



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

No. 3

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: O God, Who has had compassion on our darkness and sent forth Your own light upon our conscience to make right judgments, grant us the joy of knowing the closeness of Your love.

May all our words and actions this day be infused with the creative spirit of freedom and bring forth personal integrity, as well as justice, and that we all will join together in serving Your people of this Nation with true goodness.

May true freedom and justice reign in our hearts and become contagious in our world, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLDEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS ON THE PART OF THE HOUSE TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 111th Congress, the Chair appoints as tellers on the part of the House to count the electoral votes:

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and

The gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 requests for 1-minute on each side of the aisle.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Wake up, America. We have trillions for a war machine and the banks, while our government stands by and sniffs at the slaughter of innocents in Gaza, where Israel is blocking aid for wounded Palestinians.

Here's today's Washington Post. It says, The International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday that it found at least 15 bodies and several children, emaciated but alive, in a row of shattered houses in the Gaza Strip and accused the Israeli military of preventing ambulances from reaching the site for 4 days.

Twelve corpses lying on mattresses in one home, along with four young children lying next to their dead mothers. That's a quote.

Today, U.S. tax dollars, U.S. jets and U.S. helicopters provided to Israel are enabling the slaughter in Gaza. The administration enables Israel to press forward with the attack against defenseless civilians, blocks efforts at promoting a cease-fire at the U.N., and refuses to make Israel comply with conditions that armed shipments not be used for aggression.

Israel is going to receive \$30 billion in a 10-year period for military assistance, without having to abide by any humanitarian principles, international laws or standards of basic human decency.

Wake up, America.

THE FACTS ABOUT OUR ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we have been dealing with economic challenges for several months. Last fall it was called a bailout. Now it's being called a stimulus or sometimes an economic recovery plan. But I think it's important that we talk about the facts of what we're discussing.

The stimulus being discussed now could range from \$800 billion to more than \$1.3 trillion. This will likely be the largest single spending bill in history. Now, what will this do to our deficit which we heard so much about for the 2 years before the Democrats took power?

Nonpartisan budget experts are now predicting a deficit for 2009 of almost \$1.3 trillion, triple the current year's deficit. That would equal 9 percent of GDP, which is a 50 percent increase over the World War II record of 6 percent. We may be paying a premium rate to foreign investors like China to borrow this kind of money. And what's going to be included in that package?

\$350,000 for a fitness center, \$4.5 million to bottle water with recyclable bottles.

Mr. Speaker, we need more of the facts, not just words.

MONUMENT TO PRESIDENT BUSH

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. In his last year, George Bush has constructed a monument to his Presidency that will last for generations to come. He not only doubled our national debt in 8 short years; as he goes out the door, he's

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

leaving America with a \$1.2 trillion deficit. That means we will borrow \$3.2 billion a day, \$2.2 million a minute. It's unfathomable. That legacy of profligacy based on trickle down and bailouts has brought our economy to its knees.

It would have been one thing if he borrowed the money to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, to build new schools to educate our kids, to give us a sustainable energy future. But, no, the money has been squandered in bailouts for Wall Street and an unnecessary war in the Middle East.

And now it's up to us, this Congress, the Democrats, to give us a recovery package that will put Americans back to work and rebuild our country. We have to reject the policies of the Bush years. No more tax giveaways. Let's rebuild the infrastructure of this country, put people back to work, borrow the money for a purpose, not more waste.

GOVERNMENT GONE WILD

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government continues to bankrupt Uncle Sam with bailouts to special interest groups using taxpayer money. One more group has appeared on the steps of the Capitol dragging the sack for more "Free Money." None other than the adult entertainment business, specifically, the CEO of "Girls Gone Wild," has asked for \$5 billion to save them from calamity.

When is this mentality going to stop that citizens should subsidize industries that have fallen on hard times?

According to the Congressional Research Service, the total amount of bailouts in 2008 now exceeds "all the costs for major wars the United States has ever engaged in, including the American Revolution, the War between the States, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan,"—about \$8.5 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has gone wild with all these giveaway programs. And so far the bailouts have had little or no positive impact on the markets or the economy.

No more bailouts. We cannot tax, borrow and spend our way into prosperity during these tough economic times.

And that's just the way it is.

PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA'S STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 87 percent of the American people support President-elect Obama's stimulus package, a package that addresses the concerns and needs of low-income Americans, working Americans, middle-class Americans.

It is obvious that the Federal Government has to be the spender of last resort. No frivolous, foolish spending, but spending that creates jobs, jobs, jobs, puts Americans back to work, bring home our troops from Iraq, be able to downsize the investment in a war that many of us disagreed with, ensure that the war in Afghanistan succeeds, and make sure that those in America's Appalachia and Mississippi Delta and the inner cities of Houston, Texas, have the amount of money to begin to work, summer youth jobs. That's what this stimulus package is about.

President-elect Obama has it right. We in the Federal Government have to rescue those who provided the tax dollars for America to work. Put them back to work. You'll see our economy spiraling.

Frivolous comments about bailouts will not work. The American people know a stimulus package is for them. Let's do it quickly. Let's get the money to our local governments. I believe we should bypass some of our State governments; make sure those dollars are in our cities, our counties, our municipalities, put America back to work. That's what President-elect Obama wants us to do.

ISRAEL HAS THE RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America's ally Israel remains under constant and frequent attack by Hamas. Noted columnist Charles Krauthammer recently revealed in a column in The Greenville News that Hamas has cruelly launched 6,464 rockets into Israel in the last 3 years. No other country has endured such attacks.

Now Israel has chosen to defend itself by going after the Hamas terrorists. The loss of life is terrible, but it is Hamas that bears the responsibility. I saw firsthand, while visiting Israel this summer, that Hamas has fired rockets against civilians in Israel.

A peaceful relationship between Israel and Palestine is in the best interest of both nations. It will only be accomplished if Hamas agrees to stop firing rockets targeting civilians.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

God bless Torry Lyons and Eric Dell upon their marriage tomorrow at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF IOWA CITY, IOWA, FOR BEING DESIGNATED A UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO) CITY OF LITERATURE

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere congratulations to the City of Iowa City for its designation as a City of Literature by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Iowa City is only the third city in the world to receive such designation, and the first in the United States.

This recognition is well-deserved and rightly honors a city which has long been dedicated to literature and the arts. The City of Iowa City alone has produced more than 25 Pulitzer Prize winners in literature since 1955, as well as four recent U.S. Poet Laureates.

I am proud of all who contributed to Iowa City receiving this designation, including Christopher Merrill, the current director of the University of Iowa International Writing Program. I trust future residents and generations to come will not only recognize the importance of this designation, but also continue to carry on the city's tradition of literary excellence.

ARRIVAL OF THE 21ST CENTURY ON JANUARY 20, 2009

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, the 21st century, in reality, will be arriving in America on the 20th of January 2009. It's been put off far enough by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and we've heard more of their rhetoric today, acting like, as DICK CHENEY said, "Herbert Hooverians." If the Republican Party didn't wake up, they'd be known as the Party of Herbert Hoover forever.

When the Great Depression came, Herbert Hoover and his Treasury Secretary Morgenthau and his colleagues in the Congress did not act. It caused the Great Depression to be worse.

We must act. We need a major economic stimulus package which will be presented by President-elect Obama, and this Democratic Congress and this Democratic Congressman will support it because we need jobs creation. We need to give people hope and the reality that we can come out of this. We're going to have problems in 2009 with the economy regardless, but they'll be less.

The 21st century couldn't come soon enough. I look forward to January 20, 2009, to working with President-elect Obama and this Democratic Congress to make America great again.

□ 1015

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT
AND PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of two critical bills: the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act.

More than 40 years have passed since the passage of the Equal Pay Act. Unfortunately, women still earn less than men for the same work, and that is unfair. Women earn 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. The pay gap is even more severe amongst minority women. African American women earn 69 cents. Hispanic women earn just 56 cents on the dollar.

The story of Lilly Ledbetter is a case in point of the barriers faced by women today. It's time for a change. Simply because of her gender, Ms. Ledbetter was paid 20 percent less for performing the same job that her male colleagues performed. It's unfair.

The gap doesn't just affect women. It affects the Nation's economy. Women represent 41 percent of the total heads of households and sole income earners in this country. We cannot afford to weaken the ability of our breadwinners to pay for the basics, like groceries, child care and health care, especially as we face a growing economic recession.

I urge us to support this legislation.

HOUSE GOP TALKERS ON
STIMULUS

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

Mr. PENCE. As every American knows, this economy is hurting, and millions of Americans are anxious.

House Republicans applaud our President-elect for focusing on legislation. Today, President-elect Obama will say that this Congress must act boldly and act now, and we agree. He has invited House Republicans to bring forward ideas to stimulate this economy, and we will gladly do so, but the American people know we cannot borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy.

In that vein, House Republicans will insist that tax relief go to taxpayers, that it be permanent and that it create jobs. We'll demand a stimulus plan to be transparent and accountable and achieve its intended results. As this legislation is developed, there will be the need for competing interests and for compromise, but let this point be clear:

In this cause, in the cause of stimulus legislation, House Republicans will be on the side of the people who will pay for the stimulus bill. House Republicans will be on the side of the American taxpayer and will demand a stimulus plan that will turn loose the

inherent power of the American economy, a stimulus plan that will be accountable, transparent and will achieve the intended result.

AMERICA'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY
PLAN

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the 111th Congress this week, we are plagued by an economic crisis that continues to affect every family in America. We must act now to address these serious challenges or we could experience an even deeper economic downturn and continued job losses this year.

Passing an economic recovery package that provides a short-term economic boost and that invests in America's future is a priority for this new Congress.

Rebuilding our crumbling roads, bridges and schools will create jobs today and will transform our economy tomorrow. Making public buildings more energy efficient will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and will create high-wage jobs in all communities.

We must invest in our aging water and sewer systems. Fifty- and 100-year-old pipes lack the capacity to support our growing population and to preserve and protect our Nation's drinking water.

Mr. Speaker, these problems are not partisan, and our solution should not be either. Democrats and Republicans must come together now to get our economy back on track and to reinvest in America's financial future.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THE
LATE SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of the late Senator Claiborne Pell, who passed away last week after an inspiring career as a Senator from Rhode Island and as a strong advocate for higher education. Most famously, Senator Pell authored legislation in 1972 that created the higher education grant program that bears his name and that has allowed millions of low- and middle-income students to attend college.

Senator Pell was known as a modest man, and he often shied away from the attention he received for creating the Pell Grant program, originally entitled the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, and that was modeled after the GI bill. Senator Pell believed that the fastest way for Americans to prosper was through education and that making education accessible was essential.

