

as fiscal conservatives, are fighting for here today.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KOSMAS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, President Obama has said that our Nation's policy in Afghanistan rests on a three-legged stool. The three legs are: One, security, which means more troops; two, economic development; and three, helping the Afghan Government to do a better job of serving the needs of the Afghan people.

Last week, National Security Adviser James L. Jones gave a frank assessment about the strategy. He made it clear that the most important leg of the strategy is economic development. This is what he said, and I quote him: "This war will not be won by the military alone. We tried that for years. The piece of our strategy that has to work in the next year is economic development. If that is not done right, there are not enough troops in the world to succeed."

Madam Speaker, I welcome Jones' comments and agree with him completely about the importance of economic development. The administration must commit more to the economic strategy.

Look at the supplemental funding bill for Afghanistan which Congress passed last month and which I voted against and you will see that we have our priorities wrong. Ninety percent of the bill's funding goes toward purely military operations, while only 10 percent goes to support smart power, which includes economic development, humanitarian aid, and diplomacy. Madam Speaker, a 90/10 split favoring a military option is a doomed strategy that has virtually no chance of succeeding.

To win the battle for Afghanistan, we must show the Afghan people that the United States is helping build better lives for themselves. But after 7 years of occupation, the Afghan people don't see enough evidence that their lives are better now than they were before we arrived. In fact, in some ways, their lives have worsened. That's because we relied almost exclusively on the military leg of the stool and ignored economic development and the other elements of smart power. As a result, some Afghans now join the Taliban out of a sense of resentment and frustration. Some support the Taliban simply

because they are poor and the Taliban will pay them.

Mariam Nawabi, a former senior adviser to the Afghan American Chamber of Commerce and an activist for Afghan women, recently was asked what advice she would give President Obama, and here's what she said: "I would tell him to direct more money into economic development and the creation of jobs. To end the violence, the money needs to reach the villages. If the money doesn't get to the village itself, there is no change and the young men are left without support and become fodder for the Taliban."

Madam Speaker, we must redirect our mission in Afghanistan. We must shift our resources towards a civilian surge, a surge of experts and workers who can help the Afghan people to develop their economy, and our military forces actually could be redirected to support these efforts. We must also have a diplomatic surge, a surge that engages all of Afghanistan's neighbors in an effort to assist the Afghan people and shore up the central government.

In addition, we must develop a series of rigorous metrics to evaluate the progress of these efforts and report the results to the Congress of the United States and to the American people which will then send the message that our involvement in Afghanistan is not open-ended. We can also use this process to develop a timeline for the full redeployment of our troops and military contractors out of Afghanistan.

And finally, Madam Speaker, the government of Kabul must eliminate corruption. They must respect the rule of law and show that it is working on behalf of the Afghan people.

Madam Speaker, the previous administration failed in Afghanistan because it did not understand the importance of smart power. President Obama does. That's an important step forward. But our next step is to put smart power to work, which will bring peace to Afghanistan, and it will strengthen America's national security.

TAXES ARE THE ROOT OF ALL FEDERAL MISCHIEF

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the taxacrats are at it again, cooking up new taxes to try to pay for the government takeover of health care. This time they want to raise taxes on small businesses. The so-called rich the taxacrats are targeting are America's entrepreneurs, the engine of the American economy.

Madam Speaker, taxes are the root of all Federal mischief. Businesses with less than 500 employees produce half of America's gross national product and account for the majority of our jobs. The taxacrats want to force these small businesses to buy health insurance for all of their employees, wheth-

er they can afford it or not. And if they don't, they will have to pay stiff fines, and of course, that will kill jobs.

The taxacrats also want to take \$540 billion in taxes out of budgets of small businesses to pay for their nationalized health care boondoggle. Small businesses need a tax break, not a tax hike.

Madam Speaker, it has always been the American entrepreneurial spirit creating new small businesses that have made this country work. There is an ebb and flow of businesses closing and new ones opening up. But these days, more are closing than opening. By the end of May, commercial bankruptcies were up 52 percent this year compared to the first five months of last year.

Eva Christian owns a popular European-style restaurant called Cafe Boulevard in Dayton, Ohio. She is one of the 8,300 businesses that have already filed for bankruptcy protection this year. Eva is trying to keep her cafe open and her workers employed while she tries to work things out with creditors. She says that the rising cost of food and energy combined with local unemployment have made it tough because her regular customers don't come around anymore. She cannot afford to be forced to give health care coverage to her employees, and her ability to bounce back will be smothered by the taxacrat not only health care proposals but new taxes on small businesses. So she will just close up.

Making matters worse, the high cost of energy is making everything cost more. The taxacrats refuse to expand the drilling for oil and natural gas here at home that would bring not only prices down but create millions of American jobs and not send them to Saudi Arabia. They want to kill the coal industry that supplies most of our electricity. They don't want to build more nuclear power plants that provide limitless clean energy. Their solution is to tax energy consumption on all Americans. All that will do is decrease the energy supply and cause energy costs to go up. There is no transition fuel and no energy source to transition to for at least 10 more years. That's not going to power our industries or fill anybody's gas tank so they can even get to work.

When the government took over General Motors and put it into bankruptcy, the small businesses nationwide that supplied the auto industry took a big hit. Seat belt manufacturers, floor mats, rearview mirrors, spark plugs, windshield wiper blades and electrical wires and washers, including hoses, belts and gaskets, all of the parts and pieces that come together to make automobiles, were losing jobs.

When big business files for bankruptcy, it affects the small businesses that supply them—small businesses, as you may recall, Madam Speaker, that got no bailout. They weren't important enough to keep from failing or politically influential with this administration, so they just went out of business.

