

of the GOP opposition, he's lost his dignity.

I urge my Republican colleagues in the Senate to drop their indefensible opposition to extending unemployment insurance immediately, and with it, provide needed relief to millions of people like Thomas Currier.

STOP EARLY FEDERAL RETIREMENT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, last week there were headlines saying that leaders on both sides of the aisle agree that we need to raise the Social Security retirement age to 70. Before we do that, we need to stop spending hundreds of billions we do not have on very unnecessary foreign wars, but we also need to revise the entire Federal retirement system—both civilian and military.

We cannot change the retirement benefits for those already in the system. The political opposition would just be too strong. But we need to inform new Federal hires and new military recruits that we can no longer allow healthy, able-bodied people to retire in their late thirties or even in their forties or fifties.

Local police fight street crime. Almost no Federal law enforcement today is physical in nature. Early retirement in most Federal law enforcement can no longer be justified. Working as a waiter or waitress is more physically demanding than most Federal Government positions for which we now grant early retirement.

With a \$13 trillion national debt, Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford to give relatively young people lavish retirement benefits.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are singing the same old tune again. This past Sunday on "Meet the Press," the Republicans top campaign leader let the truth be known. If the Republicans take power in Congress, he said, "We need to go back to the exact same agenda." The exact same agenda. The one that lost 8 million manufacturing jobs in this country, the one that tried to privatize Social Security, the one that drove our country into a ditch. Yep, that same agenda.

What does privatization of Social Security really mean? It means taking your money and letting Wall Street play with it. We saw how well that worked over the past few years when the Republicans controlled this House. Private retirement accounts lost one-third of their value during the Republican recession. Heads they win, tails you lose.

But the Republicans don't learn from their mistakes; so they want to return to the exact same agenda of the Bush Republican years.

America, make sure Congress knows Social Security is your money. You earned it. You paid for it. It is your future.

SPEND, SPEND, SPEND

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

Mr. DJOU. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect Congress to act responsibly and be trustworthy, but how can this happen when this Congress has no plan? No plan for a budget, no plan to create jobs, no plan to turn around our economy other than to spend, spend, and spend some more of the people's money. We spent more than a trillion dollars to create jobs, but as of yet, our unemployment rate still languishes at 9.5 percent.

Our Nation is plagued with debt, and not creating a budget further amplifies the problem.

Mr. Speaker, we are spending too much money. Even worse, we are spending too much money on programs that do not work. And even worse than that, we have no plan to pay any of this money back. And this problem is further compounded by this House's refusal to pass a budget.

It's time to cut spending and enact real, meaningful tax relief and put more money in the hands of the American people.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, most people understand that we have a real tangible need for the safety nets of Social Security and Medicare. The hard lessons of history compelled us to create protections for our seniors who have given us a lifetime of hard work and deserve security in their golden years.

But Washington Republicans just don't get it. They want to privatize Social Security and put seniors' retirement at the mercy of the stock market. They want to repeal the benefits we provided through Medicare. If Republicans had their way, they'd reopen the doughnut hole. They'd take away free, preventative health care under Medicare, and they'd play roulette with our seniors' retirement, their access to doctors, and their prescription drugs.

Washington Republicans have turned their backs on our seniors. I'm proud to stand by our seniors and make sure they have quality, affordable health care, safety and security in retirement, and peace of mind that these benefits are here to stay.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it's a little over 18 months since President Obama signed the so-called economic "stimulus" bill into law. To say now, as many of my Democratic colleagues continue to do, that this stimulus was somehow a success, that's really an insult to the millions of Americans who are now unemployed and continue to look for work.

We've heard repeatedly from our business leaders and economists that one of the biggest impediments to job creation is what this Congress has been doing here every day. I mean, how can businesses be expected to invest and to create jobs when they read in the paper such things that our government is expected to run trillion dollar deficits as far as the eye can see, that banks will now have to conform to 243 new regulations because of that 2,300-page Dodd-Frank bill we just passed, and that next year we will experience in this country the largest tax increase in American history?

And, also, the energy prices. Energy prices may skyrocket because of the House-passed cap-and-trade bill. And health insurance premiums, they were promised to go down, but they are going to increase because of the recently passed health care bill.

Mr. Speaker, uncertainty is the enemy of economic growth. Thank goodness it's the August recess.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Social Security and to highlight its importance as we approach the 75th anniversary since its founding.

Social Security is a pillar of a society based on the premise that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will have the stability and security of a minimum level of guaranteed income as you get older. And the reality is Social Security provides nearly all of the retirement income for six out of 10 seniors in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for 75 years, Social Security has never been a day late or a dollar short. And as we approach this historic achievement, we must commit ourselves to strengthening Social Security, not privatizing it. We must continue to provide the foundation for Americans' retirement security for generations and generations to come.

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UNCERTAINTY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, one business organization after another has made it clear: The policies of this President and this Democrat-controlled Congress are creating uncertainty all throughout the private sector. Whether it's the Chamber of Commerce or the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the message is the same: Washington is giving them no reason for confidence in the economy.