While grant awards under Senator Pell's program have risen since it was first enacted, they have not kept pace with the rising cost of attending college. Despite the efforts of the 110th

Congress through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act to raise the Pell Grant maximum to \$6,000 per year, many families are still burdened by the rising costs of higher education.

In the 111th Congress, I hope we continue Senator Pell's goal of educating our youth by working to ensure adequate funding for all forms of student financial aid such as the Perkins loan program and SEOG. Funding for these programs will help to ensure that higher education is affordable and accessible to all students regardless of one's income or background.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 12:55 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 20 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 12:55 p.m.

□ 1301

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 1 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

COUNTING ELECTORAL VOTES—
JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE
AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT
TO THE PROVISIONS OF SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1

At 1:01 p.m., the Majority Floor Services Chief, Barry Sullivan, announced the Vice President and the Senate of the United States.

The Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, headed by the Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate, the Members and officers of the House rising to receive them.

The Vice President took his seat as the Presiding Officer of the joint convention of the two Houses, the Speaker of the House occupying the chair on his left. Senators took seats to the right of the rostrum as prescribed by law.

The joint session was called to order by the Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, the Senate and House of Representatives are meeting in joint session to verify the certificates and count the votes of the electors of the several States for President and Vice President of the United States.

After ascertainment has been had that the certificates are authentic and correct in form, the tellers will count and make a list of the votes cast by the electors of the several States.

The tellers on the part of the two Houses will take their places at the clerk's desk.

The tellers, Mr. SCHUMER and Mr. BENNETT on the part of the Senate, and

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California on the part of the House, took their places at the desk.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, the tellers will dispense with reading formal portions of the certificates. After ascertaining that certificates are regular in form and authentic, the tellers will announce the votes cast by the electors for each State, beginning with Alabama.

The tellers then proceeded to read, count, and announce the electoral votes of the several States in alphabetical order.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Members of Congress, the certificates having been read, the tellers will ascertain and deliver the result to the President of the Senate.

The tellers delivered to the President of the Senate the following statement of results:

JOINT SESSION TO COUNT ELECTORAL VOTES,
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

Electoral votes of each State	For President		For Vice President	
	Barack Obama	John McCain	Joseph Biden	Sarah Palin
Alabama—9		9		9
Alaska—3		3		3
Arizona—10		10		10
Arkansas—6		6		6
California—55	55		55	
Colorado—9	9		9	
Connecticut—7	7		7	
Delaware—3	3		3	
District of Columbia—3	3		3	
Florida—27	27		27	
Georgia—15		15		15
Hawaii—4	4		4	
Idaho—4		4		4
Illinois—21	21		21	
Indiana—11	11		11	
Iowa—7	7		7	
Kansas—6		6		6
Kentucky—8		8		8
Louisiana—9		9		9
Maine—4	4		4	
Maryland—10	10		10	
Massachusetts—12	12		12	
Michigan—17	17		17	
Minnesota—10	10		10	
Mississippi—6		6		6
Missouri—11		11		11
Montana—3		3		3
Nebraska—5		4		4
Nevada—5	5		5	
New Hampshire—4		4		4
New Jersey—15	15		15	
New Mexico—5	5		5	
New York—31	31		31	
North Carolina—15	15		15	
North Dakota—3		3		3
Ohio—20	20		20	
Oklahoma—7		7		7
Oregon—7	7		7	
Pennsylvania—21	21		21	
Rhode Island—4	4		4	
South Carolina—8		8		8
South Dakota—3		3		3
Tennessee—11		11		11
Texas—34		34		34
Utah—5		5		5
Vermont—3		3		3
Virginia—13	13		13	
Washington—11	11		11	
West Virginia—5		5		5
Wisconsin—10	10		10	
Wyoming—3		3		3
Total—538				

CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
ROBERT F. BENNETT,
Tellers on the part of the Senate.
ROBERT A. BRADY of Pennsylvania,
DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California,
Tellers on the part of the House of Representatives.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The state of the vote for President of the United

States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of the electors appointed to vote for President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

Barack Obama of the State of Illinois has received for President of the United States 365 votes.

JOHN MCCAIN of the State of Arizona has received 173 votes.

The state of the vote for Vice President of the United States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of the electors appointed to vote for Vice President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

JOE BIDEN of the State of Delaware has received for Vice President of the United States 365 votes.

Sarah Palin of the State of Alaska has received 173 votes.

This announcement of the state of the vote by the President of the Senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States each for the term beginning on the 20th day of January, 2009, and shall be entered, together with the list of the votes, on the Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The purpose of the joint session having been concluded, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 111th Congress, the Chair declares the joint session dissolved.

(Thereupon, at 1 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m., the joint session of the two Houses of Congress dissolved.)

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, 111th Congress, the electoral vote will be spread at large upon the Journal.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1406

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STIMULUS PACKAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

What I would like to do today is to talk a little bit about the new stimulus package that President-elect Obama

and some of the leadership has been talking about, the last stimulus package that we did, the rescue plan, and talk a little bit about the timetable.

And exactly, Mr. Speaker, where the people of this country may get an idea of exactly where we're going because sometimes things happen so fast in Washington that they don't really have an opportunity to grasp exactly what has happened to them not only now, but in the future. And not only in their future, but in their children's future and in their grandchildren's future.

So what I would like to do today is talk a little bit about how we got into the situation that we're in now and what direction the new administration and the new majority or the larger majority is going to take us.

And what I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is start in October of 2007 when the Dow Jones was 14,078, October 10. The Bush administration responded to the unfolding subprime mortgage crisis with the HOPE program, which was a program designed to help people in foreclosure to go back and to renegotiate their mortgages.

At the time, if you will remember, we were told that there were about 80 million mortgages in this country, about 5 percent of them were bad or subprime or delinquent, which is about 4 million loans. January of 2008, the Dow closed at 11,971, and it has gone down continually since then.

In September of 2008, we were informed—the White House, the Congress was informed by Secretary Paulson that we were in a financial crisis; that something had to be done to unfreeze the credit market; that the credit market was frozen; that banks couldn't borrow from each other or wouldn't lend to each other; that large corporations were not able to do overnight borrowing; that student loans were not there; that automobile loans were not there; that loans for new homes were not there, and that we need to unfreeze this. And to unfreeze this, it was going to take \$700 billion.

Now, \$700 billion is a lot of money, and it's going to affect people for a long time. It's going to create more of a deficit for our country, which a lot of people in this body, especially on the majority side of the aisle, has said was not good policy, not good finances to spend deficits. So we had \$700 billion.

Now, if you take the 4 million delinquent or toxic assets or mortgages, that's about \$175,000 per mortgage. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't know of a lot of mortgages that were in trouble that \$175,000 would not have cured.

But what we did is we didn't do anything with those mortgages. We decided that we would bail out those guys that had taken these mortgages and had leveraged them 45, sometimes 50 percent. And while they were doing this, they were making money hand-over-fist. While the poor guy in the house was losing his home, he was losing his job, this guy that had come up with all of this creative financial stuff

with all of these derivatives that nobody really understood, and the only thing a lot of the guys coming up with these derivatives understood is that they were making a ton of money. So they were selling these things. And not only did it affect our economy and our banks and our financial institutions, but it did worldwide.

□ 1415

These four million bad loans that could have been solved with \$175,000 each, if you took from the \$700 billion—probably much, much, much less than that—and all of a sudden we had this great financial crisis.

And so the one thing that I heard, Mr. Speaker, over and over again, not only in this body, but in the Senate and all the pundits on some of these talk shows, was, well, this is kind of like a traffic accident on the expressway and it's got all of the lanes blocked. Credit is frozen. This is the highway of credit; it's frozen. And behind it sitting in line in traffic is the student loans, the car loans, the mortgage loans, the small business loans, the payroll loans, all the credit is sitting in line. We've got to free up this accident. And so we did. Congress voted to free up this accident. All lanes are clear—well, at least the majority of the lanes are clear; we've only done \$350 billion of the \$700 billion, but they're going to be back wanting the other \$350 billion.

But the credit market is not unfrozen. We still have people today that are getting foreclosed on every day. I don't care if you've got credit that's 850 on your credit score, you probably couldn't go borrow a dime today. These banks and these financial institutions, AIG is one—you know, AIG used to write bonds for construction and development. They wrote bonds. They won't even write you a bond now, and the government has given them about \$125 billion. What are we doing?

So if you look at all of these things that were intended in this one bailout that was intended to unfreeze the credit market, we can see that it hasn't worked. And not only has it not worked, we have not even tried to make any of these lending institutions, these banks, holding companies, insurance companies accountable for the money that we've given them.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that you've got the same thing I've got, community banks, small banks calling me every day saying we've applied for the TARP, we've applied for the Capital program, we can't get any money. We can't get any money. And so what's happening? If you think that the big nine banks are going to come into these communities and loan somebody money to start a beauty salon or a car wash or an automotive repair, or whatever, you're badly mistaken. The community bankers, those small banks in our communities that know Fred and they know Jane, they know their families,

they know what kind of reputation they've got, they know their ability to pay back this money, these are the people that are being squeezed out. And the American people are depending on us to do something about it.

I was happy to talk to Chairman FRANK, and he said within the next 2 weeks he's going to have legislation come out of Financial Services that's going to do that. We need to make these people accountable because the very taxpayers that are paying the \$700 billion that we've given to the fat cats to balance their books and to hold the money to buy out the small and the community bank, we've given them the money and we still can't get credit.

Mr. Speaker, I had a Chrysler dealer that came into my office and he sat down and told me over a period of time, a small period of time, he had sent 155 contracts or sales to Chrysler; they had approved seven of them. If we were supposed to have cleared the wreck and we were supposed to freed up this credit market, it has not worked, and the American people and myself and many others in this body want to know why it has not worked.

Now, let's look at the deficit for a minute because we're borrowing this money that we're using to stimulate or to buy out—or whatever you want to call—remember that we passed a \$150 billion stimulus package, Mr. Speaker, where we actually sent checks to people to stir up the economy, to give the economy credibility. I don't think it worked. Evidently it didn't work. So what's been the result of that? We borrowed that \$150 billion from China.

The stimulus that's being discussed today—now, we're beyond the \$700 billion stimulus—well, let's start out with the \$150 billion stimulus, then the \$700 billion stimulus, and then the loan to the automakers. And now we're talking about another \$700, \$800 billion up to 1.3 trillion. Now, keep in mind if you look at the bailout that had already been done after the first stimulus where we gave checks back to people, we had AIG, we had IndyMac, we had Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, we had the housing bill, we had already spent about \$700 billion. You're starting to talk about some real money now, Mr. Speaker.

