

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the National Football League contract bargaining fight could teach an important lesson to the Governor of Wisconsin about how to ensure high-quality teachers in his State. When Governor Walker dictates that teachers will lose their collective bargaining rights except for negotiations over pay, he shows how out of touch he is with the teaching profession, with school reform in America, and, frankly, with the American workplace.

Having a voice at work has never been just about pay. It is about whether the American workplace will respect and nurture workers' skills, their abilities, and their ingenuity, or will it simply crush their spirits. It's about the total workplace and the ability of employees to utilize their talents and their time to the fullest extent, to be valued by and add value to the enterprise, whether that enterprise is a school, a factory, or an NFL team.

Ask yourself this: If he could, would Governor Walker limit collective bargaining for the world champion Green Bay Packers to just questions of pay? If he tried, he would discover rapidly that in the world of millionaires, as in the world of teachers, it is not just about pay. It is about the quality of the job and the career.

The Governor would quickly discover that, as important as pay is in the world of pro sports, an NFL player inately cares about the conditions of employment. He knows that his ability to get to that all-important second contract is governed by more than just his talent. Will he have to play 16 or 18 games? What is the increased likelihood of concussions or other injuries that can end his career from an extended schedule or fewer practice games? Probably good for the wallet, but is it good for the player?

The NFL owners who are worth \$40 billion want the players to give back \$1 billion, saying that they need it to improve and build new stadiums. Is that with or without the taxpayers' help? The players ought to find out.

Yes, in the world of megastar athletes, pay is important, but the workplace dictates so many other important issues that NFL players must be concerned with if they are to reach their potential of the profession for which they have trained their whole lives.

For many teachers, like athletes, their careers are their passion. Research tells us that a very significant number of teachers start thinking about a career in teaching while they're in middle school—not too different from athletes who start to get serious about their athletic futures. Like an athlete, the teacher's desire will not be enough to sustain his or her career.

Other important elements are involved to ensure a teacher's success and the success of his or her students. How will teachers be supported in schools? What will be their access to meaningful professional development?

Will teachers be given time to perfect lesson plans and presentations? Will he or she have a say in campus safety? Will they be included in the reform decisions that are made for the school and for the students?

All over America school districts are changing the rules from the mere platitudes that teachers are the most important influence outside the home in the education of our children to really making it possible. Districts are soliciting teachers' views to improve both the learning and the teaching environment. It is happening in States and schools in tough unionized areas where some said it could never happen, and it will continue because it reflects what the new and current dedicated teachers view as a modern workplace, where results and outcomes matter to students, parents, teachers, and the community. It's not just about pay. Teachers advocate for our children. They advocate for our children when they are sick or troubled or when they're being bullied, when they need help learning.

The Governor of Wisconsin's view of dictating and mandating without the say and collaboration that teachers want and expect in their careers is a broken model from the past and will not give students, parents, or our economy the results that our country needs as we enter the next generation of a highly competitive globalized economy.

Many Americans may not care who wins between wealthy team owners and often highly paid NFL players, but no one is suggesting that the players should lose their right to collective bargaining on a wide range of issues and only be able to bargain just on pay.

Governor Walker should stop attacking his State teachers and his public servants.

WALL STREET RISES AS MAIN STREET FALLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, almost one in four homeowners in our country is underwater, meaning they owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth, and all of this misery is due to Wall Street's rigging of our economy.

But on Wall Street, they're popping champagne corks. The Nation's biggest banks—Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley—have been raking in huge profits, all at the expense of the American people. In fact, these institutions have doubled in size through predatory mergers since the fall of 2007, and these six banks now control two-thirds of the banking system in our country.

They cleaned up with profits in 2010—\$51.6 billion in profits, more profits than they made before the American people bailed them out. Main Street is underwater, yet Wall Street is going on

a pleasure cruise. It doesn't take a mental giant to figure who got our money.

According to a recent report, the economic crisis that Wall Street precipitated has now caused massive tax revenue shortfalls for the Federal Government and our State governments totaling nearly \$300 billion. This is why people are at one another's throats in Wisconsin, in Ohio, and other places. Yes, ordinary Americans—teachers, police, firemen—are being pink-slipped, and the American people are being forced to accept cuts in government services while Wall Street keeps winning, and winning big.

They know well how to win for themselves. This year, Bank of America is receiving an income tax refund of—are you ready for this, America?—\$666 million for 2010. Now, that followed \$3.5 billion in refunds that Bank of America reported in 2009. Bank of America's Federal income tax benefit this year is roughly two times the Obama administration's proposed cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program, which is a lifeline to communities such as I represent where unemployment is still over 9 percent.

Six banks—Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley—together paid income tax at an approximate rate of 11 percent—oh, those poor companies—of their pretax U.S. tax earnings in 2009 and 2010. Had they paid 35 percent like every other honest business in this country, the Federal Government would have received an additional \$13 billion in tax revenue. Do you know how much that is? That's enough to cover the salaries of 132,000 teachers whose jobs have been lost since 2008. Who do you think has caused all the layoffs?

