

debt. Now, President Bush was going to be a fiscal conservative and we were going to have smaller government. We actually have larger government. He has, in his 5 short years in office, in concert with the Republican Congress, raised the entire debt of the United States of America by 45 percent in 5 short years.

That is some accomplishment. That figures out to \$27,730 per person in the United States. But that is not enough because, actually, with a debt limit of about \$8.3 trillion, we bumped up against it yet again because of the profligate borrowing by this President and the Republican Congress. So Secretary Snow has requested a fourth increase in 5 years in the national debt limit by another \$781 billion, which he says will tide us over for about a year.

Now, what is extraordinary is that right now the Government of the United States is teetering on the edge of default. In fact, the government has cashed in the retirement fund, the 401(k) of Federal employees, the G fund, in order to not exceed the debt limit set by Congress, because the leadership here doesn't want to admit to their profligacy. They will not allow a vote, an up-or-down vote here in the House, on raising the debt limit. So they are waiting for the Senate to sneak it into a really big bill on the Senate side, and then they can bring it back over here and pretend that they had nothing to do with it. I mean, who could have known the debt has gone up 45 percent in 5 years?

Well, it is time that they 'fessed up to what they are doing here. The fastest growing part of the Federal budget is not the entitlements which we hear so much about. We hear about those darned student loans that we cut last month so we could finance tax cuts for rich people; and those darned poor people who need health care that we cut last month to help finance tax cuts for rich people. Actually, the fastest part of the Federal deficit and budget is interest on the debt. That is true, interest on the debt, which will be \$247 billion next year. One quarter of \$1 trillion.

Now, that interest on the debt will not feed a single child. It will not help one young person get an education. It will not help one senior get a Medicare prescription drug benefit. It will not give one soldier help with needed equipment in the field. No, that \$250 billion, a quarter of \$1 trillion, will be paid out for profligacy and waste and debt.

What is even worse is, guess what, a lot of that money is not even flowing to investors here in the United States of America. This President has yet another record. He has, in 5 short years, created more foreign debt than the 42 Presidents that preceded him in office.

Now that is something. That is really something. One President, George Bush, has created more foreign debt than the 42 Presidents in more than 200 years that preceded him in office, this

fiscal conservative, this small-government guy.

How has he done it? Well, he has done it with a combination of increases in spending, a lot of corporate welfare, and tax cuts for rich people and major corporations, and subsidies to big corporations like in the energy bill, because there is not enough incentive at \$60 a barrel to drill for oil; we have to borrow money, the taxpayers do, give it to the oil companies and ask them to go out and look for oil. That was sort of the core of the Bush energy bill.

Mr. Speaker, 48 percent of our public debt is now held overseas. Japan holds \$687 billion, China is second and coming up fast at \$300 billion, and on down the list. This is something that puts the future of our country in jeopardy. Huge amounts of our debt washing around overseas in countries that might or might not have our best interests in mind long term, and might or might not want to continue to lend us money to help finance this profligacy.

So now the President is saying that he is really serious. This time around he is really serious about it. He says we are going to address this. We are going to cut the debt in half in the next 4 years. What he does not tell people is that most of that so-called reduction of the debt is by borrowing all of the surplus that is supposed to flow into the Social Security trust fund and spending it and not counting it as part of the debt.

So as the Social Security surplus grows, he says that he is moving us toward a balanced budget. Of course someday we are going to have to honor those bonds to pay future Social Security benefits. It is time for fiscal sanity here in Washington, D.C. We need a change in the Congress and the White House to get it.

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

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

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE WARREN "PETE" OLDHAM

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

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

There was no objection.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last month, the State of North Carolina lost a fine

man, former North Carolina Representative Warren "Pete" Oldham. I had the privilege of serving with Pete in the North Carolina General Assembly. While we did not always agree on every issue, I always respected and admired him for his commitment to constituent service and doing what he believed was right. He was always a very pleasant and polite person.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pete Oldham for a life focused upon helping others. Pete wore many hats during his life. He was a loving husband and father, an athlete, a teacher, a coach, a referee, a university official, a church leader, a public servant and a gardener.

Pete was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, to the late Reverend Philander and Minta Oldham. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he enrolled in Virginia Union University, in Richmond, Virginia, on a football scholarship. He transferred to Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia, where he graduated in 1951 with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education and majors in social studies and physical education. He then went on to receive a master of science degree in physical education in 1958 from West Virginia University, and his principal certification from North Carolina A&T State University in 1962.

Pete was a teacher and coach at Atkins High School from 1951 to 1963. He then went to work at Winston-Salem State University for over 20 years, where he retired as the school's registrar. During his time at the university, Pete always reserved time to coach high school and college students in basketball and football.

Pete was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1990 where we went on to become the co-chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations. Twelve years later, he retired from the Chamber to care for his wife who was suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He said, "I made a vow and a commitment, and I intend to honor them."

Pete leaves behind his loving wife, Gladys, and daughters Donna Oldham and Leslie Oldham Bolden. My thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, the State of North Carolina is fortunate to have been served by former Representative Warren "Pete" Oldham. He touched the lives of many and he will be missed.

IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of International Women's Day. More than 30 years ago, March 8 was designated by the United Nations as a day to reflect upon women's struggle for equality, justice,

peace and development. In the decades since, International Women's Day has become a holiday in many countries around the world, and acts as an annual catalyst for the advancement of women.

Throughout our history, the United States has been a leader in advancing women's rights and opportunity. While much work remains here and abroad, I join many of my colleagues and constituents in saluting the contributions of women around the world.

Many of those contributions have been made through the recent election of women political leaders. Chile, Jamaica, Germany and Liberia have all elected women to head their governments in the past 6 months. Despite this encouraging trend, governments led by women remain an anomaly. Only 11 out of the more than 200 members of the United Nations have women leaders. Moreover, there remains persistent underrepresentation of women serving as legislators, parliamentarians, and government ministers. Globally, women hold only 16 percent of all seats, a disappointing increase of only 5 percent since 1975. The 109th U.S. Congress boasts 84 female Members, the highest number in our history, but women still make up only 6.4 percent of the membership of the House and Senate, well below the world's average.

Development experts and advocates have long identified education as the key to improving women's well-being. More than 180 governments committed to achieving gender equality in education by 2005 as one of eight U.N. Millennium Development Goals, but we have a long way to go.

In the developing world, 60 million girls aged 6 to 11 are not in school, which severely limits their political, physical, and social opportunities.

In developed countries, an increasing number of women are pursuing higher education, but they have been unable to secure academic employment or research funding proportionate to their male colleagues. Policymakers have become increasingly concerned about a growing shortage of men on America's college campuses, but several important departments in our universities remain disproportionately the province of men, especially at the graduate level. The percentage of women earning advanced degrees in science or engineering is especially low. Only one in four master's degrees in these fast-growing fields is awarded to a woman. Even women who do earn Ph.D.s in computer science and engineering earn, on average, \$9,000 less per year than men in similar positions.

This income disparity is reflected throughout the workforce where women continue to face multiple impediments to their advancement. American women still earn an average of 25 percent less than their male colleagues, a wider wage gap than that in other developed countries, which affects women of all ages, races, and education levels. Unfortunately, the wage

disparity is being narrowed at a rate of less than half a penny a year.

In the 108th Congress, I was proud to cosponsor the Paycheck Fairness Act to combat gender-based wage discrimination by requiring that employees be educated about their rights, and permitting women to seek recourse under the Equal Pay Act.

There are some positive trends. While less than one third of employers in the developing world are women, this percentage is growing, especially in the United States. Between 1997 and 2004, the number of American companies primarily owned by women grew by 23 percent, well above the 9 percent overall increase in U.S. businesses during this period.

Here and abroad, though, women remain vulnerable to violence. I was proud to cosponsor the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2005, and I have been a longtime advocate of efforts to prevent and treat domestic violence, child abuse, dating violence, and sexual assault. I have consistently advocated for greater Federal funding for research and treatment programs for breast cancer, ovarian cancer, heart disease and postpartum depression.

In acknowledging the challenges faced and overcome by women, I want to commend the sacrifices of America's brave women serving overseas, especially in Iraq. Women have served in every U.S. military conflict since the Revolution and have played an official role in the U.S. military for over 100 years. Today, women make up almost 15 percent of Active-Duty personnel. One in every seven U.S. soldiers in Iraq is a woman, and they are engaged in the conflict on a far greater scale than ever before, piloting helicopters, accompanying infantry on raids against insurgents, searching Iraqi women suspects for pistols and suicide belts. The contribution of American women has come at a high price. To date, 48 service women have been killed in Iraq and more than 300 have been wounded, but their service has inspired their compatriots on the front lines and here at home, as well as millions of women in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world, as symbols of women's courage and capacity. And today, we salute them and all women for their contributions.

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the 5-minute Special Order of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is vacated.

There was no objection.

THE AMERICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the vacated time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, in "The Glorious Quest," James R. Evans wrote, "No historian of the future will ever be able to prove that the ideas of individual liberty practiced in the United States of America were a failure. He may be able to prove that we were not yet worthy of them. The choice is ours."

I bring this to our attention, Mr. Speaker, because recently in a poll that was revealed by the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum, a survey found out that on questions on the first amendment, one American in a thousand could name all five of the freedoms in the first amendment to the Constitution. However, in that same survey, 69 percent of those surveyed knew who the five members of the TV cartoon family "The Simpsons" was. They knew and could name all five members of the Simpson family.

I bring this to our attention because now more than ever, Mr. Evans' words ought to ring clear to us. And in that glorious quest that he talked about, educating ourselves and then using that education for political action was one of the most important things that we could do as Americans to sustain our form of government.

I bring this to our attention as well, because oftentimes I relish the opportunity to speak to students in my district, especially those in the honors government class. Invariably when I ask those students, whether they be high school seniors not too far off from casting their first vote to sustain this Republic, or to college freshmen somewhere in the curriculum, I ask them: Where do your freedoms come from? What are the source of your freedoms?

Many times they will raise their hand and say it is the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. Only one in a thousand can name the five freedoms in the First Amendment. Those students are sorely fit, I would say, to go forward and lead this great Nation under our constitutional form of government, because, as I usually explain to them, actually the 10 amendments are a document of prohibition, not a document of establishment of freedoms. That is your birthright from when you were born.

That was the great magic of the Founding Fathers. For the first time, they elevated the individual above the crown, above the king, above royalty, above all else except he who created them. For the first time, the individual was elevated higher than anyone else on this Earth.

If I might, let me briefly read from the first 10 amendments. Amendment I: The prohibition. Congress shall make no laws.