

We make critical investments in health care, clean energy, and education that will create jobs and enhance our global competitiveness. We will also restore fiscal responsibility by cutting the deficit by nearly two-thirds by 2013.

A budget is fundamentally about priorities—and our priority is to strengthen the economy and help struggling families regain their footing. Americans are optimistic by nature, and I am optimistic that the investments we make now will pay off later and that together we will emerge from this current crisis stronger and better prepared for the 21st century challenges that we face.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Chair, it's only fitting that we begin consideration of the Democrat budget resolution on April 1st. Like April Fool's Day itself, this budget is full of mischief and sleight of hand that will have Uncle Sam dipping his fingers into your pocket as if your wallet was his very own personal ATM.

The President's budget request proposes huge spending increases now with only intentionally vague promises to make hard choices to cut spending in the future. All of this spending is couched in the same soothing rhetoric we heard during the stimulus debate—while kicking the can down the road on many tough decisions.

As Daniel Hannan, a Member of the European Parliament, said in remarks last week, "Perhaps you would have more moral authority in this House if your actions matched your words. The truth is you have run out of our money."

While the House majority portrays their spending plan as a reduction from the President's request, the fact is this budget resolution represents more spending, more taxes, and more debt. The only proposed cuts in this plan are within the area of national defense, an ill-advised course of action as our country continues to engage in the Global War on Terror.

Since Democrats assumed control of Congress, they have proposed increases of at least nine percent each year for non-defense discretionary programs. For next year, they propose yet another 11 percent increase and a 27 percent boost over the next five years.

The proposed surge of federal spending represents the largest non-war government expansion since the New Deal. Domestic discretionary spending—including the spending in the stimulus package—has been hiked over 80 percent since just last year. As a result, Washington will run a budget deficit of 12.3 percent of GDP, by far the largest since World War II.

Some in the majority will justify this out-of-control spending as a necessary, temporary response to a recession. But there's nothing temporary about it. After harshly criticizing budget deficits under President Bush—which averaged \$300 billion annually—President Obama has proposed a budget that would run deficits through the roof for a generation or more.

Three expected developments—the end of the recession, the withdrawal of troops from Iraq, and the phase-out of temporary stimulus spending—would by themselves cut the deficit in half by 2013.

The President's budget shows deficits averaging \$600 billion a year even after the economy recovers from the recession and even after our troops come home from Iraq. That's not good enough. Between 2008 and 2013, the budget will add \$5.7 trillion, or \$48,000 per household, in new government debt. The annual interest alone would equal nearly the entire U.S. defense budget by the year 2019.

On top of this mountain of debt, consider the unsustainable costs of paying Social Security and Medicare benefits to 77 million retiring Baby Boomers.

Without real reform, the result is likely to be devastating tax increases for decades to come.

These higher debt levels will accelerate an increase in interest rates. Higher interest rates will slow down the economic recovery by making it more expensive for businesses to invest and more difficult for families to afford homes and auto loans. This isn't economic, recovery, this is economic madness.

To quote again from Daniel Hannan from the European Parliament, "You cannot spend your way out of recession or borrow your way out of debt."

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MALONEY) having assumed the chair, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 85) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1256.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to Section 841(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 101-181), I am pleased to appoint The Honorable Christopher Shays of Connecticut, to the Commis-

sion on Wartime Contracting. My previous appointee, Mr. Dean G. Popps resigned in October 2008, creating a vacancy.

Mr. Shays has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEVIN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mrs. SCHMIDT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of an illness.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1116. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting notification of several violations of the Antideficiency Act in the Department's Maritime Administration's Operation and Training Account, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b) and 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

1117. A letter from the Vice Chair and First Vice President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1118. A letter from the Vice Chair and First Vice President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1119. A letter from the Acting Chair, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on the amount of acquisitions made by the agency from entities that manufacture articles, materials, and supplies outside of the United States for Fiscal Year 2008, pursuant to Public Law 109-115, section 837; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

1120. A letter from the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer and Director for Human Resources Management, Department of Commerce, transmitting notification that the Department continues to utilize hiring flexibilities such as category rating, in addition to traditional rating, in order to increase its opportunity to select the best qualified candidates in support of Human Capital strategies and succession planning; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1121. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, transmitting a report pursuant