and made it look easy.

You know, the solution is JFK, Ronald Reagan, and George Bush all understood the solution to this problem. It doesn't have to be doom and gloom. The solution is, stop Federal spending, stop the high tax rate; and pretty soon we'll come out of the graveyard spiral. And we don't have to do another Great Depression. We've done that before. I don't want to be too doom and gloom about this, but the fact is these numbers are hurting people.

This is the President. He says, Now give me one more good reason why you're not hiring, and you've got this great big socialized medicine bill, which is well calculated to destroy the economy, and then this goofy cap-and-tax excuse for global warming. I asked my constituents, Which is more important to you, our dependence on foreign oil or global warming? And it was an 80/20 type thing. Let's get practical. We need to be doing something about our energy business in this country is what they're telling us. But it isn't all doom and gloom. There are solutions to these things. My good friend from Arizona.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, I will just say, and it just seems obvious to me—and I will probably take a little chapter out of your cartoon there—this President has been very confident in a lot of his prognostications. There's a hubris and an arrogance there that is just overwhelming. But when you look at the facts, whether it's in our military challenges, our national security challenges, whether it's dealing with the challenges in the gulf, or whether it's dealing with the economy, it seems that his arrogance-to-competency ratios are catastrophically out of balance.

If you really want to know where the deficit is in this country, it's between the arrogance of this administration and the competence of this administration; and I think therein really lies the big challenge that we face. I don't know what's going to cure that if voters don't wake up.

Mr. AKIN. You know, the thing that strikes me is most people that I know—I am an engineer. Engineers are kind of geeks anyway, but we have such a predictable sort of thought pattern, and that is, now we've got this great big hole that we've just drilled in the bottom of the ocean. Now, you can talk about that it's a mile deep and there's tremendous pressure. We are going to talk about this because you used to have an oil rig, and we need to talk about oil.

But in it's simplest form, there's this ocean, and there's a hole in the bottom, and it's leaking oil. And my impression is that most Americans I know, when you have all this sloppy,

yucky, sticky oil pouring out of a hole in the ocean floor, your first reaction is to try to figure out, how do you fix it. You know, you want to try to say, Okay, let's get some people together that know about this stuff, and let's stop the problem, and let's try to mitigate the damage that's done, clean it up; but let's stop it from spilling oil. I mean, that's such a fundamental thing. Engineers have this big weakness. They're always ready to fix something when they haven't even defined what the problem is, but that's such a knee-jerk reaction.

And yet what we've got here is somebody who is more ready to try to figure out who to blame than to fix the problem. We've seen it before in the economy on the other things, but there's nothing quite as vivid as just a plain old hole in the ocean that's spewing out oil. And you'd say, Well, first let's put a team together to fix it. Instead, we're going to say, Oh, let's see how much we can excoriate BP. Well, I don't feel sorry for them. They're the ones that had—as far as I know, the personnel on the oil rig were either incompetent or made some very bad decisions. They deserve to lose a lot of money. They did things wrong.

The only thing is, it seems to me that the Federal Government has been even worse. And the thing that's so amazing is, why don't we put the team together to fix the problem instead of just standing around and looking to assign blame on the whole thing? That's what concerns me a lot. What happens if this economy turns into another big hole in the ocean that really starts to go downhill? What are we going to have for leadership to fix that problem? I recognize my good friend from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. AKIN. Just today, we had Secretary Salazar come to the Natural Resources Committee to talk about the BP oil spill and about what is being done. And during my time of questioning the Secretary, I brought up to him a quote from Bill Clinton, Democratic President. I don't very often quote Bill Clinton or Democratic Presidents, but Bill Clinton urged this administration, first, to stop the leak; second, to clean up the oil; and, third, to protect the environment and those who are being damaged by this.

Mr. AKIN. That doesn't sound too complicated.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Then to try to find out what caused the problem and then fix it. But that's not what we're doing. Just today we had a hearing on the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee's bill, the CLEAR Act, to regulate offshore drilling, onshore drilling, all drilling, all energy production here in this country. And Secretary Salazar defended his moratorium that's going to kill over 100,000 jobs in this country.

