

On the “60 Minutes” program we saw the insider trading issue that has gone across this Congress. It brings to mind that it is about doing the right thing. And unfortunately, there are those among us that really believe that it’s about enriching ourselves on the backs of those that we’re supposed to serve. There has been a number of bills put forth in regards to stopping insider trading, and so we have put forth a bill to do the same thing. It’s very simple. It just requires that Members of Congress, the President, and the Vice President put their holdings into a qualified blind trust, which means no matter what information they may have they can’t enrich themselves with it because within 30 days of their taking office, they must put it within a blind trust. It takes away all the issues in regards to how do you enforce some of the issues that were talked about in the STOCK Act.

These are noble intentions, but when you make it more difficult to enforce, what you do is you give people loopholes to get around it and skirt around the issue. If you put it into a blind trust, it takes away the ability to skirt around the issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, it’s not about creating more loopholes. It’s about making it simpler to do the right thing here in Congress. When we have the lowest approval rating, I’m shocked. I’m not shocked because we don’t deserve it, I’m shocked because we don’t want to do anything to improve it. As sheriff, I had a 73 percent approval rating. I come to Congress, and I find out that we’re not as respected as we should be. But it’s because of our own hand that we’re not. It’s nobody else’s fault. It’s not the press’ fault. It’s not anybody’s fault. It’s what we do within these Halls. What we do sets the tone for what the American people believe in or what we are supposed to be providing to the American people, and that is a level of trust.

So in two things: A bill that was called Congress is Not a Career Act is sitting out there and also one in regards to blind trusts. Mr. Speaker, I ask that we think about those issues and move forward.

GETTING TO THE TRUTH OF FAST AND FURIOUS

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

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 1 year since the tragic death of U.S. Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, who was killed using weapons that were purposely walked to deadly drug cartels in Mexico as part of Operation Fast and Furious. Since Agent Terry’s death, the responsible Federal Department, the Justice Department, and its leader, Attorney General Eric Holder, have obfuscated every attempt to get to the bottom of what went wrong with this disastrous operation.

Despite the best efforts of the Justice Department to hide the facts, we now know many disturbing things about Fast and Furious. This ill-conceived operation began in November of 2009. Since that time, the ATF has sanctioned the sale of thousands of weapons to straw purchasers who transported these weapons across the United States’ southern border and into the hands of Mexican criminals.

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The ATF lost track of these weapons until they began turning up at crime scenes in the United States and Mexico. As a result of Justice Department incompetence, the United States actively armed dangerous cartels that have wreaked havoc in Mexico and put our own Federal agents directly in harm’s way. Our hard-won trust and the relationships we’ve built with the Mexican Government as both countries seek to combat the cartels has been severely strained, which has harmed our efforts to get drug-running under control.

Operation Fast and Furious hasn’t just been a failure; it’s been a tragic failure. It is believed that hundreds of Mexicans have lost their lives through the use of these weapons, and at least one U.S. Federal Agent, Brian Terry, has lost his life.

When an operation goes so horribly wrong, it is important to find out why and who was responsible. The Congress has acted on its oversight responsibility; and in doing so, we’ve asked Attorney General Holder directly about the operation. On May 3, 2011, Attorney General Holder testified before the House Judiciary Committee. When asked when he first knew about Operation Fast and Furious, he stated, “I’m not sure of the exact date, but I probably heard about Fast and Furious for the first time over the last few weeks.” However, we now know that weekly memos addressed to the Attorney General, which included briefings on Operation Fast and Furious, began crossing his desk nearly a year before that.

When it became clear that his May 3 testimony was untrue, the Attorney General later revised the timeline in which he claimed to have knowledge of the operation. On November 8, 2011, Attorney General Holder claimed that he had in fact first learned about the operation at the beginning of 2011, which, again, is belied by the fact that he was receiving memos about the operation much earlier than that.

But we now know that even that revised and extended time frame is incorrect. Just days ago, the Justice Department finally released documents, which included a December 14, 2010, email exchange between the Attorney General’s chief of staff and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, stating that the Attorney General had been alerted of the shooting and death of Agent Terry on the day of the shooting.