□ 1050

Wells Fargo reportedly received a \$4 billion Federal income tax refund on \$18 billion in pretax income in 2009 and only paid 7.5 percent of its pretax income of \$19 billion in 2010. Its net Federal income tax benefit for 2009 and 2010 combined is \$2.5 billion, which equals the Obama administration's cuts to the low-income energy assistance program that is vital in cold weather to senior citizens, particularly women over the age of 80 years in districts like I represent.

So who took their money? Pretty clear to me.

Banks use a variety of mechanisms to avoid corporate income taxes, including offshore tax shelters. Fifty percent of these six big banks have 1,871 foreign subsidiaries incorporated in jurisdictions we know as off-shore tax havens, like the Cayman Islands.

The Bank of America operates 371 tax-sheltered subsidiaries, and 204 in the Cayman Islands alone.

For Goldman Sachs, 75 percent of its foreign subsidiaries are incorporated in offshore tax havens.

So who's paying their freight? You are—the American people.

Closing tax loopholes for the financial sector, making them pay their fair share of taxes, and I would support imposing a financial speculation tax, could generate more than \$150 billion in Federal tax revenue. And what could be more fair to those who cause such harm to the American people?

Something is really out of kilter in America, and it's not the State budgets. It's the balance of power in our political system. Everywhere you go, Big Money and Wall Street win, and the American people pay.

Mr. Speaker, I just say to the American people, think about who's hurt our Republic—and it's not the American working people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Rev. Raymond Bowman, Spruce Street Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

O God of freedom, referred to by many names, embraced in different ways by the many different people who make up this great Republic.

As leaders and elected officials, center us on the awesome work of serving a people who have been identified as the citizenry of a free Nation, the United States of America.

Grant us a powerful sense of Your presence so that we are not confused about Who really leads and inspires a free people.

Help us to honor the aspirations of a free Nation, so that our private ideologies do not distort public passions.

May we in our own little ways provide a concerted effort to represent well our unique, diverse, but united constituencies.

Enable us to see that our best expressions of leadership come not from bold assumptions, but out of humble submissions. Submit us, I pray, to the lofty aspirations that continue to give shape to our wonderful country.

We thank You for giving us another opportunity to make real our claim of God bless America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's pro-

ceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REV. RAYMOND BOWMAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COOPER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is an honor to recognize the Reverend Raymond Bowman today, who just gave the opening prayer. Seldom has Congress been more in need of prayer than we are today.

Rev. Bowman was raised in Chicago. He came to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend American Baptist College. Thankfully, he is the pastor of Spruce Street Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, sometimes referred to as the mother church of African American churches in our area. He is also the president of the IMF, the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship.

He and his wife, Nancy, are here with us today, and we would like to welcome them to our Nation's capital.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ENDING \$1 BILLION OF FAILED SPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the efforts of Representative JEB HENSARLING for introducing H.R. 836, the Emergency Homeowner Relief Program Termination Act.

This bill prevents \$1 billion from being spent on this failed program. In the current administration's budget, it is estimated that the program has a 98 percent subsidy rate. That means for every dollar spent, taxpayers lose 98 cents. This is bad for taxpayers and bad for American families.

Making this reform possible is the South Carolina Federation of Repub-

lican Women, which has inspired the Republican revolution in South Carolina since 1961. This is the 50th anniversary of the election of the first Republican legislator in the 20th century, the late Charlie Borineau of Richland County. In 2010, the transformation was completed of all statewide elected officials being Republicans for the first time since 1876.

Under the guidance of leaders such as our Governor, Nikki Haley of Lexington, with Jocelyn Staigar, Susan Dickson, Nikki Trawick, Carla Hardee, Kim Wellman, Betty Poe, Lisa Manini Sox, Grace Rentiers, Irby Shultz, Katrina Shealy, and Eaddy Roe Willard, this organization will continue to make a difference promoting limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HOUSING, KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider proposals to cut foreclosure prevention programs during one of the worst housing downturns in our Nation's history. A safe and affordable home is central to the American Dream and central to a strong neighborhood and a thriving economy.

In Rhode Island, that dream has been fading because our State has been extremely hard hit by the national foreclosure crisis. Last year alone, there were more than 4,700 foreclosures in Rhode Island; and according to Housing Works Rhode Island, one in every 10 mortgaged homeowners was in foreclosure or serious delinquency by the end of last year. The fact of the matter is that we still face a serious housing crisis all across this country.

Today, my friends on the other side of the aisle will cut mortgage relief and refinance programs that help the very homeowners who need them most. That will leave homeowners with no other choice than to turn to those who created these unfair and predatory mortgages that got us into this mess in the first place.

At a time when our economy is beginning to recover, we should not be cutting from these programs because the housing sector is key to our economic recovery. These programs deserve increased funding because a successful housing sector will be one of the major factors that will pull us out of this recession.

IN HONOR OF LEONARD "BUD" LOMELL

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

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Sergeant Leonard "Bud" Lomell.