

money where it will do us some good instead of helping our enemies cause us problems.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the most successful program the United States Government has ever created, Social Security.

Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has become the great promise that each generation will take care of those who came before it. In our district in Texas, nearly 65,000 recipients receive over \$61 million monthly from the Social Security administration. It's a blue-collar district, home to thousands of hardworking families who have overcome wars and natural disasters in becoming the backbone of the American economy.

The national average benefit for the retiree is \$14,000 a year, a majority of income for 6 out of 10 seniors. This modest amount guarantees that tens of millions of parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors can retire with dignity.

I believe it's important to consider what would have happened if Congress had followed along the lines of then-President George W. Bush in 2005 to partially privatize Social Security and make Social Security subject to the stock market.

Or consider what could happen if Congress follows along the plans of some of my colleagues across the aisle in cutting Social Security to reduce the national debt. I believe that cutting Social Security is irresponsible and wrong as we approach the 75th anniversary of Social Security.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I guess the polls show that the Democrats are in trouble, because every time that happens, Social Security is pulled out of their back pocket. Republicans are going to destroy Social Security. This party is the only party to save Social Security.

Democrats must be behind in the polls because they are pulling out George W. Bush. I have looked all over this campus. I can't find him. I went down to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He left. Maybe you folks didn't notice.

President Obama is there. And what a real shame it is that current Democrats are running away from the Democratic Party of John F. Kennedy. He told us, forget about class warfare; a rising tide lifts all boats.

Maybe you ought to listen to some of those on your side who didn't talk about fear but talked about hope.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, next month marks the 75th anniversary of Social Security, which has been there for generations of Americans and will be for generations to come.

Social Security is a bedrock promise to all Americans. You have paid into the system, the money is yours, and it is our responsibility to do everything we can to guarantee that it will be there for you when you retire.

That's why we are so fortunate that our friends on the other side of the aisle were unsuccessful in their attempt to privatize Social Security at exactly the time the American financial markets were nearing collapse. 401(k)s and IRAs lost one-third of their value during the stock market plunge of 2008 and 2009. Imagine what would have happened to those retirees' income if their Social Security earnings had also been gambled away in the stock market.

Mr. Speaker, rather than risk a lifetime of savings, Social Security will continue to be the stable, reliable, safety net that it was created to be 75 years ago.

□ 1400

GETTING THE ECONOMY MOVING AGAIN

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, just Friday I was in my district in Barren County, Kentucky—voted the number one rural county in America to live in—and I was at the Chamber of Commerce. I sat and talked at a roundtable with business leaders, people who own franchises and other types of small businesses, and their concerns about getting the economy moving again didn't have to do with George W. Bush or even when the majority took over in 2006. Their concern was this Congress, the debt from the stimulus bill that didn't keep unemployment from going above 8 percent. They were concerned about the energy cost that is going to greatly affect the great Commonwealth of Kentucky, the cap-and-trade. And also, they were talking about how they're going to implement the health care bill that was passed by this majority. Those were their concerns.

I left with them saying, if we got back to our belief in limited government and unlimited faith in the American people, that we will get this economy moving again and bring back the jobs they need.

SOCIAL SECURITY MUST BE PRESERVED

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

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, 75 years ago Frances Perkins, a wonderful woman who came from a long line of Maine farmers and craftsmen, addressed the Nation as the Secretary of Labor. In addition to being the first woman Cabinet member in our Nation's history, she was also the person President Roosevelt put in charge of creating the Social Security system. In her address, she talked about creating a system to "provide safeguards against the misfortunes which cannot be wholly eliminated in this man-made world of ours."

Nearly 300,000 people in my State now receiving benefits are living proof that for 75 years Social Security has done just what Frances Perkins hoped for—assuring a decent standard of living in good times and in bad for seniors and for countless others.

From disability insurance and survivors' benefits to providing a cushion during retirement, Social Security has allowed Americans to retain their independence and their dignity. It must be preserved.

GOVERNMENT-RUN STIMULUS HAS FAILED

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, we must end this culture of uncertainty. It is delaying our economic recovery. Businesses are unwilling to hire new workers because they do not know what new taxes and regulations Washington will enact on them. ObamaCare's chilling effect on hiring and new jobs was just the beginning. The cap-and-trade bill will further hurt our economic recovery if it is enacted.

As a result of policies adopted by this administration, businesses are sitting on huge stockpiles of cash to brace themselves for further interference from the government. Economist Larry Kudlow noted that corporations are sitting on \$2 trillion worth of cash. If allowed to be injected into our economy, this could unleash a tremendous private sector stimulus of our economy.

The government-run stimulus has failed. We now need to get government out of the way of the private sector to let it save our economy.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to defend Social Security.