You now, this range of \$800 billion to \$1.3 trillion, what does that mean? Well, I'll tell you what it means; it means that the deficit for 2009 is going to be \$1.3 trillion, triple the current year's deficit. In fact, it's going to be 9 percent of our gross domestic product, 9 percent of our gross domestic product in this one—not counting all the other things—this one deficit in this 1 year, 9 percent, which is a 50 percent increase over World War II's record deficit of 6 percent of the gross domestic product. So what that means is that some governments, some countries are thinking about charging us a prime or a premium interest rate from foreign investors, such as China is now thinking about charging us a premium for this

money that we're borrowing from them.

Now, what I've heard is that this majority plan, the Democratic plan, Mr. Speaker, that's coming from the President-elect and the Senate and the House leaders is that this infrastructure, part of this will be infrastructure projects that's ready to go, shovel ready so to speak, they're ready to get out there and they're ready to get it on. The Conference of Mayors published a list of these projects that were ready to go, they put it on their Web site. So Mr. Speaker, if anybody was listening today—and I have to remember that most of my constituents at 2:30 in the afternoon, those that have jobs are out working. We didn't have any votes today in this body, so for you that may be taping this or may have an opportunity of a loved one to see it, we actually counted votes today—or had some people count them for us and we watched them. So we had a pretty easy day today, had a pretty easy day yesterday. In fact, we were out by about two o'clock yesterday. We'll probably have a pretty easy day tomorrow, I think we've got two bills. But for those of you that are watching—and that could be, Mr. Speaker, if I was talking to somebody out in the audience, if I was addressing them I would tell them to go to a Conference of Mayors Web site and look at some of these projects that are ready to go, that are infrastructure and vital—I believe it says vital infrastructure projects. The first one is \$350,000 for an Albuquerque, New Mexico fitness center. That's a vital project. Ninety-four million for a parking garage at the Orange Bowl in Miami. Now, these are the ready-to-go infrastructure projects that our tax dollars are going to go into, these are those vital projects; \$4.5 million for Gretna, Florida to bottle water with recyclable bottles; \$35 million, Music Hall of Fame in Missouri; \$55 million for a mob museum in Las Vegas that's described in the Mayor's report as "historic post office museum rehabilitation." You know, we think of so many good ways to name these bills that they just are really warm and fuzzy, and so sometimes you don't pull back the covers. Twenty million for a minor league baseball museum in Durham, North Carolina, and \$6 million for snowmaking and maintenance facilities at Spirit Mountain, Minnesota. Now, I apologize to those Members, Mr. Speaker, that these are in their districts and that these may have been put in—not necessarily put in the package to get a vote or two, I don't know. But what I do know is that the lady and the gentleman and the family that's sitting around the kitchen table wanting to know how they're going to pay their house note or their car note or what they're going to do because mom or dad, or both, don't have a job, they don't think these are such vital projects. They don't think they're that vital. What they think is vital is us

starting to do something rather than just talking.

We've been talking long enough. It's time to take some action and to have some real cure for the taxpayers of this country; and not just the taxpayers today, but the taxpayers of the future, my children and my grandchildren, and maybe even my great grandchildren at the rate that we're going.

I'll turn now, after we've talked about that for a little bit, Mr. Speaker, and I want to quote President-elect Obama, January 8, 2009, "Only government can break the vicious cycles that are crippling our economy." You know, I think there is some truth in that. Although I think that we the people, the entrepreneurs, the free market system, do a much better job than government doing anything, but I think the truth of this statement is that only government can break the vicious cycle. Yeah, government's got to get out of it. If we want to break the vicious cycle that we're in of rewarding bad behavior, we've got to get out of this and let the market take care of itself. But no, we haven't learned from that because, you know, you would think that with the Dow going down every day, even with all the money that we're pumping in it, we would go, you know what? This isn't working. We've got a problem here. Let's look at it, let's see what it is. And we might find out that we're our own worst enemy, Mr. Speaker.

But let's talk about the national debt. Let's talk about the deficit. The national debt is currently more than 10.6 trillion—and I'm talking with a "T." You know, it took me a while, when I got into government, to learn what a million dollars was, and then it took me a little bit longer to learn what a billion is. It's hard to get your head around a trillion. So Mr. Speaker, if anybody is at home that is going to go to the Mayors Conference vital projects Web site might also want to go to a math Web site and try to figure out how much a trillion is. But our national debt today is \$10.6 trillion, continues to grow. The national debt has increased by \$2 trillion since the Democrats took over Congress just 2 years ago, \$2 trillion increase.

The President-elect on 60 Minutes, November 16, said we shouldn't worry about the deficit next year or even the year after. Speaker PELOSI, on a floor speech on March 17 of 2005, said, "Democrats have made a commitment to honor the value of accountability, including eliminating deficit spending." STENY HOYER, speech at the National Press Club September 28, 2007, Mr. Speaker, he said, "Today Democrats are fighting to restore the fiscal discipline that has been sorely lacking since 2001. Why? Because we believe deficits and spiraling debt threaten our future prosperity and national security." What has changed in a year, a little over a year; what's changed?

Rahm Emanuel, the President-elect's Chief of Staff in the White House, Jan-

uary 26, 2005 floor speech, "If you're looking for a crisis to solve, look no further than the President's budget deficit. The President's reckless policies are damaging our Nation's future." This is the same Chief of Staff of the President-elect that the President-elect said we shouldn't worry about the deficit next year or even the year after.

□ 1430

BART GORDON, in a press release of January 5, 2007, said, "American families must live within their budgets, and it's time for Congress to do the same."

MIKE ROSS, in a floor speech December 6, 2005, said, "Deficits do matter. Deficits reduce economic growth. They burden our children and grandchildren with liabilities. They increase our reliance on foreign lenders who now own 40 percent of our debt." That's right, foreign lenders now own 40 percent of our debt.

I would venture to say to my good friend from Arkansas I would like to work with him to try to find out what percentage foreign investors and lenders own of our debt right now, where they're even thinking about charging us premium interest because 9 percent of our gross domestic product is going to be in that debt.

TIM RYAN, July 6, 2004: "We have almost a \$600 billion annual deficit for the past year. This is getting rolled into our \$7 trillion debt that we have. So almost 20 percent of our annual budget that we pay down here is interest on the debt that we have. So if you keep accruing the big debt, you have to keep taking tax money to pay it off. Who's lending us this money? Japan and China are lending us this money."

Mr. RYAN, you're right. They are. But now rather than a \$7 trillion debt, it's a \$10.6 trillion debt that has increased by \$2 trillion since the Democrats have been in charge here.

BRAD ELLSWORTH, in a press release January 5, 2007: "Hoosier families in my district make the tough choices to balance their family's budget. Congress should be held to the same standard when it comes to our Nation's budget."

RON KLEIN, in a floor speech on September 10, 2008: "It's now the Democrats, many of us, who are sort of leading the fight on fiscal discipline. We are the fiscal hawks."

Representative KLEIN, the gentleman from Florida, I hope you're right. I hope you're telling the American people the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this is truth that's come out where these people said we're going to look after the fiscal well-being of this country, because if they follow this plan or if they follow the plan that's being discussed right now by the President-elect and the majority in the House and the majority in the Senate, these things are going to be a lot worse than what they were when they were reading these floor speeches. So they're going to be caught head on looking into the headlights of what they've said and how that's going

to balance out with what they do. Mr. Speaker, we are going to be held accountable for what we say and especially in what we do.

So if you want to look at Mr. CARDOZA, in a floor speech December 6 of 2006: "The past few years the Republican rule in Washington has left our Nation severely crippled with debt. Reckless fiscal policies have turned record surpluses into record deficits in 6 short years. Democrats believe that fiscal responsibility is a crucial ingredient in good government. The American people turned to Democrats to get our Nation's books out of the red."

What a disappointment that must be, Mr. Speaker, for the American people to find out that they hired the Democrats to get the American books out of the red and since that time the debt has grown by \$2 trillion.

DAN BOREN, in a press release January 5, 2007: "If the government is going to buy something, Congress has to figure out how to pay for it. It's time the government be held to the same standards as every American family."

I couldn't agree with you more, Representative BOREN. I couldn't agree with you more. We need to be held to those same standards as that American family. But you know what? We're not. And the path that has been laid out, the map that has been laid out by the majority that has been increased in both the House and the Senate and by the President-elect, we're not headed out of the red, we're headed deeper into the red. But this red is not just for this generation, it's for our children and our grandchildren.

KENDRICK MEEK, in a floor speech June 22, 2005: "The share of the national debt for every American is \$26,255.76. This has to be paid off. This is not monopoly money. This is not funny money. When this House was run by Democrats, we balanced the budget without one Republican vote, and that is a fact. That is prima facie evidence, as they say in the courtroom. That is not a fabrication. That is not an exaggeration. That is not something that some Democrat said on the floor and it's not true. We balanced the budget."

I want to challenge the gentleman from Florida, my friend (Mr. MEEK), to balance the budget. I want to do that. I see my good friend over here. She wants to balance the budget. We all want to balance the budget. And to balance the budget, we're going to have to make some tough, tough decisions in this House. We cannot continue to go down the same road that we have been going down. Sure, we have borrowed the money to do this, but you know what? Here's the hard part: The hard part is that the people that we have done these things for are not receiving the relief and we are still not unfreezing the credit market. So what are we doing? We're not unfreezing the credit market. What we are doing is we're piling more and more and more and more debt on them. So we have got to bring that to a close.

I see a good friend of mine from Texas, the gentleman that came up with one of the most brilliant tax packages last December that I know of but we can't seem to get a hearing on it or seem to get it to the floor for a vote, and that's my friend from the First District of Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

You've made some wonderful points, but I come back to the statement you have in quotes there from our President-elect. I have great hope that he will be able to instill more confidence and more calm to help reassure the economy. But the statement "Only government can break the vicious cycles that are crippling our economy" is more of the same. We were promised change, and even though I'm a Republican and he's a Democrat, I was hoping we would get the change and get away from the government's interfering in everything.

We should have done a better job, the Federal Government should have, in monitoring what was being done and spent. But the fact is you go back to the late 1930s, the government just kept getting bigger and bigger. The government kept getting involved more and more. It has continued to expand and grow. And you look at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Those are governmental creations, and then when they got in trouble in 2002, 2003, fortunately we at that time had a Secretary of the Treasury that was concerned about it and fought here on the Hill to try to get someone to take notice and to start better regulating Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. But the government was more interested in continuing to throw money at the issue and not to fix it.

