

crucial to our local economy, and this is an important sign of progress.

South Florida is one of the best places to live and work and raise a family, and I am glad people are getting back into the market. Many folks took advantage of the first-time home buyer tax credit, and others are moving because their families are growing or they are ready to downsize.

I am constantly working side by side with our local homebuilders and realtors, great members of our community, like Nancy Hogan, Adam Saunders, who is executive director of the Fort Lauderdale realtors, and Deidre Newton from Palm Beach County.

Putting their ideas into action is one of the best ways to turn the corner in our local real estate market. And it is more than just buying a new house. Families with a new home need new furniture, flowers for their garden, and maybe a plumber or a painter or electrician to come by. These are all services and products that come from our local businesses and make a huge impact on our economy.

So while there is more work to be done, and we know that, I was glad to read some good economic news in this morning's newspaper.

□ 1330

IF YOU CAN'T BUDGET, YOU CAN'T GOVERN

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, back home in New Jersey, people don't want to hear that the House of Representatives is preparing to go home for Memorial Day recess without even holding a vote on President Obama's budget proposal given to the Congress back in February.

They're trying to live within their own shrunken family budgets, with less income and less ability to save, and with well over 10 percent of them unemployed.

They know with the President's budget proposal, whatever the magnitude of its spending that ensures more debt and borrowing, that we need to make the same hard choices they are, and the Federal budgets is comprised of their money.

It appears that this House will not vote because the majority, it seems, does not want to vote for sustained trillion-dollar deficits that will compound the national debt as far as the eye can see.

I'd also add that the President's much discussed "spending freeze" comes after a 24 percent increase in spending among the affected agencies and programs.

As others have said, If you can't budget, you can't govern.

CLOSING CORPORATE TAX LOOPHOLES

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, for my colleagues' information, before this week is over, we will be voting on jobs for America and cutting corporate tax loopholes that are sending jobs offshore.

In the final days of the Bush administration, they asked for \$700 billion to bail out the financial industry; 81 percent of that money went to the large Wall Street banks who managed, in the next year, to reduce their loans to small businesses, while just a small percentage of it went to local community banks who actually increased their loans to small businesses.

There's something to be learned here. The act that we'll be voting on, H.R. 4213, closes those tax loopholes, taxes the Wall Street barons that have ripped off our money, and brings jobs to America through several different programs; 250,000 summer jobs, R&D tax credits, other programs to encourage small businesses.

We should, with the support of the Republicans, pass H.R. 4213, the American jobs and tax loophole closing programs.

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, in 2006 our distinguished majority leader said enacting a budget was "the most basic responsibility of governing."

Representative SPRATT, from South Carolina, our distinguished Budget chairman, said in the same year, If you can't budget, you can't govern.

Yet this Democratic majority's produced no budget. I don't believe that's the fault of Mr. HOYER or Mr. SPRATT. They're both good men, and they're both working hard to create a budget. But that responsibility does rest with each and every member of the Democratic Caucus.

My friends, you have 257 Members. Can't 218 of you agree on a budget? And if not, why are you here?

I would suggest to my Democratic colleagues, they should lead, follow or, in November, get out of the way.

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT IS EXAMPLE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, America has been through tough times before, but we've always pulled together as a Nation to overcome our challenges.

Just over 1 year ago, Democrats came together and faced the challenges that we were handed by the mismanagement of the Bush Republicans. Faced with massive job losses exceed-

ing 700,000 a month just over 1 year ago, we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and, since that time, we've reversed the job losses and spurred economic growth.

One only needs to look at America's manufacturing sector to see the progress that we're making. American industrial production has increased a cumulative 6.8 percent during the past 10 months, the largest 10-month gain since 1997.

Total industrial production continued to increase last month. Together with last month's jobs report, this suggests a strong start for the second quarter. The increase, which was slightly above market expectations, was led by a strong 1 percent growth in manufacturing output.

As Americans, we can do it. We can turn our economy around. We have a ways to go, but we can get America back on track and, together, we are doing just that.

And that's just the way it is.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, for the first time since the modern Budget Act was passed in 1974, the House will not pass a budget this year, for the first time in 35 years.

This dereliction of duty is important for at least two reasons: One, a budget is the first and necessary step to control spending. Every household in the country knows that you have to get a budget together to know your income and expenses, to separate priorities, and to decide how you're going to spend precious resources. The same is true in Washington. And yet this year the American people and Congress and the administration will not have the opportunity to use that tool.

The second reason is that it just confirms the worst that people feel about Washington. People around the country already believe that too many Members of Congress care more about their own re-election than they do about solving the problems of the country. This just confirms that Members of the majority, at least, don't want to take tough votes, that they're more worried about their own political protection than they are about trying to do what's right and solve problems.

Mr. Speaker, it is irresponsible to not even try to pass a budget this year. The American people deserve better.

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in 2007 President Bush allowed for 14,000 waivers to our Buy America laws. In 2008, on his way out the door, that number became 65,000.

