

It is clear that without a robust, innovative economy, it will be next to impossible to ever truly reduce our national budgetary deficit. Yet this CR cuts some of the very investments that are needed to address the crisis in competitiveness in our country that we are confronting now.

For some time, important leaders in our business and academic community have warned us about this crisis. In 2005, the National Academies panel, chaired by former Lockheed Martin CEO Norm Augustine, released a report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." This report warned that without a focused effort by the Federal Government, the future of American competitiveness was bleak. It recommended increased efforts in science, technology, engineering, and math, and we have failed to see this vision.

The reason for these investments is simple: technological innovation leads to jobs. Several studies have estimated that over 50 percent of America's economic growth since World War II is a direct result of technological innovation. Some studies have suggested that this percentage is much higher still.

This technological innovation coincided with an increased Federal investment in research, development and STEM education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I urge my colleagues to reject the cuts being proposed in the Republican CR.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DALE SPECKEN, 2010 MINNESOTA FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Minnesota's Fire Officer of the Year, Dale Specken of Hopkins. Known for his can-do attitude, loyalty, and fairness, Dale has long had the respect of all of his colleagues because of his passion for teaching others about fire prevention and going beyond the call of duty to help others and the community.

Dale comes from a long line of firefighters and in 1981 joined the family business. Working hard and rising through the ranks, he became Hopkins fire chief in 2005. Being the dedicated community servant that he is, Dale also serves as the emergency manager and fire marshal for the City of Hopkins.

I want to congratulate Dale on being named Minnesota's Fire Officer of the Year. Thank you for your many years of tireless service and for your unwavering commitment to our community.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. I was so pleased to hear my colleague a moment ago, Mr. Speaker, talk about firemen. However, the continuing resolution that is now before this House would lay off 1,333 firemen across this Nation. It would also lay off 2,410 firefighters across this Nation.

We're now into the sixth week of the Republican control of this House, and yet we have no jobs; but instead of a jobs bill, we have a jobs layoff bill. The continuing resolution will lay off tens of thousands, indeed, hundreds of thousands of men and women all across this Nation, from firefighters to cops to construction workers; 76 projects that are going to be built and infrastructure will be canceled.

We're looking at 200,000 young children that will not be in the Head Start program, which means their teachers and the others that are running those programs will be laid off.

This is the most anti-jobs bill I could possibly imagine; and here we are in the 6 weeks, no jobs, just job layoffs.

ARIZONA BEGINS ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY TODAY

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

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, today is one of those special days, and for many of us, you think of it as Valentine's Day, but for Arizona, this is our 99th birthday. Today, we begin our 100th year, and the wonderful folks in Arizona, which is a stunningly beautiful State, for those of you who have not had a chance to visit us—from the Grand Canyon, down through the mountains, down even further to the desert plateaus, to the grasslands down south—come join us for our 100th anniversary celebration.

All through this year, all up and down the State, there are going to be special activities, special dinners, special commemorations for the baby State, the valentine State that is Arizona, as it begins its 100th anniversary today.

THE GRAMMY AWARDS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, last night in Los Angeles, California, the Grammy Awards took place, and I am proud that one of my Memphis constituents, Kirk Whalum, received a Grammy. I am also proud that a special award was given to Al Bell who had been the head of Stax Records.

But even further, there was a tribute to Solomon Burke, one of the great singers of all time. The tribute was done by Mick Jagger. Nobody can quite do anything like Mick Jagger. But it was fitting that Mick Jagger did Solomon Burke, because Solomon Burke in the 1960s was one of the first African Americans to do Bob Dylan, and Bob

Dylan was there, too. And then Eminem got the best rap song.

So it was a good, spirited night at the Grammys of biracial, cultural cooperation and understanding and love.

□ 1920

THE DUST POLICE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is now going after the farms and ranches that feed the American people. They say ranching and farming cause dust. Well, no kidding. So out with the dust, and in with more regulations and fines.

Dust has been around since man first tilled the soil with primitive plows and herded sheep and cattle in the wide open spaces. The EPA also doesn't like the dirt roads used by pickups and tractors that crisscross the cattle ranches and farms that are in Texas and in the heartland of America, so the Environmental Police Agency is going to regulate the dust created by farming and ranching by imposing expensive fines on the breadbasket of America. The dust police rule would make it more expensive to feed America.

First it was punishing the domestic energy industry. Now they're going after the agriculture industry. Does the EPA wish that we import all of our food like we do crude oil? This sounds a little bit un-American to me. Maybe the EPA needs to just hit the road.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING EGYPT

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the valiant, heroic, brave people of Egypt who for 18 days took to the streets in Tahrir Square and used people power to stand up and to liberate themselves. For 18 days, they called on things like governance and to have a hand in their own destiny and their own democracy. Human rights, bread, dignity, things like that. I was so proud, watching the people in Tahrir Square of Egypt stand up and claim their dignity back, and I was proud to be able to say that so many Americans stood shoulder to shoulder with them.

I also want to add, Mr. Speaker, that it demonstrated that the people of Egypt reject the philosophy of al Qaeda, reject the philosophy of extremism, and used nonviolent tactics, tested the world over, to bring forth democracy. This is a wonderful testament to people who want freedom, justice, and equality to stand together peacefully. And it was so good, Mr. Speaker, to see people of multiple faiths—Muslims, Christians, other people, Jews—standing together to say, We want a new day in Egypt.