Our job, and we have said this before, is to provide for the common defense and then beyond that create a level, fair playing field, make sure everybody's playing fair, punish the cheaters, and let free enterprise work. And more and more and more we are getting the government in running things.

And now after the bailout of September, it has grown even more. We have got the government buying interest in banks, buying interest in automakers, creating a car czar, for goodness sakes. We can't design a good pen or an ID card for ourselves here all that easily, much less a car. Good grief.

But, anyway, "Only government can break the vicious cycles that are crippling our economy." Our government is crippling our economy. It did in September. It continues to. It has for many years. The trick is to allow the free enterprise and the entrepreneurship that is so inherent in this society that has made us the greatest Nation, I believe, in the history of the world, and yet that's not change, "Only government can break the vicious cycles."

Mr. WESTMORELAND. The gentleman brought up a good point about

government and the fact that we have an interest now in banks and we have an interest in the car business. We even have a car czar I guess that's going to tell them what kind of cars will sell best.

But the question I have and I think the question that the American people have is the government is what brought this on in the Community Reinvestment Act. And, look, I love the Community Reinvestment Act in some of the design of it because I believe in downtown redevelopment. I think we need to go into some of these downtown areas, especially places like Detroit and other places, to redevelop that downtown. These downtowns are beautiful. So some of that Community Reinvestment Act was good.

But the part that was put in place in 1995 by President Clinton that told these lending institutions, look, you're either going to make so many of these loans to people who can't afford them or we are going to fine you, and then we, the government, are bailing out these people that not only took that but then made all these different loan programs with derivatives that nobody in the free world with any type of computer could figure out, and here we are; so the government's being involved—and that's why this statement right here concerns me so much when it says "Only government can break the vicious cycles." There's truth in that, but it's kind of a different truth than what the President-elect means. We can break the cycle; we've got to get out of it.

Mr. GOHMERT. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Yes.

Mr. GOHMERT. I appreciate the gentleman's yielding.

We do need to have the Federal watchdog groups like the SEC do a better job of monitoring and seeking out the cheaters and the crooks. And that should have happened with Madoff. It should have happened with many things that have been going on. Some of the problems are right within government itself. And so the gentleman from Georgia, my friend, is exactly right. The government will break the vicious cycle by getting out and by becoming more a policeman, going after people that are cheating, instead of trying to dictate everything. It is killing this country to move so quickly towards socialism.

Now, I brought this up in a meeting previously back in September that when the government buys interest in banks, buys interest in stock brokerage firms, car dealers, whatever it is, that's called socialism, and the government becomes a partner and eventually the government takes over the business. That's how socialism works.

I was told by a colleague here obviously these things are not socialism because the socialists are not in favor of the September bailout bill.

Well, after it passed, I saw one of the socialist leaders on television saying,

yes, you know, initially we weren't for the bailout because we didn't think money should be paid to Wall Street and all these other groups, but now that it's past, we realize the government's taking over the financial sector, the insurance company, all these things are great. It's the greatest day for socialism in American history.

So it was socialism. It is socialism. I have used the example before, but I learned a great lesson on exactly why socialism never works. Not only did it not work for the New Testament church, and eventually Apostle Paul had to issue an order that if you don't work, you don't eat, it didn't work for the Pilgrims. They had too many people starve to death the first year; so they went to private property and it flourished.

But the summer I spent as an exchange student in the Soviet Union allowed a trip out to a collective farm, and the fields looked bad. And I have worked on lots of farms and ranches, and normally you get your work done early, early, before the sun gets to its peak. And all the farmers were sitting in the shade, and it was obvious they hadn't worked so far as midmorning.

□ 1445

And so I spoke a little Russian back then, and I said, you know, trying to be as nice as I could, when do you work out in the field? They laughed. One of them said, I make the same number of rubles if I am out there in the field or if I am here in the shade, so I am here in the shade.

Many people don't understand why socialism isn't a good idea. It always fails. The only way the Soviet Union made it last for 70 years, they had to have a tyrannical government that killed people or put people in prison if they didn't abide by it or work.

Our government, country, had flourished because the government was the policeman and not the dictator. That's what we have got to get back to.

I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you. Now I want to recognize another friend of mine from New Jersey, the Honorable Representative GARRETT.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the gentleman from Georgia and appreciate his taking the lead on this Special Order hour this afternoon.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I told him that most of our constituents were still at work.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. There you go, and likewise mine in the great State of New Jersey.

Let me preface my comment, the gentlady from Ohio would like in a moment to speak.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Sure.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Because she worked with me on the issue that we are talking about here, that your comment is only to break the vicious cycles that are crippling our economy. You have to couch that in the correct terminology as to what

government can do and what they shouldn't do.

We came to the floor, what was it, several months ago now, 2 months ago now, I guess, time flies, when we were dealing with can the government solve the problem out on Wall Street? Can the government solve the problem with regard to all the banks? Can the government solve the problem with regard to the crippling lending situation that was going on in this country at that time?

And we heard, or we were told by the White House just down the street, and some folks from leadership right here, and the legislative body—but, absolutely, government can do it, and they can do it with taxpayer dollars, \$700 billion. I will use the word “scheme,” they called it a “plan” at the time, that government would solve the problem.

A few of us, not enough, a few of us came to the floor at that time and said, you know, maybe government just can't solve that problem by saying that we have the only answer to do it.

One of the people who joined us with that fight was the gentlady from Ohio. And I would like her to address those issues again why they couldn't solve it in the manner they were suggesting.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I yield to the gentlady from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Last year back in the Congress when it really mattered, when that proposal came down like a fast ball down the center aisle here from the administration and wanted the American people to put forward nearly \$1 trillion and normal hearings were not held. The membership, I don't think, was respected at that time.

Thank goodness, it's a new Congress, and we have now seen that the Treasury Department, under Mr. Paulson's leadership, was more than happy to take over \$250 billion of the American people's money and to distribute it to their favored friends. We don't even know who all those friends are. We read press reports. There has been no proper oversight, and we don't know who the recipients have been.

I can tell you, and I was identifying so much with the gentleman from Texas, because in my region of northern Ohio the foreclosures are increasing, unabated, the pace of increase. And just last December we had another 300, right before Christmas, 300 more families dislodged from their homes. This month, we had the same.

I went over to the Treasury. Right before Christmas, when Congress left, I came back with a big scroll. I took over to the Treasury 4,100 addresses in Lucas County, Toledo, Ohio, of every citizen that had lost their home in my district in 2008.

The Secretary wasn't there to see me. So we went out in the back and we

unrolled the scroll, which went all the way down the stairs on the south side of the Treasury building. And we took some photos, and we put them up on our Web site. We pleaded with the people from Treasury to please work with us, not to make it a bad holiday for the people in our region, not to make it a bad new year, to find a way to gather the agencies.

One of the assistants to the Secretary gathered us, and we asked for a televideo conference with people back home. We did that over at the Library of Congress, where Treasury officials, FDIC, SEC, HUD, Federal Reserve—and we had the people back home, realtors, the county commissioners, the auditors. We had all of the interest groups back home in this conversation—and it was great to have a conversation on how can we stop the hemorrhage in the mortgage markets?

It didn't happen. Christmas came, Hanukkah came, more hundreds of people got dislodged from their homes, and the system just didn't work.

Unfortunately, the administration said to us, well we really need a housing czar. I said, we said we don't need a housing czar. We need for the agencies to use their regulatory power to get the market to work. Let the market heal itself. You are not using these powers to let the market heal itself.

As a result, my region has had auctioneers come in. One company from Texas actually came in. I read about it in the newspaper, and I went to the auction of homes that were auctioned off for \$4,500. For that amount of money, we could have put the original owner back in.

But the HUD money hadn't come. The HUD money wasn't there so the city couldn't bid on its own properties. Outside investors, one outside investor bought 137 properties.

These properties are not maintained. What happens is people break in them and they steal the copper wiring and the chandeliers, and they become gutted units. This is what is happening.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Absentee ownership.

Ms. KAPTUR. Absentee ownership. What is happening in my community is horrendous, and yet I see these Wall Street banks get more money. Wells Fargo—I will say their names. Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, U.S. Bank, these are the ones that are causing huge problems in my region. And when they get acquisition of the property, they don't manage it because they don't care about our community.

We are a dot on the map for them. You know what? I was sitting here, I was thinking, what is going on here? I figured out, you know what they are going to do? They are going to take the loss on those properties, their original worth, and then the \$4,500 they got, they are going to take the loss and book it on their tax returns for 2008 and make a huge windfall in the Tax Code, which isn't fair to the American people, because the American people are footing the bill here.

So we have a lot of work that we have to do to heal this system and to heal this market. The one gentleman was talking about, you know, when the government takes over it's socialism. I don't know exactly what to call it when the Treasury Department really has rescued all these banks. The fascist system used to do that. They are combines, they are industrial combines, and their banking combines were one and the same with the government. But it's an "ism" of some kind.

I thank very much the gentleman. We share the same deep concern.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I appreciate the gentlelady's comments she made. I know a number of other individuals would like to make some remarks.

Let me just be brief, the gentlelady actually made four excellent points.

One, she made the point that with regard to the idea of whether government can be the solution to all the problems, is there a rush to judgment? Yes, there was a rush to judgment with regard to what we did last year with the spending of \$700 billion on TARP. Today, there sounds like there is a rush to judgment, what may be going on in the spending that we may be doing in the future.

Now, BARNEY FRANK said the other day, a week ago, he said these were artificial deadlines that were being set, whether we are talking about TARP or the auto situation or now the spending going forward, the sun still rose tomorrow, to quote BARNEY FRANK. The sun will still rise tomorrow with regard to our economy as well. We should not set artificial deadlines.

The gentlelady also made an important comment when she said it's the people's money that we are dealing with here. We have to always remember that. It's the taxpayers' dollars. So we must be careful how it's spent.

Also, within that subset of the comment, it is the nature of politics that it will be political decisions, as opposed to market decisions, that will direct the forces of the dollars. We should allow market forces to direct it.

Thirdly, she made a great point, which I was going to make as well, oversight, past and future. Oversight. We didn't have oversight in the past. It doesn't sound like we are going to have a heck of a lot of oversight going forward. Even if we do have a little modicum of oversight right now, a hearing or two on this billion, trillion dollars that we are about to spend, just as with the housing situation, it is impossible for the Federal Government to manage all these dollars going forward. Likewise here going forward, it will be impossible to manage it.