All across this country, business owners are looking at higher costs for health care, the potential for higher energy costs, the threat of more taxes, and the reality of oppressive, costly government regulations. It's no wonder the private sector isn't hiring. The only sector of the economy that's really growing is government. The endless deficit spending in Washington is expanding government and sucking the life out of the private sector.

This has to stop. House Republicans have commonsense solutions. We need to rein in out-of-control spending, cut taxes and get a massive Federal Government off the back of free enterprise.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in history, the other body has to wait for a new Member to be sworn in today to take up unemployment insurance and break a filibuster. Even in the mildest of turndowns, there has always been bipartisan support for unemployment benefits. Ask the average American: Give us your definition of emergency spending: unemployment benefits paid for in part from employee paychecks or more tax cuts for the wealthy?

The question answers itself, for all except my Republican friends in this House. They've gone further and insulted the unemployed by offering as an excuse that benefits keep people from looking for and taking jobs. The Bush recession left one job for every five job-seekers. It's cruel to blame the unemployed for not finding work in the midst of the great recession. It is worst to deny them food to put on the table.

CONGRESS' RAMPANT ACTIVISM

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, after four stimulus packages over the past 2 years, Americans are asking: Where are the jobs? Why aren't businesses hiring? In a word, uncertainty.

We've seen a great deal of activist government over the past 2 years with enormous budget deficits, the government takeover of car companies, bank bailouts, mandatory national health care, misguided financial regulation and more. Still, President Obama and

the congressional leadership have additional disruptive plans on tap, including big tax increases and cap-and-trade legislation. Not only are businesses being burdened with new taxes and other requirements, they also know that further afflictions are coming, but the form and extent of those afflictions are still a mystery.

Business people plan to succeed, but when the government is making major burdensome and, as yet largely unspecified, changes, it is very difficult to plan. Rather than hiring and investing, many are choosing to wait and see.

America's working people are the victims of this administration's and this Congress' rampant activism.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Social Security as it approaches its 75th anniversary. When FDR signed this historic legislation into law, he understood that the whims of Wall Street were sweeping many hardworking Americans into financial ruin. At the time, more than half of America's seniors lacked sufficient income to be self-supporting.

Social Security changed all of that. Indeed, today, in my home State of Florida, 53 percent of seniors would be below the poverty line without Social Security. That hasn't stopped Republicans from wanting to end the guarantee of Social Security. In 2005, President Bush proposed privatizing Social Security, which would have cut benefits for 70 percent of retired Americans. Well, it's *deja vu* all over again.

While President Bush may be gone, his plans live on. House Republicans are once again calling to privatize Social Security, and Medicare for good measure. We simply cannot risk tossing millions of seniors into poverty.

Let us rededicate ourselves to Roosevelt's vision and to the economic security of all of our citizens and not throw our seniors out in the cold.

DEEPWATER DRILLING JOBS MOVING TO OTHER NATIONS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, the people of Louisiana have suffered a lot of catastrophes: the BP explosion, fishing industry's down, the tourism industry is down. Now, to add insult to injury, we have the moratorium which is costing thousands of jobs in Louisiana.

What's the result? "Three deepwater drilling rigs to be moved from sites south of Cameron Parish." "First rig sails away over drilling ban" to Egypt. "Brazil sees silver lining in BP spill: more rigs."

Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs? Well, in the deepwater drilling they're going to be moved to other nations.

SOCIAL SECURITY BRINGS A SENSE OF PRIDE

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Sometimes when I listen to the debate, you would think that President Obama inherited a large surplus and growing jobs. No, what my Republicans forget, that's not what President Obama inherited. That's what George Bush inherited and lost in 8 years.

Why are we in this problem? It is for 8 years of bad economic principles that George Bush put forward. Obama inherited deficits and loss of jobs, 750,000 of them a year; and now we hear again the same old policy, attacking and wanting to privatize Social Security.

Well, Democrats and the American people rejected that idea during the failed policies of the 8 years of George W. Bush, and we reject that policy again because we understand the significance and the importance that Social Security brings to our families, it brings to children and those who are retired who without Social Security would be in poverty.

Social Security brings a sense of pride to those who have worked hard all of their lives so that they can have something at the end.

TENNESSEANS FRUSTRATED WITH CONGRESS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, my home State of Tennessee has an employment rate of over 10 percent. The Tennesseans that I know are very frustrated with Washington. They've lost faith that this Chamber can or will do anything meaningful about jobs this year. They look at Washington and see us living out that maxim: if at first you don't succeed, spend and spend again. They look at us and they said where are the jobs.

Now Tennessee's Governor and State legislature have made some very different choices. Instead of expanding the size of government, they scaled it back. Instead of increasing taxes, they've offered incentives for investment. Many in this Chamber say those are policies of the past. Well, in Tennessee, those choices have worked. They attracted over \$4 billion of investment in the past 18 months. It is investment that creates sustainable growth and good, solid paying jobs.

By contrast, the stimulus program we hear so much about in this Chamber has sent just over \$1 billion to the State of Tennessee. At 10 percent unemployment, what do Tennesseans