Let me say that again: in the last year of the Bush administration, he quadrupled the number of permits to allow for government contractors to outsource jobs overseas.

You want to know why we lost millions of manufacturing jobs over the last decade? There's your answer. We have allowed for American dollars to go overseas to be able to grow international workforces at the expense of our domestic workforce.

You want to know why this year we have already created more jobs than President Bush did in his 8 years?

Well, right at the root of it is President Bush's and the Republicans' drive to take our tax dollars, send them to multinational companies, and allow them to kill American manufacturing jobs. That has to stop, and the Democrats are leading the way.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE AN ANSWER

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American people, and we deserve an answer about these out-of-control spending policies coming here out of Washington, D.C.

The House has failed to produce a budget. No plans for any appropriation bills, no markups. There's no plan on how the majority will spend America's taxpayers' hard-earned money for this fiscal year, or next fiscal year.

American families, if they don't budget and pay the bills, there are real consequences. Unfortunately, the majority continues to turn a blind eye to future consequences as they push spending to a record \$3.8 trillion in fiscal year 2011 and widen the deficit to a record \$1.5 trillion this year.

House Republicans stand ready to make tough choices in order to rein in spending. Just last week we introduced a measure on the House floor to cut \$2.5 billion in expanded welfare. The program was selected by almost a half a million Americans through the innovative YouCut initiative.

The American people have spoken. Stop the spending frenzy, budget for the future, and return fiscal sanity to Washington.

STOP FOREIGN COMPETITORS FROM USING ILLEGAL SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans and Democrats should be united in one proposition, and that is that we should never allow our foreign competitors to steal our jobs by using illegal subsidies. And, in fact, that is what has happened with the Airbus company that has now been found guilty of receiving billions of dollars of illegal sub-

sidies from European governments to subsidize their airplanes, including a tanker.

Now that company wants to steal American jobs by taking away a contract for the next tanker for the U.S. Air Force, so that those jobs can be shipped to France and other places. This is wrong, and it cannot stand.

We need to pass an amendment that will be offered on the defense authorization bill that will assign a cost of those illegal subsidies to the Airbus bid. If we do this, Republicans and Democrats will be united in standing for American jobs, for fairness, and for the rule of law. It's the right thing to do. We can't allow these jobs to be stolen.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, most American families have a budget. Almost all American businesses have a budget, and virtually every State, county, local government has a budget. And, in fact, in this House, since the current Budget Act was passed in 1974, we have had a budget that has passed in this House every single year, except for this year.

Maybe the Democrats who run this place lost it. Let's see. Is it under here? No, that's the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. That's not it.

Maybe they lost it. No, they didn't lose it, Mr. Speaker. They are not passing a budget because they don't want the American people to see that they have, after almost doubling the national debt already, they're going to triple it again. And, Mr. Speaker, they do not want the American people to see that because they know it will bring a financial calamity upon this country like one we have never seen if we don't turn it around.

WELCOMING THE 13TH ANNUAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13th Annual Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Expo here on Capitol Hill. As we struggle with rising energy costs and the BP oil spill, we are reminded every day about the importance of a sustainable energy policy.

This important event will bring together nearly 50 businesses, sustainable energy industry trade associations, government agencies, and energy policy research organizations to showcase the enormous potential of renewable energy and energy efficient technology.

As we search for ways to stimulate the economy, create green jobs, lower

costs, reduce reliance on energy imports, and lessen the threats posed by the emission of greenhouse gas emissions, we must pay attention to this.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming this year's participants, and I encourage everyone to take some time to see the exhibits and speak with the participants.

PASSING A CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on leaders in Congress to put forth a congressional budget and allow a meaningful, open debate on the important fiscal issues facing the Nation.

Producing a Federal budget blueprint is one of the most basic responsibilities of Congress. Yet, as of today, no such budget exists.

The failure of presenting a budget to the American people is a failure of leadership by the Democratic majority to govern and a missed opportunity to put forth a budget blueprint that puts our Nation on the path to fiscal responsibility.

Never before in the modern era has the House of Representatives failed to pass a budget; but never before has our Nation seen this type of unprecedented, runaway congressional spending, deficits, and debt.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, the Congress has never failed to consider a budget resolution since the current budget rules were passed in 1974. Yet for the first time in 36 years, the Democratic majority has chosen irresponsibly to avoid the hard budgetary choices New Jersey families and small businesses must make every day.

THE NEW DIRECTION CONGRESS

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, as we go through Memorial Day this season, we recognize those brave men and women who defend our country. The New Direction Congress, under Democratic leadership the last 3 years, has made historic gains for America's troops, veterans, and military families. We have expanded new GI Bill college benefits for all children of fallen troops since 9/11. We have given businesses a \$2,400 tax credit for hiring unemployed veterans. We have provided nearly 2 million disabled veterans a \$250 economic recovery payment. We've established a veterans corps, creating volunteer opportunities to put veterans back to work, landmark legislation for wounded veterans, providing help to family members and other caregivers, and eliminating copayments for catastrophic disabled veterans injuries. We've enhanced health services for