

So hopefully at the 4 p.m. meeting tomorrow with the Department of the Treasury, we will solve the Case of the Hidden Hand and figure out how the AIG bonuses were protected. We now embark on a new mission, and that is where, we go the ax, we got the weapon out of the way, we just need to identify what room it took place in and which one of these gentlemen, and I would remove the 43rd and 44th President of the United States who knew, and why didn't you tell anybody? And why did you let 9,000 people vote to end their jobs?

Now, we are going to continue to ask Chrysler for a copy of that telephone call from 1 p.m. in the afternoon. We are going to, if necessary, file another resolution of inquiry directed at the White House. But we will, I think, get to the bottom of this.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I know, sadly, that what we will hear is, Let's look forward; let's talk about rebuilding. Let's talk about doing wonderful things.

But before you can look forward, you need to look back and you need to find out what happened to these 9,000 hard-working Americans that have manufactured American-made cars in some cases for many, many years.

But I fear based upon our debate on energy prices and gasoline prices last summer, and based upon our experience with the AIG bonuses this year, that we will again be told we are too busy. We have post offices to name. We have to honor pi, 3.14, the mathematical formula.

This is my last chart and the last observations I will make. This chart indicates the number of people who work for Chrysler who have lost their jobs from January 12 of this year to this week.

And so in January, 4,000 people at Chrysler lost their jobs. Again, rather than figuring this thing out, we passed a resolution here in the House of Representatives honoring the life of Claiborne Pell who was a wonderful and great former United States Senator; but we didn't talk about Chrysler.

Then in February, and by then about 9,500 people from Chrysler have lost their jobs. And for a reprise, a surprise revisit, we again, because the Senate apparently didn't take it up last year, we again passed supporting the goals and ideals of national teen dating. So while people are losing their jobs at Chrysler by the thousands, at least teen dating has been covered here in the Congress.

We get to the middle of March, and you are now up to about 11,000 people at Chrysler have lost their jobs all across the country, and the Monkey Safety Act makes a return appearance. This time there was a tragic accident where a pet monkey attacked a woman and really injured her, and so I don't make light of the fact that she will need serious medical attention and the Monkey Act is probably a decent piece of legislation, but when you have 11,000

Chrysler workers out of work, what are we doing passing the Monkey Safety Act again?

□ 2200

In April, we got up to about 13,000 jobs, and, you know, we'll do something for Chrysler, but the Great Cats and Rare Canids Act comes back to the floor. And, again, when 13,000 people are out of work, we talk about cats and dogs.

But then it gets up to 16,000, and, you know, just like with gas prices, just like with the AIG bonuses, I know that the United States Congress will not sit still while 16,000 of their countrymen have lost their jobs. But the most important piece of legislation that the majority can schedule on the day that 16,000 people were now unemployed at Chrysler, we awarded a Gold Medal to Arnold Palmer, the golfer. Now, I think Arnold Palmer is a great American. I think Arnold Palmer deserved the Gold Medal. I don't know, when you have 16,000 Chrysler workers out of work, why that's the most important issue that the majority can bring to the table.

And now this week, that number is up to 18,000. That 18,000 does not include the 9,000 people that voted the other day to terminate their jobs. But, again, we have a repeat, 18,000 people at Chrysler out of work, and the most important issue on the House floor, National Train Day.

Madam Speaker, we are not too busy to do this, as these charts clearly indicate, and the 9,000 workers and the people in communities all across America that will now see their tax bases decrease, people out of work, deserve to know which one of these gentlemen, or do we have to add another suspect, which one of these gentlemen knew, as they sent those people into the polling place to approve a concession contract, which one of these people knew that they were going to terminate their jobs, close their plants, and decimate their communities.

So, Madam Speaker, I look forward to returning to another day and continuing the adventure of Clue, the Travel Edition. I thank the Speaker for her courtesy.

THE 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for half the time until midnight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity, and it's always a pleasure to follow my good friend from northeast Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), who is not only a good advocate, I think, for his congressional district but also a very good friend and a fellow LeBron James fan. So we want to congratulate the Cavaliers, and I want to thank Mr. LATOURETTE.

Madam Speaker, we are representing the 30-Something Group here tonight, a group that was started several years ago by then Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI when the Democrats were in the minority, and we were talking about issues that were facing the men and women of this country in their thirties and began to frame some of the Republican agenda at that point as it affected the 30-somethings and also used it as an opportunity to talk about the young people in this country, how the decisions that were being made by then—the then Bush administration would not only have a short-term effect on the young people of our country but also have long-term consequences. And unfortunately today, Madam Speaker, we are dealing with many of those consequences that were laid at the plate of now President Obama, laid at the plate of the now Democratic Congress and, quite frankly, laid at the plate of the American people.

So as we speak here tonight, and I will be joined later by Congressman BOCCIERI and Congressman ALTMIRE, we're going to discuss where we are today in our country and in our congressional districts and also some of the approaches that we need to make over the course of the next several months and over the course of the next several years.

