

brought down its reputation and hurt it as such an objective resource. Doing reports growing up as a kid, you knew you could count on anything that you found in the New York Times and cite it as a valuable and accurate resource. Not so anymore. Not so anymore.

Israel is a friend, and I'm grateful that democracy has worked to the extent that this administration got concerned about its plummeting numbers enough that it realized maybe this time it should treat the Prime Minister of Israel with some respect, just as it is and just as it has heads of states of countries that despise us and have said they would be glad to see us fall as a Nation. It's nice if they could treat Prime Minister Netanyahu with the same respect that it treats some of our sworn enemies.

Very interesting. There's just so much to cover, so little time. But I did want to address that issue and the fact that Iran is continuing to have its centrifuges spin. It has been reported by this administration, by the IAEA, that Iran has apparently at least enough uranium material, at least, to manufacture two nuclear weapons. So the rhetorical question to be asked, How many nuclear bombs does it take to become an existential threat to Israel or to this Nation? I would submit a nuke in New York Harbor, coming up the Potomac, the Houston and New Orleans shipping channel taking out the majority of our energy resources, Los Angeles, the lake right up next to Chicago, the effect could be existential to the U.S.

This isn't a game. You can't keep walking around blaming the prior administration. Yes, I was upset with the Bush administration with the TARP. Yes, this administration went right out and hired the same people that helped push that thing through. And they're still pushing it. Still like it. Should have never been passed. That was a huge mistake by the Bush administration, and we should not continue to confound it.

Well, just as we've seen the New York Times can twist and distort, we've seen throughout America people distorting our heritage. And so in an effort to correct yet another distortion, I want to finish with this. This is from a book written by Peter Lillback, "Wall of Misconception." A small book, lots of resources. Dr. Lillback says: "Everyone agrees that George Washington was critical for the formation of America's values. Washington was conscious that his every act created a precedent for good or ill for all that would follow him. As our first President, everything he did established precedents for how our country was to work."

"So there is no accident that so many have sought to portray Washington as a man without faith. For if he exercised faith in the public square, this in turn argues that the Judeo-Christian system still has relevance and vitality in the public square today.

Did Washington's legacy include strong precedents of advocating the Judeo-Christian values in the public square? Recent authors have declared an emphatic no.

"Randall writes, 'Washington was not a deeply religious man.' Douglas Southall Freeman says, 'He had believed that a God directed his path, but he had not been particularly ardent in his faith.' James Thomas Flexner states that 'Washington . . . avoided, as was his deist custom, the word "God."' Judging from these writers, Washington could hardly be called a 'godly leader.' But are these claims correct?"

I could go on, as I have, taking people on tours through this building for about 2 or 3 hours with what Washington wrote and said and did. But continuing Dr. Lillback's book: "The very men who gave us the First Amendment did not intend to impose a radical separation of church and State that is advocated by so many today. In fact, the day after Congress adopted the words of the First Amendment, they sent a message to President Washington asking him to declare a day of thanksgiving to show America's appreciation to God for the opportunity to create America's new national government in peace and tranquility."

"So on October 3, 1789, President Washington made a Proclamation of a National Day of Thanksgiving. He declared: Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God"—I guess he did use the word God—"to obey His will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor. And, whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God'"—oops, he used it again—"especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness, now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the people of the United States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks, for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a Nation; for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of His providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted, for the civil and religious

liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for the great and various favors which He hath been pleased to confer upon us.

"And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions to enable us all—and deists doesn't ask God to enable us to do anything—whether in public or private stations to perform our several relative duties properly and punctually."

I see my time is running out so I will go straight to the bottom of George Washington's words: "to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

"Given under my hand, at the City of New York, the 3rd of October, in the year of our Lord, 1789." Again, George Washington's words.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I yield back.

□ 2220

EXTENDING AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the egregious actions taken by both the House and Senate against unemployed Americans. Members of this body have continued to vote against extending benefits to millions of Americans who need it the most right now. While these citizens are facing the worst job market that this Nation has seen in generations, these Members have turned their backs on them. They claim that the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act is budget-busting legislation. Madam Speaker, any bill whose intention is to assist 14.7 million jobless Americans while adding a needed infusion of cash into our still fragile economy is not budget-busting legislation. It is the right legislation.

Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL has claimed that the Republicans continue to block the extension of unemployment benefits because they are not "willing to use worthwhile programs as an excuse" to create "even bigger national debt than we've already got." Where were these same Republicans when we began our descent into fiscal disarray? Where were the Republicans when our national debt doubled when they had control of the White House and Congress? Where were the Republicans in stopping this atrocity from taking place?

And with that, I would like to put a chart up that some of my former colleagues used to show where we were

and where we came from. In western Pennsylvania, where I'm from, many times I've been taught over the years that you have to look back to see where you were to know where you're going. And I think this chart shows pretty dramatically where we were just a decade ago and where the last administration brought us.