A troubling picture has emerged of the Holder Justice Department. From

the Attorney General’s own testimony, it would appear that he is either frighteningly unaware of major operations taking place in his own Department or that he did know about Fast and Furious, did nothing to stop it, and refused to take responsibility when it failed.

It has been more than a year since the death of Agent Terry, Mr. Speaker, and we still don’t have the answers the American people deserve and Agent Terry’s family deserves. We know we won’t get these answers from a proper internal investigation from the Justice Department. Far from the Department investigating itself, it has covered up for itself.

A year of delay, denial, and obfuscation is enough. A year of nighttime document dumps full of blacked-out pages and redacted information is enough. A year of senior Justice Department officials pleading the Fifth is enough. It’s time that we get to the bottom of why Fast and Furious happened and restore accountability to the Department of Justice. That’s why I introduced H. Res. 532, which calls on the President to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Operation Fast and Furious as well as the Attorney General’s role in it.

Without a special prosecutor, the only other way to get to the truth is through impeachment proceedings and the investigations that come with those proceedings. With all of the vital work before this House, it would be far better to avoid the distraction and the cost that impeachment proceedings would bring. I hope the President agrees.

I urge my House colleagues to support this resolution so that we can finally get to the truth and ensure no more innocent lives are lost due to this Attorney General’s failure.

REMEMBERING AMBASSADOR CHARLES PRICE

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, “Praise Silence.” Praise Silence is the very British expression that was used regularly by Ambassador Charles Price when he would stand up after dinner to offer thoughtful, insightful, and humorous remarks. He did it most often at the wonderful home—Sunnylands—of Ambassador Walter and Mrs. Annenberg, and he was one who provided a great deal of inspiration and leadership. I’m very saddened to have had the news, Mr. Speaker, of his passing, but I have to say that he lived a very, very full and active 80 years.

Ambassador Price and I shared a hometown and many mutual friends in Kansas City, and we also shared a great love of California. Mr. Price was someone who was very big physically, he was very big intellectually, and he had a great big heart. I always felt comforted around him because he had that wonderful embrace when he would

bring you in. And with me, for the past several decades, he's offered very thoughtful political insight and advice and counsel on a wide range of issues.

He served as Ambassador to the Court of St. James after having served as Ambassador to Belgium under President Reagan during the 1980s. He was the first American to go to the site in Lockerbie, Scotland, where Pan Am Flight 103 went down. He was on the cutting edge of very, very important decisions that were made with our very important ally, Margaret Thatcher. And I have to say that Ambassador Price was someone who had that very unique ability, Mr. Speaker, to, as Rudyard Kipling said, "walk with kings and keep the common touch."

He was known for his great sense of humor, and he was known for having a great desire to spend time with working men and women. And to listen to people, he would often go to pubs in England, and I suspect that Charlie Price might have enjoyed a Guinness or two at the same time.

But, Mr. Speaker, he was also a great business leader and a great philanthropist. I remember that, as the leading diplomat that he was, our great former Secretary of State, George Schultz, once said to me, in describing Charlie Price, that when the Secretary would arrive in London and he would get into the car with Charlie Price, there was no ambassador who could provide him with more cogent, thoughtful insight into the circumstances that existed on the ground as they were.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Winston Churchill, I read in my original hometown paper—and Charlie Price's as well—the Kansas City Star, that he had just, not long ago, written a note to a grandson of his to lift his spirits. In that note he said: "Never, never give up. You will always succeed if you accept that you will not succeed every time. But never accept losing as anything other than a learning experience to drive you to be a champion in all walks of life."

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go to Carol Price and to the wonderful family. I have to say that, as we look to next week's—a week from this Sunday—dedication of the great new operation at Sunnylands in southern California, I know that Carol will be there, but Charlie Price will be greatly missed.

