

He was a leader and role model as the head football coach at Miami of Ohio, Northwestern, and the University of Notre Dame, which is located in the congressional district that I'm honored to represent. Mr. Parseghian's impressive record at Notre Dame included two consensus national championships and three bowl victories, accomplishments that resulted in his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1980 as a recognition of his tremendous achievements. More important, though, was his personal leadership and example, and the character he instilled in the players that he coached. To Ara Parseghian, it was a lot more important that his players be good citizens than good football players, although he made sure they were very good football players as well.

What many Americans may not know is that Mr. Parseghian's most important work began after his football career, when he devoted his life to finding a cure for Niemann-Pick type C disease and multiple sclerosis. In 1994, the Parseghian family learned that three of Ara and Katie's youngest grandchildren were diagnosed with Niemann-Pick type C. This tragic disease is a degenerative neurological disorder afflicting thousands of children and is ultimately fatal.

Rather than be overwhelmed by their grief, Mr. Parseghian and his family began a fight to find a cure for this disease. Together, they founded the Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation in 1994. It was devoted to funding research and finding a cure for Niemann-Pick type C. In 1997, scientists funded by the Parseghian Foundation were able to isolate the gene responsible for causing Niemann-Pick type C and have since made tremendous strides towards finding a cure.

The Parseghian family lost Michael, Christa, and Maria to this terrible disease, but the family and Katie and Ara have never lost hope. Their efforts will end Niemann-Pick type C and help families all across the world.

Mr. Parseghian's commitment to medical research did not stop with the disease that took the lives of his grandchildren. Ara, whose sister, brother-in-law, and daughter have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, has fought nonstop against the scourge of MS, which took away his beloved daughter Karen just last month.

While Ara Parseghian has accomplished much as a coach on the football field, his devotion to others will truly define the era of Ara. When I talk to my son about what it means to be a man and what it means to live a good life, I tell him about Coach Parseghian. He and Katie have epitomized devotion to family, faith, and country. May God bless Ara Parseghian, and may He keep the entire Parseghian family in the palm of His hand.

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EVE OF THE BUDGET DEBATE

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. The House is about to consider a budget in a dangerous hour in the life of our country. Last year, we barreled past several urgent warning signals—the loss of our Nation's AAA credit rating; the size of the national debt surpassing our entire economy; and a record third straight year of trillion-dollar-plus annual deficits. I believe this is one of the last opportunities to avert a financial crisis unprecedented in our Nation's experience and on a magnitude far greater than that which is now destroying Greece.

The blueprint passed by the House Budget Committee last week is a disappointment to those who believe that the budget can and should be balanced much sooner, and I certainly don't entirely disassociate myself from those sentiments. But the immediate issue before us, as Lincoln put it, "is not 'can any of us imagine better?' but, 'can we all do better?'"

The approaching financial crisis demands first and foremost that we turn this country away from the fiscal precipice and place it back on a course to solvency. This budget does so. Indeed, it improves upon last year's House budget that died in the Senate, which, according to Standard & Poor's, would have preserved the AAA credit rating of the United States Government. This budget, I believe, will restore it.

It is, of course, a long road back, balancing by the late 2030s and ultimately paying off the entire debt by the mid 2050s. But even relying on the static scoring of the CBO which presents a worst-case scenario, it still means that my children, who are now in college, will be able to retire into a prosperous and entirely debt-free America.

True, there's a great deal in it for conservatives not to like, but that is not the issue. The issue is will this Congress and, ultimately, this government change its fiscal trajectory enough to avert the sovereign debt crisis that fiscal experts across the spectrum warn us is just a few years dead ahead.

This is not some moonless night on the Atlantic. We can see this danger right ahead of us, and we can see that it is big enough to sink this great ship of state. We have precious little time remaining to avert it. This budget will turn us just enough to avoid that calamity—and I fear we won't have many more opportunities to do so.

The alternative is unthinkable. The President's budget would subject our Nation to one of the biggest tax increases in its history, striking especially hard at the small businesses that we're depending upon to create two-thirds of the new jobs that Americans desperately need. And even so, by its

own numbers, it never balances and, thus, courts the fiscal collapse of our Nation.

