

month rotations that we will provide the resources they need, rather than playing games with the budget to artificially hold down the size of this deficit on paper.

As my colleagues in the Blue Dog Coalition have said, we believe everyone, Democrats and Republicans, Congress and the White House need to sit down, put everything on the table, and get our economic house in order, not mortgage our future to pay for today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER).

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

There was no objection.

THE PERFECT STORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day when we have to come to the well of this House and talk about the credibility gap of the President of the United States. It is the most disappointing thing to have the President issue a budget that is just simply fantasy. He just simply made up numbers.

Mr. Speaker, there is no funding in the budget for Iraq and Afghanistan, and we know that that is going to have to be done. It fails to address the repeal of the AMT, which we know is going to have to happen if there is going to be any fairness left in the Tax Code. Then, he puts out an economic report on this Nation and talks about how good it is to outsource jobs, to shift our jobs overseas. Where is the credibility?

□ 2000

Over and over and over again, we are presented with a report or a request or a budget or appropriations bills that just simply do not have any credibility.

Our Nation is facing the perfect economic storm in a very short period of time. We just saw the charts. The deficit is in a nose dive, and nobody knows what to do about it. The cost of the interest that each family will have to pay in this country in the next 10 years is going to reach over \$10,000 per family, a tax that cannot be repealed. We have the President's own economists talking about what a good thing it is that we are outsourcing high-tech jobs from this country.

Where is the credibility? None of this makes any sense.

The President just the other day in New Hampshire made a speech and said the Federal Government's got plenty of money. We do not need any more money. We have got plenty of money.

Where is the credibility? If we have got so much money, if the economy is doing so well, why are we broke? Why are we losing jobs? Why are the prospects for the next generation so dismal?

When this generation came into office, the Blue Dog Coalition that I am a member of met with the Vice President first. And we said, Mr. Vice President, we want to work with you. If you want to cut taxes, let us talk about it. Let us figure out a way to cut spending so we can make this work and we do not get back in the deficit ditch, because many of the people in that room at that time had dealt with this before, and they knew how tough it was. And he said, You do not understand. We have the majority. We do not need you. We think you are nice people, but we just do not need you. And we are going to do what we want to do, and what we want to do is have massive tax cuts and let somebody else worry about the deficit.

This is the same man that said in a meeting in the White House with the President, Deficits do not matter.

Well, tell that to these families that are going to have to come up with \$10,000 to pay the interest on the national debt as their part. But, again, where is the credibility? Over and over we see this.

Then the Blue Dogs met with Mitch Daniels, the head of the Office of Management and Budget, and he explained it another way. Also, again, we did not understand. We had these massive surpluses. There was money flowing in the street, and he said this to us, You do not understand. We are going to have so much money, and after we cut taxes we are going to have even more. We are going to have so much money that we are going to pay off all of the national debt, and there will not be a safe place to invest your money. There will not be a U.S. Treasury bond anymore.

I remember him saying that so well. I wish Mr. Daniels was here tonight to face this perfect economic storm that we are about to pass on to our children and grandchildren because I think it is a terrible, terrible thing; and I think it is time that there be some credibility introduced into the national debate, and it needs to be brought to the table by the President.

TELL US THE TRUTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAUPREZ). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight to make one very simple point. Sometimes the simplest points are the most powerful.

Families across America are probably eating supper about this time, a little worried about the future of the country, wondering whom they can trust.

Well, just a few weeks ago in this Chamber, we had the great speech of the year, the President's State of the Union message. And the President walked down this aisle in a crowded Chamber, most of the House and the Senate and the Supreme Court and other dignitaries were here. It was broadcast, of course, live on national television. And at this podium right here the President spoke and delivered a powerful message. There were many lines where there was applause; and one of them was this one, because we knew on that day, on January 20, that the President would be delivering his budget. That is a very complicated document. It takes thousands of pages long. It takes months to prepare, and probably on that very night it was already at the printers, the type being set.

Well, perhaps the President was poorly served by one of his speech writers, but one of the lines in the President's important message was this one: the President said on the night of January 20 in this Chamber, he said that "in two weeks I will send you a budget that funds the war, protects the homeland, and meets important domestic needs."

Well, in 2 weeks he did send us a budget. It arrived here on February 2. Most of us have had a chance, especially those of us who have the privilege of serving on the Committee on the Budget, to dig through that budget and find what is in and what is not there. And to our surprise and disappointment, especially after the President's remarks just a few weeks ago in this Chamber on live national television, the budget does not fund the war. In fact, to read the President's budget, you would think that we are not at war at all.

Now, the President's budget does include over \$400 billion to fund our Defense Department, and that is good; and most of this Chamber will support it and support it strongly. But that is largely a peace-time budget. That number would have been the same whether we were involved in fighting in Afghanistan or Iraq or not. So the budget that the President promised us that funds the war, and presumably he meant here the war on terrorism, the war where 120,000 of our troops are currently serving in Iraq and 10,000 of our troops are currently serving in Afghanistan, presumably the President meant the war most Americans worry about when they go to bed and pray about when they wake up in the morning because almost every day there is a casualty.

I think American families want the truth. We support our President. We want him to succeed. We want our Nation to succeed. We want our troops to win in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we need to be told the truth. We need to be

told the extent of the sacrifice that we are being asked to make.

The rumor around here is that we will be asked after November's election to come up with another \$50 billion to fund the war. I will probably support that. I supported the \$87 billion supplemental request that the President asked us to support because we cannot leave our troops hanging in the fields. We have to support our men and women in uniform, and I am delighted to do that. But should we not be told the cost up front?

