

shot in terms of heavy regulations in hand coming from Washington.

So we can all agree that we need to make the environment better for job creators and people who want to jump in and take risks. But the financial regulatory reform package that is being brought to the floor just as the Card Check bill that's still being spoken of around here, those are job killers. We ought to at least relieve the harm so that people we're relying on to create jobs can get back to work to do that. That was simply my point, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just note for the gentleman that 2.8 million Americans have lost their jobs since the passage of the majority's first stimulus bill; and the Nation's debt now stands at over \$12 trillion.

I thank the gentleman for his time, and I yield back.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2009

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday next for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland? There was no objection.

IMMIGRATION

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

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, just last week our Nation celebrated Thanksgiving. It was a time for families across this Nation to unite and reflect on the things we are grateful for.

This Thanksgiving I looked around my holiday table and admired the diversity of my family, many of whom are natural born citizens, some naturalized citizens, and some Jamaican immigrants. We are a blended family blessed with the realization of our own American dream. I realized that my story enjoys a certain similarity to the first Thanksgiving celebration. Native Americans breaking bread with Pilgrims. A blending of two different cultures, one immigrant, one native.

Like my family, many families across this Nation are a blend of many cultures and citizen status and are affected by our dysfunctional immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, immigration reform is too important to be delayed. As we prepare to debate immigration reform, I'm working with my colleagues to ensure access to the American Dream. Just like you, I, too, am the face of immigration; all of us coming together representing the diversity of this great Nation, the United States of America.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CIVILIAN SURGE?

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask: What happened to the civilian surge in President Obama's new strategy for Afghanistan? In his address to the Nation on Tuesday night, the President said that there are three parts to his Afghanistan strategy: a military effort, a civilian surge, and partnership with Pakistan. But while the President spoke at great length about the military effort and about Pakistan, he gave virtually no details about the civilian surge. In fact, he devoted only one sentence of his speech to it—a brief sentence about agricultural assistance.

Earlier this year, with great fanfare, the President unveiled his plans for a civilian engagement. He said it would help the Afghan people to rebuild their economy, infrastructure, education system, justice system, government, and civil society. I supported this policy because I believe that helping the Afghan people to improve their lives is the best way to defeat violent extremists. But it's now painfully obvious that the White House has all but forgotten about the civilian surge. It appears to have been lost in his plan to escalate the war with 30,000 more troops, which is deeply disappointing to me. But it's not the only reason why I oppose the escalation. I oppose it because the American people don't support it and can't afford it. In fact, America's military spending in Afghanistan alone next year will now exceed the entire official military budget of every other country in the world.

The escalation will also lead the Afghan people to see our troops as an occupying army, and the history of Afghanistan shows that the Afghan people will never accept a foreign occupation. As a result, the plan will boomerang because it will help the Taliban when they are recruiting for new members.

The escalation will also lead to more casualties of our troops and it will continue to stretch our military forces, which are already stretched much too thin. It will reduce the dwell time for our troops back home between deployments, placing even greater burdens on them and on their families.

The President's new strategy, Mr. Speaker, also doesn't include a realistic exit plan. The President talks about transferring responsibility for the war to Afghanistan within 18

months, but since there is very little chance that the Afghans will be ready by then, our troops are likely to be stuck for many, many years to come.

Finally, I'm disappointed in the President's plan because it continues to rely on the military option that has failed. At the same time, it ignores the far more effective alternative that is available to us. That alternative is smart security. Smart security calls for a strong emphasis on diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and economic development for the Afghan people. That is what will stabilize Afghanistan. That is what will win the hearts and minds of the Afghan people.

More broadly, smart security includes a comprehensive plan that would eliminate the root causes of extremism in Afghanistan and elsewhere. It dismantles existing networks of extremists, and it would stop the spread of nuclear and conventional arms around the world. I have proposed a smart security platform for the 21st century, Mr. Speaker, and it's in my bill, House Resolution 363. I invite every Member of the House to read it and to work with me to implement it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm as committed to defeating extremism in Afghanistan as anyone, and I do not believe that simply pulling our troops out of Afghanistan overnight is the right way to go. But I do believe that the Afghan people need political, economic, and social solutions for their problems. They do not need a military solution. That's why I will join with others throughout our Nation in the days ahead to oppose the escalation of this war and to urge the President to shift to smart security to make our Nation and the world a safer place.

GITMO AND YEMENI DETAINEES

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in a speech at West Point earlier this week, President Obama explicitly designated Yemen as an emerging al Qaeda stronghold. The President stated, "Where al Qaeda and its allies attempt to establish a foothold—whether in Somalia or Yemen or elsewhere—they must be confronted by growing pressure and strong partnerships." How can the President reconcile these legitimate concerns about Somalia and Yemen while simultaneously releasing Guantanamo Bay detainees to these dangerously unstable countries?

Last month, the Obama administration secretly released another detainee to Yemen—information hidden from the American people under a provision in the FY 2009 spending bills explicitly prohibiting the disclosure of any information to the American people. If the American people knew who these detainees were, the acts of terror they have committed, or to which countries they were going to be released, they