So, Mr. Speaker, again, my hearty congratulations to the people of Egypt.

AMERICA WORKS TOGETHER, COMES TOGETHER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. As I was traveling, Mr. Speaker, to Washington, I had the opportunity to read the local newspaper. It's a good time for us to reconnect with our community, those that we have not been able to see, to hear their stories. And I was impacted by a story of two students at the University of Texas from different walks of life who had had a passion for football in one instance and a passion for basketball in another instance.

Unfortunately, as they were aspiring to their dreams, both of them found that they had a congenital or a serious heart defect. Young men. One who had come out of the heart of Acres Home, a historically African American community, raised by his grandmother whom he loved; and he chose to stay close to home by going to UT Austin to play basketball. What a devastating blow to find out he could not play when he first got there. What about the young man, huge in size, that almost lost his life on the football field?

But the story is, in this month when we commemorate African American History Month, one was a Caucasian, and one was an African American. It just shows in this Nation how we can work together and come together. These young men have, in a sense, overcome their challenges, and they represent America's heroes. I pay tribute to these two athletes at the University of Texas and thank them for their leadership.

FUNDING FOR THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MUST BE DENIED

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today, I sent a letter to Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services, asking, in light of Judge Vinson's ruling in Florida 2 weeks ago today where a declaratory judgment was issued that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is indeed unconstitutional, that further implementation of this act not go forward.

In fact, Judge Vinson stated that officials of the executive branch will adhere to the law as declared by the court. As a result, the declaratory judgment is the functional equivalent of an injunction. There is no reason to conclude that this presumption should not apply here.

Now, I believe the judge is correct, that the administration should not proceed with implementation, and I've asked the Secretary for clarification

that that is indeed her position and will be her position going forward.

Of course we do have debate and a vote on the continuing resolution to fund the United States Government for the next 7 months. It is my expectation that funding for provisions of enacting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will not be funded in the continuing resolution.

The American people have made it very clear, and even recently the Florida ruling confirmed that the health care law is unconstitutional, and Congress must do its job to make sure funding for this legislation is denied.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 11, 2011.

HON. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary of Health and Human Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: I write to inquire of the Department of Health and Human Services your response to and specifically subsequent implementation decisions made by the Department in the wake of Judge Vinson's ruling in *The State of Florida v. United States Department of Health and Human Services*. As you are well aware, the plaintiff sought declaratory judgment that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional as well as an injunction against its enforcement.

In his opinion, Judge Vinson relied on precedent in Committee on Judiciary of U.S. House of Representatives *v. Miers* to determine that when a court issues a declaratory judgment against federal officials, the "declaratory judgment is the functional equivalent of an injunction." He quoted a previous United States Court of Appeals decision which further addressed his point, "that officials of the Executive Branch will adhere to the law as declared by the court. As a result, the declaratory judgment is the functional equivalent of an injunction . . . There is no reason to conclude that this presumption should not apply here. Thus, the award of declaratory relief is adequate and separate injunctive relief is not necessary."

I would like to request information on how, in light of the declaratory relief issued by Judge Vinson, the Department plans to proceed in its implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue and I look forward to your response. Should you have any questions, please contact me in my Washington office at (202) 225-7772.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CANSECO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to lead this Special Order

for an hour on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and to have some of my distinguished colleagues join me.

But as we begin the Special Order to call attention to the travesty that the Republican leadership is proposing and the cuts that they will be trying to enact for the balance of this year, I want to say something that begins to put these cuts into a particular perspective.

I'm sure that everyone is aware that today is Valentine's Day, a day in which we supposedly celebrate love. As the Republican leadership begins the onslaught on some very important programs, I want to share with them and all of us something that Dr. Cornel West has been reminding us of as of late, that is, that justice is what love looks like in the public arena.

So on this day when we show those close to us we love them, we should also be showing the American people our commitment to justice. Mr. Speaker, the cuts being proposed with the continuing resolution are anything but just.

With that, I would like to yield first to our distinguished assistant minority leader, Mr. CLYBURN, the gentleman from South Carolina, who has been a leader for his State, for this Congress, and for our country, particularly a leader of high morals who leads this country in making sure that we stay true to the values that this country was founded on and continue to operate in that faith.

Mr. CLYBURN. I thank the gentle lady for yielding me this time and thank her for her tremendous leadership on this and many other areas that come before this Congress.

I want to take just a few moments to talk about an issue that's very, very important to a significant number of citizens in our great country. The Wharton School of Business recently held a conference named in honor of Whitney Young, a leader and friend in the struggle for social justice, equality, and civil rights. Whitney Young is probably known best for growing and transforming the Urban League from a sleepy little organization into one of the country's biggest and most aggressive crusaders for social justice.

What he is less known for is his call for a "domestic Marshall Plan," a program to eradicate poverty and deprivation in the United States, similar to the Marshall Plan that was launched to reconstruct Europe after World War II. I would like to use that call for a domestic Marshall Plan as a jumping-off point for my remarks this evening.

Some of Whitney Young's ideas were incorporated into President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty over 40 years ago, yet the scourge is still with us. Before the War on Poverty and the Great Society, we had the New Deal. All of these investments in America helped to move us forward as a Nation. But some communities have been left behind each time, and we have begun to call them "persistent poverty communities," places that have had more