In the President's budget, which he promised to deliver to us and which would fund the war, he has essentially a zero figure for funding our men and women in uniform. Zero, nada, zilch, nothing.

Well, that is not accurate. That is not fair. That is not honest. I think that undermines the support of our men and women in uniform who are out there risking their lives for us and for our freedom every day. And in our budget, our central planning document for this government, we have nothing for them.

Many of us are aware of the shortcomings of supplies for our troops already. Our troops did not have the bullet-proof vests that they have needed to protect themselves in Iraq. Many of our vehicles, our Humvees and Bradleys, did not have sufficient spare parts. We did not have sufficient equipment to try to deal with the IEDs, the improvised explosive devices, that our troops are threatened with every day.

There are many needs that our troops have that we have not adequately funded and that we should fund and that the American taxpayer, I think, would be glad to pay for. But we have to be told the price. And it is only fair and honest to tell us the price before the election, not to hide it until after election day.

Mr. Speaker, I think most Americans as they sit at home eating dinner, and as we try to do our jobs in this body, want to listen to and believe the President's message, want to follow as much as we can what he asks us to do because he is our Commander in Chief, but he has got to tell us the truth.

WE WILL PAY FOR OUR TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, just 3 years ago the state of our economy was strong. We had just seen 20 million new jobs created. We had seen the fastest growth in 30 years, the lowest unemployment in 30 years, the lowest poverty rates in 20 years, and the first back-to-back surpluses in 42 years, up to a surplus of \$236 billion.

Alan Greenspan and others wondered aloud about the danger of an America that was debt free. What we would do, what we would give to have an America that is debt free now. But instead, our

economy is in a different place. Instead, we have lost 2.2 million jobs in the last 3 years; and despite a rise in the stock market and productivity gains, there are no new jobs. People are searching for work longer and finding less.

This result was not unforeseeable. For years, members of the Blue Dog Coalition warned we were spending money we did not have, that the administration had no economic plan, that tax cuts alone were not a substitute for an economic plan for our country's future. Last year, this Congress voted to pass an increase in the national debt. At the same time we took up the increase in the national debt, we took up a further round of tax cuts.

I remember standing here on this House floor and pointing out the awful irony that in the same week we voted to raise the national debt we voted to cut taxes further. And it was plain we were borrowing the money to cut taxes further. A tax cut that is not paid for is not a tax cut at all. It is merely a deferral of the obligation to our children, to the next generation.

So we have reached an unfortunate milestone in our Nation's history where we have the largest deficits we have ever had, \$521 billion for this year alone, and no plan, no plan in sight to put our fiscal house in order.

In fact, the administration's budget makes a bad problem worse, by failing to include the costs of the war in Iraq, by failing to include the costs that we will incur 5 years from now when this deficit will mushroom, by calling for a trillion dollars in new tax cuts without paying for them.

If your family or mine budgeted this way, we would all go bankrupt. Our families know what it is like to balance the checkbook at the end of the month, the end of the year; and it is time the Federal Government did the same. It is not too late to avoid leaving our children a crushing debt. It is not too late to create new jobs and put Americans back to work. It is not too late to end our dependence on foreign financing of our Nation's debt. But it is time to put our fiscal house back in order, by paying our bills as we go. The administration wants another tax cut? Fine. Let us pay for it. The administration wants to spend more? That is fine. But let us pay for it.

If we have not the courage to ask the American people to sacrifice at a time of war, let us not add the indignity of asking our children to bear the burden alone.

WE SHOULD ALL ABIDE BY SOUND FINANCIAL RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I am from Kansas and I go home virtually every weekend. And when I go home, I talk

to my constituents; and they tell me, not in these words, these are mine but I guess it is what I have kind of distilled from their comments to me over the past 5 years I have been in Congress, why can Congress and America not live like American families do?

There are three simple rules that Kansas families and American families follow: number one, do not spend more money than you make; number two, pay off your debts; number three, invest in basics for the future. Of course, the basics for a nation are national defense, some sort of highway system to move goods around the country and make our economy work strong.

The basics for a family are food, shelter, education, health care, transportation, all the things that you think of, that we pay our bills on a monthly basis. And yet we routinely in government have spent more money than we took in, resulting in a \$7.1 trillion national debt, \$7.1 trillion. That is 7,000 billion dollars, more than most people, myself included, can even imagine.

□ 2015

My colleagues have heard other speakers talk about our deficit this year as opposed to combination of all the years of deficit, but our deficit this year is the highest in our Nation's history, \$521 billion, and that does not even include the supplemental the administration says they are going to request for Iraq, which the OMB director, the Office of Management and Budget director, said would be as much as \$50 billion, if not more. That means we are \$521 billion in deficit for just 1 year.

We are spending right now \$1 billion a day on our debt tax; and the debt tax, of course, as my colleagues heard another speaker say, is the interest we pay on our national debt, \$1 billion a day. We used to say, another day another dollar. Now it is another day, another billion dollars.

The interest we pay on our national debt is the third largest category of expenditure in our national budget. After defense and Social Security and Medicare is interest on the national debt, and that is money that could be used for health care for children, for education, for anything worthwhile besides interest on the national debt.

I am on the Committee on the Budget and Committee on Financial Services, and I have heard Chairman Greenspan testify the last several years, and I have had a chance to question him at least once or twice each year. The one question I routinely ask Chairman Greenspan is, if this Congress could do something, what would he ask Congress to do that would help shore up our economy in this country? And his answer is consistent. Fiscal responsibility, live within our means, and that means a balanced budget and when we can to start to pay down debt.

Chairman Greenspan, I am confident if he were standing right here tonight, in fact I will predict in the next 30 to 60 days Chairman Greenspan is going