Mr. AKIN. I think it was 140,000 direct jobs. These are not the barbers and the restaurateurs and stuff. This is just the hard jobs that it's going to kill.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. It's going to kill those jobs. And Secretary Salazar defended his decision. The interesting thing—Mr. AKIN, you're an engineer—Secretary Salazar pulled together a panel of experts to look at this problem and to make recommendations. And in the report that came out, the Secretary used this report to promote a 6-month moratorium to stop drilling—for all drilling, onshore, offshore, shallow water, deepwater, all drilling.

Mr. AKIN. So did this plan, first of all, stop the oil that's coming out of the floor of the ocean?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, no. They're just stopping the drilling that's going on.

Mr. AKIN. So they didn't fix the problem?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. They didn't fix the problem at all.

Mr. AKIN. Did they deal with cleaning up the mess?

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. They didn't deal with anything. They didn't deal with any of the things that Bill Clinton suggested that they do. And the interesting thing is that the Secretary said that this panel was suggesting that we have this moratorium. The panel came back and said, No, no, no, no, no, we didn't say that. In fact, we don't want you to stop the drilling. We think you ought to continue it.

Mr. AKIN. Now wait a minute. Let's get this straight. This is a little confusing. A panel of, more or less, experts is put together. They're asked to come up with a recommendation. They come up with a recommendation, and the administration says, Well, we're going to put a moratorium on drilling because that's what was recommended. And the panel says—

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. No, we didn't.

Mr. AKIN. No, we didn't. We didn't recommend that. I guess the panel came up with the wrong answer.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Well, I think it goes back to something that the President's chief of staff said when he said that a crisis is too good to waste. I suggested to the Secretary today that this is a crisis that they shouldn't ignore because it appears to me—and how it appears to a lot of American people—that this administration is trying to push through its tax-and-trade policy.

Mr. AKIN. I call it cap-and-tax, tax-and-trade.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Yes. Well, it's an energy tax that's going to tax everybody in all sectors of the society. It's going to hurt poor people, people on limited income because more of their money is expended on things that are critical for life.

Mr. AKIN. Let's get this straight. So what we're going to do is, we've got a hole in the ocean that's pouring out this really sticky, yucky oil. I mean, we're counting on BP to clog that up. We don't really have that good of a solution on the cleanup thing because the Governor is saying, we want to build some sand berms to stop the oil from

washing into our wetlands. And the government says you can't do it, and then they say you can. And when they start to do it, they say you can't. So we're not really taking care of the mitigation piece of it.

Instead, our solution is, Hey, let's tax everybody. That seems a little counterintuitive. So we're going to tax them twice. One, we're going to tax them when the government taxes them on energy; and, two, they are going to get hammered because the cost of energy is going to go up because we don't have the whole oil basin of the gulf, which is a pretty good source of oil, to give us lower-priced fuel. That just seems a little bit counterintuitive, doesn't it? It's a little bit like that graveyard spiral. We keep twisting downward. We need somebody to firewall a stick, kick the rudders right, and then pull us out.

My good friend, Congressman FRANKS from Arizona, was it 15 or 16 or 17 you owned your first oil rig? We need a little bit of help on this.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Actually, my younger brother and I started out with a little, small drilling rig when I was 17 and he was 15. It was a great experience, and I will never forget it. But the offshore situation, of course, is a much bigger challenge.

□ 2220

But I guess my conviction is that this administration, when this tragedy took place, they were so busy trying to fix blame rather than fixing the problem.

Now, the ironic part about it is they'd like to try to pretend that there's some debate on who's to blame, and there isn't. All of us in this Chamber, all of us in this Congress recognize that BP is to blame for this tragedy. BP has said they are to blame for this tragedy.

