

know what? We may need \$1.2 trillion to really get the American economy going. Do you know why that triggered something special in me? It is because, I know, I asked for the numbers, the amount of money that the American individual taxpayers paid per year this last year is right at \$1.2 trillion in individual income tax. Wow. Can you imagine? Can you get your mind, Mr. Speaker, around the thought of not paying income tax for a whole year? Can you imagine if the American public were told, do you know what? We had wanted a \$1.2 trillion stimulus package to try the best we can to get the economy going. But then it hit us. Do you know the American people are not as stupid as we have characterized them as being? So let's let the American public have that \$1.2 trillion for this year. They won't pay any income tax for the whole year. It would be the same thing. No individual income tax or giving Washington \$1.2 trillion and let them try to spend their way into helping the American public. Well, the American public is not as stupid as this town has cast them as being. They can figure out good ways to spend the money that they earned and getting this economy going.

Because what are they trying to do? Well, we want to help Detroit. We want to help with jobs. Can you imagine if everybody in America had their own withholding and FICA withholding for a year, the cars that would be bought, the stock that would be bought, the homes that would be bought, the homes that would be built and the businesses that would be built with their own money? They don't need some arrogant bureaucrat in Washington saying, give me \$1.2 trillion, and I will try to spend it the right way to get the economy going.

If you let the American people have \$1.2 trillion with no individual income tax for a year, this economy would explode. It would be going so good, people would want to rush back into America with these jobs, because this is where it's all happening.

So, I'm still holding out great hope, because one of the things, and Mr. Speaker, I know, I feel sure that President Obama inspires you as he does me, I sat there listening to that inaugural address. And I was inspired. And I know there are critics out there who say, well, I was expecting a better speech from him. I really was. That was a great speech.

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The problem that President Obama has is he is so good at speech making, people have come to set the bar so high

that he can give a great speech and people are not impressed. Well, I was impressed. Of course he talked about Washington, and that struck a chord with me. When he said: "With hope and virtue, let us brave the icy currents," well, I agree with him. With hope, we have got that. Virtue, well, we just approved a new Treasury Secretary that wasn't virtuous enough to pay his income tax, but apparently we are going to overlook that kind of virtue requirement. Yes, we have some conflict of interest problems with some other appointments. Maybe we will just go forward with hope because we are losing the virtue issue here with some of the recent appointments.

But I am hopeful that this President will understand some of the things that some of the people around President Bush did not, and that is the American people are not as stupid as this town has cast them. They are smart enough to know how to spend their own money, smart enough to get the economy going if we let them have their own money to do it. I am still holding out hope. As the poet says, there is the hope that springs eternal in the human breast. I have got it and I know you guys have it too, Mr. Speaker. We have that hope that springs eternal, but we need to recognize that the arrogance in this town, the arrogance of this capital is much too pervasive and that the hope for this country does not arrive on Air Force One, but we need to take responsibility. We need to let the American public get the economy going with their own money, cut the arrogance and recognize the American people for the backbones of this country that they are. I appreciate the opportunity to vent a little bit from my friend, Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman. This proposal that you've put forth is terribly intriguing, and I suspect we will get a lot of interest. I know we have to direct our comments to the Chair and not to the cameras, but I would be curious if the gentleman has a bill to that effect.

Mr. GOHMERT. The bill is H.R. 143. It is a two-month tax holiday that lets people keep all of their own withholding and all of their FICA for two months. And all it takes is passage and the next paycheck, it is not six months down the road, it is all of their withholding in the check as soon as we pass the bill. That is what H.R. 143 is about. I hope people call the White House and say President Obama, you have inspired me so please, let us have our own money. H.R. 143 is the way to do it and the way that the President can keep his promise.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for that insight. Am I recorded as a cosponsor on H.R. 143?

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentleman is. The gentleman has been a confidante and adviser and has been here longer than I have. I have greatly appreciated the advice and wisdom of Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I also would like to inquire if I too am a cosponsor of that excellent piece of legislation.

Mr. GOHMERT. Dr. GINGREY is a cosponsor and trusted confidante and adviser.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. COURTNEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COURTNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CALVERT, for 5 minutes, January 27 and 28.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, January 27 and 28.

Mr. OLSON, for 5 minutes, January 28.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

#### EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows: