

North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. On Tuesday, the House passed H.R. 2560, the Cut, Cap, and Balance bill. I was amazed by the \$120 billion approved to fund the war on terror. I, like many of my colleagues, agree that we must continue to fight terrorism, but I do not understand why we are funding the civil war in Afghanistan.

I do not understand why Members of Congress want to spend \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan when our people back home are struggling. I can assure you the American people do not understand it either. In June a poll was conducted by the Pew Research Center where 56 percent of the American people polled said bring our troops home now, not later.

Mr. Speaker, I brought back the picture of Eden and Stephanie Balduf. Their father, Sergeant Kevin Balduf, and Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Palmer died. And that continues to haunt me, and the way they died continues to haunt me. That's the reason I wanted to bring this picture down here again.

They were given the task to train Afghans to be policemen. The two were shot and murdered by one of the trainees. What really haunts me is the email Sergeant Balduf sent to his wife the day before he was shot and killed. And I quote the email: "I don't trust them. I don't trust them for anything, not for anything at all."

Why in the world do we continue to send our young men and women overseas to get themselves blown up, shot, and murdered by people they are trying to train?

These little girls are standing at their daddy's funeral at Arlington Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, that brings me to the last email I received from a retired marine general. I called him about 20 months ago and I said, I made a mistake on Iraq. I don't want to make one on Afghanistan. Will you advise me?

He said, Yes, I will.

Let me read the one that just ties in to this issue of this sergeant and this marine colonel being murdered by a trainee in Afghanistan. The general said: "Get real with 'training' an army and police force. All we are doing is training eventual new members of the Taliban." He further stated: "Trainers are doing a wonderful job, but we don't have the time to 'make' an army or police force in Afghanistan."

The general closed his email to me by saying this: "Every day someone dies."

□ 1010

It is time to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. How many more children have to cry at a mom or dad's grave site because their mother or daddy went to Afghanistan to prop up a corrupt leader named Karzai that we send \$10 billion a month to? I hope no other children have to cry like Eden and Stephanie.

That brings me to my close, Mr. Speaker. Several weeks ago, Eugene Robinson in his editorial titled, "Afghan Strategy: Let's Go," wrote, "We wanted to kill or capture Osama bin Laden, and we did. Even so, say the hawks, we have to stay in Afghanistan because of the dangerous instability across the border in nuclear-armed Pakistan. But does anyone believe the war in Afghanistan has made Pakistan more stable?"

No, it has not. In fact, it's more fragile now than it's ever been.

"The threat from Afghanistan is gone. Bring the troops home."

Eugene Robinson is not a conservative. We see him on TV all the time. And I will say that he nailed it with this editorial: The threat from Afghanistan is gone. Bring them home.

Mr. Speaker, as I close always on the floor of the House, for these little girls who have lost their father and all the children who have lost their fathers and moms over in Afghanistan and Iraq, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform; I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in his loving arms, to hold the families that have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I ask God to please bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people. I ask God to give strength, wisdom, and courage to Mr. Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for his people.

And I will say three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

LET THE BUSH TAX CUTS EXPIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Colleagues, we are truly through the looking glass here into a strange world. The Gang of Six has supposedly met the President's requirements that we would have \$3 trillion in cuts and \$1 trillion in revenues. But actually, they are cutting taxes.

Now how does that work? Well, that only works inside the Washington, DC, Beltway. When you reduce revenues, you will increase revenues because you pretend that you wouldn't have had those revenues otherwise. It's a little bit complicated, isn't it? It is incredibly complicated. There is a lot of smoke and mirrors here.

There is a simple way to deal with this crisis. We need to rein in spending. We also need to make investments that will put people to work. Now, the Republicans don't think the government can invest in anything that puts people to work, except they haven't noticed that we have an infrastructure that's falling apart. We have 20 percent unemployment in construction and related fields. If we were to begin to invest and rebuild America's infrastructure, all private sector jobs put those people to work. They start paying taxes, then

part of the deficit goes away, and the money will be spent on something that will benefit this generation and future generations. But, no, they categorize all Federal spending the same. They just want to slash it all.

