

quarter of 2008—\$569 billion. It is important to emphasize here that the only money the Federal Government has is that which it takes from tax-paying citizens or borrows from foreign countries. We have never in the history of our Nation taken on this much debt this quickly. For those keeping track at home, that's \$1.062 trillion in 6 months. Did I mention that this is more than \$1 trillion in new debt in a mere 6 months does not include the so-called "stimulus" plan, which now costs \$900 billion? Folks, the Federal Government is broke. Every single dollar of new spending is added to our national debt. And how do we pay back this debt? That's easy. New taxes. Higher taxes.

In the meantime, we keep hearing how this borrow-and-spend stimulus plan is going to quickly create jobs. How does upgrading the Department of Agriculture's computers create jobs quickly? Or \$650 million for DTV coupons, or a billion for Census follow-up in 2010 or \$7 billion for a GSA fund that is already running a surplus?

Well, this kind of spending doesn't create jobs. It creates debt. It has no business in legislation billed as "job creating." Some of this spending may actually have merit, but it belongs in the budget process, not tacked onto a must-pass bill because it couldn't stand a chance in the actual budget.

This kind of back-room deal-making and wasteful spending is just the kind of Washington business-as-usual that Americans are tired of. If we are going to have an economic recovery package, let's do it right.

Despite our colleagues on the other side of the aisle saying we do not have a plan, Republicans have proposed a package of tax relief and unemployment assistance that will create twice the jobs at half the cost. Let me repeat that. The Republican proposal creates twice the jobs at half the cost. And the GOP plan addresses the underlying cause of our economic distress in the U.S. housing market.

I want to thank my colleague from Virginia, ERIC CANTOR, for helping to spearhead this plan and for setting up a helpful Web site that discusses the Republican economic recovery plan at republicanwhip.house.gov. This plan will help small businesses start hiring and will get the housing market moving again. And it acknowledges that every dollar the government borrows today must be paid back by our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren tomorrow.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, may the gifts of Your Presence, unity and peace, inspire aspirations of greatness in the people of the United States and in their representatives serving here in the 111th Congress.

With a great diversity of backgrounds and opinions, while facing wedge issues that so easily divide people, encourage all Americans to work hard at understanding complex problems with depth and clarity of thinking. Teach them to be patient and persevering in their relationships with others, and help them to transcend differences by praying for one another.

Then, both in dialogue and debate, develop within Your people better skills of listening. I am sure even You, Lord, would prefer us to simply say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening," rather than go on and on with our complaints and petitions. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, this week we have yet another opportunity to ensure that every child in America has access to health care. And during these tough economic times, it is even more critical that we move quickly and send the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act to President Obama for his signature.

In my State of North Carolina, there are about 240,000 children enrolled in the program. But we still have an estimated 296,000 children who lack health insurance. By passing this bill, Madam

Speaker, we can reduce that number by 46 percent. Our children need health insurance now.

I hope you will join me in approving this important bill this week when it comes to the floor.

BAILOUT BONUS BANDITS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, more fallout continues from the bailout. Congress gave the people's money to AIG last year in the amount of \$152 billion. AIG has decided to spend \$400 million on bonuses for 400 executives. That sounds like about \$1 million per executive to me.

But they aren't alone. The Wall Street fat cats demanded and received \$350 billion in bailout money, and gave \$18 billion to their big-shot executives. Do you know that those are the same executives that helped get us in this current economic mess? It looks like they are being rewarded for bad conduct.

But the real problem is the bonus money doesn't belong to AIG or the "Wall Street Banking Boys Gang." It's one thing for a free market, private company to spend their money any way they choose. That's capitalism. But the free enterprise system was altered when those companies started demanding and taking taxpayers' money. Most normal citizens who are scraping to make ends meet, like the Joe Sixpacks in America, don't like the way the bailout bandits are spending and wasting their taxpayer money.

Madam Speaker, when Big Business gets in bed with Big Government, in the morning, the government mistress will tell Big Business how to spend the money.

And that's just the way it is.

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. There's talk now that the banks will receive an additional \$1 to \$2 trillion in bailout funds. That would bring the total amount to \$2.7 trillion, which equates to about a little bit more or less than \$9,000 per person. I want you to think about that in terms of the fact that there are 50 million Americans without any health insurance and another 50 million who are underinsured. Health care for the American people should be a defining purpose of our government. And yet, we are giving money to these corporations and these banks who won't create jobs, who won't save homes and who will hoard the money.

It's time that we had a universal health care system such as is provided in H.R. 676, the bill that I'm cosponsoring with JOHN CONYERS, that once and for all says that the health of the