I represent a district, Madam Speaker, that is just south of Mr. LATOURETTE's district. I represent Akron, Youngstown, Warren, Niles, and the Mahoning Valley. And over the course of the last several months and over the course of the last year, for example, in Trumbull County, our unemployment rate has doubled. And this has not been just a short-term problem; this has been a 30-year problem that our communities have been dealing with. And if you look and you see what has happened in communities like ours where companies, longtime companies in this country like Delphi, like General Motors, steel mills like WCI are near closure. We have Delphi retirees who are both salaried and union who are now joining together to figure out what they're going to do with their families, what they're going to do with their kids, their house payment, their mortgages, their college tuition that they have to pay, their daughters' weddings that they have to pay for, over the course of the next several weeks, months, and years. So, Madam Speaker, we need a strong agenda here in Congress and a strong agenda coming from the President as to what exactly we are going to be able to do.

Madam Speaker, the President has approached this, I think, in a very comprehensive way, and the Congress and Speaker PELOSI and Senator REID have approached this in a very comprehensive way. We are trying to address this on all fronts. We are dealing with a credit crisis. We are dealing with a manufacturing crisis. We are dealing with a foreclosure crisis. We are dealing with home equity problems.

We are dealing with lost wages. We are dealing with all of these issues all at the same time. So, Madam Speaker, we see the President of the United States has taken a comprehensive approach, and I think it's been a good one.

Now, on the backs of 8 years of the Bush administration, some people say, you know, we shouldn't go back and we shouldn't talk about the past, that we should just move on. But we are getting criticized on our side of the aisle for the decisions that we have made based on the problems that were left for us to deal with, and the criticism is coming from the same group of people who put us in the exact same position that we are in and then criticize the solutions that we are presenting because those solutions in some way may be different than the philosophies that got us to where we are. So tonight, Madam Speaker, we are going to talk about some of those solutions.

Now, recently in Congress we have done a couple of different things. We have passed the supplemental appropriations bill to deal with some of the defense concerns. But I think more importantly one of the things that we have done, one of the first things that President Obama pushed for over the course of the first few days in office and between the time he got elected to the time he got sworn in, is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. So, Madam Speaker, although the supplemental is not passed and signed into law, it is on its way and it does reflect, I think, the priorities of not only this administration but the priorities of the Congress.

So let's look at how things are different. Over the 8 years of the Bush administration, we saw the wealthiest in our country get tax cuts. We saw the wealthiest in our country, the top 1 percent, gain all of the income. And it's interesting if you look, and I think it goes back to 1990, and it may be 1980, but I think it was 1990, since 1990 where 80 percent of the income growth went to the top 10 percent of the people in this country.

□ 2210

And since 2000, 90 percent of all income growth went to the top 10 percent of the people in this country. And that means that the middle class has been squeezed. So they are not getting the income growth, their energy costs are going up, gas was \$4 a gallon, health care costs were going up by 15 percent. The Congress and the President both, both controlled by the Republican Party, had a very laissez faire attitude, not only for the economy, but for everything, that the government had no role, and it should be parsed off and given to the highest bidder.

And that's what happened in the war in Iraq, that's what happened with health care. And I think it's important for us to remember as we are dealing in these difficult economic times, as tensions are being wiped out, as 401(k)s are being halved, that it was the Repub-

lican Party who stood on this floor and wanted to privatize Social Security.

The only thing that many people have left is Social Security. And can you imagine if our friends on the other side had the opportunity to take the Social Security system and put it into the stock market, where this country would be, imagine where our retirees would be, imagine where our grandparents would be, imagine where our parents would be, and imagine where this country would be if we had to bail out the Social Security system in this country.

And so when we are receiving criticism for what we are trying to do, I think it's important for the American people to remember the big picture and to remember how we got here and to remember that there are two different governing philosophies in this country. And one of the philosophies, as sad as it is to say, Madam Speaker, got us to the position we are in. And we are going to move on, and we are going to talk about our response to this.

But it is critical for everyone to recognize and everyone to know that the Republican, conservative, extreme right-wing agenda was implemented in the United States of America. From the year 2000 to the year 2006, they controlled every branch of government: the House, the Senate, the White House, the Supreme Court. Many of the State legislatures, like the ones that Congressman BOCCIERI and I come from in Ohio, all were controlled by Republicans.

So they implemented their agenda. They implemented Chicago-style economics. They implemented the shock doctrine. They implemented supply-side economics. And, today, because of a lack of regulation, because Wall Street was run like the wild, wild west, because there were no cops on the beat, here we are today, billions of dollars in debt, borrowing the money from China, a middle class getting squeezed, energy costs going up, increased reliance on the Middle East for our energy, health care costs going up, insurance companies hiring more people and knocking more people off the rolls, any kind of income growth in our country going to the top 10 percent of our people, where everybody else is left behind, school funding problems all over the country, mental health issues, soldiers coming back with PTSD not getting the proper treatment. Walter Reed was falling apart, and on and on and on. So the issues that President Obama is dealing with today and the Democratic Congress were issues that were laid on this table left for us to try to deal with.

And so President Obama came with a plan, a stimulus plan, because there was a \$3 trillion hole, gap in our economy. And all the economists were telling us that we had to somehow fill this hole or we would have a continual slide for our country.

And so President Obama, his economists, JOHN MCCAIN's economists, on both sides of the aisle, we are in agree-

ment that we needed to do something. We needed a stimulus package.