Republicans have made a political calculation and decided to present this as a debate about our national debt. If we look back at history, we can see this new mantra of fiscal responsibility heralded by the Republican Party of today was not what they lived by a few years ago. Our national debt grew to enormous numbers because of actions Republicans have taken in the past decade. Let us not forget, when President Bush came into office in 2001, he inherited a \$236 billion budget surplus, 2.4 percent of our total GDP. This was the first surplus of this magnitude in the history of our country. These surpluses were projected to continue for at least the next 10 years.

According to a Congressional Budget Office report on the Economic Outlook for the Next Decade published in January of 2000, if the policies in place under President Clinton were maintained, total surpluses would have accumulated to between \$3.2 and \$4.2 trillion over the next 10 years. With these surpluses, it was projected that the Treasury would have sufficient cash on hand sometime between 2007 and 2009 to retire all debt held by the public. Now, let me read that to you again. With these surpluses, it was projected that the Treasury would have sufficient cash on hand sometime between 2007 and 2009 to retire all debt held by the public.

Madam Speaker, we've come a long way from the days of President Clinton, and it's been under the Republican leadership that this descent has taken place. As a country, we were on a path towards true fiscal responsibility and recovery. Rather than demand that we use these funds to eradicate our national debt then, Republicans dwindled our surplus on unpaid programs that greatly benefited the wealthiest citizens in our Nation. The Economic Growth—and I love the title—the Economic Growth and Tax Reconciliation Act of 2001 passed the Republican Congress and was signed by President Bush, and it was an unpaid tax cut for the rich.

The CBO revised its economic outlook at the beginning of 2002 to reflect the changes in spending policy that have taken place during President Bush's first year. Although they still projected surpluses, the total amount had dropped by \$4 trillion under the prior year's estimate; \$2.4 trillion, or 60 percent, of that decline was attributed to laws enacted in 2001, including the Bush tax cuts. When the tax policy was studied for its long-term impact on our national budget, it was determined that the plan would cost us \$1.35 trillion over 10 years. At the end of fiscal

year 2002, we reported our first budget deficit since 1997 in the amount of \$157.8 billion. Even then, there were no trumpets sounded by the Republicans to reverse our spending habits to pay down the national debt. In fact, they continued to embrace policies that would lead us deeper and deeper into the financial black hole we see ourselves in today.

In 2003, there was a second round of major tax cuts enacted. The law accelerated previous provisions from the 2001 cuts while enacting new terms. Here we go with these great titles. The Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 was projected to increase Federal budget deficits by \$349.7 billion in the next 10 years. From 2001 to 2008, the Republicans added \$4.9 trillion to our national debt, bringing it to a total of \$10.6 trillion by the time President Obama took office. The Republican leadership was able to turn a projected \$4 trillion surplus into a nearly \$5 trillion budget deficit in a matter of 8 years.

Madam Speaker, 2008 was a trying year for all Americans. We witnessed a dramatic dip in housing prices, a skyrocketing number of foreclosed homes, the failing of financial institutions, what appeared to be a full collapse of our banking system, and the loss of 3.1 million American jobs by the end of the year. It was a catastrophe on a magnitude this Nation had not seen in decades. The economic meltdown prompted President Bush's Treasury Secretary Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke to visit the Speaker's Office on Thursday, September 18 of that year to deliver information to congressional leaders on our country's dire economic situation.

The Treasury Secretary and Chairman of the Fed described how, under the Bush administration, our economy had reached the equivalent of driving a tanker off of Allegheny Mountain. They believed that a serious government intervention was needed in order to rescue the system. On Saturday, September 20, a mere 2 days after this briefing, the Treasury Department delivered a three-page proposal to Congress asking for \$700 billion and giving the Secretary authority to purchase mortgage-related assets from any financial institution.

In a hearing held by the House Financial Services Committee on the financial crisis, Secretary Paulson stated this major outlay of government money was needed to restore confidence in our financial markets and financial institutions so that they can perform their mission of supporting future prosperity and growth. The CBO estimated that the bill, signed by President Bush on October 4, 2008, in its entirety, including several tax provisions added on to it, would increase the national debt by \$814 billion.

In the 8 years that President Bush and his administration led this country, they doubled our national debt. Not once did Republicans stand up to

say the Bush administration and the Republican-controlled Congress were responsible for this. But now when Americans are in need of help, the Republicans refuse to offer it.

The financial crisis left a lasting effect on our country. Not only were Wall Street and our Nation's financial institutions left in disarray, but millions of Americans were left without jobs. Our unemployment rate jumped to 7.4 percent at the end of December 2008 and now stands over 9 percent. Americans are suffering because of this crisis and are in dire need of assistance, yet Republicans believe that it is politically astute to deny millions of American families the aid they need to put food on their tables while searching for a job during this difficult time.

