NATIONAL MEDIA GIVES FREE PASS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as this replica of a check demonstrates, the national media are giving the Obama administration a free pass worth who-knows-how-much on any number of major national issues such as the economy, energy, and health care.

The national media seldom mentions that the President’s budget would double the national debt in 5 years and triple it in 10. The national media don’t tell the American people that the President’s cap-and-trade energy plan will cost every family $1,600. The national media don’t report that the 46 million uninsured that is used to justify the President’s health care plan is really only 10 million people after you deduct those who are eligible for Medicare, Medicaid, who can afford health insurance, and who are without health insurance for just a couple of months between jobs.

Americans don’t want the media to give the Obama administration a free pass. They want the facts.

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, there was much media speculation as to where Mr. Steve Jobs had a liver transplant. It came out yesterday that he had his liver transplant in Memphis, Tennessee, my home town, at the Methodist Hospital, a hospital known for its liver transplant center which has the lowest morbidity rate of any transplant center in the United States.

Memphis has been a medical center for years, with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the finest research hospital for children’s illnesses, catastrophic illnesses, and cancer; for Southern College of Optometry; for LeBonheur Children’s Hospital; for Campbell’s Clinic for orthopedics and other particular medical specialties. We are proud of our medical community.

We are sorry Mr. Jobs had to have a liver transplant, but we are happy he came to Memphis and chose the best. But it shouldn’t be that only the wealthy can come to Memphis and have the best medical care available. We need to pass a health care plan that is affordable and quality with a public plan to truly compete in the private market and lower costs for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, health care must be accessible. And in order to be accessible to Americans living in both rural and urban areas, it has to be accepted by providers. It has to have doctors. I am concerned that the initial version does not provide the provider infrastructure already in place for Medicare. We know it and we can use it, and this is a serious oversight that needs to be revisited.

Mr. Speaker, I know we can meet the challenges for health care for all Americans, a uniquely American plan unparalleled in quality, low cost and real choice. Let’s do it.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN NEEDED

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are the ones with no new ideas. They always turn to their worn-out idea of tax, tax, tax. They don’t want a national energy tax; they want energy independence. The House Republican plan is the comprehensive energy solution this country desperately needs. House Republicans recognize that as gas prices and home utility bills rise, American families are dealt a greater economic hardship.

The Democrats’ answer to the worst recession in decades is a national energy tax that will lead to higher energy prices and threatens our economic future. The status quo is unacceptable, and I applaud all of the committees for their hard work on the draft proposal released last week. It is an important step forward to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

But I believe if we are to meet the stated goals of reform, it is also critical that the House Republican plan is the comprehensive energy solution this country desperately needs.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the United States has the most expensive health care in the world, which is a tremendous burden on the American family and businesses and threatens our economic future. The status quo is unsustainable and unacceptable, and I applaud all the committees for their hard work on the draft proposal released last week. It is an important step forward to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care.

Just as troubling as the government’s rapid control over private industry is the failure to present an exit strategy. With no apparent limit on the government’s ability to expand its activities, we must address the constitutional issues. Yesterday I introduced H.J. Res. 57, the Preserving Capitalism in America Amendment. The constitutional amendment would prohibit the acquisition by the Federal Government of any stock or equity interest in private corporations, and I believe similar action is necessary on the Federal level to limit government intrusion.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.J. Res. 57, the Preserving Capitalism in America amendment.

AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, Americans are the most innovative and the most entrepreneurial people on the face of the Earth. That is the reason that the people want us to pass the American Clean Energy and Security bill this week. This bill will give Americans what they want: More energy independence; less pollution; and most importantly, millions of new jobs of American ownership of business, the only putting up solar panels, putting up wind towers, and stringing new electrical wire that we need.

Now, what is this going to cost Americans? According to the Congressional Budget Office, approximately the cost of one postage stamp a day: 47 cents. Do Americans want to rid ourselves of the scourge of addiction to Saudi oil for a postage stamp a day? You bet.

Mr. Speaker, I want to limit pollution and make polluters pay so Americans can have cleaner air for the cost of a postage stamp a day? You bet.