And the stimulus package was going to be something different that Washington hadn't seen for a long, long time. This stimulus package was going to go to the middle class. It was going to go for those programs that were going to lift people up, where the middle class would be able to spend money and fill this hole. We were going to invest in education. We were going to invest in energy research. We were going to fund NIH, National Institutes of Health, so that we could increase cancer research.

And now all over the country we have Relay for Lives, all over the country, my congressional district, and I am sure yours, where thousands and thousands and thousands of people are walking for a day, at night and through the night for 24 hours straight to raise money for cancer research. It was President Obama's stimulus package that increased funding for cancer research, because it was a national priority. And we can talk about a lot of the different investments in the research and into energy research, weatherization, tax cuts for 95 percent of the American people.

But I just want to talk for a second about the investments that he made in education. Because there is no greater investment we could make in this country than to invest in the young people in our country and to make sure that they get the kind of education that they need, that they deserve, because they are the next leaders that will be in this body. They are the next teachers. They are the next astronauts, the next scientists that are going to keep America strong in the future.

And so the difference in priorities from the last administration to President Obama can be summed up, and there are a lot of different examples, but I think they could be summed up in this, a \$2,500 opportunity tax credit to go to college, where the same parents that we had, growing up, middle class, northeast Ohio, Italian, were working hard to send their kids to school, and that was the number one priority. And President Obama recognizes that and makes sure that that tax credit was in this stimulus bill.

And he made sure that there was an increase in the Pell Grant so that people could get grant money to go to school and then stood up at that podium and challenged the American people, all of us, to go one more year to school and contribute, that it was in the national interest for that to happen. This is a much different approach than President Bush saying after 9/11 the greatest thing you can do for this country is to go shopping. That is a tremendous difference in leadership styles, and, I think, approaches.

And I think the focus on education, as we will continue to talk about it through the next hour, I think is something that is very critical. I think this is the first time we have shared the

floor together. Congressman BOCCIERI and I started our careers together, I want to say a long time ago, but it wasn't that long ago.

So I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Congressman RYAN, thank you for allowing me to be a part of this discussion, and the zeal and the passion that you display on this House floor I remember watching a few years ago when I was serving in the legislature. Congressman RYAN and I both came up through the legislature in Ohio, and he cut his teeth earlier in the Congress.

And it's an honor to be here with you today. Because we do share the same vision about what it's going to take to move our State and, more importantly, our country forward. And Congressman RYAN and I have similar backgrounds. I hail from a working-class family. My grandparents were coal miners, carpenters and steel workers. My parents were one of the first in their families to go to college, respectively, and two successful brothers, one is a pharmacist and a chemist, and the other is working in the military and working in the defense industry.

□ 2220

I can tell you that my family is not unlike thousands, perhaps millions across this country, Congressman RYAN, who worked hard, played by the rules, punched the time clock, went to work every day, carried that lunch pail, because they believed in America, they believed in the spirit of America; that when you work hard, you play by the rules, you give back to your country and your community, that America is a place where your hopes and dreams and desires can be fulfilled.

More than ever, we find that that dream of that American spirit is being challenged—challenged by some of the decisions of previous administrations, challenged by the fact that we have got to put our own house in order and move our country forward and invest in things that really matter—invest in our greatest asset, which is our people. And, as Congressman RYAN has so eloquently said many, many times on this House floor, that we have an opportunity to change the direction of this country and move it in a direction and trajectory that is going to be about prosperity and sharing the ideals and values that brought my grandparents from a country so far away to settle here on the shores of America because they believed in this experiment in democracy, and that was where hopes and dreams could be realized.

Now I tell you this because in the spirit of our discussion tonight we're going to talk about some of our problems, but we're going to talk about solutions, more importantly.

We're going to talk about the fact that Ohio has been hemorrhaging with manufacturing job loss. In fact, in 2008 alone, the United States itself lost 149,000 manufacturing jobs, and many of those jobs, as Congressman RYAN had said, were from Ohio.

Ohio is a place where we built things. We helped build America. Some of the great thinkers of our country hailed from Ohio—innovators like Thomas Edison and a variety of astronauts like John Glenn. We had success stories across the board because we had such diversity.

He comes from an Irish and Slovak background. And I have great respect for the Irish because I married one. But I have to tell you that Ohio is not unlike many States in the heartland of America that have experienced such job loss, such movement of manufacturer's jobs out of this country—and because of some of the policies that we have enacted here in Congress.

Now you have spoken often and loudly about the fact that we need a manufacturing policy in this country that protects jobs, that protects innovators, and that protects people who want to build and start their own business. But what we have seen is a whole host of failed policies that have allowed our jobs to move overseas.

Now I tell the American people here tonight that America cannot sustain itself by being movers of wealth. We have to produce wealth in this country. We have to build things—like we have always done.

And I heard on some of our district work periods about, Why are we giving loans to the automotive industry? Well, let's be clear about this. Are we going to depend on Fiat to build our tanks and weapons that we need to defend this country if we were ever attacked? Are we going to depend on some other foreign-owned or foreign-born company to produce the things that we're going to need to defend our country?

