of the GOP opposition, he's lost his dignity.

I urge my Republican colleagues in the Senate to drop their indefensible opposition to extending unemployment insurance immediately, and with it, provide needed relief to millions of people like Thomas Currier.

STOP EARLY FEDERAL RETIREMENT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last week there were headlines saying that leaders on both sides of the aisle agree that we need to raise the Social Security retirement age to 70. Before we do that, we need to stop spending hundreds of billions we do not have on very unnecessary foreign wars, but we also need to revise the entire Federal retirement system—both civilian and military.

We cannot change the retirement benefits for those already in the system. The political opposition would just be too strong. But we need to inform new Federal hires and new military recruits that we can no longer allow healthy, able-bodied people to retire in their late thirties or even in their forties or fifties.

Local police fight street crime. Almost no Federal law enforcement today is physical in nature. Early retirement in most Federal law enforcement can no longer be justified. Working as a waiter or waitress is more physically demanding than most Federal Government positions for which we now grant early retirement.

With a $13 trillion national debt, Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford to give relatively young people lavish retirement benefits.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are singing the same old tune again. This past Sunday on ''Meet the Press,'' the Republicans top campaign leader let the truth be known. If the Republicans take power in Congress, he said, ''We need to go back to the exact same agenda.'' The exact same agenda. The one that lost 8 million manufacturing jobs in this country, the one that tried to privatize Social Security, the one that drove our country into a ditch. Yep, that same agenda.

What does privatization of Social Security really mean? It means taking your money and letting Wall Street play with it. We saw how well that worked over the past few years when the Republicans controlled this House. Private retirement accounts lost one-third of their value during the Republican recession. Heads they win, tails you lose.

But the Republicans don't learn from their mistakes; so they want to return to the exact same agenda of the Bush Republican years.

America, make sure Congress knows Social Security is your money. You earned it. You paid for it. It is your future.

SPEND, SPEND, SPEND

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

Mr. DJOU. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect Congress to act responsibly and be trustworthy, but how can this happen when this Congress has no plan? No plan for a budget, no plan to create jobs, no plan to turn around our economy other than to spend, spend, and spend some more of the people's money. We spent more than a trillion dollars to create jobs, but as of yet, our unemployment rate still languishes at 9.5 percent.

Our Nation is plagued with debt, and not creating a budget further amplifies the problem.

Mr. Speaker, we are spending too much money. Even worse, we are spending too much money on programs that do not work. And even worse than that, we have no plan to pay any of this money back. And this problem is further compounded by this House's refusal to pass a budget.

It's time to cut spending and enact real, meaningful tax relief and put more money in the hands of the American people.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, most people understand that we have a real tangible need for the safety nets of Social Security and Medicare. The hard lessons of history compelled us to create protections for our seniors who have given us a lifetime of hard work and deserve security in their golden years.

But Washington Republicans just don't get it. They want to privatize Social Security and put seniors' retirement at the mercy of the stock market. They want to repeal the benefits we provided through Medicare. If Republicans had their way, they'd reopen the doughnut hole. They'd take away free, preventative health care under Medicare, and they'd play roulette with our seniors' retirement, their access to doctors, and their prescription drugs.

Washington Republicans have turned their backs on our seniors. I'm proud to stand by our seniors and make sure they have quality, affordable health care, safety and security in retirement, and peace of mind that these benefits are here to stay.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it's a little over 18 months since President Obama signed the so-called economic ''stimulus'' bill into law. To say now, as many of my Democratic colleagues continue to do, that this stimulus was somehow a success, that's really an insult to the millions of Americans who are now unemployed and continue to look for work.

We've heard repeatedly from our business leaders and economists that one of the biggest impediments to job creation is what this Congress has been doing here every day. I mean, how can businesses be expected to invest and to create jobs when they read in the paper such things that our government is expected to run trillion dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, that banks will now have to conform to 243 new regulations because of that 2,300-page Dodd-Frank bill we just passed, and that next year we will experience in this country the largest tax increase in American history?

And, also, the energy prices. Energy prices may skyrocket because of the House-passed cap-and-trade bill. And health insurance premiums, they were promised to go down, but they are going to increase because of the recently passed health care bill.

Mr. Speaker, uncertainty is the enemy of economic growth. Thank goodness it's the August recess.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Social Security and to highlight its importance as we approach the 75th anniversary since its founding.

Social Security is a pillar of a society based on the premise that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will have the stability and security of a minimum level of guaranteed income as you get older. And the reality is Social Security provides nearly all of the retirement income for six out of 10 seniors in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, Social Security has never been a day late or a dollar short. And as we approach this historic achievement, we must commit ourselves to strengthening Social Security, not privatizing it. We must continue to provide the foundation for Americans' retirement security for generations and generations to come.

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UNCERTAINTY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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