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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 16, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED PERLMUTTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

WHERE ARE THE FISCAL CONSERVATIVES?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we have now spent approximately \$200 billion, \$200 billion, on the war in Afghanistan against a foe that has almost no money and equipment, especially in comparison to ours. Now we are about to take up a supplemental appropriations bill later today to provide many billions more, all this in a place where even General Petraeus said we should remember has been known as the "graveyard of empires." This comes on top of

approximately \$800 billion on the war in Iraq and hundreds of billions more in indirect costs for these two wars.

Then, in the supplemental bill that we'll take up later today, we have \$5 billion for the International Monetary Fund, and in this bill, there is a guarantee for \$100 billion in loans made by the IMF, loans being made to other countries. All this money will have to be borrowed because we are so many trillions in debt already that it is not even humanly comprehensible.

The bill also contains \$7.7 billion for swine flu vaccines. I heard a reporting of a speech of our colleague, the gentleman from Texas, Dr. PAUL, made recently, in which he said during his first stay in the House, in I think it was 1976, that there was another swine flu scare, and that only he and one other person, probably the only other medical doctor in the House at that time, voted against the money for the swine flu scare. And one person died from swine flu that year, and many more died from taking the vaccine than died from the flu. This is a great overreaction in this area as well. Many thousands are dying from other diseases that we're not paying attention to.

This supplemental appropriations bill started out at \$85 billion, then it went to \$91 billion, then \$95 billion, and now, today, \$106 billion. And I ask you, are there no fiscal conservatives around here?

We read last year that the Pentagon had \$295 billion in cost overruns on just their 72 largest weapons systems. Now, that didn't count all the cost overruns that they might have had in all their thousands of other large-, medium-, and small-sized contracts, and we're having a hearing right today—in fact, it's going on right now, I was there earlier—in the Oversight and Government Reform Committee in which they said 74 percent of the private contracts that the Federal Government gives out are

given out by the Pentagon. Are there no fiscal conservatives at the Pentagon?

I know everybody is trying to prove how patriotic they are today, and everybody feels that we shouldn't question anything the Defense Department wants. But to allow \$295 billion in cost overruns on just these 72 largest weapons systems, in my opinion, it's unpatriotic not to question that. And I ask again, are there no fiscal conservatives at the Pentagon?

The fact is, we've turned the Defense Department primarily into the "Department of Foreign Aid" now, and I believe very strongly in national defense. But we cannot afford to run the whole world, and we cannot afford to have the Department of Defense be the "Department of Foreign Aid."

All of this comes not long after we have raised our national debt limit to over \$13 trillion. Nobody can comprehend a figure like that, no one. That is an astounding figure. And yet on top of this debt that we already have, the President's budget in this year and the next 2 years will add over \$4 trillion of debt to that debt, \$4 trillion in this year and the next two; three years' time, \$4 trillion added to our national debt.

And then this year, if I had told people 2 or 3 years ago that we would have a budget this year of \$3.6 trillion and that half of that, \$1.87 trillion, would be deficit, nobody would have believed that. They would have thought that I was ridiculous or that I was crazy in saying that.

I used to say to my colleagues that it was terrible what we were doing to our children and grandchildren. Now, I'm saying it's terrible what we're doing to ourselves because it's not going to be 5 or 10 years, if that long, before we're not able to pay all of our Social Security and veterans' pensions and all of the things that we have promised our own people.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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