And what President Obama should have done when this occurred, he should have immediately met with the only industry in the world that could deal with the problem of this nature. You can't call in the Air Force to lob heavy bombs at it. You've got to go to the industry that knows how to deal with these things. He should have called all the experts to say: Here's the deal. First of all, we're going to hold you accountable. It's going to happen. We know you're at fault. You're going to be accountable. But right now, our job is to plug this blowout, and we're going to do whatever it takes to do that. We're going to work with everyone. We're going to work together, and we're going to make it happen, and we're going to make sure that you're doing the best you can. We're going to allow help from all over the world to help us. We're going to try to make sure that we protect our shoreline. In the meantime, we're going to draw off as much oil as we can.

But instead, instead, this President is out looking over the horizon to and fro to find somebody's rear end to kick. That is his answer to the problem.

And I just find it amazing, because the moratorium that they talk about, not only does that not plug the hole. You know, it's kind of like bringing a person into the emergency room and he's bleeding to death, and he again is out trying to find somebody's rear to kick instead of trying to fix the patient.

And this moratorium, not only does it not fix the leak, not only is it something that will destroy jobs and hurt the economy, but if all you cared about was the pollution that was the problem here, this moratorium is going to mean that about a third of the oil that we produce out of the gulf—that's about how much—we produce about 42 percent or somewhere in that neighborhood of our own oil in this country, maybe around 40 percent, and about a third of that comes from the gulf. And if we don't produce that, that means we've got to bring in more tankers. We've got to buy more oil from overseas.

And what this administration overlooks, very characteristically, is that they forgot that 7 of 10 of the last major spills in this country, 7 out of 10, were from tankers. And so what we're going to do is bring more tankers over and increase the empirical chances of us having greater spills. And, ultimately, the money that we pay for that, a lot of it comes from Middle Eastern oil. A lot of that money finds its way into terrorist coffers, and they may bring something over to this country that will really be a cataclysm. And this administration seems blind to all of that, and I just find it astonishing the lack of priority.

Mr. AKIN. Gentleman, you have illustrated the very point that I was trying to make. You instinctively think in terms of fixing the problem, not fixing blame.

And you're a member of the Armed Services Committee, along with myself, and I don't know if you were aware of it, but the military has basically a whole plan of what they call a fusion unit, and it's a management structure where, when you get into something like this, the President has complete authority to do this. He could pull on every resource of the United States. He puts together the smart people, puts somebody in charge of it, and they take a look and say, Here's how we're going to solve the problem. One, we're going to try this. If this doesn't work, here's plan two and here's plan three. We need these resources.

Foreign countries offered to help us. You put this thing together. You have somebody else that's taking care of State laws, environmental laws, making decisions.

When Governor Jindal says, Hey, we want to put a sandbar in front of our wetlands to stop the oil before it gets in, you take a look at that and you get back to him within 24 hours or 12 hours and decide whether it's a good plan or not, and you have the right people, the

best people available in place to analyze that, make a decision and move forward.

And instead, he waits a month to get a response from the Federal Government, builds the sand dam, and then they tell him to tear it down.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Congressman, he waited 2 months before he met with BP. Two months.

Mr. AKIN. You're saying the President waited two months before he goes to meet with BP.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. And he should have been there at least within two days.

Mr. AKIN. Well, that's convenient, because then anything that doesn't work you can continue to blame BP. The problem is, there's all this oil all over the place, that little detail.

You know, I agree with you entirely. BP was wrong. What I'm not clear on, was it more of equipment or was it more human. I suspect from what I've heard, it seemed like it was more operator error than it was technology.

But, be that as it may, it seems to me that the only thing that eclipsed the foolishness and the incompetence of BP is the Federal Government response that's even worse.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, it really is. And regardless of whose fault it was on the ground, regardless of whether it was a mistake made by the operator or by the driller or by one of those contractors there, the bottom line is that BP's the operator, so they're ultimately responsible. Again, everybody knows that. But this administration was focused on blame and political expediency rather than fixing the problem.