It is important that we maintain the Big Three, not only as a matter of our economic security, but our national security. And the supply lines that go into the Big Three through Ohio and into Michigan and from Pennsylvania, the heartland of our country, we have got to be the producers of wealth, not just the movers of wealth. And that is why this Congress moved to protect and defend American jobs and American security, Congressman RYAN. And I was proud to support some of those initiatives because we cannot tolerate policy that is going to make our country weaker.

I hear oftentimes that if we could only just be like countries like China, or just be like countries like India. Now as an Air Force air crew and pilot, I have been over the world. It only takes one trip outside the borders of our country to understand how good we have it. We have a robust economy. We have a workforce that works hard. It is unmatched and unparalleled in the rest of the world, in my opinion. And we have a country that sustained itself throughout generations because we invested in our people—our greatest asset.

But when we allow jobs to pack up and move overseas, when we allow a

little bit of who we are—the identity that has created America—to slip away by allowing those jobs, and those manufacturing jobs in particular to leave our country, we are making America weaker and not stronger.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BOCCIERI. Absolutely.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think coming from our area—and you can go to Wisconsin, you can go to Indiana, you can go to Pennsylvania—you can go all throughout the industrial Midwest and you read statistics that say, Hey, for every manufacturing job, there are five spinoff jobs, and for every service job, there's two spinoff jobs.

So if you go to get a massage, you have the masseuse and then you have somebody that's going to wash your feet and put a warm towel around your neck or clean the towels. If you have a manufacturing job where you're working in a car plant, you have the suppliers of that and the people around the one manufacturing job that support it.

I read this a lot in economics classes and everything else, but it hit me a few months ago when we lost a third and then a second shift at a General Motors plant in Lordstown, because they said that the second shift was going to go, and then about a couple of days later the local seat manufacturer—the second shift was maybe 800 or 900 people.

A couple days later, the seat manufacturer laid off a couple hundred. Then, a couple days later, the logistics company that did all the logistics for coming in and out of the General Motors plant laid off another hundred people. Just the spinoff.

So when we say we need to make things in the United States, it's important to recognize the ripple effect. Ross Perot said in the early campaign in the early nineties, You can't run an economy on back rubs. You just can't do it.

That's something that I think we're staring right in the eye. If you look at the history of the world with the Dutch and the Spaniards and the Brits, when 20 to 25 percent of their GDP became finance, that was the beginning of the end for those countries. Because, like you said when you first started, all you start doing is moving money around. You're not making anything. You're not adding value to a product. And you start these Ponzi schemes like we just ended up having here in the United States.

So I think it's important that we do focus on this manufacturing policy.

I yield back.

Mr. BOCCIERI. The gentleman from Ohio could not be more correct in his assertion that we have got to focus on producing things in this country. I don't know about you, Congressman RYAN, but I have heard you speak many times, eloquently at that, because we cannot have this race to the bottom.

I hear many people say, If we were just like China, like India, in terms of—our standard of living is much

higher than countries like China and India. Why would we ever want to have a race to the bottom? Let's embolden them and bring them up so we can have an equal transfer of goods and services and products that are going to make both of our countries stronger. That's what we need to enact in trade policies right here on this floor and make sure that our trade policies are in concert with making a manufacturing sector of our economy robust.

I don't know if you know this, but two-thirds of our outsourced jobs in the United States have come from our manufacturing sector. Two-thirds. Two-thirds.

We're in a dangerous position right now with respect to what we're doing with our military-industrial complex. We cannot continue to allow those manufacturing jobs to leave our country if we don't protect and defend the economic security and the national security of our country by producing things right here. I know that you have fought hard for a policy that emboldens.

You know, Ohio has been bleeding factory jobs. More than 257,000 factory positions have evaporated since the beginning of 2000; 257,000 families have been handed pink slips and notices that their jobs are going to be leaving the country. I think that we have got to do a better job. Congressman RYAN.

I want to work with you on this House floor to come up with real solutions; tangible solutions that are going to protect our workers and protect our national security.

I know that you and I have been championing many of the things that are going to make our country stronger—research and development tax credits, making sure that we do research here in America.

When I was in the State legislature with you, we talked about the fact that for every \$1 that the State of Ohio spends, we can leverage \$10 from the Federal Government to help spur innovation and entrepreneurship and the intuitiveness that's going to help create and produce the minds that are going to produce the cures to cancer. They're going to produce the new energy sectors for our economy in years to come. It's this type of research, it's this type of investment that is going to make our country stronger.

□ 2230

Now I'm a freshman Congressman. You've been here for several terms. When I was going through my orientation this year at the John F. Kennedy School of Public Policy, they were telling us that only 16 percent of what we spend in this country is for investment back into the country, 16 percent.

Now our 16 percent is much larger than most countries because of our economic prowess. But at the end of the day, 16 percent is far too little to sustain us for years to come.

I know you've championed that at your local universities, and I'm going to talk about some of mine.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, we need it I think from the perspective of investing in research and development, but I want to go back to the point you were making about the defense industrial base that we have.

Right outside your district and in my district is Goodyear. Goodyear is the last American tire manufacturer in the United States, and there's a huge movement within the city of Akron, within Summit County, State of Ohio, Federal officials to keep Goodyear's headquarters in Akron.