Finally, she made a good point as well, and I will close on this, market, heal thyself, is what she said. Likewise here, whether it's the credit market, the financial market or the unemployment market, we can allow the private sector, with the assist of the government getting out of the way for the

market to heal thyself in those situations as well in the appropriate manner.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Let me just make a couple of comments too about some of the things that the lady from Ohio said, of those 4,162 people, I wonder if they would be interested to know if they took the \$700 billion, that about \$175,000 each of that would have paid and straightened out their mortgage.

They would be appalled to know that. Not only that, if the government had been serious about this, and it put that money and told those banks that made those loans, whether the government made them, make them or what, you need to go back and renegotiate those loans, whether it's for 40 years or 50 years at a less percentage rate so you are getting your money back, that's what you need to do.

But, no, it's a lot easier to give it to the big cats and let them wipe the slate clean, let them fix their balance sheet, throw those people out, sell it for whatever they can and go on about their business. That's wrong.

I would like to recognize my friend from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Well, I appreciate the gentleman conducting this hour. Of course, when you come late to the game, you are going to be repeating some of the things that have been said, but I think that some of these things bear repeating.

I think the number one premise that the American people need to be listening, as we have this debate, about further actions that this government might take to intervene in these markets, is to remind everybody whose money this is. Now, some people out there think that it's the government's money, and we let the American people keep some of it.

Others think that small businesses and hard-working families across America that are working hard and conducting business, that money belongs to them. That's the premise that I believe in.

As a former small businessman, like the gentleman is as well, I have been out in the marketplace, and I know what market forces are. What I do know is that government is always a hindrance to market forces and has very seldom been oil for commerce.

As we begin to do this, we are going to be talking about who do we trust? There are those that voted, the other day, that said we don't trust the American people to distribute their money.

Then there are those of us that voted that said, you know what, we trust American small businesses and hard-working families with their own money, and we believe we know the right prescription on how to stimulate the economy, how to spend money.

One of the things that we know is that the more money you let a small business or a large business keep, the more money they are able to reinvest in their business. And what happens when they reinvest in their business? They create jobs.

What do American people want? American people want the opportunity that this great country affords them. And what greater opportunity than to have a good job. And plowing billions and trillions now, we are talking trillions of dollars, into feel-good things isn't going to stimulate this economy. As the gentleman knows, which is the reason I introduced a bill, today, in fact, that is going to allow the American people to keep more of their money.

It's going to allow small businesses and large businesses to keep more of their money, because that's the cheapest capital that they can obtain. So if we are taking a smaller bite out of that, they can buy, start another factory or buy another truck for their electrical contracting business or whatever business they are in. And what happens when they buy another truck, they have got to have employees for that truck.

What does that do that creates more jobs? So I hope the American people are listening to this very carefully, because, really, there are a lot of fancy words being used here, but the real word is trust, some don't trust the American people. I just want the American people to know I trust them.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Well, and I think the gentleman makes a great point because, you know, change was the key word of this election cycle. And I think the American people love that word "change," and they did want to change.

But I think the change they wanted was trust and transparency. That's what they thought change meant. If we are going down this path, and the path that the majority in the House and the majority in the Senate is talking about, was spending their tax dollars, it's not that trust and transparency that they are going to get.

You know, that's the amazing thing, these 4,162 foreclosures, they are the ones that put up the 700, or part of the \$700 billion to allow their house to be sold.

I see another good friend of mine, somebody that I have served with in the State legislature and now have a great opportunity to serve in Congress with, somebody that is the new Republican Study Committee chairman for this Congress, and I am certainly excited about that, and that's my friend, Dr. PRICE.

□ 1500

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I want to thank you for your leadership on this issue and hosting this hour and pointing out probably one of the most stark pieces of contrast information this early in the session with the poster you have there, where the President-elect said just today, "Only government can break the vicious cycles that are crippling our economy." It really is remarkable when you think about it. I know the American people believe in themselves strongly, I know we believe

in them, and I know that they know that government isn't necessarily the answer to all of our woes.

We are talking about solutions. We have remarkable challenges, and everybody wants a solution to this. But the root word of "solution" is to solve, and to take government money that has been talked about here that is not the government's money, that is the people's money, I am making just a short point on that, this is tax money that we don't have; that we don't have.

People think we are talking about this \$1.2 trillion or something like it is sitting over here in the corner and all we have got to do is figure out how to spend it. Well, it is not. It is on the backs of the children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren of the adults in this Nation. That is wrong. That is wrong.

There is a solution. There are positive solutions out there. You and our colleagues have talked about some of them today. They are allowing Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money, making it so that businesses, small and large, can create jobs, unlock the credit crisis, the credit freeze that we have had, and make certain that we move in a direction that allows the economy to expand and allows jobs to grow without spending money that we don't have.

That is one of the huge differences between the folks in charge right now and those of us who believe strongly in the American people and believe strongly in American principle, in American vision and American values, that would embrace a solution that would champion the individual, champion the American people.

So I want to commend you for what you are doing, and just mention that one of the casualties of all of this discussion is the concept of what a zero means. A zero tacked on to a zero tacked on to a zero with a one put in front is a lot of money when you get a lot of zeros, and the American people, frankly, Members of Congress, have lost sight about what a trillion dollars is.

One trillion dollars is virtually one-third of our current revenue that comes into the Federal Government, and when we are talking about trillion dollar deficits, that is spending again money that we don't have for, as the President-elect said today, as far as we can see. That is not the kind of policy that will result in positive improvement for the men and women across this Nation and growth in our economy, which is what we need.

The gentleman from Georgia knows that, having served at the State level and having put in place policies that have created remarkable opportunity for so many people. I wanted to thank you for your leadership.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you. Let me say this. I think \$1 trillion is actually 12 zeros. That is amazing. So I hope, Mr. Speaker, that anybody that is watching would go to a Web site that

has got some of these math solutions on it and look at exactly how much \$1 trillion is.

One billion seconds, one billion seconds is 32 years. There are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, 24 hours in a day, 365 days in a year. One billion seconds is 32 years. And we are talking trillions now, trillions with a "T."

Mr. Speaker, when I was running for office, when I was running for Congress, I had served in the State legislature. I went to a gathering and I met somebody there, he was a lobbyist for the peanut shellers, and as I got on the plane to come back to Georgia I thought to myself, you know, everybody must have a lobbyist. Everybody. If the peanut shellers of America have a lobbyist, then everybody must have a lobbyist.

But I thought of one group, one group and only one group in this country that does not have a lobbyist, and Mr. Speaker, you probably know who that group is, and I would imagine that anybody watching this knows what that group is. But in case you don't or you may have forgotten, I am going to tell you who that group is that does not have a lobbyist up here. That is the American people.

The American people have representatives up here. They have somebody that is supposed to represent them on this floor. And about half of America is being shut out because of the process. We are going to bring bills to the floor that are going to deal with the deficit. We are going to bring bills to the floor that are going to deal with the national debt. We are going to bring bills to the floor that are going to talk about health care and are going to talk about all different types of things.

Half of this body, Mr. Speaker, half of the Representatives, who are the only people in this city that represent our people back home, are going to be shut out of the process, because it is going to be done under suspension, which is a form that the majority has chosen to do some very important bills, without debate, without committee hearings, without input, in fact, a lot of times without even being available to be read for two or three hours.

That is no way to do business. So we not only have the problems that we have discussed here today with the budget, with the deficit, with the national debt. This whole process is broken. The whole process is broken.

The gentlelady from Ohio, the gentleman from New Jersey, myself, we all had amendments and different ideas that we wanted to put in this legislation. What is so wrong with letting us vote on it? Why did this have to happen so quickly and so immediately? Why is something more important than open, honest, fair debate? There is no dis-infectant in the world like sunlight. So we need to open up this process. We need to have sunlight.

Mr. Speaker, if I could tell the American people anything, it is to under-

stand that the only person in Washington, D.C., that is here on your behalf is your Representative. And let me tell you something, you better keep a close eye on him or her to make sure that they are representing you, and not only that they are representing you, but that they have the ability to have some input into what is happening in this body.

There are many Members in the majority party that can't get any input if they disagree with what is going on, not just if you are in the minority, but if you are in the majority. This has been a closed system, a closed House.

I am not saying we did it perfectly, Mr. Speaker, when we were in charge for 12 years. But I want to put all of that aside. President-elect Obama gave many people in this country hope. He gave them hope and he promised change, and part of that hope and that change was to open up the process and to work in a bipartisan way.

So as I am closing today, I want to hope. My hope is that your hope will be brought to fruition, and that we can sit in this Chamber and we can have open, honest discussions about how the constituents of the Third District of Georgia feel, or how the district of the gentlelady from Ohio's feels, or how the district of the gentleman from Virginia feels. We will make sure that our 600,000 or 700,000 constituents give the only representation they have in this body the ability to speak, to speak freely and openly and share ideas, not only with their colleagues, but with everybody in this country.

So, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask for them to contact their Representative, I would, and pay attention, because I promise you that nobody is going to look after you if they know that you are not looking at them.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I appreciate the opportunity that the minority leader gave me to share this hour with you and others.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO ENTERTAIN MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON TOMORROW

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to entertain motions to suspend the rules relating to House Resolution 34 on the legislative day of Friday, January 9, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 11, THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today I am here to express my support of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. I would like to commend and indeed applaud my colleagues Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO and Chairman GEORGE MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee for their tireless efforts in support of fair treatment in the workplace. Jobs are on everyone's mind, and I rise in support today of H.R. 11, not only because it is the right thing to do, but also because, for me, it is personal.

When our beloved mother, Anastasia, began work back in the middle of the last century as a counter waitress at a place called Liberty Lunch on Broadway in Toledo, Ohio, she did not even earn the minimum wage. And I will tell you what; she deserved it. That wage was only made possible by the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938. But even when that act passed, her vile boss would then cash her check and deduct the increase from her and pocket the money for himself. Sadly, stories of pay discrimination and inequity still reside across our country.

The Lilly Ledbetter bill is named after Lilly Ledbetter, who worked for almost 20 years at a Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company plant in Gadsden, Alabama. After finding out that she was the lowest paid supervisor at the plant where she worked, despite the fact that she had more experience than her male counterparts, Lilly sued Goodyear for unlawfully discriminating against her based on gender.

A jury found in her favor, but, of course, Goodyear, which has deep pockets and in fact is a defense contractor of our country, went to court. In fact, they had the money to go all the way to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court ruled in favor not of Lilly, but of Goodyear.

The Court cited the reason being that the time limit for her claim had passed as the initial discrimination happened nearly 20 years earlier. However, Lilly Ledbetter filed her charge as soon as she learned of the pay discrimination. It was not her fault that it took almost 20 years to learn of her situation.