So how about a plan that targets investment, putting people back to work that reduces spending appropriately across the government and actually pays for all of this with revenues? How could you do that? Simple. Let the Bush tax cuts expire. Let all the Bush tax cuts expire. That's \$4 trillion. It's not too complicated. It would take us back to those bad old Clinton years when rich people paid taxes. The "job creators" they call them.

You can't make the job creators pay taxes; it will ruin the economy—that's what they said when Clinton raised the taxes back in the nineties. Guess what, we ended up with 3.8 percent unemployment, and we actually balanced the budget and paid down debt. But, yes, the wealthy and all Americans carried a fair share of that burden. I would love to go back to those bad old days.

We've been now, for a decade, living under the theory that reducing taxes creates jobs, especially reducing taxes on billionaires—you know, the job creators—creates jobs. It's not working too well, is it? No, it's really not working at all. But the Obama administration and the Gang of Six have apparently bought into this flim-flam. Let's continue the Bush tax cuts. Let's continue this stupid Social Security tax holiday that hasn't created a single job. Sure, there are a lot of American families that could use an extra \$20 a week. But their spending an extra \$20 a week does not create jobs. And now Obama wants to give employers \$20 a week on each employee, saying, Well, they'll go out and hire millions if they get an extra \$20 a week. Corporations are sitting on trillions of dollars of cash, trillions of dollars of cash. They don't need more cash. And for \$20 a week, they're not going to go out and hire anybody.

So here's the plan: let the Bush tax cuts expire. That's \$4 trillion. We've met the targets. We didn't cut Social Security. We didn't cut Medicare. We didn't cut veterans benefits. We didn't cut student financial aid. But we are \$4 trillion ahead in this game. And then cancel the stupid Social Security tax holiday, but still borrow the money. We're borrowing the money to give people a Social Security tax holiday, borrowing the money to put back in the Social Security trust fund after we reduce the income.

Stop reducing the income to Social Security, go back to the statutory rate of taxes, and guarantee the benefits to people. And borrow, instead, that \$110 billion to rebuild America's infrastructure—\$110 billion, that's about 4.7 million jobs. And that is not just construction jobs, but engineering jobs, small business jobs, manufacturing jobs all across the country. It will put America back to work, and that would reduce the deficit by about another 25 percent.

So if we cancel the Bush tax cuts, \$4 trillion. Okay, we're now at the President's "big deal" target which we're not going to meet under the Gang of Six or any of these other constructs around here. Cancel the Social Security tax holiday. Instead, borrow that money one more year, as the President has proposed, and invest in infrastructure. It will put millions to work. And then when those millions go to work, they'll be paying taxes, and that will reduce the deficit by another quarter.

So we've solved three-quarters of the problem without killing programs essential to the American people and without cutting taxes on the job creators.

The Gang of Six is proposing that billionaires should see their taxes cut by about 25 or 30 percent. That will help us balance the budget? It is time to get back to the real world and out of "Alice in Wonderland."

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROSS MCGINNIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 1947, every August, the Little League Baseball World Series is held in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, within Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District. And each year, Little League International recognizes Little League graduates who have become outstanding citizens and role models as adults for induction into the Little League Museum Hall of Excellence.

Among previous recipients of this honor include prominent figures such as Vice President JOE BIDEN in 2009, General Peter Pace in 2003, and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani in 2002.

This year's ceremony will prove to be extra special. For 2011, Little League International plans to enshrine the first-ever Little League graduate known to have received our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. That person is Army Private First Class Ross Andrew McGinnis of Knox, Pennsylvania. Ross McGinnis played second base and outfield for 6 years and is a graduate of Little League in Knox, Pennsylvania, also in the Fifth District.

In 2006, Army Private First Class Ross McGinnis heroically gave his life to save four others from a grenade blast inside a Humvee during Operation Iraqi Freedom. On June 2, 2008, McGinnis was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic actions.

I will quote from President George Bush: "In a selfless act of bravery, in which he was mortally wounded, Private McGinnis covered the live grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle and absorbing most of the explosion," the official citation read, which was awarded by President

George Bush. McGinnis' mother, Romaine, says baseball taught her son teamwork and a commitment to achieving common goals.