One of the problems is—and Goodyear is actually doing fairly well now—trying to get Goodyear, the only American tire manufacturer, to be a supplier of military tires. I mean, it's like you've got to beg people at the Pentagon to have Goodyear supply. It's hard to get them as a second source sometimes, to back up Michelin, who is a French company.

Now I was against the war. I thought it was one of the worst geopolitical decisions in the history of our country, and we are going to pay for it for many, many years to come.

But when our country goes to war, you'd better be able to supply our own military. And we are getting dangerously close to losing our defense industrial base in this country. It's tires. And we have the same issue with RTI, a titanium company in our region, both in your district and in mine. There used to be 10 titanium companies in the United States. Now there's two, and one of them is in Niles in Weathersfield Township and one of them is in Canton I think.

And the problem is, there's an amendment called the Berry amendment, which says the military has to buy their specialty metals from American companies. But there's a waiver, and there's this process that always gets waived. So the RTIs of the world have to struggle to get military spending to go to their companies.

So it went from 10 titanium companies to two.

We're getting dangerously close to not being able to supply our own military because the titanium comes from Russia, our tires are coming from France. This is getting dangerous here.

We've got to be very, very careful with that. And I think part of it is the investment, what we did in the stimulus package with transportation, infrastructure, research to rebuild the country in many, many ways.

But if we don't have that defense industrial base, it's going to put us in a real predicament to try to supply our own military.

I yield back to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Congressman RYAN, you bring up several valid points. And the question is—and I'm sure the American people out there listening to us tonight, our 30-something group here, they're asking, So what do we do? What can we do to make certain that we are the producers of wealth and not just the movers of wealth?

Well, you and I have championed legislation that is going to invest directly, as I said earlier, into our greatest asset.

When we center our centers of excellence and pin them down with research and development, our universities and the great research that we're doing in Ohio is tremendous.

I mean, in my district alone, the Rolls-Royce company is actually researching fuel cell technology at Stark State Community College. We also have the EPO Group that's researching plug-in hybrids. And at the Ohio State Agriculture Research and Development Center in Wayne County, they're actually researching anaerobic digesters to use as energy, compressed natural gas. They are actually selling this gas back to the grid. This is the type of research that we need to champion and hone around our centers of excellence.

Not only are we going to use taxpayer dollars to create the next innovators and the great thinkers from Ohio, but we're going to help create a sustainable industry around these different types of investments.

If we invest in our greatest asset, our people, we can help spur the innovation that has helped put Ohio on the map.

I'm going to read a list here of some of the great innovators that have come from our State. Charles Kettering who was the inventor of the first electronic starter motor ignition system. Jim Spangler invented the portable electronic vacuum cleaner. And we all know about Thomas Alva Edison who was a prolific inventor and certainly helped with the incandescent lightbulb. Lester Pelton invented a type of free-jet water turbine and was from Vermilion.

These are the type of innovators that if we invest in our higher education, in our institutions of higher learning, Congressman RYAN, we're going to have the next viable industry. And hopefully that will be a green energy industry that will blanket northeast Ohio.

From Cleveland to Canton, from Canton to Youngstown, we have a triangle of success, and we have the opportunity to invest in things that are going to put our State forward.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If you look at the difference between the past philosophy that got us here where if you cut taxes for the top 1 percent and hope they maybe invest into whatever it is that they invest in, and it hopefully will trickle down to the middle class, cut research funding, fail to invest into higher education, fail to invest into research, fail to invest into health care research, health care technology, you get what we've got. And you end up where we are.

But if you look at the dramatic change in the stimulus package—and we can go through the whole thing. For example, increases in NIH and all the different energy research, weatherization to try to create markets for all these new alternative energy projects,

\$7.2 billion to increase broadband access in usage to unserved and underserved areas of the Nation, which will better position us for economic growth so that all of our kids, not just the ones that happen to be in a nice school district where there's a good property tax base, and they have good schools and good jobs, but all our kids can have access to the Internet, and all communities could access broadband, and all hospitals could be plugged into this.

If you look at the billion dollars for prevention and wellness programs, \$10 billion to conduct biomedical research for cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, stem cells, to improve NIH facilities, if you have a family member who has cancer, Alzheimer's, MS, Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS—they're on the Hill today—this President and this Congress are backing you up.

We're saying, this is a priority. Your family members being sick and the government not putting in the proper resources to do the investment is wrong.

President Obama came in and said, We're going to put science back on the table, and 70 to 80 percent of the American people agree.

And that creates jobs at the Cleveland Clinic, at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, in the Stark County hospitals, Summit County hospitals, hospitals in Youngstown, all of the information technology to make sure that our doctors and nurses and health care technicians aren't making mistakes so that people who go to the hospital don't get hurt because of miscommunications.

This President and this Congress are saying, We've got your back. We're going to make these investments. You can't have a strong country and just wish and hope it may happen.

There are very strategic investments that were made in the stimulus package. And I love some of these people saying, Yeah, but it's one-time money. Well, how about no-time money? No-time money means a bunch of teachers get laid off. That's what no-time money means. And in our State, some of the Republicans are telling Governor Strickland, you know, this is one-time money. What are you going to do next year? Well, we've got to deal with this year.

