

continued his knowledge and advice right up until the day we lost him. May we remember Bill. We thank his family for his hard work and dedication to his callings and the lessons he learned and taught us. We need to reread his words and to act thoughtfully and swiftly to solve the current crisis facing our Nation. I know he would want that for sure.

I extend the sympathies of this Congress and our hope for strength to his family in the coming days to endure his loss, to Bill's wife, his children, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He truly was a great American.

Our country was strengthened by his service and it is with a sad and grateful heart and mind that I yield back the balance of my time this evening.

LET'S QUIT RUNNING UP THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate my friend Ms. KAPTUR's comments and appreciate her insights. It's always very valuable.

And she believes, as I do, that we're making a big mistake by running up the deficit like crazy. Well, some say, well, it was going on back under the Bush administration. Yes, it was, and it wasn't right then, and it's even worse now that it's being multiplied many times. Every week, we're running up more of a deficit. It's got to stop.

China continues to buy our debt. We just sent the Secretary of the Treasury over to China to encourage them to keep buying America. Buy our debt because we cannot control ourselves. Can you imagine a parent going into a bank and saying, I need a loan because I can't control my spending, but you see my little children over there, I've even got some grandchildren, I am going to pledge to you that some day—I can't pay it back, but some day they will? Well, there would be a move to take the children away from somebody that irresponsible.

And yet we sent our Secretary of State over to beg China to keep buying our debt because we couldn't control our spending. We send our Secretary of the Treasury over there to tell them to keep buying our debt because we can't control our spending.

We've done things in the last weeks, like \$25 million we voted for in this Chamber to buy land in foreign countries for rare dogs and cats. China has some. We'll borrow that money from China to buy land from China, so that they can have rare dogs and cats, if they're not eaten by people that are starving. And we are paying for that with interest while we run up our debt even higher. It makes no sense at all.

You know, I went back and did some looking. I remember pretty good—hav-

ing been a history major, I've loved to follow things as they occur because we're told those who fail to learn from history are destined to repeat it, which as a corollary to that, those who do learn from history will find new ways to screw up, but that's another story. Right now, we're not learning from history.

But you can look back at the Soviet Union, and we were reminded by that by bipartisan speeches just yesterday as Ronald Reagan's statue was unveiled. It's a great statue, a great tribute to a great President. But as he pushed the SDI, the missile defense system, and the Soviets tried to keep up, they were spending too much money. They were running up too much debt, and people were nervous about loaning the Soviet Union more debt.

Do you remember as Eastern Europe, the Baltic States started rebelling, what happened? Russia had seen that happen before. The Soviet Union would roll in with tanks. They could put it down. But for some reason, they didn't roll in with tanks and suppress it like they had in years past.

Well, it appears there's information indicating that they were needing us to loan them \$100 billion, which 20 or so years ago was real money, \$100 billion to keep them afloat. And we gave them word, We got your country, but if you roll in with tanks, we're not going to be able to loan you that money. We owned their future, so we could dictate what they could or couldn't do. Does it ring any bells?

If we keep selling our debt as we can't control it, we can't control the spending—we vote in here tonight to spend millions and millions of dollars to pay people for not working, while they're called employees, when they are millions and millions of Americans who are champing at the bit to go back to work and to get paid to actually work. And this is what we're passing?

You know, some believe here in this body that running up the debt is what's going to save the country, and I've been told, look, we don't think we're wrong, but if we were wrong, we can always come back and fix it. The Soviets couldn't because at some point when you no longer own your future, you don't have a future.

We owe the people we represent. We owe our own children better than that. Let's quit destroying this Nation's future. Let's quit running up the deficit. I yield back.

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

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. GIFFORDS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Good evening, Mr. Speaker. I'm about to grab some boards but I will claim the hour, and we'll get started.

Well, Mr. Speaker, welcome to the progressive message. This is the hour that the Progressive Caucus comes forward to offer a progressive vision for America where we put down markers, and we signal to the American people that there is a progressive vision, there is a way forward, and that way forward does include principles like generosity, like inclusion, like vision, like openness, like fairness, like sharing, not a vision of fear, not a vision as, Oh, my goodness, what's going to happen, we have to throw someone off the bus, but a vision of saying, You know what, we can include people, we can have peace, we can have a society where people are treated equally and fairly.

In fact, a few weeks ago we had a Special Order where the premise was, why the progressives? And we detailed how important it was to take note of the great contributions that progressives have made to America.

So, with that, I just want to introduce the wonderful array of leaders we