Hemmingway asked, "How do you go bankrupt?"

"Two ways," he said. "Gradually, then suddenly."

For the last decade, this Nation has been going bankrupt gradually. History warns us that if we don't change course very soon, we will cease going bankrupt gradually and start going bankrupt quite suddenly. It may happen through a chain reaction set off by a seemingly minor international incident. It may happen one day when a routine bond auction sours. Interest rates will start rising rapidly. Financial panics will begin. The government will have to respond by increasingly frantic efforts to maintain a stream of capital, either through massive policy dislocations or catastrophic inflation.

The approach of great cataclysms that are so obvious to historians in retrospect are often unheeded by contemporaries at the time. Just 30 days before the outbreak of World War II, Neville Chamberlain recessed Parliament to go on extended holiday. Let that not be how history remembers this Congress. This budget is not perfect, but it is adequate to spare our country from the convulsions of Greece.

I wholeheartedly support this budget for that reason, and I expect that we'll have the overwhelming support of this House. I can only hope that the Senate this time will put aside its own differences and heed Lincoln's plea that:

The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise—with the occasion. We must disenthral ourselves, and then we will save our country.

CYCLING: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO TRANSPORTATION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Often, here on Capitol Hill, issues large and small get sort of lost in the fog, but it was a pleasure last week to watch some moments of clarity as hundreds of bicycle advocates flooded Capitol Hill delivering a simple, concise, powerful message that makes a difference in terms of how people live in their communities large and small. They were delivering a message that Congress ought to deal meaningfully, in a comprehensive fashion, with the transportation legislation that has been stalled. They were delivering a message of: Don't attack cycling. Embrace it as part of a comprehensive approach to transportation. It is, after all, the most efficient form of urban transportation ever designed.

Burning calories instead of fossil fuel doesn't just save you money and make you feel better, it's good for our communities. It's the cheapest, fastest way to reduce congestion and air pollution. A very simple illustration is you can

park eight to 10 bicycles where one automobile resides.

It's good for the economy. Over \$6 billion a year is involved with the cycling industry, employing over a million people. They brought very specific examples. A study from Wisconsin, \$1.5 billion of economic impact and 13,200 jobs in an industry that too often does not get its attention. In my community of Portland, Oregon, a medium-sized city, it's \$100 million a year in our economy and well over 1,000 jobs.

Cycling is also very good for our children and our families. Being able to walk or bike safely to school helps kids actually perform better. Parents are less stressed. It could save some of the 6.5 billion trips a year of over 30 billion miles just shuttling kids back and forth to school.

People, frankly, were outraged that my Republican friends had targeted, in their transportation bill, elimination of the Safe Routes to School program. Other than them, I haven't met anybody in America who is against this program, that empowers our children and helps our families.

Now is a golden opportunity as the transportation bill collapsed and we're back at the drawing board to look at how we leverage that \$8 billion that we have invested in Federal money over the last 20 years that has touched every State and hundreds of communities. Now is the time to celebrate that progress. Now is the time to commit ourselves to a comprehensive transportation bill that makes it safer to cycle and walk. Now is the time to have a transportation bill that will make every one of our communities more livable and our families safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Last week, in the Armed Services Committee, we had General Allen, who oversees our military effort in Afghanistan. I have the utmost respect for General Allen. In fact, General Allen's former boss in the Marine Corps had some very kind words to say about General Allen, which I read before I got into my questions.

□ 1020

I would today like to quote the former boss of General Allen, who's been my adviser on Afghanistan for 3 years, and I actually read these comments to General Allen before I got to my question:

Attempting to find a true military and political answer to the problems in Afghanistan would take decades, not years, and drain our Nation of precious resources, with the most precious being our sons and daughters. Simply put, the United States cannot solve the Afghan problem, no matter how brave and determined our troops are.

Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing the term, well, we're going to probably be

out sometime around 2014. Well, it's kind of like what many of us, including myself, are guilty of, and that is putting it down the road, putting it down the road, we'll deal with it in some time. But the problem is our young men and women are dying, getting killed and severely wounded by IEDs. I hope that Congress, when we get into May of this year and we start debating the Department of Defense bill, will bring up some amendments dealing with Afghanistan.

History has proven time and time again that no one, no nation will ever change Afghanistan. And it was kind of ironic that last week I just happened to be on the floor Thursday when Mr. HOYER was asking Mr. CANTOR, on our side, what is going to be the schedule this week, meaning today. And then Mr. HOYER said to Mr. CANTOR, well, why don't we bring up the Senate transportation bill? And I was just taken aback by Mr. CANTOR's response. He said, "We're just out of money." We're just out of money? And we're spending \$10 billion a month in Afghanistan?

I don't understand the mathematics around here. We can't bring up a transportation bill, a 2-year bill, because we're just out of money. But, yet, Mr. Karzai, you can get your \$10 billion a month and you can negotiate with the Taliban and take the \$10 billion that we're borrowing from the Chinese to give to Karzai so they can buy weapons to kill the American soldiers and marines. It just does not make any sense.

Mr. Speaker, I have put together a resolution that I have asked the speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, Thom Tillis, who is a great gentleman, to introduce in the May session of the North Carolina House asking the Congress to bring our troops home out of Afghanistan before the 2014 deadline. And I'm pleased to say that the Tea Party in my district, who doesn't agree with me on everything, does agree with me on Afghanistan. They have passed this resolution at their meeting a month ago. We need to start bringing our troops home now, not later.

Mr. Speaker, I've got beside me today—and I'm going to close in just a minute—a reminder of the cost of war—all the families who have cried with pain and all the children who have cried because their moms or their dad-dies are not coming home. So I have about 14 of these posters when I do these little 5-minute speeches I bring to the floor. This is the latest one. I saw it in the newspaper. It's very profound. It is time for the American people to say to the United States Congress, if you have no money and you can't fix the roads, then you have no money to send to Afghanistan to waste on a corrupt leader.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to close the way I normally do:

God, please bless our men and women in uniform; please bless the families of our men and women in uniform; please,

God, bless the House and Senate that we will do what's right in the eyes of God for His people. I ask God to please bless the President of the United States, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people. And I'll close three times by asking, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

END RACIAL PROFILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAVAACK). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Twenty years ago, while serving as a school principal, I founded the 5,000 Role Models of Excellence project in Miami, Florida—a million dollar, nationally recognized and honored foundation that specifically addresses the trials and tribulations of young black boys and sends them to college. It serves almost 20,000 boys throughout Florida.

In spite of that, this sign stands outside the door of my congressional office, and I change the number every day. It speaks loudly. Trayvon Martin's murderer is still at large. Thirty-one days with no arrest. Trayvon died because of racial profiling 31 days ago.

If you walk into any inner city high school in the African American community, Mr. Speaker, and ask the students, "Have you ever been racially profiled," trust me, every one of them will raise their hands, boys and girls. You might say to me, "Congresswoman, what does that mean? Who is profiled? And who is doing the profiling?" I will tell you:

Boys by police officers.

Boys by vigilante wannabe-police officers.

Boys who get into an elevator and then everyone else gets off.

Boys who walk down the sidewalk and everyone crosses the street.

Boys who watch people lock their car doors when they approach a car.

Boys who see women clutch their purse as they walk towards them.

Boys who will try to catch a cab but not one who will stop.

Boys who are followed around in stores while they shop.

Boys who wear hoodies.

Boys who wear dreads.

Boys who wear gold teeth.

Boys who sag their pants.

And boys who are walking while black, talking while black, shopping while black, eating while black, studying while black, and playing while black, and just being black.

How would you feel if you were treated with such disdain and such isolation? How do you think these little boys feel? It is a sociological problem that dates back to the days of slavery. These boys begin to see themselves not as real men, but as caricatures of real men whom people fear and despise.

Racial profiling for black boys is real, Mr. Speaker. It is not perceived. It is real, and it is happening as I speak