□ 2240

And we are plugging holes, and we are making sure we are not laying people off, at least as many as we can, prevent as many layoffs as we can. And we have infrastructure money that President Obama made sure was included in here, \$2 billion in grant funding for the manufacturing of advanced batteries.

We are now ceding the battery industry to China. President Obama, Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader REID, the Democratic caucuses, probably 70 percent of the American people thinks that is probably a pretty bad idea. So we can sit here and say, Oh, my God, the Chinese are taking—we are going

to have all these new cars, plug-ins, and the battery is going to be made in China. And we will be sitting here, Congressman, 10, 20 years from now, how are they going to let that happen? We are saying put money into helping companies and universities research this stuff so we can make it in Youngstown, Ohio, we can make it in Canton, Ohio. That is the goal here. And we cannot wish this to happen, and there are difficult decisions that need to be made.

Leadership is lonely, and you've got to make some difficult decisions. But I love the fact that President Obama is coming up and saying, This is what we have got to do. The American people elected me, and this is what I talked about, and this is what we are doing. And in 4 years, I will run again on that record. But let's not sit around and hope good things may happen and our friends on the other side vote against everything.

They borrowed more money from China. President Bush and the Republican Congress, Madam Speaker, borrowed more money from China and from foreign interests than all the other Presidents and Congresses before them combined. They lay this on the table, and we have got to borrow some money to make sure that the economy doesn't completely collapse, and all of a sudden we are the bad guys.

These investments that we are making are critical: Head Start, Early Start, child care development, block grants, supplemental nutrition assistance programs so that our kids can eat, community health centers so that people who can't access health care now can go and get some preventive care before they end up in the emergency room costing everybody billions of dollars.

So these are very strategic investments. These aren't things that we just picked out of the air to throw money at to just say we are doing something. We are going to look back on this time, and we are going to thank President Obama. And we are going to thank the Democratic Congress for making these investments because they will pay great, great dividends for thousands in the long run.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Congressman RYAN, you can't be more correct. Can you imagine a novel idea, that this Congress is taking bold action to actually invest in America, to invest in our country, our people, our way of life? Can you imagine? How arrogant can some be who suggest that we should not do this for our people, that we should not take their money and invest back in our country? We are going to be judged by two measures. We are going to be judged by two measures in this great recession we find ourselves in, by action or inaction. And Congressman RYAN, when I was going through the orientation courses of the freshman Members, they told us that if we sat on our hands and watched thousands of jobs evaporate, more factories

pack up and go overseas, that we would see unemployment in the first quarter of 2010 perhaps as high as 18 percent. Eighteen percent.

So we have to take action. We have to have movement. And to invest in the things that are going to make our country stronger is not only prudent, it is necessary. After years and years of rebuilding a country that I had so many visits to, we were building roads and bridges in Iraq, building brand new hospitals and schools in Iraq, making sure that every man, woman and child in Iraq had universal health care coverage, how dare us think about the American people for once here? How dare us think about the American people? And all we hear is stiff arms and noes and enough is enough, and this country has got to be put back at the tier that we need to put and we need to set in this Congress, and that is by investing in the things that were in this recovery package.

Now imagine this, the Democratic Congress of the United States House of Representatives that is controlled by the Democrats now obviously enacted the largest tax reduction in our Nation's history and the largest investment in capital in our Nation's history to make our country stronger, to make our country and our people stronger. I think that spells scores of success stories and future innovators that have helped Ohio become the great State that she is. But we can make a difference by investing and putting the parameters out there, putting the goalposts, putting the out-of-bounds markers for our market to act in a way that is responsible to its people, that is responsible to its people, and to help us forge a way on the path toward prosperity. That is what this Congress has done in just a few short months.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If you look at what all these investments are, infrastructure and science, \$120 billion. Now I think you hit the nail on the head. We are at \$1 trillion that we have spent in Iraq. One trillion. Now, I don't know about how anyone else feels, and I don't think I'm actually going out on a limb here to say we have a lot of projects in our communities that could use a little bit of that money.

Sewer overflow. My goodness gracious, these cities that are dealing with combined sewer overflow issues is in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Sewer lines, septic tanks that need to be cleaned up and sewer lines put in, water lines, roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, health care for our citizens, these are basic investments that our country needs to be making. And this stimulus package is a step in that direction.

And when you look at it, I mentioned the broadband, if you look at \$27.5 billion for highway construction, \$16.5 billion to modernize Federal and public infrastructure to save energy costs in the long run, \$19 billion for clean water, flood control, environmental restoration investments, \$17.7 billion

for transit and rail to reduce traffic congestion and gas consumption, these are all programs and investments to help reduce our dependency on foreign oil so we are not in this morass that we get involved in and all these little political situations that we get in because we have to pull oil out of some of these countries to run our country.

Thirty billion dollars to transform the Nation's energy transmission distribution and production systems so we can have a smart grid. Those are good investments. Five billion dollars to weatherize modest income homes. These are investments that we need to make.

Lower health care costs, education, helping workers. Twenty billion dollars to increase the food stamp benefit by over 13 percent. Look at what the Democrats have done even when we got in and had to fight to get a couple of these things done.

