

benefits, benefits that will benefit those who work and who have worked and who need to pay their mortgages and provide food on the table? We need to extend unemployment benefits for unemployed Americans now.

Again, we have another story. Here is a story of privatizing Social Security or extending the age before receiving Social Security. I remember the fight. I was here on the floor of the House when seniors were calling our phone lines and saying don't privatize Social Security. Thank goodness for the wisdom of our seniors. If we had privatized Social Security, it would have collapsed in the abysmal disgrace of Wall Street—no money. But Social Security has been paying on a faithful basis now for decades.

We know that 72 percent of the American public don't want us to raise the age to be eligible for Social Security, but yet the minority leader wants to raise it so he can pay for the Iraq and Afghan war. Bring the soldiers home. Recognize that 36 million families are in need of Social Security. Seniors are in need of Social Security. Keep our Social Security the way it is—strong and solvent.

POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet's 49th birthday. This physician and peaceful advocate of freedom has dedicated his life to defending human rights and advancing democracy in Cuba, and for that he was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

So while Dr. Biscet and thousands of political prisoners sit in Castro's gulags, the Castro regime is using political prisoners as a bargaining chip in a calculated attempt to gain concessions from the United States and the European Union.

Even more troubling, however, is the evident collaboration between the Cuban Catholic Church and the Castro regime. The church is cooperating with the regime and reaching out to only those families of political prisoners that the regime asks them to talk to, while Dr. Biscet and others don't even get a call from the church.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to stand tall, to stand with the Cuban people, and to demand the release of every single political prisoner in the Cuban gulags. Until every single one is released, we cannot shut up, we cannot stop speaking.

The United States should not be fooled. We will continue to stand with the political prisoners.

SOCIAL SECURITY UNDER ATTACK

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, older Americans have relied on the guaranteed benefit that Social Security provides. This monthly check provides a safety net from poverty and is a key component to a dignified retirement after a lifetime of work. Seniors contributed to Social Security. They earned it. They deserve it. They depend on it.

As we celebrate 75 years of this outstanding program, it is once again under attack by Republicans who want to dismantle the system and spend trillions of dollars in a risky privatization scheme that gambles senior citizens' savings in the stock market while lining the pockets of Wall Street. Does that sound familiar? Well, it should. Republicans tried to do the same thing under the Bush administration. This represents yet another attempt to return to the failed policies that created the worst economic situation since the Great Depression.

Well, I stand here committed to fighting back against such programs and protecting Social Security so that 30,000 seniors in southern Nevada who depend on it won't be abandoned in their golden years.

IN MEMORY OF SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Senator Paul Coverdell, one of the most kind and thoughtful and deliberate Members of Congress, passed away 10 years ago this past Sunday. Senator Coverdell was a strong leader in Georgia for decades, serving as a State senator for 19 years and as a United States Senator for 7 years before his untimely death of a cerebral hemorrhage on July 18, 2000.

His dedication extended far beyond the political arena. He was a veteran of the United States Army and served as the Director for the Peace Corps from 1989 to 1991.

In honor of Senator Coverdell, the Centers for Disease Control established the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry that helps implement State-based registries able to track care for acute stroke and help expand the knowledge and improve the quality of care. His legacy lives on.

Senator Coverdell was an inspiration to so many of us to dream big dreams and to answer the call to preserve this great Nation. He knew that the wonder and the awe of America rests in the principles of our founding documents and our people. We will always remember his patriotism and his wisdom.

PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Social Security, Americans

have two choices: On the one hand, there is the Democratic Party that created Social Security, strengthened it, and will continue to defend it from attacks. On the other, there are the Republicans on a never-ending crusade to dismantle this sacred program.

The ranking member of the Budget Committee plans to slash benefits, hike taxes on middle class families, and turn Social Security over to Wall Street. If former President Bush and Republicans had their way, trillions would have been lost during the financial crisis. Instead, the American people said "no" to privatization, and when the markets crashed, the trust fund did not lose a penny.

The American people have consistently rejected these failed Republican ideas that threaten the financial security of seniors. Don't be misled. We can protect Social Security's solvency for the ages, and we can do it without slashing benefits, privatizing the program, or making people work into their golden years.

I stand to defend America's seniors, and they deserve nothing less.

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THE COLLAPSE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the ongoing destruction of the American Dream.

As the dense fog of increasing debt suffocates our economy, joblessness creates the uncertainty in which small businesses cannot survive. Credit is not available. Increasing taxes are creeping in at every level. We now know that we cannot keep our doctors or our insurance. We, the people, see no leadership.

As the President treads water, as America looks for leadership, as small business is paralyzed with uncertainty, as our elderly watch their health care rationed and as they are fearful for their future, as our families lose their confidence in leadership, all of this poses the virtual collapse of the American Dream.

The denial on the part of the administration is pathologic. The refusal to acknowledge reality is causing undue human suffering, prolonging the agony of massive unemployment, creating confusion and doubt in our military, and sending international messages of U.S. indecision and weakness.

