

Service and the Center for Defense Information, the costs for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan will reach over \$1 trillion by the end of this year. Today we are being asked to approve many billions more in a supplemental war appropriations bill.

There has never been anything conservative about these wars. This is world government at its worst. We have never had any wars in the past with so much waste, fraud, and abuse, and so many billions ripped from the taxpayers by Pentagon contractors. Fiscal conservatives should be the ones most horrified by all this spending.

The worst thing is the loss of young American lives, when Iraqi and Afghani troops should have been doing this fighting. And there's really no telling how much we will have to pay out in future medical and disability costs.

Defense contractors have so many retired admirals and generals to lobby for them that they keep requesting and getting more money. But these wars have gone on far too long already. We should bring our troops and, especially, our rip-off contractors home.

LONG-TERM BRIDGE PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to an important initiative of the Federal Highway Administration called the Long-Term Bridge Performance program. This program is proudly being led by Rutgers Center for Advance Infrastructure and Transportation in New Jersey.

The Long-Term Bridge Performance program is envisioned as a 20-year comprehensive examination of our nation's "workhorse" highway bridges.

The team at Rutgers has been inspecting, evaluating and monitoring a representative sample of seven bridges nationwide. These pilot studies are instrumental in gathering reliable information, such as how to maintain safe and satisfactory traffic flow.

The researchers will analyze and apply the data to facilitate improved life-cycle cost and predictive models, better understanding of bridge deterioration, and more effective maintenance and repair plans. Ultimately, this study will promote the safety, mobility, longevity and reliability of our Nation's highways.

As the highway system grows older, it is important to be sure that our Nation's bridges are safe and reliable.

I am proud that Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation is leading the way in helping the country tackle its complicated transportation issue.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Rutgers University.

IS ANYBODY LISTENING?

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, what were world leaders saying last weekend about their troubled economies?

German Chancellor Merkel: Budget cuts are urgently needed.

Prime Minister David Cameron: Those countries that have big budget deficits like ours have to take action.

The Washington Post headline said: "President Obama urges G20 nations to spend; they pledge to halve deficits."

Just like England, the U.S. has a budget deficit that's equal to 11 percent of gross domestic product. While other nations are tightening their belts, Washington is borrowing Chinese money belts.

By year's end, the national debt will reach 62 percent of the GDP, the highest leveled since World War II. The more Washington spends, the more it borrows, the more interest rates, the more taxpayers must spend on interest payments to Chinese and foreign debt holders.

You know, the first rule when you're in a hole, especially a \$13 trillion hole, is stop digging. American families understand that just because there are checks in the checkbook, that doesn't mean there's money in the account. And that's the message from Main Street to Wall Street. Is anybody listening?

AMERICANS CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE FAILED ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, instead of working together like President Reagan and Speaker O'Neill did in the early eighties to extend the solvency of Social Security, this week the Republican leader announced his plan to raise the Social Security retirement age and decrease benefits for older Americans to pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the backs of seniors? You've got to be kidding me.

This is the same Republican Party when, in the majority under President Bush, refused to pay for the two wars, and gave tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, doubling our national debt, and laying the groundwork for the worst financial crisis in a generation.

And some Republicans are still trying to privatize Social Security. Do I need to remind people that personal retirement funds have been wiped out under failed Republican economics?

The other side refuses to work together to create additional jobs and to help those who have lost their jobs.

Despite Republican foot dragging and nay-saying, this year we're on track to create more jobs than were created during the entire 8 years under President Bush.

Missourians simply cannot afford more failed economic policies.

STOP PLAYING SPY GAMES WITH WESTERN LANDS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Secret documents, clandestine meetings, code words, and secret identities. Despite all of these elements of a dime store spy novel, this isn't fiction. It's the United States Department of the Interior.

Almost 4 months ago a secret memo was discovered. Across the top, where you might see "top secret," it said "not for release" instead. It contained secret plans to designate millions of acres across the West as national monuments. My colleagues and I demanded the missing pages, and after nearly 4 months, mum is the word.

Meanwhile, new emails hint at a conspiracy that would be at home in an Ian Fleming novel: meetings with United States Senators to discuss projects, treasured landscapes, contingency plans, complete with maps, fit for a Pentagon war room.

Americans like spy novels, but there's no place for covert policy-making in America. The Department of the Interior should stop playing spy games with Western lands.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I think that the President was right yesterday when he called our friends on the other side of the aisle out of touch.

