

why this is important. This morning we were doing our investigation of the BP oil spill. We had President Bush's Secretary of the Interior, Gail Norton, testify. And you know what we discovered?

During the Bush administration's rapid ramp-up of offshore drilling, they learned that 50 percent of the blow-out preventers that were supposed to be the fail-safe system to prevent these massive oil spills, 50 percent of them didn't work. But they refused to do anything about it.

They learned that they had a problem with their own investigators, that the wells weren't being cemented appropriately, but they refused to do anything about it.

We are not going to let folks go backwards on Social Security, go backwards on Wall Street reform, or go backwards on environmental protection. This is a country that goes forward.

NO BUDGET THIS YEAR

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, it's official. In late June the majority leader confirmed what we've known all along and suspected: There will be no budget this year.

Yes, for the first time since 1974, the House will not even consider a budget resolution that's necessary to begin the appropriations process beginning October 1.

Now, this may sound like inside baseball or congressional housekeeping, but it's much more than that.

Over this past month, I've met with hundreds of constituents who have the same question, "Where are the jobs?"

My colleagues, we should be spending this summer working to improve our financial outlook, positioning our Nation to create an environment for private sector job growth and opportunity.

Instead, the majority has chosen to increase domestic spending by 84 percent since the President took office on inefficient programs that have succeeded only in adding to the public debt. To finance this spending binge, we're borrowing more and more money from nations like China, Japan, and Saudi Arabia.

The people of New Jersey and people across the Nation know that we spend too much, tax too much, and we borrow too much. It's got to stop.

□ 1320

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I went door

to door in Waterbury, Connecticut, where unemployment today is 14.1 percent. Guess what everybody wanted to talk about? They wanted to talk jobs. People in Waterbury never shied away from hard work. This is the Brass City. It's due to its rich history of manufacturing, making things from Boulder Dam in Colorado to munitions for World War II and Korea.

And today the unemployed in Waterbury aren't just sitting on their hands waiting for a job to drop in their lap. And unlike some on the right try to suggest, they're not looking for a hand-out either. They just need some help getting through this recession.

Outside the city limits of D.C., patience is running thin with the Republicans who are playing politics with people's ability to buy groceries and simply make ends meet during tough times.

We can come out of this recession stronger than ever, but Congress needs to do the right thing and extend unemployment benefits for people in Waterbury and all across this country.

THE UNARMED NATIONAL GUARD WILL GUARD COMPUTERS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration says they will be sending 1,200 National Guard troops to the southern border region on August 1. But they're not going to the actual border. They'll be far behind the lines, guarding computers. And the National Guard will be unarmed while they are guarding the computers.

The Border Patrol welcomes the National Guard at the border. They appreciate the help. But the Border Patrol agents made it real clear they need armed National Guard to help them stop the criminal cartels at the border. Further, the Border Patrol will need to guard the National Guard. Now, how does that make sense?

Mr. Speaker, we have 15 million unemployed Americans already. We should hire some of those 15 million unemployed to do the technical work behind the lines, and the National Guard should be armed and on the front lines of the border doing what they're trained to do: Protect the country. We need the National Guard with boots on the ground on the border, not rebooting computers somewhere behind the border.

And that's just the way it is.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress are talking about dismantling our Social Security system. They want to privatize this important program, raise the retire-

ment age, and make our seniors pay for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is simply unacceptable.

Seventy-five years ago our Nation made a promise to our seniors. We promised to help them through their golden years. This promise has served our Nation well, allowing those who built this great country an opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their hard work. Social Security is one of the most important, successful programs in the United States' history, an invaluable program that helps more than 50 million seniors and disabled Americans.

Our seniors depend on their monthly checks to put food on the table and a roof over their heads. Without this critical help, many of them would fall into poverty. Social Security should not be privatized, and must remain intact for America's future generations.

ECONOMY AND JOBS—MORATORIUM

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, as Americans ask, Where are the jobs, we see the job creation of one family at risk thanks to the President's ill-conceived offshore drilling moratorium.

Sunbelt Machine Works Corporation was founded 32 years ago by Frank and Mary Scantlin. While Frank ran the shop, Mary served as secretary and a truckdriver to help out. Their children grew up sweeping the floors and learning the business, working their way up in a company that today employs 70 people in the district that I represent.

The President's moratorium will cause Sunbelt to lay off people soon if production doesn't restart quickly. Jobs have already headed overseas, as two rigs have left the gulf. The CEO of one of those rigs' owners apologized for the "loss of U.S. jobs" because of the moratorium.

Mr. Speaker, we must lift this job-killing moratorium now. Americans are tired of asking, Where are the jobs?

PRESIDENTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. BACA. The American people know that we cannot go back to the failed policies of the Bush administration and the Republicans in Congress. Their lack of accountability and oversight caused 8 million Americans to lose their jobs and led to the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression.

