

the debt of our citizens. It is that simple. If they cannot figure it out, maybe they should not be running the place.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, first, I want to respond to something my distinguished colleague from the other side said. Now you talk about smoke and mirrors. For him to say on our side that we are talking about raising taxes is so disingenuous. Nobody is talking about raising taxes. We are talking about fiscal responsibility and pay-as-you-go responsibilities.

We are saying that we do not want to cut vital services to the American people and then go borrow more money that we have to pay interest on. That, in effect, when you put it altogether, if anybody is talking about raising taxes, it is the Republicans. Somebody has to pay for this. You know who is going to pay for it, our grandchildren and our children based on their proposals.

No, sir, you are not going to be able to depend on Democrats this night that we are talking about raising taxes. Democrats are talking about keeping our taxes low and bringing fiscal responsibility back to this House.

You talk about responsibility. When Democrats were in control, when President Clinton was there, he left a several trillion dollar surplus. In just 5 years, this President and this Republican-led Congress has squandered that surplus. So when you talk about who is more responsible for the taxpayers' money, it is Democrats, not Republicans. And the American people are not going to be fooled by this smoke and mirrors of consistently trying to paint the Democrats as being for raising taxes and they for not. The Republicans are for raising taxes and raising the debt ceiling.

Madam Speaker, I want to show this chart. It is not as big as your chart, but the Republicans have increased the debt limit by \$3 trillion. I have been here 4 years, and this is the fourth time that the Republicans have asked to raise the debt ceiling so they can borrow more money.

In June, 2002, they asked to raise the debt ceiling by \$452 billion. In May, 2003, they asked to raise the debt ceiling by \$984 billion. In November of 2004, they raised the debt ceiling by \$800 billion, all of which we are borrowing against, against the best national security interests of this country, against the best financial security interests of this country.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I hope the gentleman appreciates the fact that I yielded him a minute to beat me up some more.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, let me assure the gentleman it was not beating him up. He is a great gentleman, but it is some of the policies that have been emanating from the gentleman's leadership.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Reclaiming my time, a couple of points.

Number one, as a percentage of this economy, this is not the largest deficit we have had in history, which is the statistic that matters. But you know what? This deficit is too big because it is a deficit, period.

Number two, if you do not pass this tax bill, taxes automatically go up. That means they are increased. Here is what this tax bill does: It prevents these tax cuts from going away. Said another way, it keeps taxes where they are so they do not automatically increase because the law requires that taxes go up next year, the year after, and the year after that.

So the concern we have is that because we lowered taxes, got economic growth going again, created new jobs, it actually increased revenues to the Federal Government and lowered our deficit projections. The concern we have is let us focus on spending, not taking more money out of the pocketbooks of our constituents. Let us not take a bigger bite of the paychecks of the workers of America by taking more of their tax dollars. Let us prevent these tax increases from hitting the American people and let us focus on the real problem, spending.

So if you try to defeat this tax bill, you are basically saying we want taxes to increase. Or if you want to offset it, you are saying to prevent tax increases we need to increase taxes. That does not make a lot of sense.

So the point is we have probably a fundamental disagreement. We believe that we should not raise taxes on people. We believe that the more money a person has in their paycheck, the more money a person has in their pocketbook and wallet and their business, the more successful they are going to be, the more freedom they have, the more prosperous they will be and the better our economy will be. And its impact on our budget deficits is a beneficial one, usually, because it means there are more revenues coming to the government.

Nevertheless, we should not look at it as an opportunity to spend. We should look at this good economic news we have right now, the fact that the economy is growing, people are going back to work and paying taxes, we should look at this as a moment to make sure we do not spend as much money so we can reduce the deficit and pay down our debt. That is what it is all about at the end of the day.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the dialogue and the debate. I urge a no vote on this motion to instruct.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DRAKE). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

LIBERATION OF IRAQ

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago this month, the fight for liberation of Iraq began in the hot desert lands of the Middle East. On March 19, 2003, American soldiers embarked on the war against tyranny, treachery and terrorism. Since then, thousands of brave, passionate Americans have fought for freedom for the Iraqi people.

As the song says, all have given some, and some have given all in this battle for liberty and justice. The Americans went to Iraq as freedom fighters and have established a democracy in that place that has never known true freedom.

Those young Americans are all volunteers, and more Americans are joining the military each day to continue this battle.

When I was in Iraq, I visited with those Americans, and they told me they are winning this war on terror, and I agree with them. This is the finest military ever assembled in history, and we owe them our support and our resolve. I paraphrase what President Kennedy said, We will support any friend, oppose any foe, pay any price to secure the defense of liberty.

Some things are just worth fighting for, and freedom is one of those things. God bless these Americans, and that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE PLANO, TEXAS, BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Plano Senior High School boys basketball team.

Under the leadership of Coach Inman, they made history on March 11 as the first Plano school team to capture a State basketball championship. The Wildcats, you know, come-from-behind