Mr. AKIN. Well, thank you gentlemen. I appreciate your joining me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to talk about budgets, but also about the situation in the gulf.

God bless you. Thank you. Good night.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed and agreed to without amendment bills and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5569. An act to extend the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2010.

H.R. 5611. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5623. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the home-buyer tax credit for the purchase of a principal residence before October 1, 2010, in the case of a written binding contract entered into with respect to such principal residence before May 1, 2010, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 293. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of

the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution celebrating 130 years of United States-Romanian diplomatic relations, congratulating the Romanian people on their achievements as a great nation, and reaffirming the deep bonds of trust and values between the United States and Romania, a trusted and most valued ally.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, reappoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Dr. Don H. Argue of Washington.

TOPICS OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRITZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much for this opportunity.

I've been here for the better part of this last hour and I've heard some astounding, astounding accusations and things that are purported to be fact. And I'm just going, What in the world is happening here?

To think that the President of the United States is to blame for the blowout is the most extraordinary leap of logic you could possibly imagine. For the last 15 minutes, we've heard about the President didn't do this, the President didn't do that, the experts were not assembled.

That's just not true. If you knew what was going on, instead of just flapping your lips, you would know that, in fact, shortly, very shortly, within days and hours after this blowout occurred, the best minds in America were assembled in Houston and in Louisiana to deal with this.

The fact of the matter is there is a very, very good reason for the moratorium and, in fact, my colleagues on the Republican side here said the reason. They didn't know why this occurred. Was it human error? Was it a fact? Was it a problem on the rig? Was it a problem down at the bottom? They don't know. And, in fact, we don't know today, and that's why we have a moratorium. We have a moratorium because we don't know why this blowout occurred. We have pretty good evidence that the blowout preventer didn't work. We have pretty good evidence that the efforts of the various methods, the standard methods of dealing with

the blowout didn't work. We don't know exactly why this well failed. And until we do know, we ought not be drilling in deep water because we certainly cannot afford another blowout.

Now, in 2008, in the Republican administration, two T-38 jets crashed within 2 weeks. The United States Air Force put every one of those T-38s on the ramp and said, You're not flying those airplanes until we know why they crashed. That's called a stand-down. It's called a moratorium. So we have a moratorium.

BP's to blame for this. And I must tell you, I am just absolutely astounded by what the Republican Caucus put together that was actually announced by our colleague from Houston, Texas, the ranking member of the House committee, when he apologized to British Petroleum because the President demanded that British Petroleum put together a \$20 billion trust fund to pay for the damage.

□ 2230

The Republican policy is to apologize to BP for the President forcing BP to do what was right, that is pay for the damages. That's just but one issue. I wasn't going to talk about this in great length, but I am just coming off listening to my Republican colleagues here. We have to deal with the facts as they really exist.

Joining me tonight is Congressman ELLISON from one of the great northern States in the Midwest. And I think he wants to pick up this issue and maybe carry it a little longer.

Mr. ELLISON. If the gentleman will yield, I do just want to take up this issue of the spill. It is an important issue. And you just mentioned the very frank and I believe honest comments of Representative BARTON, the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, in which he apologized to BP.

Some people might be thinking, you know, well, he apologized for his apology, so, you know, why don't we just drop it. But it doesn't start with Mr. BARTON, it doesn't end with Mr. BARTON. It actually started with the Republican Study Committee, which creates policy, agenda, and talking points for the Republican leadership. And that's headed by a gentleman who is a Member of this body named Congressman PRICE, TOM PRICE. He is the one, with the help of the committee itself, not just by himself, who released a statement calling the compensation fund that you referred to to help compensate small business people put out of business by this spill, and people who live on the gulf, people who suffered, a shakedown. So this term political shakedown emerges from the very leadership of the Republican caucus.

They say that President Obama is shaking down the British Petroleum, BP. And from that point, PRICE makes the statement, this is before BARTON ever does, but PRICE says, "BP's reported willingness to go along with the