The United States Supreme Court's decision changes the law, limiting any action to 180 days after the first incident of discriminatory activity. In such cases as Lilly Ledbetter's, it took nearly 20 years to have the discrimination come to light. This decision limits the ability of any employee to challenge discriminatory pay.

H.R. 11 will restore the law and justice by clarifying that each paycheck resulting from a discriminatory pay decision would constitute a new violation of the employment nondiscrimination law and reset the 180-day clock.

Employees do not go around asking each other how much money they earn

on each paycheck. In fact, many employers even explicitly prohibit such conversations. It is not like working for Congress, where our pay is public record. In addition, who would want to go around when they are at a new job and ask new coworkers their income and level of work experience as well as other data to evaluate if one's own pay is fair, knowing you have 180 days from your first paycheck to file with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission? Who would want to start a job like that?

□ 1515

Most new employees are more focused on doing their job and working hard and performing well so that he or she can keep their new position and continue to earn paychecks. In today's climate, an income is more critical than worrying about pay discrimination, but that too should not allow this practice to continue.

We cannot allow employers to hide behind a mere 180 days and potentially successfully carry out pay discrimination day after day.

Madam Speaker, that is why I'm an original cosponsor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. It's in memory of our own mother. This bill is not only about pay discrimination on the basis of gender, but also race, religion, national origin, disability or age. This bill is about doing the right thing to protect the hardworking people of this Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill as we begin the 111th Congress, and I want to thank Lilly Ledbetter for her life and for the life of working-class women and men across this country.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity today to support the Lilly Ledbetter Act of 2009, H.R. 11.

FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT

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

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, we saw yesterday the CBO projection that the Federal budget deficit for this fiscal year, which started in October, will balloon to \$1.2 trillion. A member of the Senate Budget Committee, KENT CONRAD, called it "jaw-dropping." And our budget chairman, JOHN SPRATT, said he got "sticker shock."

President-elect Obama has predicted that "potentially we've got trillion dollar deficits for years to come." President-elect Obama then said, "if we do nothing, then we will continue to see red ink as far as the eye can see."

Most Members know that our country is facing a critical crisis, and if we fail to find solutions that will halt a mortgaging of our children and grandchildren's future, I seriously consider and believe the 111th Congress will really go down as a failed Congress.

We have an opportunity at hand to deal with this issue, and we need to do it in a bipartisan way. There's a bipartisan plan on the table that Congressman COOPER of Tennessee and I have, called the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission, that sets up a bipartisan panel to put every spending program and tax policy on the table and require this institution that has avoided its responsibility to vote it on up or down.

Today's Washington Post, in this editorial which I will submit for the RECORD, talked about our effort and the tough decisions that Congress faces. The editorial said, "Ideally, Congress could make the necessary hard choices through the normal legislative process. Its repeated failure to do so, however, may necessitate a commission to recommend reforms for the House and Senate to accept or reject."

Amen. The Post is right. Unless we do the Cooper-Wolf concept of a commission, this Congress will not deal with the issue. And if we don't do it now, both parties, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, will have failed the American people, and both parties will have to explain to the American people their failure to act in the best interest of future generations.

Others have spoken out. Ben Bernanke, Fed Chairman said, "The quality of the future that we will endow to our children and our grandchildren will depend in important measure on how we rise to the occasion."

David Broder, a respected columnist for The Washington Post said, "The need for such a bipartisan approach (to examine the future of entitlement programs) is evident."

Robert Samuelson, Washington Post columnist, Newsweek said, "What would distinguish this commission from its many predecessors is that Congress would have to vote on its recommendations."

David Brooks, from the New York Times, said "The Commission would come up with a plan to restore fiscal balance, and the plan would immediately go to Congress for an up-or-down vote."

John Snow, the 73rd Treasury Secretary, said, "I agree that because of the huge debt overhang we face a looming financial crisis and I know of no better approach than the SAFE Commission idea."

Editorials from the Richmond Times Dispatch said, "The Cooper-Wolf bill would give the commission some teeth by requiring Congress to take an up-or-down vote on the recommendations of the 16-member bipartisan panel."

The Washington Times said, "Two rays of bipartisan sunlight appear to be trying to shine through the clouds casting dark shadows on the Nation's long-term fiscal horizon. The two rays of bipartisanship sunshine take the form of legislative proposals working their way through the House and the Senate."

And there were many others. Policy groups across the political spectrum,

including the Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institution, the Concord Coalition and the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget also have embraced the SAFE Commission.

Make no mistake. This could well be the hardest economic issue our Nation will ever be faced with, but we cannot afford to wait.

I will end with a statement by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was a Lutheran pastor who stood up to the Nazis and was executed, hung in Flossenberg Prison when the artillery was coming, the western ally artillery was coming to liberate Germany. He was hung by the Nazis. Here's what Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, and I think he was exactly right when he said, "The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."

Will this Congress, will this 111th Congress meet the Dietrich Bonhoeffer test? I don't know. But I'm going to do everything I can, offer amendments on the floor, amendments in committee, to see that this Congress is forced to deal with this issue so that we can honestly say to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, we have tried and done whereby we, however, are a moral society, and we have left a good environment and society for our children.

[From the *The Washington Post*, Jan. 8, 2009]

YEARS TO COME

"FISCAL SPACE" is an economist's term for a country's capacity to borrow and spend its way out of recession without risking exorbitant interest rates and inflation later on. Generally speaking, the more public debt a country already has as a share of its economy, the less new debt it can take on.

As President-elect Barack Obama and Congress contemplate a fiscal stimulus package that could total hundreds of billions of dollars, they still have some fiscal space to work with. At \$6.3 trillion, the publicly held national debt is about 45 percent of the \$14 trillion economy—not much above the post-World War II average debt-to-GDP ratio of 43 percent. But the space is shrinking rapidly. According to new figures from the Congressional Budget Office, federal debt is rising at the fastest rate since World War II. It is estimated at \$1.2 trillion in fiscal 2009, or 8 percent of gross domestic product. This stunning number reflects both the direct effect of the recession on tax revenue and spending and the high cost of measures taken to combat the downturn, such as the financial sector bailout. And it is likely to be matched or exceeded when the Obama stimulus plan kicks in.

Mr. Obama was just leveling with the American people when he noted yesterday that the country faces "trillion-dollar deficits for years to come" unless policymakers "make a change in the way that Washington does business." The question, of course, is how to change. Though Mr. Obama's appointment of an efficiency-minded chief performance officer sent a useful signal, the real answers are legislative. The stimulus package must not bloat the government's permanent financial commitments. According to a recently published International Monetary Fund paper, appropriate measures include increased transfers or temporary tax cuts to consumers at the bottom and middle of the income scale; aid to state and local governments; and repairs and improvements (especially energy-saving ones) to existing infra-

structure. The IMF recommends against increasing the federal payroll, cutting corporate tax rates or letting companies deduct their recent losses against past years' profits. The stimulus plan should include a plan for offsetting spending cuts and revenue increases once the economy recovers.

Over the long run, investors will finance the U.S. government at reasonable rates only if it tackles its huge unfunded health-care and pension commitments. Unchecked, the cost of providing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to 77 million retiring baby boomers could push the debt-to-GDP ratio up to nearly 300 percent by 2005, according to a December 2007 CBO report.

Ideally, Congress would make the necessary hard choices through the normal legislative process. Its repeated failure to do so, however, may necessitate a commission to recommend reforms for the House and Senate to accept or reject. Reps. Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.) and Frank R. Wolf (R-Va.) and Sens. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) and Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) have offered proposals for such a panel. Hard as it is, jumpstarting the U.S. economy will be easy compared with securing its financial future. But Mr. Obama and the Congress must do both.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF STAFF SERGEANT SOLOMON T. SAM

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man beloved by his family, friends and his country, Staff Sergeant Solomon T. Sam of the United States Army, who was taken from us on December 4, 2008, in Mosul, Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Sam devoted nearly a decade to this country. He enlisted in the U.S. Armed Services in October 2000, and redeployed to Iraq in November of 2008, serving with the 523rd Engineer Company, 84th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The commitment to this country is something we can all be proud of. Solomon will be remembered as a soldier, a son, a husband and a father. His three young children will grow up knowing their dad was a hero.

Madam Speaker, Staff Sergeant Sam is a true American hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

THE FORGOTTEN WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, with a President to inaugurate and a troubled economy we can overlook the sacrifice of our troops in Afghanistan. This conflict, overshadowed by Iraq, is often called the Forgotten War.

Last month I became the first Member of the House to serve in an Immi-

grant Danger Area since 1942. Now, Members of this House have served in all of America's wars, from the Revolution through World War II. But the Defense Department's policy of 1943 blocked reservist Congressmen from serving in Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Kosovo or Iraq. Senator and Colonel LINDSAY GRAHAM broke through this barrier 2 years ago, and I became the first Member of this House to also serve since World War II.

While our country has moved from a draftee military to an all-volunteer force, I think it's still important for as many Americans as possible to share the burden of our troops. Our military is the strongest when it pulls into its ranks Americans from all races, creeds and colors and especially all walks of life. It is important for Members of this House, where the Constitution places the power to declare war, to also serve alongside our troops.

I voted for the deployment of troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, and was honored then to be one of the first to join them in Afghanistan.

As a Naval Reserve Intelligence Officer, I deployed to Southern Afghanistan in support of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF at the headquarters of Regional Command South. I served in the command of a Dutch Major General, Mart de Kruif, and on the staff of his American Deputy for Stabilization, Brigadier General John Nicholson of the U.S. Army.

I can report to the House that the morale of our troops in Afghanistan is high. Americans that I joined feel that this is the right mission in the right place. Just because this effort is 10 times harder than we first thought, it remains the place where we can best support the safety of the American people.

Our headquarters was located at Kandahar Airfield, known as KAF. We located just a few miles from Tarnak Farms, where Osama bin Laden had trained many al Qaeda operatives. A few miles further down the road was the palace of Mullah Omar, the murderous former dictator of the Taliban.

We face some real challenges in Afghanistan. Our mission has now stretched for 7 years, and can wear thin with the Afghan people. As we look at Senator Barack Obama becoming our Commander-in-Chief, it's important that we review what we have accomplished in Afghanistan, its differences from the Iraq mission and what remains to be done.

First, it's important to note that Afghanistan is not Iraq, and almost every comparison between the two leads to people making errors with regard to our policy in Afghanistan. While both countries are predominantly Muslim, with over 25 million people, there is where the similarities end.