When the House took up the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act on July 1, it passed by a 270–153 vote. It is wonderful that 270 Members of this body see the needs of the people and are appropriately providing for them, yet 80 percent of the Republicans in the House opted to continue being the party of “no.”

□ 2230

Nearly all Republicans in the Senate decided to do the same. They continue to turn their backs on American families in need.

Republicans believe that this is all in the name of fiscal responsibility. How is denying Americans needed funding to support their families fiscally irresponsible?

Not only do these funds help American families, they help the American economy. One reason there is not enough jobs right now is weak consumer demand. CBO has found that extending unemployment benefits to be one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting ways to stimulate the economy.

Every dollar in unemployment benefits creates at least \$1.64 in economic activity, as opposed to the 29 cents the Bush tax cuts would generate if extended, according to chief economist Mark Zandi of moodys.com. Virtually every dollar from unemployment benefits would be quickly spent on living expenses with the purchase of goods and services.

The CBO projected that the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 2010 would cost \$33 billion, which works out to be about \$2,200 per unemployed person of those 14.7 million people. This is roughly seven-thousandths of 1 percent of the debt amassed by the Republicans under the Bush administration. Yet the Republicans now want to claim fiscal responsibility. Providing these benefits is fiscally responsible and, more than that, it's a moral responsibility.

In the month of May, the State of Pennsylvania had a 9.1 percent unemployment rate. And in my area in southwest Pennsylvania we see many counties that are still hovering around the 10 percent market. While I was in the district over this past week I heard

many stories about families and how they're hurting while I was around visiting them.

At a senior center I talked to a young woman whose husband used to work in one of the factories in Johnstown. He worked there for 30 years. They paid their taxes. They did everything that they were supposed to do. Now his unemployment benefits are running out, but the Republican Members in this body and in the Senate feel it's not important enough to pass the emergency unemployment benefits.

One unemployed constituent lost her car because she's unable to make her payments once she stopped receiving the benefits in June. She's now left to find a job with no means of transportation, but that's not important enough for the folks in this body.

I received this letter last week from one of my constituents who desperately needs Congress to pass the unemployment extension. Her letter reads, "I am writing this message to tell you about the harm that failure to extend unemployment is causing for my family. Both my husband and I lost jobs through no fault of our own, like millions of other Americans. We have worked hard and paid taxes for a combined total of 71 years; two of these include my husband's 2 years in the military service.

"We have tried to get work since being laid off over a year and a half ago. My husband has worked for the Census." Remember, those are some of those jobs that have been noted that they're not real jobs. "My husband has worked for the Census a few weeks each of these past 2 years, but that will end soon. I have tried to get work during the past 2 years, but so far have not found anything. I have read that for every job that opens in Pennsylvania, there are five workers that would need it.

"We feel that we have been let down. Our country has bailed out companies and banks, and has saved high-paying jobs and bonuses, but feels it is too expensive to continue to help the unemployed. Some say that there are jobs out there that people aren't taking. I would like to know what they are and especially whether they are jobs that my husband and I could do."

Now, this is western Pennsylvania. The people in my district want to work. Sometimes there isn't work though, and they need the help that these unemployment benefits offer. And it really, it hurts my feelings and

it angers me that this body can turn that kind of help down.

"Most of our 71 years of work have been in public libraries, which are hurting more than any other service from huge cuts by the State and local governments.

"I don't know how Congressmen and Senators can take a break when millions of Americans' lives are on hold. We can't make the rent or mortgage, pay for prescription drugs, feed and clothe our children, put gas into our cars so that we can continue to look for jobs and many other necessities."

And just as a side note, before I continue the speech that my staff and I put together, in western Pennsylvania we've seen the loss of jobs over many years. It used to be the hub of the steel industry of this country. Well, steel left in the late seventies and early eighties, and we've been fighting to create jobs in western Pennsylvania for a long time. We're a very hard working people. We do the best job that we can.

And why I'm so angered by the rhetoric that's been thrown around about this unemployment extension of unemployment benefits is these are hard working people, and if the jobs were there they'd be working. They're not looking for any kind of handout. But sometimes you need help, and that's all they're asking for.

She goes on to say, "I would like for you to share this letter with other Congressmen and Senators. I hope that you will all realize that we did not ask for this situation and would be glad to return to work if only we could.

"The unemployed need help and we need it fast. Please work as hard as you can to get our benefits back."

Madam Speaker, these families, like millions of other American families, need our help. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass the Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act and provide our citizens the help they require in this time of crisis.

And again, let me reference where we were and then where we went.

This is not budget busting. This is helping men and women who are in need.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of personal business.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, July 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, July 14, 15, and 16.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today, July 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20.

Mr. UPTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, today, July 14, 15, 16, 19, and 20.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and July 14.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House reports that on July 1, 2010 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 5611. 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. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the homebuyer 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.R. 5569. To extend the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, July 14, 2010, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2009 and the second quarter of 2010 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows: