

are so close to finding cures for devastating disease might not have the funding they need for medical research and breakthrough clinical trials that will change the way we live. Cancer, Alzheimer's, autism will all remain shortchanged if we do not have the discretionary funding necessary to put together the pieces.

Think about the roads, the highways, the bridges. Our children and grandchildren may wake up in a dismal scene. These scenarios only scratch the surface on how concerned we should be about America's future.

The ramifications of out-of-control spending reach far beyond our shores. I have always believed in the biblical admonition that to whom much is given, much is required, and have supported efforts, as have many in this Congress, to fight global hunger and poverty and disease. For example, U.S. Government funding for global HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria was nearly \$20 billion over the last 5 years. The recent 5-year reauthorization commits \$50 billion.

While that is good news for millions hurting around the world, it places America in the position of fulfilling a moral obligation to keep these vulnerable populations alive. Yet where will the money come from if America's foreign assistance dollars continue to shrink because the mandatory spending is taking a growing piece of the pie?

Ecclesiastes 5:5 says, "It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it." I fear, Madam Speaker, that the vow will not be able to be fulfilled because of the deficit spending that we have no way to deal with.

The economic stimulus being shaped by the administration offers an opportunity, and JIM COOPER and I have a bipartisan bill, eight Republicans and eight Democrats, that puts all spending on the table and forces, and forces the Congress to act.

Many Members of the Congress go home and love to give the speeches at the Rotary Clubs talking about how bad the deficit is, but yet when they come back to Washington they do nothing about it. So next week, Madam Speaker, I will offer an amendment in the appropriations bill to put the Cooper-Wolf language into law whereby we can get control of this runaway spending.

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### END TO FIGHTING IN GAZA STRIP NEEDED

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the increasingly grave situation in the Gaza Strip and to express my disappointment that Congress has not spoken more clearly and forcibly in favor of a cease-fire. The latest fighting between Israel and Hamas has led to a humanitarian crisis. According to news reports, quoting various official sources on both sides of the battle, the impact on civilians in Gaza is severe and growing worse.

Madam Speaker, like every Member of this House, I support the right of Israel to defend itself and its people, and, like my colleagues, I strongly denounce Hamas' ongoing indiscriminate destabilizing rocket attacks against civilian populations in southern Israel and Hamas' clear intent to terrorize the people of Israel. In no uncertain terms, I call on Hamas to end its rocket attacks against Israel immediately.

But I also believe in no uncertain terms there must be a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel and it must commence immediately. The loss of life to children and their families, the vast destruction of homes and the enormous suffering in Gaza that is being caused by the escalation of this conflict must end.

Last week, the House spoke out on this latest conflict in the Middle East by passing H. Res. 34 that "recognizes Israel's right to defend itself against the attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process."

I was disappointed that, as this body has done so often in the past, the House voted only to reiterate its support for Israel and its right to defend itself, rather than also to have used our considerable influence to pressure both sides to agree to a cease-fire in order to protect civilians on both sides caught in this conflict and in order to work toward a lasting resolution of this conflict that will lead to the protection and security of Israel.

I support much of the language in the resolution, but I regret that H.R. 34 in its entirety was not a correct statement for the House to make at the time. The question for the House and the international community is how the Israeli people will be able to live in peace and security without the constant threat of attack from Hamas and others and how the United States and all other nations can assist in achieving that outcome in a lasting manner.

The House has not weighed in on this question. The House of Representatives should throw its considerable weight behind the call for an immediate cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. The cease-fire is in the best interests of Israel and the United States.

The fact is that there has been a failure of political leadership that has led to this renewed and devastating fighting in Gaza. The Bush administration failed to adequately and successfully address the Middle East conflict during

its time in office and during the time in which we knew the cease-fire was coming to an end, and conditions might have been changed so that it could have been extended.

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The international community has failed to adequately address the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Experts in the Middle East had warned that a conflict of this nature would eventually come, and will continue to come in the future if conditions on the ground do not change. Their warning went unheeded, and now a new and costly war has broken out.

Hamas rocket attacks against Israel are indefensible. But neither can the disproportionate military response by Israel be defended. The latest fighting was preceded by a lengthy and crushing blockade by Israel of Gaza that caused an humanitarian crisis. Hamas, unfortunately, chose to break the cease-fire and continue shelling of Israel. And Israel chose the breaking of the cease-fire to launch, as it should have, a defense of Israel, but unfortunately, with an all-out attack on Gaza.

Lost in all of this is the answer to the question of how the Israeli people can be assured the protection they deserve. The rocket attacks against Israel continue, albeit lessened now, despite the enormous firepower brought against Hamas by Israel. There is no clear answer as to how Israel will bring this conflict to an end in Gaza or clear what Israel's ultimate goals are in this conflict.

Only a cease-fire and a new international commitment to negotiate a cessation of hostilities between Hamas and Israel can protect the people of Israel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. JOHN DIAMANDIS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of my dear friend, Dr. Themistocles "John" Diamandis, endearingly known as Dr. D.

Dr. D was born on April 11, 1929, in Tarpon Springs General Hospital in Tarpon Springs, Florida. It was a foreshadowing that Dr. D started off life in that tiny, 12-bed hospital. He started off his medical career in 1961 at Tarpon Springs General Hospital, where he was one of three doctors on staff. He spent the next 47 years as a dedicated general practitioner there.

He earned a pharmacy degree from the University of Florida in 1951. Prior to medical school, he worked as a pharmacist at Webb's City in St. Petersburg, Florida. He earned a medical degree from the University of Miami in 1958. While in medical school he worked at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served his country in the Army during the Korean war.

A proud member of the Tarpon Springs community Dr. D cared for generations of Tarponites, including the pioneers of the Tarpon Springs sponge industry.

He started his career with his assistant, Cally Catroulis, who remained with him, amazingly, for 47 years, until his retirement. He opted not to hire nurses, preferring to spend as much time himself with each patient by taking, for instance, each blood pressure reading himself. While he often ran late having meaningful discussions with his patients, I can attest to that, others were happy to wait their turn for him, knowing that they would be the subject of his extra care and attention.

Dr. D was always on call for his patients, day or night. He is known for making late night and weekend house calls. Before going to bed each night, he would check in on his patients at home or at the hospital, amazingly. He never failed to treat a sick person, and never asked if they had insurance. Sometimes he was paid only with a hot meal or a Greek pastry after a house call.

As a matter of fact, Dr. D was a mentor to my brother, Dr. Emanuel Bilirakis.

In addition to his tireless dedication to his patients, Dr. D has been an activist in his community, frequently speaking out on local, State and Federal issues, on issues near and dear to his heart such as affordable health care, lower taxes, and improved infrastructure. He also remained active in his church, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and also various civic organizations such as AHEPA.

Madam Speaker, Dr. D is a rare breed of physician and humanitarian. Many describe him as an old fashioned doctor, but his practice embodied all that was and is still good in medicine, the strength and importance of the relationship between a primary care doctor and his or her patients.

That tiny hospital where he was born and started his medical career was the same one he retired from this past September of 2008. Now known as Helen Ellis Memorial Hospital, it has grown to a 168-bed facility with 356 staff physicians, a legacy of Dr. D.

Madam Speaker, I can only think of one word to describe Dr. D—axios.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. ROGERS, Michigan

#### WHO'S GOING TO SPEND THE MONEY?

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we took up the issue of the Troubled Asset Recovery, whatever TARP stands for. \$350 billion has been thrown, as one man wished it to be, as he directed.

There's another \$350 billion that has been allocated. Now, the question is, who's going to spend it?

Now, I've got a bill that I filed, it was, I think, the first bill laid down over here on the Clerk's desk the minute after we were sworn in, and it's a bill to allow the people that earned the money to spend it. The Treasury Secretary would have to put it in the general revenue and use that to cover any shortfalls from withholding not coming in.

This isn't some rebate where we spend millions to let people know you may get a rebate check, and then millions to process it, and then by and by, pie in the sky, they get a rebate check down the road for \$300, \$600. This is real money we're talking about, in the account, in the hands of those who earned it as soon as they get their pay-

check. If we pass this bill next Thursday that I've proposed, people on their Friday paychecks could have all of their Federal withholding in that check, all of their FICA withholding in that check.

So anybody that's working, performing services, including self-employed, they have a 2-month tax holiday. That money is immediately in their hands, in the economy, not some bureaucrat in Washington who is so arrogant that he thinks you couldn't possibly know where to spend that money to help the economy and help yourself.

So, we've asked, we surveyed people who have e-mailed in and asked, what would you—look at the withholding and see what, tell us what you would use your money for. Number 1 answer? Pay off credit cards, catch up on loans, including the mortgage.

Well, Paulson's out there spending hundreds of billions of dollars to try to loosen up lending so people can refinance and borrow more money to catch up on the mortgage they got behind on in the last year, many, back when gas prices were \$4 a gallon. Let them catch up with their own money. They don't need another loan.

Others said they'd go out to eat. They'd stop, they'd use it for entertainment. Others said they'd invest it in their small business to develop it. Others said they'd invest it in the stock markets. That would help the market.

Ten percent of those said they'd use it to buy a new home. That would help them with their down payment. There's so much in the withholding. Others said they'd use it to buy a car. Some said they'd put it in savings. But that would give banks more money to make more loans, so that would be a good thing as well.

Some got very specific. They said they'd buy farm supplies, help with their college education this year. Some said they'd buy insulation for their home to help on the energy bill. One said he'd buy a stove and an oven. Another said he'd use—well, there were many who said they'd repair and remodel their home. Others said they'd pay for medical procedures that they need. How about that? It's not some guy in Washington paying. It's the people that earned the money that would get to spend it.

Another was going to put on a new roof for his home so his family would be dryer and warmer. The people that earned the money know what to do with it.

It is the height of arrogance that in this body, we'd say, no, no, no, GOHMERT's got this bill, H.R. 143, that lets the people that earned it have a 2-month tax holiday. We can't do that. We can't let that come to the floor for a vote.

I proposed this amendment yesterday. Got shut out. They didn't want it on the floor. Probably pass. People would be afraid to vote against the people. And that's what that vote is.