

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Democrats have broken their promise not to raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans. Democrats are proposing to tax small businesses and everyone who plans to turn on a light, drive a car, or heat their home.

Under the Democrat budget, many small businesses will see their taxes go up. At a time when our economy is in trouble, this budget raises taxes on the one group that creates the most jobs in America.

But small businesses are not alone. Under the new Democrat cap, trade, and tax proposal, every household in this country would pay as much as \$3,128 each year in higher energy costs. This would surely overwhelm any tax break they may be getting.

The President says this budget is not just about numbers on a page. I agree. There are real families and small businesses that will be hurt by the \$1.4 trillion in new taxes this budget will create.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

CALLING FOR COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the bonuses announced by AIG are nothing less than a slap in the face to the tax-paying families across my district and across the entire country. Families that are struggling to pay rising energy bills and put food on their table.

To expect hardworking middle class families in my district and across the country to foot the bill for executive bonuses when those same executives failed in their job and dragged our economy down with them is completely unacceptable.

My constituents pay their bills on time. They make hard financial choices, and they meet their responsibilities each and every day without a bailout.

This is truly a nonpartisan issue. I will work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and with the administration to build a regulatory system founded on accountability. That is why I support legislation to hold these irresponsible individuals accountable and demand that they pay back to the American people the money that we gave them in bailouts.

Now is the time for comprehensive financial regulatory reform and accountability. Never again should we leave the foxes in charge of the henhouse.

THE DEMOCRAT PARTY: THE PARTY OF "OWE"

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat budget that we are looking at of \$3.6 trillion spends too much, taxes too much, and it borrows too much.

Not that spending is a problem to this majority. Take recently the town of Union, New York, which received \$578,000 in stimulus money that they did not ask for, and the money was earmarked for a homeless prevention shelter, which they do not have. Now the town supervisor says this is nice but we're not aware of any homeless problem in Union, New York.

Nonetheless, the White House, instead of saying this is a mistake, they simply say we encourage them to develop creative strategies for this funding.

This party is the party of "owe." They owe China. They owe their big union lobbyists. They owe our children and the future generations. And, oh, my goodness, look how many O's are in \$3.6 trillion.

□ 1230

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the President's fiscal year 2010 budget proposal. We are in a crucial time in our Nation's history. According to a recent CNN poll, 45 percent of Americans believe that another Great Depression is likely.

The President's budget represents a bold strike to revitalize the economy and provides a path to future economic stability and prosperity. The proposal is a good start.

There are, however, areas that require further refinement. The suggestion to limit itemized deductions will have negative unintended consequences. As charitable donations become scarcer in these trying times, signaling an intent to limit their tax-deductible value may further impair charitable giving at precisely the time we need more.

Capping the mortgage interest deduction will cause unintended discouragement for homeownership at precisely the time we need to stabilize home values. We also must consider increasing the \$250,000 income cap for raising tax brackets. In my district, with one of the highest costs of living and one of the highest percentages of dual incomes, the proposed level would be a difficult imposition. Additionally, we must ensure pay parity between civilian and military government employees as we ask more of the civilian workforce.

Overall, I expect the proposed budget to be worked out over the next few weeks in the Budget Committee.

LEGISLATIVE MALPRACTICE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the President's chief of staff said, "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste. It's an opportunity to do things that you think you could not do before."

In other words, the administration and this Congress are exploiting our financial crisis, inserting many of their political-agenda items into the massive spending bills without due deliberation: items like repeal of welfare reform; like the comparative effectiveness board that will lead to rationed health care; like electricity rate decoupling, which increases electricity prices as people use less energy; like easing Cuba travel restrictions; like mandating Davis-Bacon for all contract projects in the country; like killing school choice for poor kids in Washington; and parts of government-run health care and the cap-and-trade energy taxes and more and more.

Without one Member of the House reading these 1,100-page-plus bills, Mr. Speaker, this is legislative malpractice.

AIG AND THEIR BIG-TIME BONUSES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my e-mail inbox is full of constituents fed up with AIG. I don't blame them. I have had it up to here with bad news about AIG and their big-time bonuses. They should return that money.

As a U.S. News columnist asked, "Forget bonuses. Why are these people still collecting regular paychecks?" I am glad that New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo demanded AIG provide information on who is receiving bonuses in its Financial Products Group. Those who receive the fat-cat bonuses are mainly responsible for the company's and the country's financial problems.

I say fire them all. They don't deserve bonuses. Turn them over to the Marines. Put them in the brig.

CONGRATULATING ZWOLLE AND SPRINGHILL ON WINNING BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the accomplishments of two outstanding basketball programs that brought home Louisiana State titles in my district over this weekend.

The Springhill High School Lumberjacks won the Class 2A State championship on Saturday with a 70-66 victory over Many High School. Antonious Markray ended a stellar high-school career with a game high of 29 points for the Lumberjacks. This is the first State title in the modern era for Springhill, Louisiana.