We raised the minimum wage for the first time since 1997 when Democrats got in and basically had to jam it down the White House's throat in order to get it signed into law. The largest increase in veterans' spending in the 77-year history of the VA, and we had a lot of people running around this town in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, who is more patriotic? And it was all red, white and blue when the lights were on and cutting the veterans' health care budget and benefits in the back room.

And when we got in, the largest increase in the 77-year history of the VA. And you see it again with our budget this year. You saw it in the 2009 budget that President Obama signed. You are going to see it again now. You saw it in the supplemental, which we can go over some of the investments that were made. But this is a commitment to our Nation's veterans who served this country so well. Again, an investment in our people. You serve our country, you will be rewarded. Four years of free education if you served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Benefits have increased. We reduced and got rid of a lot of the fees and assessments that were put on by the other side. These are steps.

Have we done enough? Not even close. I'm not here to say, and I don't think anyone else is, to say that we have been in for however long, 110, 112, 114 days, whatever, and things are great now. They are not.

And before you came in, I stated the economic distress of the 17th Congressional District, but these are steps in the right direction. These are steps that are lifting up people that need help. This is not a handout, but a little bit of help along the way to where they can get themselves back on their feet and this economy can get moving again, and then these green jobs, the investments in science, investments in infrastructure, rail and all of these things we are talking about, Rolls Royce, which they are doing in your district which is phenomenal, these are the kinds of things that will grow. But they take some seed corn. They take a

little water, a little fertilizer, and the government now, I think, is responsible for doing a lot of that.

□ 2250

So we are making these investments. We will continue to make these investments, and we will continue to, I think, strategically invest the taxpayers' money prudently, judiciously invest the money.

Mr. BOCCIERI. I have to tell you, Congressman RYAN, after being in the Air Force 15 years and flying our wounded soldiers in and out of Baghdad, and whether we agree with this war or not, we have to give every degree of respect to the men and women who serve in uniform because they fought in Iraq and Afghanistan only because our country asked them to. As far as I am concerned, when they come back, when their boots hit the ground here in America, they should not have one hospital bill, any expenses that are required to go to college, get a degree and advance themselves. We should be investing in them and rewarding them for the sacrifice that they have made for our country.

Let me tell you about a soldier who was in my State legislative district when I was serving in the State House. He was injured with an IED and will be disfigured for the rest of his life. A piece of shrapnel hit him in the jaw, and he had surgeries at Walter Reed to try to put his face back together. After he was discharged with a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star and let go back into the civilian world. Two weeks after discharge from the military, his jaw broke again. This 22-year-old soldier with a young child had \$15,000 in medical expenses that he couldn't weed through the VA to get paid to make sure that he could put bread on the table for his family.

A soldier like that who almost gave everything for this country should not have to pay for his bills for injuries that he sustained while overseas. It took swift action by this Congress in the last 2 years to make certain that our soldiers were not forgotten.

And the Wounded Warriors Program that we have right now that acknowledges the sacrifice, the great sacrifice of those men and women, we cannot forget and we should never forget. As long as I am a Congressman and have the ability to speak publicly about this, we will champion those soldiers and tell them what we are doing to put their lives back in order and to invest in them.

Mr. ALTMIRE. I have been listening to what the two Ohio Members have been saying. To put this in perspective for our colleagues and for the American people, I would like to talk with regard to the stimulus and the budget. People talk about the fact that we are running up a tremendous deficit this year, \$1.8 trillion. It is an inconceivable amount for a 1-year deficit. We are reducing the deficit over the course of 5 years by two-thirds, from 12 percent

of GDP to 3 percent of GDP. People in my district when I tell that story will say that is great, but you need to do more. Why can't we do more? Why is that a great feat that we have cut it by two-thirds? Going to what the gentleman said with the VA, let's look at the budget that we have control over, what is the discretionary control that we have.

If you look at \$3.5 trillion in budget, the entire Federal budget for this year that we passed, most of that Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, interest on the national debt, Federal employee pensions, veterans retirement benefits and pensions, those are mandatory accounts. That money goes out without Congress having year-to-year control over that amount.

So what Congress actually has control over, the discretionary account, is about \$1 trillion; \$1.1 trillion. It is a very high amount of money, but compared to \$3.5 trillion, not nearly enough to make a dent in that deficit that we are talking about.

Now, half of that trillion dollars that Congress has control over is defense. Nobody thinks we should cut defense. We increase spending for defense by 4 percent. It is what we need to do to keep us safe and secure. We all agree, Republican and Democrat, that is what we need to do. So you take that \$530 billion out of the equation, and you are left with about \$500 billion. Now, that is what we have discretionary control over. That is the post office, that is scientific and medical research, that is the national parks, that's student loans. That is our embassies overseas. That is Federal law enforcement, border security, FBI, CIA. And as the gentleman talks about, that is the VA hospitals in this country, funding for veterans health care. That is keeping the lights on at every Federal building in the country. That is our Federal roads and highways. That is everything that the Federal Government does. When you think about the Federal Government on an annual basis, that is what we have discretionary control over.

