

sort of know what range this credibility has for the stimulus.

The fact of the matter is that stimulus wasn't designed to create jobs. It was designed to bail out government workers at the State and local levels. The truth is, if you are a government worker or if you belong to a teachers' union, you probably got a pay raise from the stimulus. If you work in construction or in manufacturing, you probably got a pink slip.

The fact of the matter is the government has grown since the stimulus has passed. The jobs in the private sector—small businesses and medium-sized businesses—are disappearing and continue to disappear, and that's because it wasn't designed to create small business jobs. In fact, more money in the stimulus was set aside to buy public art in America than to help small businesses to create jobs. It shows.

Too much of it was wasted. Too much of it was exaggerated claims where the White House announced jobs created in fake congressional districts. You heard about some of the waste, the fraud and the abuse in the stimulus: the \$3 million turtle crossing in Florida, the \$50,000 hand puppet grant in one of our States, the \$4 million bike trail to Taco Bell in Massachusetts. By the way, I love Taco Bell, but that's not how our tax dollars should be spent. I'll end with this one, but this is one of those which is too hard to believe. \$390,000 of your tax dollars was spent at the University of New York, in Buffalo, in a study to compare the relationship between drinking malt liquor beer and smoking marijuana.

So American taxpayers have given to 100 people for 3 weeks \$45 a day. To do what? According to published reports, to drink malt liquor beer and to smoke marijuana. Those types of abuses are spread, unfortunately, throughout the stimulus. It's one of the reasons there is no public confidence in it.

Today, they are looking at a second stimulus. They call it a "jobs bill," but it's much like the first one, just smaller.

Over the district work period, I met with small- and medium-sized businesses in Orange, in Lumberton, in Lake Conner, and in the Woodlands. I asked them what they would do to create jobs, and they turned thumbs down on all this new stimulus spending. What they said is that the government is in the way.

In Orange County, at a roundtable, Keith Wallace, who owns a dry cleaners there and is on the port commission said, We need to get rid of the fear—the fear of higher health care mandates and taxes, the fear of cap-and-trade, the fear of new tax increases.

Marjorie Claybar, who runs a cafe in Orange County, said, We need certainty from our government. We need certainty.

Sue Cleveland, over in Lumberton, Hardin County, said, There is so much fear about what is going to happen in Congress with all of these tax increases, health care, and cap-and-trade.

Lori, from State Farms, said, People are simply too scared to invest.

The truth is that is it. Businesses are not willing to risk their hard-earned capital. They are not going to bring back workers that they had to let go. They are not going to hire new ones or make that expansion plan as long as government continues a job-killing agenda in Washington and as long as it proposes a job-killing budget. The President's budget, in my estimation, has killed more jobs than any budget in American history—new tax increases on small businesses, on energy companies, on local real estate companies, on families, on professionals all across the board, U.S. companies that compete overseas. All of those kill jobs in America.

The truth of the matter is we are not going to get out of this recession by government spending. Private enterprise, when those small businesses and medium-sized businesses start hiring again, is what will sustain an economic recovery in America. America hates being in a recession. They hate even more being in a depression. They are naturally prone to pull themselves out, but now the government is clearly the obstacle in the way of it.

We see this President and Congress pursue a more extreme agenda, a bigger health care bill—the President actually announced a bigger health care bill than the Senate one—more spending, more subsidies, more tax increases. They are not listening to the American public. They are not listening to our small business community. We are in trouble. It is time to get back on track.

THE SUCCESS OF STIMULUS I

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing this discussion that the stimulus didn't work. I don't know what people are looking at, because, in my district in California and in the State of California, the stimulus has been of utmost importance in maintaining at least a base.

California received some \$63 billion from the stimulus. Where did the money go? Well, \$9 billion went to the school systems in California so we didn't have to lay off teachers and janitors and bus drivers. Those people continue to be employed, and they continue to do an extremely important piece of work. That is investing in our children.

Along the way, we also invested in those schools. In my district, some nearly \$100 million went into repairing schools—painting, fixing, improving their energy efficiency.

