

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

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

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

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

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

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

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

There was no objection.

#### THE PERFECT STORM

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

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

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

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

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will have to pay in this country in the next 10 years is going to reach over \$10,000 per family, a tax that cannot be repealed.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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### TELL US THE TRUTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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