If we were to say, you know what, American people, people in our district, the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, the people in Ohio, we are so committed to deficit reduction and we are so committed to cutting the budget this year, we are going to shut down the government. We are going to shut down everything that we have discretionary control over this year. We are not going to deliver the mail this year. We are going to lay off every Federal employee in the country for 1 year. We are not going to do student loans and Federal law enforcement. We are going to close every Federal office building in the country, no scientific research, no national parks, close our embassies overseas, bring everybody back home, shut down the Congress and the White House, everything that we have control over. If we did that for 1 year, we would cut the Federal deficit for this year

from \$1.8 trillion to \$1.3 trillion. That's how deep a hole we are in.

So when I say to the gentleman from Ohio, Madam Speaker, that we cut the deficit by two-thirds over 5 years, a 1.9 percent growth over a 4-year period, the slowest projected growth rate in the history of the country, that is a monumental achievement. And we do it all while preserving our commitment to our Nation's veterans, as the gentleman talks about, making sure every veteran's hospital in this country is adequately funded, and that every veteran in this country has access to the highest quality health care available anywhere in the world. We preserve that commitment while we do the best job we can at reducing the deficit that this President inherited, because we are not starting from zero. I think everybody realizes that. And it is pointless to talk about the past and to point fingers, but it is instructive to take a look at how we got here, why we are here, and the fact that we have very difficult decisions to make moving forward.

The only way we are going to bring down these costs and bring down the deficit and bring down the debt is by making the difficult choices, and that is what this Congress is going to continue to do.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think the other point there with the stimulus is because credit locked up, that clearly shut down, and still is, we are still getting calls in our office that people still can't get loans. So the TARP money and all of this other help that we have given to the banks has not yet kicked in. If there was not even the stimulus package, imagine what the economy would be doing, if there wasn't a little bit of money in everybody's paycheck. I ran into an operating engineer the other day who was finally getting himself back to work because of some road projects that were happening. All over Ohio, the Governor just made a tour around the State with different infrastructure projects that he was spreading around from the stimulus money. So we are filling this gap. There would be a complete shutdown.

And, yes, we are taking some of this money and, yes, we are borrowing money to make investments now. But imagine the tax loss we would have in this country if we weren't making any investments. And who knows what the yield will be from the investments we are making into energy and the NIH for the Cancer Institute.

I mean, what is the value in the long term of reducing the cost of cancer to our health care system, of Alzheimer's to our health care system? What benefits will stem cell research yield for our country in terms of health care? How many accidents will be prevented because of better communication with the investments into the health care information technology?

These are things that you can't put a price on. And it is the old saying, some people know the price of everything

and the value of nothing. And you can't always pinpoint what piece of research yielded the best benefits because all of this research tends to build onto itself.

□ 2300

And we are making these investments now, and we are going to find out in the long run that these were good decisions that we made, courageous decisions that the President has made.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Let's make no question that we want to show, and I am a 30-something here on the floor of the House of Representatives telling you and the American people that we will recover. We will recover. We will grow out of this recession, and we will be stronger for it at the end of the day.

And for those who suggest that we are spending a lot of money in this great recession that we find ourselves in, the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, in 1946 when the United States came out of the Great Depression and World War II, the government was spending more and borrowing more than the economy could produce, spending more and borrowing more than the economy could produce as a percentage of GDP and what the government debt was. Right now we are at about 50 percent of what the economy can produce.

And once we start growing this economy again, investing in the things that are going to make our country and our people stronger, we will see the difference. We will see the investments realized. We will see the tangible results coming back to us as we have a stronger workforce, a workforce that can critically think, multitask, problem solve, and be competitive with the Indians and Chinas of the world that have already begun investing in their workforce.

And I will tell you that the gentleman from Ohio is correct in his assumption that by making these strategic investments in our country, in our people, and in our way of life, we're going to be the producers of wealth once again, not just the movers of wealth. Investing in green energy, investing in the things that are going to transform our economy so that we have diversity. Can you imagine rolling into the gas station one day and having a choice between using traditional gasoline, biomass, ethanol, maybe even plug in our electric hybrid, or drive by the gas station altogether because we have a fuel cell that was researched right here in the 16th Congressional District of Ohio that allows you to get 100 miles to a gallon? Can you imagine how that would be transformational for our economy? These investments that we have in the American recovery package and the stimulus package are going to be what are going to make the difference and transcend our economy for years to come. And I say that in confidence as a 30-something.

And I want you to know that these challenges that confront all of us as

leaders are not Democrat or Republican challenges but American challenges, and we will recover with prudent investment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And I would be remiss if I didn't talk a little bit about what we are doing locally here in the last minute between Congressman BOCCIERI's district in Canton and my district in Akron to Youngstown and also Cleveland, all the way over to Congressman ALTMIRE's district over in the Pittsburgh area, creating a technology belt in which all of the health care and green energy and the legacy manufacturing that we have in this area can help stimulate this mega-region from Cleveland to Akron, Canton, through Youngstown, Warren, over into Pittsburgh, to try to plug into all of this because if areas like ours aren't benefiting from these investments, then really it's all for naught. It's the heartland of our country.

So with that I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania. I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. TANNER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family medical situation.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. CUMMINGS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. STARK (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of severe flooding and storms throughout eastern Kentucky.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WALZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WAXMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, May 15.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 15, 18 and 19.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today and May 18.