

for years and years and years and then finally retaliated. No, we would go over the border and we would try to destroy the terrorist cells.

So I am very concerned that \$300 million of aid is to go to Gaza while Hamas, a terrorist organization, runs that place. We don't want the people of Gaza to think that it is Hamas that got them the aid, that it is Hamas that goes on its terrorist ways and that terrorism brings some rewards.

So Ms. BERKLEY and I have written a letter to President Obama laying out these concerns. Hamas needs to recognize Israel's right to exist; and hopefully then one day we can have peace in the Middle East with two states side by side living in peace, a Palestinian Arab state and Israel, a Jewish state.

#### IN GOD WE TRUST

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, on April 6 of this year the President of the United States traveled halfway around the globe, and in the nation of Turkey essentially proclaimed that the United States was not a Judeo-Christian nation.

Now, I don't challenge his right to do that, nor do I dispute the fact that is what he believes. But I wished that he had asked and answered two questions when he did that. The first question was whether or not we ever considered ourselves a Judeo-Christian nation; and the second one is if we did, what was that moment in time where we ceased to be so?

If you ask the first question, you find that the very first act of the first Congress in the United States was to bring in a minister and have Congress led in prayer and afterwards read four chapters out of the Bible.

A few years later when we unanimously declared our independence, we made certain that the rights in there were given to us by our creator.

When the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1783 that ended the Revolutionary War and birthed this Nation, the signers of that document made clear that it began with this phrase: "In the name of the Most Holy and undivided Trinity."

When our Constitution was signed, the signers made sure that they punctuated the end of it by saying "in the year of our Lord, 1787."

And 100 years later in the Supreme Court case of Holy Trinity Church v. The United States, the Supreme Court indicated, after recounting the long history of faith in this country, that we were even a Christian nation.

President George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, William McKinley, Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, and Ronald

Reagan all disagreed with the President's comments and indicated how the Bible and Judeo-Christian principles were so important in this Nation. And Franklin Roosevelt even led this Nation in a 6-minute prayer before the invasion of perhaps the greatest battle in history, the Invasion of Normandy and asked for God's protection. After that war when Congress came together and said where are we going to put our trust, it wasn't in our weapon systems, or our economy or our great decisions here, but it was "In God We Trust" which is emboldened directly behind you.

So if in fact we were a Nation that was birthed on those Judeo-Christian principles, what was that moment in time when we ceased to be? It wasn't when a small group of people succeeded in taking prayer out of our schools, or when they tried to cover up the word referencing God on the Washington Monument, or they tried to stop our veterans from having flag-folding ceremonies at their funerals on a voluntary basis because they mentioned God, or even when they tried in the new visitor center to change that national motto and to refuse to put "In God We Trust" in there. No, it wasn't any of those times because they can rip that word off of all of our buildings, and still, those Judeo-Christian principles are so interwoven in a tapestry of freedom and liberty that to begin to unravel one is to unravel the other.

That's why we have filed the Spiritual Heritage resolution to help reaffirm that great history of faith that we have in this Nation and to say to those individuals who have yielded to the temptation of concluding that we are no longer a Judeo-Christian Nation to come back, to come back and look at those great principles that birthed this Nation and sustain us today because we believe if they do they will conclude, as President Eisenhower did and later Gerald Ford repeated, that without God, there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life.

Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first, the most basic expression of Americanism. Thus, the Founding Fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help it will continue to be.

#### BANKSTERS CAUSE ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, one can sure ask: Is it more than coincidence that the very Wall Street banksters who are holding up our Republic are also causing the economic meltdown affecting community after community and millions upon millions of our fellow citizens? Is it any coincidence that these banksters are also the ones who are still being rewarded day after day by their acolytes in Washington?

In today's Huffington Post, filmmaker Michael Moore in a piece entitled "Bernie Madoff, Scapegoat" writes: "Why did we allow those same banks to create the scam of a subprime mortgage? Instead of putting the people responsible in the cell block in Lower Manhattan, where Bernie now resides, why did we give them huge sums of our hard-earned tax dollars to bail them out of their self-inflicted troubles? Bernie Madoff is nothing more than a scab on the wound. He's also a continental distraction. Where's the photo on the list of the ex-chairman of AIG, Merrill Lynch, Citigroup, JP Morgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, and the list goes on."

Michael Moore is exactly right.

Now the Center for Public Integrity reports the very list of the "Who's Who" of these exalted top banker lenders responsible for the subprime loan fraud and our economic crisis.

Let me place their names into the RECORD tonight, and what we know so far of the extent of their damage. These 25 lenders are responsible for almost \$1 trillion of subprime loans, more than \$7.2 million high-interest loans made just from 2005 to 2007.

Together, these companies account for about 72 percent of the high-priced loans reported to the government at the peak of the subprime market.

But their Ponzi scheme had been cleverly set in place during the 1990s. We need to follow their tracks back to the start of this trail of tears. Mr. Speaker, we need to go back to the roots of the subprime scam that, once established, just kept getting juiced more and more with each passing year. Securities created from these subprime loans have been blamed for the economic collapse from which the world's economies have yet to recover.

My question is this: When will these Wall Street wrong-doers be brought to justice rather than rewarded?

A couple of names on the list you'll probably recognize. Everyone has heard of Countrywide. Well, they floated about \$97.2 billion of subprime loans.

Chase Home Financial, JP Morgan Chase, they floated about \$30 billion.

Citi Financial, Citigroup, they floated \$26.3 billion that we know of.

American General Finance, AIG, at least \$21.8 billion and counting.

And Aegis Mortgage Corporation, they are number 25 on the list, at least \$11.5 billion.

Meanwhile, the special inspector general for oversight on the Wall Street bailouts being paid out by our Treasury through our taxpayers has now reported that the major institutions receiving tax dollars to cover their losses are none other than the very same group.

I wish to place their names on the RECORD tonight as just one part of the Treasury's report.