\$197 million backfilled money that the State of California couldn't put up to build a tunnel through the Caldecott mountains. Six thousand jobs will be

underway now and into the years ahead as people work on building the tunnel, and we are going to eliminate one of the great traffic jams in the Bay Area. It goes on and on and on.

The University of California and the State university system, instead of laying people off, received stimulus money, so they were able to continue to provide classes.

I don't know where all of this talk that the stimulus doesn't work comes from. It certainly doesn't come from the reality of what is taking place in California.

I've also noticed on television many of my Republican colleagues, who come here on the floor and say the stimulus does no good, who then go home and show some huge checks, taking credit for the stimulus money's providing jobs in their districts. So perhaps there is a speech on the floor, and then there is the reality out in the country.

Yes, we do need a second stimulus, and we need it to be a big one. People want to work. They don't want to take unemployment insurance. They don't want to have to be tax takers. They want to be taxpayers. The first stimulus did that. A second stimulus should do that.

I would also point out that, around the world, every industrialized Nation in the world, including China and India, did the same thing that we did in America, and they did far more. They actually put up a larger percentage of their GDP. Most of them borrowing as we did here in America. It is required that we put people to work. Otherwise, you are going to have tax takers. You are going to have greater unemployment. Let's give people a chance to have a job. Yes, it is deficit financing, but the second stimulus is going to be paid for fully by taking back the money that was given to the Wall Street rip-off.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to understand that the stimulus, which is 1-year- and 1-week-old, actually worked. The second one is desperately needed because there is a world of hurt out there. If you are listening to your constituents, you know that they want to work. That is what the stimulus I did, and jobs for Main Street will do the same, using Wall Street money for Main Street jobs.

WORK TO SOLVE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN TO REWRITE HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am a little bit tired of hearing "we inherited." We were on the floor today, and we were trying to have some dialogue about jobs and about the economy, and all I heard from the other side of the aisle all-day long was, You guys are the Party of No. You guys don't have any ideas. You guys yadda, yadda, yadda. You guys put us in debt.

I left the floor after that a little bit dismayed. When I got to committee, what did I hear in committee the whole time? You guys are the Party of No. You guys left us all this debt. You guys “this” and you guys “that.” It’s a little bit hard to take. You turn your cheek the other way seven times, and then it’s seven more times.

Sooner or later, somebody ought to set the record straight because, if my colleagues here can be so misinformed—and I’m a freshman. I mean I’m new here, but I know that final budgets do not come from the White House. They come from Congress. The party that has controlled Congress since January 2007 has been the Democratic Party. I mean it’s not rocket science. It’s a fact of life.

You know, one more time, just a brief civics lesson for anybody who doesn’t understand that. I hope there’s nobody in this Chamber who doesn’t understand that.

Final budgets, binding budgets, do not come from the White House. They come from Congress. The party that has controlled Congress since January 2007 has been the Democratic Party. They controlled the budget process for fiscal year 2008, 2009, as well as 2010 and 2011.

In that first year, they had to contend with George Bush, which caused them to compromise on spending when Bush, somewhat belatedly, got tough on spending increases.

For fiscal year 2009, though, the Democratic-controlled House and Senate bypassed the President entirely, passing continuing resolutions to keep the government running until Barack Obama could take office. At that time, they passed a massive omnibus spending bill to complete the fiscal year 2009 budget. Where was Barack Obama during this time? He was a member of that very Congress that passed all of the massive spending bills, and he signed the omnibus bill, as the President, to complete fiscal year 2009.

Let’s remember what the deficit looked like during that period. If the Democrats inherited any deficit, it was in 2007, the last of the Republican budgets. That deficit was the lowest in 5 years, and the fourth straight decline in deficit spending. After the Democrats in Congress took control of spending—and that includes then-Senator Obama who voted for the budgets—if the President inherited anything, he inherited it from himself.

In a nutshell, what my colleagues across the aisle are saying is that they inherited a deficit that they voted for, and then they voted to expand that deficit four-fold since January 20.

As Paul Harvey would say, “That’s the rest of the story.” Now can we get together working to solve the problems instead of trying to rewrite history?