In my hometown of Amsterdam, New York, there are neighbors who are hurting. In some instances, this recession has eliminated nearly half of their retirement savings. Others have lost their homes.

Despite this downturn and Wall Street's recklessness, Republicans still want to privatize Social Security. They want to create a casino economy and play Russian roulette with our hard-earned retirement savings.

Most of the seniors in Amsterdam have worked hard and have played by the rules their entire lives. Social Security, which they have paid into their entire working life, is their crucial safety net and financial security. Let's not gamble it away to appease Republicans, Wall Street, and big banks.

Just a few days ago, the leader of the other side suggested slashing Social Security benefits and using those funds and savings to pay for the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Enough is enough.

Democrats in Congress are standing up for seniors and fighting to protect Social Security, to create jobs here at home and to support small business as the engine of job growth.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to fight for seniors because they are deserving of the respect that they have earned.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, while the President chose yesterday to engage in a strident, harsh, vitriolic attack on us, I'm going to respond by complimenting him.

At the G20 meeting I was very gratified to see that the President came forward and said that we could create good private sector jobs right here in the United States of America if we were to proceed with ratification of the U.S.-South Korea free trade agreement. It will, in fact, Mr. Speaker, be the largest trade agreement in the history of the world.

Now, some critics would say that calling for its renegotiation or delaying a vote until a lame duck session would be the wrong thing to do. But I will say that I believe anything that we can do to move in that direction is a positive.

One cautionary note: There are two pending trade agreements with both Panama and Colombia that were negotiated before the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement was completed. Millions and millions of consumers who would like to have the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to purchase U.S. goods and services right here in our hemisphere are denied that opportunity.

If we proceed with the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement as the President has called for us to do, we must also proceed immediately with the Panama and Colombia free trade agreements as well.

□ 1030

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 1228, by the yeas and nays; H.R. 2340, de novo; and H. Res. 1460, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HONORING VETERANS OF HELICOPTER ATTACK LIGHT SQUADRON THREE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1228) honoring the veterans of Helicopter Attack Light Squadron Three and their families, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 415]

YEAS—410

Ackerman	Conyers	Higgins
Aderholt	Cooper	Hill
Adler (NJ)	Costa	Himes
Akin	Costello	Hinchey
Alexander	Courtney	Hinojosa
Altmire	Crenshaw	Hirono
Andrews	Critz	Hodes
Arcuri	Crowley	Holden
Austria	Cuellar	Holt
Baca	Culberson	Honda
Bachmann	Dahlkemper	Hoyer
Bachus	Davis (AL)	Hunter
Baird	Davis (CA)	Inglis
Baldwin	Davis (IL)	Inslee
Barrett (SC)	Davis (KY)	Israel
Barrow	Davis (TN)	Issa
Bartlett	DeFazio	Jackson (IL)
Barton (TX)	DeGette	Jackson Lee
Bean	DeLauro	(TX)
Becerra	Dent	Jenkins
Berkley	Deutch	Johnson (GA)
Berman	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson (IL)
Berry	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson, E. B.
Biggert	Dicks	Johnson, Sam
Bilbray	Dingell	Jones
Bilirakis	Djou	Jordan (OH)
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Kagen
Bishop (NY)	Donnelly (IN)	Kanjorski
Bishop (UT)	Doyle	Kaptur
Blackburn	Dreier	Kennedy
Blumenauer	Driehaus	Kildee
Blunt	Duncan	Kilpatrick (MI)
Boccheri	Edwards (MD)	Kilroy
Boehner	Edwards (TX)	Kind
Bonner	Ehlers	King (IA)
Bono Mack	Ellison	King (NY)
Boozman	Ellsworth	Kingston
Boren	Emerson	Kirk
Boswell	Eshoo	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Boucher	Etheridge	Kissell
Boyd	Fallin	Klein (FL)
Brady (PA)	Farr	Kline (MN)
Brady (TX)	Fattah	Kosmas
Braley (IA)	Filner	Kratovil
Bright	Fleming	Kucinich
Broun (GA)	Forbes	Lamborn
Brown (SC)	Fortenberry	Lance
Brown, Corrine	Foster	Langevin
Brown-Waite,	Fox	Larsen (WA)
Ginny	Frank (MA)	Larson (CT)
Buchanan	Franks (AZ)	Latham
Burgess	Fudge	LaTourette
Burton (IN)	Gallegly	Latta
Butterfield	Garamendi	Lee (CA)
Buyer	Garrett (NJ)	Lee (NY)
Calvert	Gerlach	Levin
Camp	Giffords	Lewis (CA)
Campbell	Gingrey (GA)	Linder
Cantor	Gohmert	Lipinski
Cao	Gonzalez	LoBiondo
Capito	Goodlatte	Loeb
Capps	Gordon (TN)	Lofgren, Zoe
Capuano	Granger	Lowey
Cardoza	Graves (GA)	Lucas
Carnahan	Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer
Carney	Grayson	Luján
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Lummis
Carter	Green, Gene	Lungren, Daniel
Cassidy	Griffith	E.
Castle	Grijalva	Lynch
Castor (FL)	Guthrie	Mack
Chaffetz	Hall (NY)	Maffei
Chandler	Hall (TX)	Maloney
Childers	Halvorson	Manzullo
Chu	Hare	Marchant
Clarke	Harman	Markey (CO)
Cleaver	Harper	Markey (MA)
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Marshall
Coble	Hastings (WA)	Matheson
Coffman (CO)	Heinrich	Matsui
Cohen	Heller	McCarthy (CA)
Cole	Hensarling	McCarthy (NY)
Conaway	Hergert	McCaul
Connolly (VA)	Herseth Sandlin	McClintock