AMERICANS DESERVE HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve a genuine and predictable government that shoots straight. As Thomas Jefferson wrote: "The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest." How can the people hold their Representative accountable when Congress and the President distort the basic facts?

Many of my colleagues and I are dismayed by the dysfunction in the process. We have seen firsthand the insider tricks and schemes to distort the budget and hide new spending. We've learned that these loopholes are deeply ingrained in the rules of Congress—they are institutionalized—and both Republicans and Democrats are guilty of exploiting them.

The American people have a right to expect accountability, honesty, and transparency from their government. But every year Washington relies on a series of budget gimmicks and accounting tricks to conceal or enable deficit spending. With our Nation's debt nearing \$16 trillion, Washington must drop the budget games and commit to honest budget practices.

Many of us believe we were sent here to Washington to do things differently and to insist on an honest and transparent government.

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That's why I, earlier this week, along with 28 of my colleagues, introduced the Honest Budget Act of 2012, an important step to change the way Washington works and instill integrity into the budget process. This legislation is designed to root out the budget gimmicks most commonly used by politicians to hide the truth, confuse the public, and run up the national debt.

Last year, Senator JEFF SESSIONS from Alabama introduced in the Senate similar legislation to strengthen the Senate's rules against budget trickery. Numerous conservative groups have endorsed Sessions' bill, including the Heritage Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform, and Citizens Against Government Waste.

This legislation introduced in the House expands the Senate bill with similar rules for the House of Representatives to address nine specific budget gimmicks that, since 2005, have cost taxpayers more than \$350 billion and have consistently added to our deficit and our debt.

For example, the legislation makes it more difficult to pass appropriation bills without first approving a budget. What a novel idea. The legislation also tightens rules regarding emergency designations and disaster designations to justify off-budget spending. It reveals both real costs and the real commitment on what the Federal Government is spending.

The bill also prevents Congress from relying on phony rescissions, or claiming savings that are not savings unless they are real and genuine. That's common sense. Common sense dictates that you cannot account as savings money that was never going to be spent in the first place.

A budget is a plan for this Nation's future. Americans deserve the truth. Mr. Speaker, given what I have witnessed over the last year, the only way to guarantee truth is to specifically root out and end the gimmicks.

We're all keenly aware that the number 1 issue facing America today is

jobs. We must continue to do all that we can here in Washington to create an environment that fosters job growth, and we will continue to do that. But we cannot overlook the fact that Washington spends money it does not have. Certainly, this reckless spending spree has contributed greatly towards our downward economy.

The Honest Budget Act does not fix all of our problems, but it is a step in the right direction. In many respects, the Honest Budget Act of 2012 embodies the spirit of transparency and accountability that unites many in my freshman class. The bill is a rallying point for those who truly want to put an end to tricks, gimmicks, and empty promises, and for all who believe that the American people deserve a government that they can trust.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to see this proposed legislation become law.

PROMOTING STEM EDUCATION

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, during the President's State of the Union address in this Chamber just last week, he spoke of the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, also known as STEM education. STEM education helps support U.S. manufacturing jobs, and it is something that I am a strong proponent of.

The 10th District of Illinois, the district that I represent, is one of the largest manufacturing districts in our Nation. As I travel back home, I hear time and time again from manufacturers that they can't find qualified people able to step up and take the jobs that they have open right now at their manufacturing facilities.

One way we can help put people back to work is by promoting STEM education. Those trained in the STEM field have the opportunity to gain good-paying jobs right here in our local communities. From high schools training our future workers to community colleges helping to train and retrain unemployed individuals, STEM education helps put people back to work and allows U.S. manufacturers to hire American workers.

One example of a successful STEM education program back home is at Wheeling High School. Wheeling High School's Principal, Dr. Laz Lopez, took the initiative to start a STEM education program in order to empower his students to graduate and have a competitive edge against other students seeking employment. Just yesterday, Wheeling High School announced that they are now looking to expand that education to include a curriculum that has nanotechnology. This type of curriculum will give Wheeling High School students a greater competitive advantage when applying for jobs and pursuing degrees in science and technology.