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am a medical doctor. I have practiced medicine in Georgia for almost four decades. As a medical doctor with all of that clinical experience—I’m a family doc, a primary care provider.

I’ve examined the proposal that the White House put forward just 2 days ago. Frankly, I’ve got a diagnosis. I cannot give ObamaCare 2.0 a clean bill of health. What I can diagnose for the American people, though, is this:

It’s going to make the American people sick—sick in their wallets because it’s going to cost more. Health care costs in this country are going to skyrocket because of this ObamaCare proposal that the White House recently put out.

As *The Wall Street Journal* just very aptly said in an editorial this morning: The White House has accomplished a great thing. They took the most onerous pieces of the House bill and the Senate bill and combined them to make the current proposal of ObamaCare that the White House is putting forward even worse than either of those bills.

The quality of health care in this country is going to go down. It’s going to go down because doctors and patients will no longer be able to make health care decisions. It is going to be made by a Federal bureaucrat here in Washington, D.C.—one that doesn’t, in all probability, have any medical training whatsoever.

As a health care provider, as a medical doctor today, I see Federal bureaucrats who have no medical experience telling me and my colleagues whether we can put a patient in the hospital or not, whether we can give them a certain medication or not, how long they can stay in the hospital, what kind of care we can give. So there is already control, particularly with the Medicare patients of health care.

The problems that Medicare has today are going to be exacerbated, or made worse, by what this administration is doing and by what the leadership in this House and in the Senate are doing. It’s not only going to destroy the quality of health care, but it’s going to destroy the budgets of States, of local communities and, most especially, of small business and of people who are working class Americans.

The reason it is going to do that is that the cost of health care is going up. It’s going to go up for everybody. It doesn’t contain costs at all. We’ve been told by the President that this—and in fact, they claim on the White House Web site that this is going to help the Federal deficit by \$100 billion. Well, the reason for that is they are going to markedly raise taxes—over half a trillion dollars in increased taxes. Those taxes are going to be on everybody.

We hear from the President that he doesn’t want to tax anybody but the upper 5 percent of the population, 5 percent of the income, but that’s not factual. Everybody is going to be taxed because of the mandates. We have been told over and over again that, if you like your health insurance, you can keep it. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Folks, Mr. Speaker, if you like your health insurance, you can’t keep it, because even this new ObamaCare 2.0, the second version, has so many mandates and requirements on private health insurance that it appears to me that what our administration is doing is they are putting up a system that is going to force everybody onto the public exchange.

Well, the President told us a couple of months ago that he sees the public option—or in the Senate, it’s the public option lite. They call it a public exchange. That is what is in the President’s current proposal. It’s just the first step towards Federal bureaucrats’ controlling every health care decision in this country. Federal bureaucrats are going to run the health care system for everybody.

The playing field has been laid, in this latest proposal by the President, that it is going to put the squeeze on everybody in this country, not only on the insurance companies—and I’m not a friend of the health insurance companies. I fight them all the time as a health care provider, as a medical doctor—but it’s going to put the squeeze on everybody to force them off of private insurance into a public exchange or into a public option.

The President told us just a few months ago that his game plan, his purpose of all this, is to try to force everybody into a government-controlled health care system, and that’s exactly the direction that he is going.

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Now, frankly, I think this proposal of a bipartisan meeting on Thursday, the 25th of February, is nothing but a ruse. It’s nothing but a dog and pony show either to try to make the Republican Party and Republicans to be a party that has no ideas, which the Democrats over and over claim, or to be an obstructionist party, that just want to be the party of “no.”

Mr. Speaker, the American public needs to understand the Republican Party is the party of k-n-o-w. We are the party of “know” because we know how to lower the cost of health care. We know how to lower the cost of energy, to seek energy exploration here in America so that we’re less dependent upon energy sources from countries that hate us and want to destroy us. We are the party of k-n-o-w, “know,” because we know how to create jobs. And we do that through stimulating small business, by giving them tax breaks to leave dollars in the hands of small business men and women so that they can hire new employees, so that