

I yield to my friend.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, you are talking fact, not fiction. Anyone who wants to talk about balancing the U.S. budget, the Democrats are the only party in the House, Madam Speaker, that have a right to say that we have done it. We have actually done it.

You have a lot of folks saying, well, we are going to try to cut it in half, and maybe we will get it to a quarter or whatever on the Republican side, the Republican majority with all the power, control of the House, control of the Senate, and control of the Presidency. It should be a smooth-sailing process.

If someone wants to call Democrats names and point fingers, call the former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives a name. Call him a liberal. Call him someone who is irresponsible, if you want to name-call. And I challenge Members to come down here and talk about what is good about owing foreign countries money, not because they did something to us, but because this Congress gave the whole country a self-inflicting wound of debt. They have been saying we are going to spend your money irresponsibly, and then we are going to allow these other countries to own a piece of the American apple pie.

Mr. RYAN, you did an excellent closing. I want to thank you, sir, for coming down to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us to have this second hour.

91ST COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. As the first genocide of the 20th century, it is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

April 24th marked the beginning of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Over the following 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile.

Last week I was joined by my cochair of the Armenia Caucus and many of my colleagues in Congress on a bipartisan basis in sending yet another bipartisan congressional letter to President Bush urging him to use the word "genocide" in his April 24th commemorative statement. With over 178 signatures, the message in that letter is loud and clear: 90 years is too long to wait for justice to be served and proper recognition to be made.

The President should have used the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide to promote the U.S. foreign policy that reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. But, instead, President Bush once again failed to honor his pledge to properly characterize the Armenian genocide in his annual remarks. Despite pleas by Members of Congress and the Armenian American community, and recognition by much of the international community, he continues to avoid any clear reference to the Armenian genocide while consistently opposing legislation marking this crime against humanity.

The Bush administration continues to be influenced by the Government of Turkey by placing parts of our foreign policy in their hands. When it comes to facing the judgment of history about the Armenian genocide, Turkey, rather than acknowledging truth, has instead chosen to trample on the rights of its citizens to maintain its lies. The U.S. cannot continue to submit to Turkey's shameless threats and intimidation.

Madam Speaker, the U.S. owes it to the Armenian American community, to the 1.5 million that were massacred in the genocide, and to its own history to reaffirm what is fact. As we have seen time and time again, the United States has a proud history of action and response to the Armenian genocide. During a time when hundreds of thousands were left orphaned and starving, a time when a nation was on the verge of complete extermination, the U.S. took the lead and proudly helped end these atrocities. In fact, Americans helped launch an unprecedented U.S. diplomatic, political, and humanitarian campaign to end the carnage and protect the survivors.

If America is going to live up to the standards we set for ourselves and continue to lead the world in affirming human rights everywhere, we need to stand up and recognize the tragic events that began in 1915 for what they were: The systematic elimination of a people. The fact of the Armenian genocide is not in dispute.

Madam Speaker, regardless of President Bush's inaction, I call on Speaker HASTERT to bring the resolution to officially recognize the Armenian genocide to the House floor. The resolution that passed in committee last September, again on a bipartisan basis by an overwhelming majority, has over 148 cosponsors. Now is the time to allow Members to reaffirm the United States' record on the Armenian genocide.

The U.S. Government needs to stop playing politics with this tragic time in history and take a firm stance for the truth. Genocide must not be tolerated.

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HEALTH CARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor tonight to talk about health care, but I have to spend just a minute or two addressing some of the things that we just heard in the previous hour.

There has been a lot of discussion about the Jobs and Growth Act that was passed in 2003, in fact in May of 2003, a reinvestment of \$80 billion back into the American economy, back into the productive sector of the American economy. The American people rewarded the United States Treasury with an increase in collections to the Treasury the next year with \$260 billion that were not anticipated. Investment in the productive sector of the American economy works every time it is tried, and I am grateful to be part of the Congress in 2003 that provided that reinvestment opportunity for the American people.

There has been a lot of discussion this past couple of weeks about gas prices. We passed an energy bill at the end of July last year. Part of the deal on that energy bill was that there was going to be no liability protection for a compound called MTBE, a federally mandated oxygenate in gasoline that is sold in this country in order to comply with clean air restrictions.

Without MTBE, we are left with only ethanol as the only oxygenate available for the mixture of gasoline that is required to be sold in States that have clean air issues. We removed the MTBE because it was placed in legal peril.

We had an opportunity in October after the hurricanes hit, after we knew there was going to be trouble, we had an opportunity to address the oxygenate requirements in the blended fuels that are going to be blended and sold for this summer's driving season, precisely the time we are up against right now.

This House passed that bill which would have allowed for that relaxation of oxygenation requirements. We passed it with no Democratic votes. It was only Republican votes that passed the bill, and it has never been taken up by the Senate. The consequences are quite predictable.

Now, we were told during the hearings on the energy bill the prior year by individuals from, and you talk about a special interest group, that is the ethanol lobby; we were told that the ethanol manufacturers in this country had unbelievable success and they were able to produce ethanol that exceeded their wildest expectations. Well, they were wrong and they have not been able to produce the quantity they said, and it is time for this country to look at the tariff that we place on foreign imported ethanol. If we are going to require foreign imported ethanol to be part of our gasoline oxygenate system, we are going to have to import ethanol at least temporarily until we can increase production in this country.