For many years, I've had the privilege of working to bring commonsense policies that benefit middle class families in North Carolina and across America. I was proud to help lead the fight against President Bush's misguided effort to privatize Social Security and to cut benefits. We won that

fight, but now some Washington politicians are threatening Social Security again with risky Wall Street schemes.

During this current economic crisis, more than 50 million Americans depend on Social Security to make ends meet. Without Social Security, one out of every two American seniors would fall into poverty. Dismantling Social Security would eliminate the safety net for millions of disabled Americans and survivors and many of their children.

No politician in Washington, D.C., has the right to threaten the American institution of Social Security. As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Social Security Act, I call on this Congress to defeat the proposals to cut Social Security benefits.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, I've done numerous America Speaking Out town halls all across the 10th Congressional District in Georgia. And what I hear from my constituents, from the most liberal communities all the way to the most conservative ones, is people in my district are asking, "Where are the jobs?" They understand that our economy is suffering and they understand that the stimulus bill has been an abject failure. They want to say, "Where are the jobs?" and that's what they're saying through americaspeakingout.com.

We need to get the ball rolling and leave dollars in the hands of small business, as well as the consumers, so that we can create jobs in the private sector. But that's not what our colleagues on the other side are doing. They're creating bigger government and creating more jobs in Washington, D.C., not in Georgia or any other State around this country. Only a few jobs are being created other than here.

I encourage people to go on americaspeakingout.com and speak about what we should be doing right here in Congress today, what we should be focusing on. What I'm hearing the American people saying is, "Where are the jobs?" We're trying to answer that question.

DEMOCRATS STAND BEHIND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about Social Security. I rise because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this past weekend alone have said they want to return—they want to return to the Bush years. They want to return to privatizing Social Security. They want to do so so that they can help balance the deficit by cutting Social Security.

Can you imagine, had the Bush tax cuts gone through, had the Bush proposal for Social Security gone through, what would happen to so many of our citizens during this great recession? People who rely solely on Social Security would not have anywhere to turn to.

The concept and the idea we often criticize our colleagues saying they have no plan, but in fact they do. They want to privatize Social Security. Yes, they want to privatize Social Security. They want to voucher Medicare. They want to block grant Medicaid, and then they want to turn around and take your health benefits and treat them as ordinary income and tax them.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Democratic Caucus stand firmly behind Social Security and its benefits to all the American people.

THE HEROES OF CUBA

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. The world, and especially the press and the media in the United States, continue to treat the political prisoners in the gulags of the Cuban dictatorship as nonpersons.

The most well-known and respected political prisoner in Cuba is Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. He has been in the gulags of the Castros for a decade due to his peaceful, pro-democracy work inside that enslaved island. Dr. Biscet is the Mandela of Cuba. Today is his 49th birthday. I wish him Godspeed and freedom, and freedom for Cuba.

To the press I ask, how long do the heroes of Cuba have to suffer before you acknowledge their existence?

THANK GOD BUSH IS GONE

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, it's been interesting listening to the discussions this morning and this afternoon. Social Security is 75 years old. It came about because of Franklin Roosevelt, a great Democratic President, and a Democratic Congress, evolving out of a Depression caused by Republican Herbert Hoover. And now 75 years later, we look at the situation where another Republican President, a Hoover George Bush, caused us the next worst financial crisis.

Republicans talk about privatizing Social Security. Social Security is money that needs to be there to preserve people's standards of living when Republicans who let the economy get out of hand because they don't have any regulations let it happen. This is the most foolish thought I've ever seen, if we didn't learn from September of 2008 that the market is a gamble and comes up and down. It's not social security; it's social insecurity.

People have gotten up here and said, "You haven't noticed that Bush is gone? That's all they can say is Bush is gone. Nobody can defend him, rated the second worst President in the history of the United States. A man who earned record deficits by giving tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and fighting a war based on lies to raise great deficits, and now all they can say is he's gone. Thank God he's gone."

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of a great Floridian, Claude Pepper, who served this body and the other body for over 32 years. He was one of the greatest advocates for senior citizens in the history of this body, and I rise today in his memory to talk about the importance of Social Security to maintain the safety net for all Americans as we celebrate 75 years of Social Security being that safety net for seniors.

And I have some breaking news for everyone. Social Security is not the cause of the deficit. Let me repeat, Social Security is not the cause of the deficit. And the Republican plan to privatize Social Security is going to be dead on arrival.

□ 1410

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5266) to extend the final report deadline and otherwise reauthorize the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5266

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) DEADLINE FOR FILLING VACANCIES.—Paragraph (2) of section 605(g) of the Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act