Also winning a State title this week-end were the Class B champions from Zwolle High School. The Hawks beat Rapides 55-53 with Antonio Holmes leading the way. He finished with 17 points and was awarded the MVP trophy. This is the third State title in 4 years for Zwolle.

Congratulations to the players, coaches and parents of the Lumberjacks and the Hawks for a job well done.

HONORING THE EDEN PRAIRIE EAGLES BOYS HOCKEY TEAM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Eden Prairie Eagles boys hockey team that won the Minnesota State High School Class AA Tournament just this past weekend.

Minnesota is known as the "State of Hockey," and I submit we have the highest quality high school hockey tournament in the Nation. Led by coach Lee Smith, the talented Eden Prairie team had a tough road to the title.

They beat defending State champion Hill-Murray in the opening round, and they followed that win with a victory over a tough Blaine team. In the final, they defeated a tough Moorhead team as well, 3-0, to win the school's very first high school hockey championship for Eden Prairie.

As a resident of Eden Prairie myself, I am especially proud of the Eagles. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering our praises and congratulations to the coaches, the parents and the talented group of scholar athletes for a great season. And I also heartily applaud the school spirit of the student cheering section, which was the largest at the tournament.

OUTRAGE OVER HARASSMENT OF U.S. UNARMED CIVILIANS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I have watched in the last several minutes as one by one people have come up to these podiums and beaten them and talked about being outraged. But 10 days ago, one of our naval vessels that was unarmed, full of civilians, was harassed by a Chinese aircraft and five Chinese vessels, and this House has not had time to express the outrage for what has happened with that.

We had time to pass a bill that expressed our outrage of how they treat-

ed the people of Tibet, but not over unarmed American civilians. We had time yesterday to pass three pieces of enormous legislation naming post offices, but not time to express our outrage over the harassment of U.S. civilians who are unarmed in international waters. Today we will leave at 3 o'clock, but we won't have time to express our outrage over unarmed civilians.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this House leadership will change its position, bring the resolution to the floor and send a message that we are going to protect and defend our people when they are in international waters.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET SPENDS TOO MUCH, TAXES TOO MUCH AND BORROWS TOO MUCH

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

Mr. PENCE. It's St. Patrick's Day, Mr. Speaker, and my Irish grandfather would want me to do nothing short of acknowledging that and wearing the green. But I have to tell you, with the headlines about bailouts, the President's budget for \$3.5 trillion and more spending and more taxes to grow government and pay for more bailouts, it's enough to get my Irish up.

Reality is that when the American people are taking a closer and closer look at this administration's budget, they know three things. This President's budget spends too much, it taxes too much and it borrows too much.

Believe it or not, in these times when the American people are saying enough is enough on big government spending and bailouts, this administration is poised to raise taxes on small business owners. Fifty percent of Americans who file taxes above the level the President wants to raise them are actually small business owners filing as individuals.

The average American household will pay \$3,100 more with the President's new energy tax. And with the President capping charitable giving, charities in this country, churches and synagogues and the like could lose \$9 billion this year alone.

Enough is enough. We have to say no to the President's budget and give the American people a budget that is strong and diverse and restrained and committed to growth as they are.

HOUSE CONSERVATIVES AND THE MINORITY TODAY ARE READY TO LEAD AND OFFER ALTER- NATIVES

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the conservatives who won re-election in the House are those who overwhelmingly voted against the massive spending programs that were proposed over

the course of the last administration, who voted against the \$1.5 trillion of new spending of this new administration. And we, House conservatives and the minority today, are ready to lead. We are offering alternatives to this massive spending program proposed by this new administration.

In only 38 legislative days, Mr. Speaker, the new liberal majority that rules Congress and rules the White House has managed to spend more money in less time than any Congress in the history of the United States. Never before have so few spent so much money in so little time.

This budget proposed by the White House, spending \$3.5 trillion, driving up the deficit to triple the level of last year, doubling the national debt in 8 years, ignores the financial hurricane just over the horizon that House conservatives are ready to deal with. This Nation faces unfunded liabilities at unprecedented levels, and we have got to just say "no" to more spending.

SMALL BUSINESSES AND NEW TAX BURDEN

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, growing up, my father ran two small businesses, a sporting goods business and a marina, both of which I worked at over the years. My grandfather's family worked a local dairy and farm.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was a bit taken back when the administration's budget proposal came across my desk last week. I know you often hear politicians speak about small business being the backbone of our economy, but it's true, and even more so in the American rural communities that I represent.

With 710 new jobs created by small business owners, these individuals are key to the revitalization of our economy and putting folks back to work. This budget proposal will increase the tax burden on every single small business owner not once, but twice. Overhead costs, raw materials, transportation, and every other segment of the supply chain will skyrocket under this proposal.

This is not acceptable and will only lengthen this recession and penalize the very best people that are best equipped to put folks back to work. Now, I will give credit where credit is due. I was pleased to see the President take a step in the right direction yesterday by relaxing the lending rules at the Small Business Administration to allow credit to flow more freely.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET TAXES TOO MUCH

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