

House floor deals with the issue of illegal immigration and do illegal aliens have access to health care. Now, many have claimed that illegal aliens wouldn't be able to get health care in their bill. The problem is, according to the Congressional Budget Office, the President's bill allows 8 million illegal aliens to have access to his government-run health care plan. That testimony was given by the Congressional Budget Office. That's not a Republican or a Democrat who said that. That's the bipartisan group that we actually have to follow who scores these bills, who makes a determination whether or not these statements are accurate. The Congressional Budget Office has said 8 million illegal aliens would have access to this government plan that the President is supporting, H.R. 3200.

And there are a lot of other claims that are similar to those that are just not accurate. One of the ones that's thrown around a lot by the President and others is this straw man that we've got to fix health care and if we don't pass his bill, then everybody else is for the status quo if they're not for his bill, if they don't want the government to take it over.

That's not true. If you look at the bills that are out there, there are many bills that I and others support that are very different approaches than the bill that the President and Speaker PELOSI support. One good one is H.R. 3400. H.R. 3400 has nearly 40 Members of Congress that are cosponsors, including four medical doctors, people that really understand the problems in health care. In our bill we actually address the problems that exist. We address the problems with preexisting conditions. I don't think it's fair or right that somebody can be denied health care coverage because they're battling maybe a disease like cancer or some other tragic disease that in the current system they are currently discriminated against. We fix that problem in our bill. We invoke real competition, but it's not by bringing in the government; it's by allowing people to buy across State lines and have competition.

So we need to address these problems in a real, honest way.

THE NATION'S CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, the context of my remarks is engaging the issue of the current financial situation that the United States finds itself in.

Mr. Speaker, it was less than 1 year ago that the government began Bailout Nation, which was \$700 billion in tax money that was given to the United States Treasury Secretary for the purpose of stabilizing America's financial situation. Let's take just a brief history of what has happened in the United States in just less than 1 year's time.

This Congress appropriated essentially a blank check to the Treasury Secretary of \$700 billion, a blank check. The Treasury Secretary literally could do anything he wanted to do with that \$700 billion. That \$700 billion went to the Treasury Secretary. It's gone to bail out banks. It's gone to bail out an insurance company, and it has gone to set up the automobile task force.

In that time we have seen \$700 billion go not only for that bailout; we also saw \$29 billion go to Bear Stearns to shore up that investment banking house. We also saw \$200 billion go for Fannie and Freddie, the secondary mortgage company, because, remember, all of this began with a meltdown in the housing industry. So we thought, first of all, money needed to go to bail out the secondary mortgage provider.

Almost all loans today in the United States are now backed up by the Federal Government. This is amazing what has happened to our country in less than 1 year's time. We saw over \$100 billion of our tax money go to bail out the largest insurance company in the United States, AIG. Still the United States taxpayer has yet to be repaid the money for AIG. We have yet to be made whole.

We have yet to be made whole for the money that was extended to General Motors and Chrysler. That's tens of billions of dollars that were given to the car companies. We were told that we had to give them tens of billions so they wouldn't go into bankruptcy. Well, lo and behold, what happened? Both GM and Chrysler went into bankruptcy.

We were told that we had to give all of this money to Freddie and Fannie so that they won't go into bankruptcy, and we continue to pour taxpayer money into Freddie and Fannie. Not only that, the American taxpayer was told to give another \$75 billion in mortgage bailout money.

At what point do we say enough is enough? Two hundred billion dollars for the secondary mortgage company, another \$75 billion for mortgage bailout. But that wasn't enough because the American taxpayers were told we needed to give a trillion dollars in stimulus programs. A trillion dollars. That money hasn't been completely let out, thank God. Every penny that hasn't let out at this point should be reeled back in, and we shouldn't be committing any more of that money.

We also agreed in this body to spend another \$400 billion in an end-of-the-year budget gap that we were able to shore up.

At this point we know the Congressional Budget Office has said that our country will be in deficit \$1.6 trillion this year, and it may get worse. How do we know that? Unemployment is at 9.7 percent, and President Obama's own economic adviser has said if we pass his version of the government takeover of health care, we will lose 5.5 million

more jobs. We have lost 4 million jobs. If we pass President Obama's health care reform, by his numbers, we will lose another 5.5 million jobs. And if we pass his national energy tax, the cap-and-trade bill, this energy tax, by President Obama's own numbers, will cost our economy an additional 2.5 million jobs lost every year going forward. This doesn't seem to be working for us as we look at this 1-year anniversary of Lehman Brothers collapsing.

So now the Federal Government owns or controls 30 percent of all private business profits. And if President Obama gets his way and takes over another 18 percent of our economy in health care, that means the Federal Government will own or control 48 percent of private business profits. Just think, a year ago 100 percent of private business profits were private. Today we're looking at the specter of 48 percent of private business profits owned or controlled by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, that's why the American people are nervous. That's why they don't want government to own or control any more of our economy.

GOSPEL MUSIC, FOREIGN POLICY, AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have some joyous moments in this body, and I am delighted to say that we will have that tomorrow.

Gospel music is part of America's culture, and I was very pleased to pass the legislation, House Joint Resolution 12, to acknowledge gospel music as part of the great culture of America.

Tomorrow here in this House, we will celebrate the gospel music heritage legislation that was passed in this House and in the Senate by my colleague and friend Senator BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN. And we will celebrate it with the wonderful sound of Richard Smallwood.

We have the privilege and honor of celebrating this cultural aspect of America reaching from the East to the West, from the North to the South, in places like Nashville, Tennessee; to Iowa; to Atlanta, Georgia; to Houston, Texas; to New York, New York; and places in California and around this Nation. We had the pleasure of celebrating it at the Kennedy Center. Bryon Cage and the Ebenezer Choir, AME Church, was there on Saturday evening celebrating gospel music heritage.

We're excited about it. And we thank our House leadership for helping us pass this honoring of those wonderful gospel musicians that all of us have enjoyed over the years and decades: some starting out or gaining their rock and roll status like Elvis Presley from their original origins of gospel music

or Al Green, the gospel singer, or Mahalia Jackson or Marian Anderson or Yolanda Adams. So many great gospel singers have given all of us joy no matter from whence we have come.

So I would like to thank the House leadership. I would like to thank the majority leader and his staff and Chairman TOWNS and the ranking member of the Government Oversight Committee, all of whom helped this day come to fruition.

As we move into issues that require our attention, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment very briefly on our position in Afghanistan. Tomorrow I will have the opportunity to join in listening to Ambassador Holbrooke, who has just returned back from Afghanistan, and I would like to offer these thoughts.

I do believe that Afghanistan is very important to the United States, and after 9/11 it was important to respond to the attack on this Nation. But now I think it is important to emphasize a diplomatic surge and the stand-down of the military soldiers, all who are valiantly working there. I believe it is important to allow the Afghan people, through the building of schools and roads and through the building of the Afghan Army, to take control of their own security. We cannot allow this to be a 20-year war as it was with Russia, and the Afghan people must stand up.

Some may say it is not the time, that it is a difficult time. And they are right, because instead of pursuing the cause in Afghanistan, over the last 8 years we failed and detoured into Iraq, Iraq that took thousands of American lives and still unfortunately and tragically struggles today with democracy and leadership in their own country. But I do believe it is time for a surge of diplomacy in Afghanistan, and I am going to work with my colleagues to see this happen.

I wish to mention Iran, as well, as the General Assembly gathers in the United Nations and particularly to focus on Camp Ashraf that has displaced Iranians. These individuals are in Iraq and they are subject to abuse. I'm calling upon the administration to demand for the people that are displaced that happen to be Iranians who are in Iraq to be treated with human dignity and for that camp to be protected and for the Iraqi military to protect that camp and not allow the intrusion into that camp and the rampage that's going on and the attack on women and children. Enough is enough. If Iraq claims itself to be a democracy, it is important.

I also call upon the General Assembly to comment on the abuses in Iran, the human rights abuse, the press abuse, the lack of freedom of press. Even as we debate this question of nuclear proliferation, we should not allow the kinds of abuses that are going on in Iran.

As I move to the domestic issue, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we clarify that health care is some-

thing that America wants. Sixty percent of the American people want health care. And as I was coming here to Washington, I met someone, Mrs. Wallace, in the airport who indicated that her son will have to have surgery costing a million dollars, and she pleaded that we get our job done. I said I would take her message to Washington, D.C. She was sending off her sister going to New Zealand. They have not been hampered by a program that is, in essence, underwritten by the government, but we're not asking for a program to be underwritten by the government; we are asking for people to have choice. But more importantly, we are asking to have an option, a public option, that will provide for the competitiveness that is so very important in providing health care for all Americans.

Let's stop all the myths and the attacks, and let's have an evenhanded debate to recognize that a public option provides for competition.

□ 2015

I want to conclude, Mr. Speaker, by simply saying we have celebrated this 1 year with the Lehman Brothers, but I will say to you that we have to have a recovery that makes sense, and this administration is working on it.

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas 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 South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS 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. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ETHICS

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, as some people might know and some of my col-

leagues know, I have been appearing before this House for the leadership hour now for approximately 12 weeks, and I have been talking about this House of hypocrisy that we seem to be thriving in here as we have all of these issues that involve multiple people concerning ethical issues, and in some instances maybe even criminal issues that need to be addressed. I have raised the issue because I want to remind the leadership of this House that if we don't address these issues, we are failing in our duty as Members of Congress.

As we sit here with the Democrat majority blasting JOE WILSON for a very inadvertent outcry in the House of Representatives, we seem to have forgotten what I have been talking about for the last 12 weeks which is Chairman CHARLIE RANGEL's decades of tax evasion and ethics violations that have been raised over and over on the floor of this House. This is the ultimate of hypocrisy. So I am going to talk about it again tonight. I think it is important that we listen.

It is important to also know this has not just started in the last few months. Today is a very important day. This is September 15, I believe. Close to it anyway. On September 15, 2008, the New York Times, certainly not one of the more conservative newspapers, and I don't think anyone would consider them a Republican newspaper, called for the resignation of Chairman RANGEL as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee because of the allegations that he himself had pointed out to this House on the floor of this House of his failure to report certain items of value and failure to pay taxes on about \$75,000 worth of income that he realized in the Dominican Republic on a vacation home that he owned there and rented out. He rightfully said he was going to correct that by paying the taxes and amending his return and that he felt bad about it, and that he had turned himself in to the Ethics Committee.

Well, this turning yourself in to the Ethics Committee is almost the hypocrite's dream because you say I want you to judge me. Well, are they? They have had a year now. This was turned in to the Ethics Committee a year ago. We were promised when this new Congress started, we were promised in the fall of last year by the Speaker of this House, NANCY PELOSI, that she was sure that all of the Rangel issues would be resolved by the first or second week of January of this year. And yet they are still not resolved.

The Ethics Committee's job is to be the charging body in this Congress, and they are to look into these allegations and they are to make decisions. It is our method of policing ourselves. Quite frankly, when you find your method of policing yourself has failed, and I would argue 1 year on one person is pretty close to failure, then maybe we need to come up with a new system. Maybe we need to come up with a new