Iraq is a country that has always had a strong central government. Afghanistan has always had a certain amount of lawlessness, even during the Soviet dictatorship.

Iraq has an oil industry and a middle class. Afghanistan has neither.

Iraq was a mission carried out by America and Britain, nearly alone, with few allies helping. Afghanistan is home to a NATO mission where a very large majority of the troops come from outside America.

Finally, the insurgency in Iraq was sustained by dictatorships in Syria and Iran. In Afghanistan, the principal sustenance in income of the Taliban is now heroin, generating billions in profit.

Our troops have accomplished a great deal already in Afghanistan. We destroyed al Qaeda's training bases, and then deposed the Taliban dictatorship that protected them. We organized elections, and then protected a new democratically elected government under Hamid Karzai.

□ 1530

These missions were no small feat in a country that has proven to be the graveyard of the Soviet military and that has seen no elections for three generations.

Since 2006, the mission in Afghanistan has stalled as the Taliban has morphed into a new and deadly force. The tenets of Islam are generally antinarcotic. The Taliban first eradicated poppy and heroin production, but now has changed its practice. Once the Taliban no longer had easy access to bin Laden or to Saudi charity money, they went into the heroin business big time. Today, they are more accurately described as the narco-Taliban, backed by at least \$500 million in annual drug profits. Some of Afghanistan's wealthiest warlords are Taliban leaders who produce heroin to support jihad and terror against the elected Government of Afghanistan and of the nations of the West.

The narco-Taliban are not evenly distributed across Afghanistan. They are concentrated in the heroin heartland of the Helmand River valley and in the nearby city of Kandahar. There is a growing misperception that the war in Afghanistan is fiercest near Pakistan's border. While that may have been true last year, the key to fighting this year is along the heroin river of Helmand in southern Afghanistan. The Afghan Government and NATO are fighting pitched battles in the strategic rear of the Taliban are actually the greatest.

Our effort there has been expensive both in blood and in treasure. In my area, the U.S. has lost over 80 soldiers, but the Canadians have lost over 90 and the British over 110. I cannot emphasize enough the dedication and professionalism and commitment of our troops and especially of our NATO allies.

I, personally, served with British Royal Marine Commandos, with Canadian troops, with Dutch armor officers and enlisted, with Danish armor officers and enlisted, and with Romanian infantry. Along with our service men

and women from the Army, the Marines, the Air Force, and the Navy, I found these troops from the West to be young, idealistic and some of the most dedicated people I've ever served with. In short, I worked with heroes whom I admire a great deal.

When I deployed to Afghanistan, I thought I might serve as a Fobbit. A "Fobbit" is a person who works on a Forward Operating Base, or a FOB, who never leaves its border, who simply shuttles between the chow hall, the office, the gym, and the rack. Thanks to my command, I was not a Fobbit. I spent a great deal of my time outside the wire in Kandahar, in Geresk, in Lashkar Gah, and in Qalat. This experience gave me a much greater understanding of the opportunities that we share with NATO and with the Afghan Government.

With all of this effort, we should ask the question: What is at stake in Afghanistan? Should we pull out? Should we stay put or should we double down?

In my view, what is at stake is that the safety of American families is at risk especially if you live in the target cities of New York, Washington or Chicago. These are the cities most emphasized by al Qaeda and the Taliban. The dream of many Talib and foreign fighters is to depose the democratically elected government of Afghanistan and then move jihad back into the cities of Europe and the United States.

Most of the NATO troops whom I met remember not just 9/11, which they watched on TV, but also the Madrid Metro attack, the London bus bombings, and the murder of intellectuals in Amsterdam. They believe as I do, which is the best way to face the Talib is in Afghanistan with Afghan allies who know how to fight them best.

Should we keep the mission in Afghanistan as it is today?

If we do that, we risk a bloody stalemate that would definitely protect the capital of the Afghan Government in Kabul but would surrender much of the territory of the country to the Talib. The Talib is also wearing our allies thin, especially in Canada and in the Netherlands, and it would strain our alliance. The Taliban now attacks young girls, who dare to go to school, with acid in their faces, and it has assassinated Afghanistan's only female police officer because she was a woman. We know who they are. They are brutal dictators who want to set society back to the 13th century.

As Americans, we cannot go back to the 13th century. Our culture and our country don't even go back that far. Most Afghans support our values of reform, of rights for women, of the vote, and especially of modernity. But simply to protect their families, many in Afghanistan want to be with the winning side, and right now, many families in Afghanistan don't know who the winning side will be—the Afghan Government and NATO or the Taliban.

Should we double down?

NATO allies clearly believe that we should double down, but they are wait-

ing for a call from our new President. Our best allies—the U.K., Spain, France, and several other NATO countries—are already planning to add their troop commitment to Afghanistan. Other close allies of the United States, especially Canada and the Netherlands, need to be asked before making the painful decision for themselves to hang in there. Most expect that the U.S. will be part of a 60,000 troop commitment to Afghanistan, one-third being Americans, who will then move to attack the heroin production heartland that sustains the Taliban. If this happens, we can expect some tough days ahead. Hard fighting and casualties would ensue. The Taliban cannot survive without the heroin income that comes from this region. If we succeed, we will rip the financial engine out from the Taliban, securing a future for central Asia that does not include terror.

In the end, we should ask this key question: What is our exit strategy?

Currently, the Afghan police and army are much, much smaller than their counterparts in Iraq, a country that has an equal number of people. We need to double the size of Afghanistan's police and army so that they can take this mission from NATO and so that we can wind up our own effort. It will take at least 2 or 3 years to accomplish this objective, which is why our NATO mission is needed now.

I want to thank the men and women with whom I served. Our Dutch allies sent us General de Kruif, and our British allies sent us Brigadier General Hook of the Royal Marine Commandos, both of whom I served with closely.

I also want to thank the men with whom I most closely worked: Majors Will Daniel and Fred Tanner of the U.S. Army. I also want to thank them for their dedication. I think about them here from the floor each and every day.

I especially want to thank my boss, Brigadier General John Nicholson, of the U.S. Army. I count myself lucky that, at this later stage in my life, I have served briefly with such an inspirational leader.

To the mothers and fathers of this country, I would say that, if your sons or daughters serve in southern Afghanistan, they will work under one of the most able military leaders whom I have ever met.

As we leave Iraq, it is likely that Afghanistan will no longer be the forgotten war. Members of this House should take note that our troops have already accomplished a great deal there, but more remains to be done.

For my part, I am honored to have served there, and I will be on this House floor the voice of the troops, of the Americans whom we have stationed in the land far above the Khyber Pass.

I yield back the balance of my time.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. HIRONO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

- Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.
- (The following Members (at the request of Mr. WESTMORELAND) to revise

and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

- Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.
 - Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, January 15.
 - Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, January 15.
 - Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.
- (The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)
- Mr. BOOZMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 9, 2009, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2008, pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 24 AND NOV. 27, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
.....

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
James McGovern	11/8	11/13	Ecuador .....	.....	1,223.00	.....	2,333.23	.....	.....	.....	3,556.23
Cynthia Buhl	11/8	11/13	Ecuador .....	.....	1,223.00	.....	2,333.23	.....	.....	.....	3,556.23
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,446.00	.....	4,666.46	.....	.....	.....	7,112.46

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER, Chairperson, Dec. 16, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 24 AND NOV. 27, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Robert F. Reeves	11/24	11/27	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Teri Morgan	11/24	11/27	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Kyle Anderson	11/24	11/27	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Karina Newton	11/24	11/27	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Catherine Cooke	11/24	11/30	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Jeff Gold	11/24	11/27	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Kirsten Gullickson	11/24	11/30	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
John Clocker	11/24	11/30	Belgium .....	.....	514.07	.....	7011.62	.....	215.00	.....	7740.69
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,112.56	.....	56,092.96	.....	1,720.00	.....	61,925.52

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROBERT F. REEVES, Dec. 17, 2008.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY FALL MEETING IN VALENCIA, SPAIN AND BILATERAL MEETINGS IN FLORENCE AND ROME, ITALY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 10 AND NOV. 19, 2008.

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. John Tanner	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	11,728.80
.....	11/14	11/19	Spain .....	.....	1,922.77	.....	6,059.35	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Melissa Bean	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/18	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. John Boozman	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/18	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/18	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Baron Hill	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/19	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Carolyn McCarthy	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/19	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Kendrick Meek	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/19	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Charlie Melancon	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/18	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Jeff Miller	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/18	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Dennis Moore	11/10	11/14	Italy .....	.....	3,746.68	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	5,252.86
.....	11/14	11/18	Spain .....	.....	1,506.18	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	.....

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY FALL MEETING IN VALENCIA, SPAIN AND BILATERAL MEETINGS IN FLORENCE AND ROME, ITALY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 10 AND NOV. 19, 2008.—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Mike Ross	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					5,252.86
	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		(³)					5,252.86
Hon. David Scott	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					5,252.86
	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		(³)					5,252.86
Hon. John Schimkus	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					5,252.86
	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		(³)					5,252.86
Melissa Adamson	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					11,765.67
	11/14	11/19	Spain	1,922.77		6,096.22					11,765.67
Kathy Becker	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					5,252.86
	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		(³)					5,252.86
Gene Gurevich	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		5,326.53					6,832.71
Vincent Morelli	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					11,765.67
	11/14	11/19	Spain	1,922.77		6,096.22					11,765.67
Taylor Morgan	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					5,252.86
	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		(³)					5,252.86
Dr. Amanda Sloat	11/10	11/14	Italy	3,746.68		(³)					5,252.86
	11/14	11/18	Spain	1,506.18		(³)					5,252.86
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Funds									16,332.52		16,332.52
Miscellaneous									721.56		721.56
Committee total				97,307.43		23,578.32		17,054.08			137,939.83

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
³ Military air transportation.

JOHN S. TANNER, Chairman, Dec. 17, 2008.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

21. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's assessment of Demand Response and Advance Metering, pursuant to Section 1252 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

22. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency, transmitting notification that the Agency has adopted and fully adheres to the No FEAR Disciplinary Best Practices and Advisory Guidelines 1 through 6; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

23. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on competitive sourcing competitions in fiscal year 2008, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, section 647(b) of Division F; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

24. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's report for fiscal year 2008 on competitive sourcing efforts as required by Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, Pub. L. 108-199; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

25. A letter from the Inspector General, U.S. House of Representatives Office of Inspector General, transmitting a revised report due to an identified typographical error within the notes to the financial statements of the Financial Statement Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(20) and 1103; to the Committee on House Administration.

26. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting notification that the Solicitor General has decided not to seek en banc or Supreme Court review of the decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in *Rothe Dev. Corp. v. U.S. Dep't of Defense*, 545 F.3d 1023 (Fed. Circ. 2008), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

27. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's report on the con-

tinuing need for authorized bankruptcy judgeships, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 152(b)(3); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

28. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation T-254; Houston, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0716; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-9] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

29. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adjustments to the Minimum and Maximum Civil Monetary Penalties for Violations of Federal Railroad Safety Laws or Federal Railroad Administration Safety Regulations [Docket No.: FRA-2004-17529; Notice No. 6] (RIN: 2130-AB94) received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

30. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Restricted Areas 4806W, 4807A&B, and 4809; Nevada [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1252; Airspace Docket No. 08-AWP-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

31. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Conroe, TX [Docket No. FAA-2008-0960; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-17] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

32. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Metlakatla, AK [Docket No. FAA-2008-1018; Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-31] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

33. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Franklin, NC [Docket No. FAA-2008-0986; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASO-15] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

34. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Butler, PA. Removal of Class E Airspace; East Butler, PA. [Docket No. FAA-2008-0836; Airspace Docket No. 08-AEA-23] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

35. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Edinburg, TX [Docket No. FAA-2008-0985; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-18] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

36. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Ruby, AK [Docket No. FAA-2008-0005; Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-1] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

37. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Ketchikan, AK [Docket No. FAA-2008-0998; Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-29] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

38. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and E Airspace; Brunswick, ME [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0203; Airspace Docket No. 08-ANE-99] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

39. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Napakiak, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0454; Airspace Docket No. 08-AAL-13] received January 5, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

40. A letter from the United States Trade Representatives, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Administration's intent to participate in the negotiation of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H.R. 288. A bill to create a separate DNA database for violent predators against children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H.R. 289. A bill to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the seven members of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia in recognition of their outstanding and enduring contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 290. A bill to provide for special transfers of funds to States to promote certain improvements in State unemployment compensation laws; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 291. A bill to provide for certain temporary additional unemployment benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr.

MICHAUD, Mr. WALZ, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HARE, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H.R. 292. A bill to improve energy and water efficiencies and conservation throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. STEARNS, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 293. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to carry out a grant program to provide reintegration services through programs and facilities that emphasize services for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 294. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the reauthorization of the Department of Veterans Affairs small business loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. STEARNS):

H.R. 295. A bill to authorize appropriations for the veterans' workforce investment programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. STEARNS, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 296. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the process by which a member of the Armed Forces is retired for disability and becomes eligible for retirement pay, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 297. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of subsistence allowance payable by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans participating in vocational rehabilitation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 298. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to require SCHIP annual reports to include information on the HEDIS measure relating to access to primary care practitioners by individuals eligible for child health assistance under such plans and on State efforts to avoid certain displacement of private health coverage, and to express the sense of Congress that such States should utilize Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems consumer satisfaction surveys to measure access by such individuals to physicians; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 299. A bill to provide American consumers information about the broadcast television transition from an analog to a digital format, and to provide additional funds for the converter box coupon program under the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EHLERS:

H.R. 300. A bill to provide for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 301. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent pending tax increases and to provide additional tax reductions to stimulate economic growth; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 302. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to reinstate the uptick rule on short sales of securities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 303. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 304. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Joseph Barnett Kirsner, M.D., Ph.D., in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 305. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 306. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for kidney disease education services under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 307. A bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN):

H.R. 308. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax for hurricane and tornado mitigation expenditures; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. PUTNAM):

H.R. 309. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain current and former service members to receive a refundable credit for the purchase of a principal residence; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOREN:

H.R. 310. A bill to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 311. A bill to cap discretionary spending, eliminate wasteful and duplicative agencies, reform entitlement programs, and reform the congressional earmark process; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 312. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 313. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to establish a priority for the payment of claims for duties paid to the United States by licensed customs brokers and sureties on behalf of a debtor; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 314. A bill to increase the number of Federal judgeships in certain judicial districts with heavy caseloads of criminal immigration cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 315. A bill to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DELAHUNT (for himself and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 316. A bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with any of the management partners of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DELAHUNT:

H.R. 317. A bill to amend the Adams National Historical Park Act of 1998 to include the Quincy Homestead within the boundary of the Adams National Historical Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DELAHUNT (for himself and Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts):

H.R. 318. A bill to extend the authority for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida:

H.R. 319. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to permit States the option of coverage of legal immigrants under the Medicaid Program and the State children's health insurance program (CHIP); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ELLSWORTH (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Ms. GRANGER):

H.R. 320. A bill to amend the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 to require that weather radios be installed in all manufactured homes manufactured or sold in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. SHADEGG):

H.R. 321. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to expand coverage options under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) through premium assistance; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 322. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 323. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act and title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide comprehensive coverage for childhood immunization; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Ms. GIFFORDS):

H.R. 324. A bill to establish the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 325. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Avra/Black Wash Reclamation and Riparian Restoration Project; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 326. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Tribe of Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MACK, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 327. A bill to establish the National Hurricane Research Initiative to improve hurricane preparedness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 328. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 329. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to repeal the denial of food stamp eligibility of ex-offenders; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 330. A bill to establish grant programs to encourage energy-efficient economic development and green job training and creation, and to establish the Metro Area Green Institute to produce and disseminate best practice information to economic and workforce development initiatives undertaken by metropolitan communities nationally; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 331. A bill to establish the Independent Commission on the 2004 Coup d'Etat in the Republic of Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 332. A bill to provide that no funds made available to the Department of the Treasury may be used to implement, administer, or enforce regulations to require specific licenses for travel-related transactions directly related to educational activities in Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BARROW, Mr.

WESTMORELAND, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 333. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 334. A bill to provide for the appointment of a high-level United States representative or special envoy for Iran for the purpose of easing tensions and normalizing relations between the United States and Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 335. A bill to ensure that any agreement with Iraq containing a security commitment or arrangement is concluded as a treaty or is approved by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 336. A bill to provide for the issuance of a semipostal to benefit the Peace Corps; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 337. A bill to provide for the sale of approximately 25 acres of public land to the Turnabout Ranch, Escalante, Utah, at fair market value; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 338. A bill to authorize the Boy Scouts of America to exchange certain land in the State of Utah acquired under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 339. A bill to extend the expiration date of coupons issued under the digital television converter box program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 340. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Camp Security, located in Springettsbury, York County, Pennsylvania, as a unit of the National Park System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 341. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to suspend the running of periods of limitation for credit or refund of overpayment of Federal income tax by veterans while their service-connected compensation determinations are pending with

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 342. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an enhanced deduction for qualified residence interest on acquisition indebtedness for heritage homes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 343. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow volunteer firefighters a deduction for personal safety clothing; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 344. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a full deduction for meals and lodging in connection with medical care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.R. 345. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard mileage rate for charitable purposes to the standard mileage rate established by the Secretary of the Treasury for business purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 346. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides for automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 347. A bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SKELTON:

H.R. 348. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the birthplace site to the Harry S Truman National Historic Site or designating the site as a separate unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TERRY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H.R. 349. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Nebraska; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TERRY:

H.R. 350. A bill to amend the Rules of the House of Representatives to require committee reports to include domestic energy impact statements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 351. A bill to expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to include Barrett's Farm, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 352. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the planning, design, and construction of the Tumalo Irrigation District Water Conservation Project in Deschutes County, Oregon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H.J. Res. 12. A joint resolution expressing support for designation of September 2009 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month" and honoring gospel music for its valuable and long-standing contributions to the culture of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to limitations on the amounts of contributions and expenditures that may be made in connection with campaigns for election to public office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of consecutive terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PLATTS:

H.J. Res. 15. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to authorize the line item veto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.J. Res. 16. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to repeal the sixteenth article of amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H. Con. Res. 11. Concurrent resolution recognizing the disproportionate impact of the global food crisis on children in the developing world; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. Con. Res. 12. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring Sam Phillips and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS):

H. Con. Res. 13. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Supreme Court misinterpreted the First Amendment to the Constitution in the case of Buckley v. Valeo; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. BURGESS):

H. Con. Res. 14. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H. Con. Res. 15. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the United States Postal Service should issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring former Representative Shirley Chisholm, and that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H. Res. 32. A resolution recognizing the historic steps India and Pakistan have taken toward achieving bilateral peace; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

H. Res. 33. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Iran's lack of protection for internationally recognized human rights creates poor conditions for religious freedom in the Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PELOSI (for herself, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H. Res. 34. A resolution recognizing Israel's right to defend itself against attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 35. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should provide increased Federal funding for continued type 1 diabetes research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. STARK, Mr. RUSH, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. CORBINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H. Res. 36. A resolution acknowledging the 40th anniversary of the election of Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm, the first African-American woman in Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 353. A bill for the relief of Simeon Simeonov, Stela Simeonova, Stoyan Simeonov, and Vania Simeonova; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 354. A bill for the relief of Gloria Ayala Cuyuch; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 355. A bill for the relief of Francisca Lino; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 356. A bill for the relief of Rebeca Rojas de Guzman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 357. A bill for the relief of Jose de Jesus Ibarra, Monica Ibarra Rodriguez, and Cristina Gamez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 358. A bill for the relief of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamica; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 359. A bill for the relief of Geert Botzen; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McHUGH:

H.R. 360. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to issue a certificate of documentation for operation in the coastwise trade for the vessel ZIPPER; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 11: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. TEAGUE, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. BOCCIERI, Ms. KILROY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. NYE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MASSA, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 12: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. TEAGUE, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. BOCCIERI, Ms. KILROY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. NYE, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MASSA, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 13: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 16: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 25: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 40: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 81: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 97: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 100: Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 103: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 105: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 124: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 135: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 143: Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 147: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. REYES, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 156: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 161: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. HENSARLING.

H.R. 176: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 179: Ms. BALDWIN and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 186: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SIRES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 196: Mr. McCOTTER.

H.R. 200: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

H.R. 219: Mr. POE of Texas.

H.R. 225: Mr. DINGELL, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 226: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DENT, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 253: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 18: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MATHESON, and Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland.

H. Res. 19: Mr. DENT, Mr. EHLERS, and Mrs. EMERSON.

H. Res. 31: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DREIER, and Mr. COBLE.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

2. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Margate, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 11-354 objecting to the state requiring present users of the Margate utility system to pay for all alternative water sources without additional funding or grants from the State of Florida and urging the State of Florida to either provide additional revenue sources or withdraw the requirement that utility systems find alternative water sources; and providing for an effective date; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.