When the new Government Motors put hundreds of their dealerships out of business, it hurt the local strip malls, restaurants, dry cleaners, grocery stores, sandwich shops, gas stations, on and on, and that causes financial struggles for the industries who supply these small businesses.

Madam Speaker, America's small businesses offer the best hope for new job creation. The government needs to get out of their way. Stop sucking the oxygen out of the economy with higher taxes and higher energy costs. Let America's entrepreneurs keep more of their own money to pull the country out of this mess. That says it in a nutshell: let them keep more of their own money.

Taxocrats want to control America's economic engine; however, they want to seize the wealth created in this country and spend it on their special friends and special interest groups. America's economy doesn't work that way. No economy ever has. If the government seizes the wealth it created, that these businesses created, however, it kills any incentive to create wealth. Just ask the former Soviet Union. Why do you think they went out of business? Why would anybody in their right mind invest money, blood, sweat, and tears to build a company from scratch only to hand the fruits of their labor over to the government? Governments don't create anything. They just seize it. They don't create jobs. They create taxpayer programs.

America's economy is the most successful in the history of the world, and the reason is easy to figure out: freedom. Freedom to create and grow an idea into a company, a dream to make it a multinational corporation. It makes no sense at all to kill the greatest economy on God's green earth, along with the freedom and liberty that created it. You cannot help the poor by economically killing the rich. It's been said, You don't make the poor rich by making the rich poor. Madam Speaker, taxes are the root of all Federal mischief.

And that's just the way it is.

□ 1730

WE MUST SUPPORT AND DEFEND ISRAEL

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

Mr. MCMAHON. Late Thursday, Madam Speaker, the House stood in support of our friend Israel and the greater global community by providing \$2.2 billion towards Israel's regional security and counterterrorism efforts. More importantly, this appropriation bill takes a firm stand against the active state sponsorship of terror by Iran by cutting off U.S. export credits to foreign companies that help to provide gasoline and other refined products to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Now I stand by the administration's decision to engage Iran through negotiations. However, the United States must have something concrete to negotiate with first. For this reason, I have strongly advocated for the use of sanctions to wean Iran away from its nuclear ambitions.

As for Israel, it is our fellow democracy, our tried and true ally. Supporting it is essential to the stability and future not only of the Middle East, but of the world. And any democratic nation that has chosen to treat Israel as a suspect state, to impose on Israel embargoes and daunting deadlines for a peace agreement, should know that its actions ultimately do damage to the shared values that all democracies espouse.

Our alliance with our European partners should be held in high regard—and it is. Yet, we must consistently work to maintain this relationship. Yet, a recent decision by the United Kingdom to revoke a number of arms export licenses to Israel following the Gaza war may trigger similar decisions by other EU nations, and comes at a crucial time for Israel's security.

Following the failed Iranian elections in June, the Iranian regime has had its legitimacy wounded and its paranoia increased. Many observers expect the regime to take a posture of increased repression at home and antagonism abroad. In that dangerous environment, Israel's leaders have every right to be concerned for their country's safety.

While hope still exists for a free Iran, Europe, Israel, and the United States must undoubtedly prepare for a more dangerous Iranian regime in the near term. We must be ready for the possibility that Iran will intensify its pursuit of nuclear weapons to overcome the embarrassment of the recent elections.

Incredibly, there seems to be a certain line of thinking in the international community that Iran poses no threat. For example, the day after Iran tested a 1,200-mile range Ashura ballistic missile and displayed the video footage to the world, a group of experts at the East-West Institute released a report on Iranian capabilities that made this astounding statement: "There is no reliable information at present on the state of Iran's efforts to develop solid-propellant rocket motors and therefore no basis to make this assessment."

It is this very shocking failure to prepare that puts Israel and the entire international community at risk. In this light, our European allies' decision to place an arms embargo on Israel does not merely represent a double standard, it is decidedly harmful to a democracy faced with the very real prospects of a destructive nuclear neighbor.

Madam Speaker, I urge this Congress and the United States to make the Iranian regime pay a higher cost for its nuclear weapons pursuit. If we needed

any further reminder, the protests in the streets of Tehran have made clear that words and actions mean very little to Ayatollah Khamenei. The threat from Iran demands an effective policy response—and our European allies are well-placed to formulate one with us.

You see, even though Iran is an oil exporter, its economy is highly dependent on imported gasoline and other refined petroleum products. We need to embargo this trade. European companies are heavily involved in the Iranian gasoline business. Policymakers need to stop this trade to end this nuclear threat. If the Iranian regime faced damaging economic pressure from a significant reduction in gasoline supplies, it may indeed change its course and an ever-present threat to Israel and to global security may be alleviated.

I think we are all encouraged by the joint statement that came from the G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, expressing concern over Iran's belligerence. And I hope by the next G8 summit in December, the deadline set by the world leaders—our European allies included, we will see real international collaboration to curb the threats of Tehran.

Nothing endangers peace more than a refusal to face facts. Even as we set deadlines for when discussions with Iran might begin, let's remember that they continue to enrich uranium and that a deadline with real consequences must be considered, along with engagement. Otherwise, engagement will be manipulated as a mere tactic for delay.

I am glad that this House chose to face Iran and support Israel with its vote on Thursday, and I have high hopes that the international community will do the same. We must support and defend our friend Israel and end the nuclear threat of Iran.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to report that 304 of my colleagues in the House, from both parties, have joined me as cosponsors of H.R. 24, legislation to redesignate the Department of the Navy to be known as the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps.

I'm grateful to Chairman IKE SKELTON, who included the language of H.R. 24 in the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the full House last month. This is the eighth year in a row that language to properly recognize the Marine Corps has been included in the House version of the bill. Unfortunately, each year the language has been stripped in the Senate.

This year, I'm grateful to have the support of Senator PAT ROBERTS, a former Marine, who introduced the same bill in the Senate, S. 504. With his