Today, because of McGinnis' sacrifice and commitment to others, four men will live on to enjoy their families and their futures. Congratulations to you, Ross Andrew McGinnis. We thank you for your service, and may you rest in peace. Thank you to Little League International for recognizing Mr. McGinnis' heroic achievements. To the McGinnis family, we are proud of your son, a true American hero.

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PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, almost no one in Washington is talking about jobs. For 2 months now, both Chambers of the Congress have been locked down in talking about the debt ceiling.

Meanwhile, if you look back at the Bush years, America lost over 8 million jobs while the largest recession since the Great Depression, was precipitated by the Bush Wall Street bailout. America has only gotten back about 2 million jobs. Yes, only 2 million; still jobs are being created at about 120,000 per month. That is far from where we need to head to achieve economic recovery for all.

But rather than this Congress engaging in intelligent dialogue on how to create jobs, we keep going down these side roads to nowhere. Meanwhile, unemployment just went up another 10,000 jobs. 10,000 more workers filed for unemployment.

Every Member in both Chambers will be judged on not doing the work that the people want us to do. Instead Congress must focus on how to use the power of the Federal Government to create jobs.

If you take a look at what the Republican majority in the House wants to do, they want to cut unemployment benefits. That's not even understandable to any rational person.

They want to cut food. I invite any one of them, come to my district. Come and stand in the food lines. See how it feels. Better yet, help us pack some of the food bags, and then distribute them and give them to veterans who are coming home from the wars who don't have jobs. And then ask yourself what are you really doing here. What are you doing here? America needs jobs.

What about health benefits for people who've fallen out of work, and don't have any more health benefits for their family? Why should we cut there?

You know, there are some who like to proudly proclaim they're pro-life. Pro-life doesn't only involve the period before a child is born. It involves the entire life of a person, of a human being until natural death.

I think there are some philosophical questions our Members ought to be

asking themselves about helping the American people at this critical point in our history.

Now, all of us want to produce balanced budgets. When you have full employment, you get balanced budgets and you even can get extra funds. Full employment means you can pay down your long-term debt. But you don't hear anything up here being talked about jobs. If it were happening, we'd have more job creation. But we have less job creation. More people are going on unemployment benefits. So the current conversation and discussions are totally off base.

Let's just look at one sector where America and the Federal Government could save a lot of money. America, as a country, spends over \$250 billion a year on prescription drugs. And nearly a third of that amount is paid for by the Federal Government, which actually means our people paying their fair share of taxes, when they work, to the Federal Government and then the Federal Government meeting its obligations to our citizenry for their security and our Nation's future. Now, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are saying, cut Social Security, cut Medicare. Hurt the American people. Hurt the people who have worked for a living. They don't talk about trimming the excess profits of the pharmaceutical companies. So, let's look at that pharmaceutical industry.

You know what? They're not paying their fair share into the Federal till.

Let's just look at one bag of heparin in a hospital for which Medicare ends up paying over \$600, and in total, millions and millions of dollars a year for a product, a blood thinner that's been off patent for years. It's made in China. The ingredients are made in China. They're not even made here. Do you realize how much money a couple of companies are making off of selling just that one product? My Republican friends aren't trying to get fair prices for the American people.

Celebrex, for treating arthritis, Medicare pays for an average patient \$148 a month. For Lipitor, for those trying to lower cholesterol, \$122 a month.

Now if you take a look at the profits of Pfizer, Pfizer made \$8.3 billion in profits, and its CEO made \$25 million last year, just in what he's willing to admit. Johnson and Johnson made \$13.3 billion in profits, while their CEO walked away with \$29 million. Other big drugmakers like Abbott Labs, \$4.6 billion. These are with Bs—billions. These aren't with Ms—millions. These aren't millions; these are billions. And Eli Lilly, \$5 billion in profits our Federal Government is just forking over billions all the time. Yes, the Federal Government is the pharmaceutical industry's biggest customer, and the industry surely knows it.

Why doesn't the Federal Government use its purchasing power to get better bids on these drugs and have competitive bidding in order to purchase more fairly-priced pharmaceuticals? We did