McCollum	Pingree (ME)	Shuster
McCotter	Pitts	Simpson
McDermott	Platts	Sires
McGovern	Poe (TX)	Slaughter
McHenry	Polis (CO)	Smith (NE)
McIntyre	Pomeroy	Smith (NJ)
McKeon	Posey	Smith (TX)
McMahon	Price (GA)	Smith (WA)
McMorris	Price (NC)	Snyder
Rodgers	Putnam	Space
McNerney	Quigley	Spratt
Meek (FL)	Radanovich	Stark
Meeks (NY)	Rahall	Stearns
Melancon	Rangel	Stupak
Mica	Rehberg	Sullivan
Michaud	Reichert	Sutton
Miller (FL)	Reyes	Tanner
Miller (MI)	Richardson	Taylor
Miller (NC)	Roe (TN)	Teague
Miller, Gary	Rogers (AL)	Terry
Miller, George	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (CA)
Minnick	Rogers (MI)	Thompson (MS)
Mitchell	Rohrabacher	Thompson (PA)
Mollohan	Rooney	Thornberry
Moore (KS)	Ros-Lehtinen	Tiahrt
Moore (WI)	Roskam	Tiberi
Moran (KS)	Ross	Tierney
Murphy (CT)	Rothman (NJ)	Titus
Murphy (NY)	Roybal-Allard	Tonko
Murphy, Patrick	Royce	Towns
Murphy, Tim	Ruppersberger	Tsongas
Myrick	Ryan (OH)	Turner
Nadler (NY)	Ryan (WI)	Upton
Napolitano	Salazar	Van Hollen
Neal (MA)	Sánchez, Linda	Visclosky
Neugebauer	T.	Walden
Nunes	Sarbanes	Walz
Nye	Scalise	Wasserman
Oberstar	Schakowsky	Schultz
Obey	Schauer	Waters
Olson	Schiff	Watson
Olver	Schmidt	Watt
Ortiz	Schock	Waxman
Owens	Schrader	Weiner
Pallone	Schwartz	Welch
Pascarella	Scott (GA)	Westmoreland
Pastor (AZ)	Scott (VA)	Whitfield
Paul	Sensenbrenner	Wilson (OH)
Paulsen	Sessions	Wilson (SC)
Pence	Sestak	Wittman
Perlmutter	Shadegg	Wolf
Perriello	Shea-Porter	Wu
Peters	Sherman	Yarmuth
Peterson	Shimkus	Young (FL)
Petri	Shuler	

NOT VOTING—22

Boustany	Hoekstra	Skelton
Clay	Lewis (GA)	Speier
Cummings	Moran (VA)	Velázquez
Delahunt	Payne	Wamp
Engel	Rodriguez	Woolsey
Flake	Rush	Young (AK)
Frelinghuysen	Sanchez, Loretta	
Gutierrez	Serrano	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1056

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SALMON LAKE LAND SELECTION RESOLUTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2340) to resolve the claims of the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the State of Alaska to land adjacent to Salmon Lake in the State of Alaska and to provide for the conveyance to the Bering Straits Native Corporation of certain other public land in