It is time for action. It is time for us, the American people, to restore the American Dream.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of Social

Security. This year, we celebrate 75 years of this critical program, and we must reaffirm our commitment not only to protect it but to ensure its continuing viability.

America's senior citizens have lived through wars and recessions as well as periods of unprecedented prosperity. They have pioneered technologies in medicine, communications, transportation, and industry. These remarkable achievements demonstrate the strength and character of our older Americans, underscoring the debt of gratitude that we owe to generations that have given so much—one generation which includes my own parents, who are celebrating birthdays this week and next.

Unfortunately, the recent recession has reminded us that economic prosperity is never a guarantee; and in times of such uncertainty, our Nation's seniors need the steadiness of Social Security now more than ever.

Some have suggested that privatizing certain aspects of Social Security will somehow strengthen it. Well, I say not. I urge my colleagues to fiercely resist any such effort to privatize Social Security and to risk our seniors' well-being with the volatile, unpredictable nature of the market. I ask my colleagues to come together and to continue the promise that was made 75 years ago for those who have given so much to our society.

DEMOCRATS' IRRESPONSIBLE DEFICIT SPENDING

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, nearly a year and a half after the President told our country that an \$800 billion-plus stimulus package was needed to keep unemployment below 8 percent, we are in the midst of our 14th straight month with unemployment above 9 percent. Many economists predict that nearly every major policy passed since that time, such as cap-and-trade, health care and so on, will result in a net loss of jobs. Now the Democrats are telling our country we need to double down on their economic policies and increase our debt and deficits to finance more spending.

How does that make any sense whatsoever?

If you don't have a job, we want you to find one. However, we know that, if Congress continues irresponsible spending, it will make economic growth and job creation less likely. That is why Republicans are insisting on finding spending cuts. It is time to tell the administration that they have maxed out America's credit card and to ask them to start working with the American people to get our fiscal house in order.

PASS THE EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, 2.5 million Americans have lost their unemployment benefits—more than 33,000 of them in my home State of Massachusetts. I have heard from many of these struggling families.

From Chelmsford: "My UI benefits have just run out. A UI check is food and other necessities while I draw down savings to keep my house."

From Lowell: "I have always had a very good job. I work hard, pay taxes, and I certainly have not been living in excess. Last July, my company had to cut staff, and my entire team was let go. I have never had a problem finding a job, but this search has been extremely difficult. Unemployment benefits helped me to stay on track with life's basic necessities, such as food, gas and insurance. Losing them has caused desperate action on my part."

From Westford: "Please extend unemployment benefits for all Americans. I know many solid citizens who are actively and vigorously job hunting to no avail, including my wife. Help."

I urge my Senate colleagues to pass this desperately needed extension.

REPEATING THE LESSON OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, when the stimulus bill became law, unemployment stood at 8.2 percent. Today, a year and a half and hundreds of billions of dollars later, unemployment is 9.5 percent.

This spending binge hasn't made things better. It has made things demonstrably worse because, before government can put money into the economy, it first takes that money out of the economy. We see the jobs created when government puts the money back, but we don't see the jobs that are lost, because government first took that money out of the economy.

When we borrow trillions of dollars, we crowd out the very same capital pool that would otherwise have been available for businesses to create jobs; so those jobs don't get created, and the ranks of the unemployed grow.

These are the same policies that turned the recession of 1929 into the Depression of the 1930s. Do we really want to repeat that lesson?

STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is a pledge to hardworking

Americans that they will be able to retire with the dignity they deserve. As this treasured program reaches its 75th anniversary, we have a responsibility to guarantee that it remains strong for future generations; but as we work toward improving the long-term solvency of this program, we must avoid making ill advised changes, like creating volatile private accounts that could throw millions of seniors into poverty.

These are tough economic times, particularly for seniors on fixed incomes. Rising health care, energy and housing costs mean too many seniors do not have the resources they need to live comfortably. Now, more than ever, Social Security is a critical safety net for millions of Americans.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together to strengthen the Social Security program for current and future generations. Hardworking Americans deserve to look forward to financially secure retirements.

EDIBLE ROAD SIGNS

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out the obvious: You cannot feed road signs to your kids. They are made of aluminum, degreasing agents, and reflective film. They don't taste good. In fact, you can't even pay the rent with road signs because landlords prefer checks.

That's why Americans are so confused about the Obama administration and why they are spending tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer money on road signs, touting the success of the stimulus. I should have said the so-called "success" of the stimulus.

President Obama assured the American people that he would not waste the stimulus money. In fact, he even said that he would not waste one single nickel and that he would make famous anyone who wasted the money. Well, I guess I'm making the President famous then because these signs are the most obscenely wasteful and gratuitous things that we have seen out of him yet.

There is a reason why the majority has lost all credibility with the American people, and there is a reason you haven't created any jobs. That reason is posted on the sides of our roads.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strongest possible support for Social Security—an essential lifeline that some 130,000 seniors in my congressional district depend on every day.

Social Security is an earned benefit that American workers have paid into