Thankfully, President Obama has led our efforts to rebuild a strong economy for the middle class and expand new job creation for Americans. With his leadership, we have enacted laws, created millions of jobs, given 98 percent of the working families a tax break, increased

Pell programs, made student loans more affordable, jump-started the auto industry with the Cash for Clunkers program, and provided health coverage to 32 million previously uninsured.

The truth of the matter: President Obama and the Congressional Democrats continue to move in the right direction. I ask my colleagues, where would we be right now if we were still stuck with the same Republican policies of the past?

AMERICA SPEAKS OUT

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, across this country and certainly throughout Florida, people have been asking and speaking out, but leaders in Washington have not been listening. From the new health care law to a national energy tax, Americans have repeatedly said “no” to what this Congress has had to offer.

I have been listening, and I’ve heard loud and clear that my constituents, like most Americans, are tired of new taxes, new spending, and record-breaking deficits. That’s why the House Republicans have launched AmericaSpeakingOut.com, a new forum where people across the country can share and discuss their ideas on a wide range of critical issues.

We plan to offer a new set of policy solutions grounded in the principles of smaller, more accountable government, and we want to engage the American people directly in building those solutions together from the start. Changing course in Washington will require Americans to speak out and Congress to start listening.

Please visit AmericaSpeakingOut.com and start speaking out.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1935

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Social Security benefits make a significant contribution to the well-being of many Americans. Today, 83,545 persons in the Seventh District of Illinois rely upon these payments to sustain their monthly living expenses. Fifty-nine percent of them are elderly, and 11 percent are children. These persons receive an average monthly benefit of \$996 a month, with the cost of living for rent and utilities in Illinois being \$957 per month, equating to 96 percent of their Social Security income.

While we celebrate Social Security for the last 75 years for the American aged, disabled, and survivor populations and their children, I encourage my colleagues to make sure that these funds are sustained without further impact on the economic well-being of our

most challenged populations. Thank you, Social Security.

HONORING ATF SPECIAL AGENT WILLIAM G. CLARK

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I introduced a resolution honoring ATF Special Agent William G. Clark of Rochester, New York.

One morning in 2008, while stationed in the United States Virgin Islands, Special Agent Clark witnessed a domestic dispute between his neighbor and her boyfriend, who was drunk and on drugs. His neighbor was being threatened and pleaded for his assistance. And Special Agent Clark did what his training taught him to do: he helped someone in need.

While attempting to protect his female neighbor from being beaten, Special Agent Clark was charged by her boyfriend, who was swinging a large metal flashlight after threatening to retrieve a gun. Special Agent Clark fired in self-defense. The man subsequently died from his injuries, and Special Agent Clark is now being charged with second-degree murder.

A Justice Department incident review panel has cleared Special Agent Clark, who remains on active duty. The panel unanimously found that Special Agent Clark was acting within the scope of employment and authority, and that there was no evidence of misconduct or inappropriate action on the part of Special Agent Clark.

ATF Special Agent William G. Clark is a hero who was protecting a battered woman, and Congress should recognize his heroic acts.

□ 1330

CELEBRATING SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to join all of you in wishing Social Security a happy 75th birthday.

Social Security and Medicare are two of the most successful legislative accomplishments in the history of the world. But not everyone in this body is celebrating Social Security's overwhelming success.

There are many in this body on the other side who would like to privatize Social Security. Remember the Bush plan—to tie Social Security to the fluctuation of the stock market. This is a gamble we should not take.

It is an extraordinary American success story. For those who are simultaneously trying to educate college-aged children and the thought of caring for elderly parents, let me give you the actuarial reality. It's impossible. Simply put, the reason that Mom and Dad are

not living in your attic is because of Social Security and Medicare. It is the greatest achievement in legislative history domestically for all American families.

Happy birthday, Social Security.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOYLE). Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

CELEBRATING THE 2010 SPECIAL OLYMPICS NATIONAL GAMES

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on a happier note, this weekend I had the great honor of participating in the 2010 Special Olympics National Games opening ceremony in my hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The pomp and pageantry of the official ceremony appropriately welcomed a very enthusiastic and excited audience of more than 3,000 athletes, 1,000 coaches, and 13,000 fans gathered at the University of Nebraska. As I marched in with Nebraska's delegation to the Games, I was struck by how inspiring the moment was as the community boisterously and loudly gathered to celebrate these very special athletes.

The Special Olympics have grown tremendously both in the number of participants but also in the heart of our Nation. The Special Olympics oath is, “Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Mr. Speaker, to all of these brave and special athletes in Lincoln's 2010 Special Olympics National Games, I wish to extend a heartfelt congratulations.

PASS THE EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Currier and his family are my constituents, and they're suffering needlessly because Republicans are shamelessly blocking the extension of unemployment insurance. The Republicans argue that people like Thomas are lazy and would rather collect unemployment than work. Well, let me tell you about Thomas Currier.

He's 62. He's worked his entire life and at one time even owned his own business. After 25 years in the IT field, he was laid off in August of 2008, and last month he finally lost his unemployment insurance. His wife needs surgery they can't afford. His daughter dropped out of college because they can't pay her tuition. Not only has Mr. Currier lost his income, but as a result