

Congressional Budget Office, obviously, is nonpartisan in nature. And what he states is that unless there is a realistic assumption of what is going to occur, then there cannot be a realistic assumption of the total cost involved. He states, "Fantasy in, fantasy out." And the first gimmick he sites is the fact that "the bill front-loads revenues and we back-load spending." In other words, revenues increase over the next 10 years, but the spending does not increase until 4 years from now—10 years of revenue increases as opposed to 6 years of spending. This can only occur once, and moving forward into the second decade, of course that will not be possible. This is an excellent example of why over the first decade, the health care bill is not deficit-neutral. It, in fact, is in the red, something that should be of concern to all Americans.

This is an example of a larger problem in this country. The larger problem in this country is that we have a \$12 trillion debt, and that debt is rising rapidly. Last year, our annual deficit was \$1.42 trillion. This year it is expected to be \$1.6 trillion, the highest annual deficit as a percentage of gross domestic product since 1945, at the end of World War II. Over the course of the next 4 years, debt will increase dramatically, and I urge the Obama administration to begin to address this fundamental issue that really confronts us as a Nation and certainly confronts the next generation.

Moody's, the rating house, has indicated that it is not clear that we will be able to retain our AAA bond rating. And this, of course, would be tragic for the American people, tragic for our taxpayers, and indeed, tragic moving forward, making sure that America remains in its position of preeminence in the world. Moody's cites three different criteria as to whether it will reduce the AAA bond rating of this country. First, the amount of debt we are taking on, and of course that includes not only debt here at the Federal level but also debt at State and local levels as well. We are taking on enormous debt, as I have indicated. So that's not a good sign. Then of course whether or not Federal deficits will increase over the next decade and as a percentage of gross domestic product. This is the highest it has been since the end of World War II.

Moody's is also watching another factor to see whether we borrow less in the future and whether or not we raise taxes, which I oppose, or cut spending or both. Moody's is looking at that. Certainly we should engage in fiscal responsibility in a way moving forward to get our fiscal House in order.

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

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

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TAKEOVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the President today. Mr. President, you are halfway there. With the President's signature on the health care bill today, the Federal Government has now taken outright ownership or control of 50 percent of the American economy. The President can rightly say that he has transformed America. Since the inception of bailout nation in September of 2008 with the passage of the \$700 billion TARP bailout, the Federal Government lollapalooza takeover began and was under way.

Madam Speaker, President Obama fully embraced the \$700 billion bailout plan during the first of his Presidential debates with Senator JOHN MCCAIN. During December of 2008, President-Elect Obama insisted that outgoing President George Bush release billions of dollars to create the automobile task force for the purpose of preventing General Motors and Chrysler Motors from filing for bankruptcy. But like most government interventions, the billions spent on the auto companies did not prevent bankruptcy, but it did provide a gentler landing for the unions who worked so hard to elect President Obama.

Banks were bailed out, and the great Wall Street investment houses, including Goldman et al., turned themselves into banks to be eligible for government-subsidized TARP funds. Soon the Federal Government turned its dividend-paying shares into equity shares, and government became the outright owner—the shareholder of America's largest banks. Next came the unholy bailout of AIG, the largest insurance company in America. A sponge for taxpayer money, AIG held toxic derivatives, and they've yet to right their ship.

The Federal Reserve bought massive, copious reams of toxic commercial paper from private corporations, and the Federal Government's balance sheet forever changed, subsidized by the American taxpayer. Freddie and Fannie, the secondary mortgage purchasers, were the center of the universe for the financial meltdown. Foolishly they pursued a policy of purchasing substandard loans, then repackaging those loans into mortgage-backed securities. Freddie and Fannie greedily spread their economic cancer throughout the financial world, exposing America's taxpayers to potentially trillions of dollars of losses. Freddie and Fannie should have been shuttered. They should have been placed into receivership. But Uncle Sam, ever the chump, couldn't resist, and now Uncle Sam owns 50 percent of America's home mortgages.

Eager for more, the Obama administration consumed the student loan in-

dustry, and they completed that transaction today with a signature of a pen. A breathtaking 33 percent of the private economy was either outright purchased or controlled by the Federal Government in a span of 10 months' time. But the brass ring of government-controlled health care still taunted this administration. Eighteen percent of the private economy, the finest health care the world has ever known, was the long-sought-after prize of the political left.

Today they realized their dream. At the 11th hour this morning, President Obama, with the signing of his name, completed the Federal Government takeover of health care. Madam Speaker, 33 percent plus 18 percent equals 51 percent of the private economy today controlled or owned by the Federal Government. It is fitting on this momentous day that we pause for a moment of silence and lament the passage of half of America's economic freedom. In a stunning 18 months' time, for the first time in America's history, the Federal Government now owns or controls over 50 percent of the private economy. Madam Speaker, I say congratulations, Mr. President. You are halfway there.

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THE THIRD FRONT

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, I bring you news from the third front. We have the front that America is engaged in war in Iraq, we have the front in Afghanistan, and I bring you news from the silent third front in that nobody talks about it, and that is the southern border of the United States with Mexico.

The inconvenient truth is there is a border war brewing on our southern border, and America needs to be aware of what is taking place and not ignore the obvious. The Texas border sheriffs and the sheriffs' coalition from Brownsville all the way to San Diego talk about the problems that are increasing on the border, and it is violence. It is the organized crime cartels, the drug cartels that are bringing violence to the border area on both sides of the border, on the Mexican side and on the American side, and it is only going to get worse.

I want to talk about a specific incident that is taking place between two drug cartels, the Zetas and the Gulf drug cartel. They are operating in Mexico in several places, but one of those places is Guerrero, Mexico, right on the border between the United States and Texas—or, rather, between Mexico and Texas. It is near a place called Falcon Lake.

Falcon Lake is a man-made dam, and the lake is as a result of that dam. On the southern side of Falcon Lake is