

2008 and hit rock bottom in the first quarter of 2009, has rebounded since, increasing more than 60 percent. In fact, we have recovered \$6 trillion of the \$17.5 trillion lost by American families.

Madam Speaker, the Blinder and Zandi study illustrates our intervention and investments through the Recovery and Reinvestment Act saved the U.S. economy from the second Great Depression. But, as the recent study demonstrated, we averted the worst outcome, but we still have work to do.

Make no mistake. Despite the fragile economy, our economy is growing again, and that growth is the direct result of the actions of this Congress to save American taxpayers and to save this economy.

RECOGNIZING ALFALIT INTERNATIONAL AND DR. PHILLIP FROST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts and continuing success of Alfalit International in the fight against global illiteracy.

Founded in 1961 and headquartered in my hometown in Miami, Florida, Alfalit International has helped over 7 million adults and children learn to read and write. Currently, Alfalit serves people in 25 different countries around the world, with literacy programs in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole.

The basic ability to read and write is the gateway to education and training, to higher earnings, and to a more productive life. With Alfalit's help, millions of people in countries worldwide are able to break the cycle of poverty, make better lives for themselves and their children, and play a larger role in their local and regional economies.

Moreover, basic literacy skills also help people to better understand the rights they have and the rights that they have been denied, and it empowers people to participate in the local and national political process.

Alfalit's approach involves teaching the basic skills and education that people need to become independent and productive members of societies.

Alfalit's approach is an efficient and cost-effective method that needs only \$60 and 10 months to teach a completely illiterate adult to read and write at a fourth-grade level. I am certain that much of the reason for this low-cost approach to basic education lies in the fact that the majority of Alfalit teachers are compassionate and supportive volunteers.

As a former educator and Florida certified teacher, I recognize the difficulties that Alfalit faces in helping those most in need. I commend its many volunteers, and encourage them to continue with their badly needed efforts.

Alfalit's tremendous success over the past 50 years is a great inspiration, and I hope to hear more about its great work in the future. I wish them also much success to Alfalit for its upcoming dinner in Miami, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to spotlight the contributions of Dr. Phillip Frost to our South Florida community. A physician, a businessman, a philanthropist, Phillip Frost has been a long-time supporter of the arts and education. His work with the Smithsonian Institute has helped keep the institution vibrant and growing.

Phillip's passion for music led him to make generous contributions to the University of Miami's school of music and to the Florida International University art museum.

His philanthropy has helped fund much needed medical research. As a trustee at the Scripps Research Institute, he has helped one of the world's largest independent, nonprofit biomedical research organizations. Phillip Frost's lasting legacy will certainly be to inspire others to match his selflessness and generosity.

Thank you, Dr. Frost, for your service and for your humanitarian outreach. You are an inspiration and an example to our entire community. Much success for your upcoming event for the American Friends of the Hebrew University in Miami, Florida.

EDUCATION FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, there are many in this chamber who say, and I am among them, that we must be careful with running up the deficit and the debt because we are borrowing from the future. Dollars we borrow today will be paid back by our kids and our grandkids over the next 30 years. In fact, that is why I voted against the so-called stimulus bill. I felt it borrowed too much and invested too little in the future. It cut way back on the transportation infrastructure investments in favor of tax cuts. Borrowing money for tax cuts doesn't make sense. There is no benefit to be passed on to the future generation, and it certainly didn't put people back to work.

So as we approach the bill today, we have to keep that in mind: Are we borrowing from the future? And, will this provide benefits to people in the future?

The bill before us today would fund education. In my State, we are headed toward having the shortest school year in America. We are stealing from our future. We are stealing from our kids. If they don't get those school days this year, they can't make them up next year or after they have graduated. We are shorting them for the rest of their lives on a good education. We are going to have some of the largest class sizes in America. You can't teach a class of 38 or 40 kids in middle school. It isn't

a good educational experience. We are stealing from their future.

I am hoping today that the funds we will vote for will be used by my State to plug the holes this year. I don't want to see them sitting on that money and saying, "Oh, well, maybe things will be worse next year and we will avoid future cuts." No. The cuts are today. They are hurting kids today. They need to plug those holes today, put teachers back to work, lower the class size, get the school years back up to a reasonable length.

There are other cuts that can be taken care of by this vote again today. In my State, we are cutting back on State police even though we have one of the lowest ratios of policing in the United States of America. We have an epidemic of people in our rural areas who do not have adequate law enforcement and are being plagued by crime and drug dealing and other things. We need more State police on the roads.

Our seniors need to be maintained in their homes, Oregon Project Independence. Our community colleges are cutting back at the same time when they are seeing record enrollment from people who are trying to get a job in a bad economy. Those holes can be plugged today. But are we borrowing from the future with this legislation? Well, no. Actually, for once, we are paying for it.

Now, we are going to hear a lot of whining on the Republican side of the aisle about, oh, this is bad and this is more just borrow and spend. No. What they are really going to be whining about is the fact that we are closing some very juicy foreign tax loopholes for U.S. corporations. We have little things that are called the hopscotch of deemed dividends. We have the Cayman Islands, Bermuda. Sound familiar? And we have daisy chain investment overseas so they can avoid U.S. taxes. When we built the greatest Nation on earth, corporations paid 40 percent of the taxes in this country; today, they pay 7 percent because of loopholes like this. This bill will close the loopholes.

Now, the Republicans will gnash their teeth over that because there has never been a loophole too good for them. They want more loopholes. And they should like this part, and I have some doubts about this, but it is going to reduce food stamp benefits in the future by \$12 billion. Now, they always carry on about welfare and welfare cheats. I have got a lot of people dependent upon food stamps who were formerly hard working in my district and my State. But the balance here of essential public services, of a decent education for the future, and those cuts, I can accept. And getting rid of the corporate loopholes, I am with that every day of the week. The Republicans are for loopholes. We are against them. We are for education, we are for kids, we are for vital public services. They are not.

STOP THE SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, many people are asking why Congress is here today. I think the answer is pretty simple: We are not bankrupting the country fast enough, and so we need to come back and spend even more.

In the merciful week that Congress was not in session, my constituents had one message: Stop the spending. Obviously, Congress isn't listening.

Over the past 2 years, this administration and this Congress have increased spending by nearly 18 percent and run up more debt in 2 years than the irresponsible Bush administration did in all of its 8 years combined. Meanwhile, unemployment has increased from 7.6 percent to 9.5 percent.

Yet, the problem, in the view of the House Democrats, is that we just aren't spending enough. So we gather here today to shovel another \$26 billion at the problems. That comes to about \$330 from an average family taken directly out of the Nation's struggling economy.

Now, the gentleman from Oregon just told us, well, don't worry, it is paid for. Well, how is that? \$10 billion from increasing taxes on businesses with foreign subsidiaries.

But remember this: Businesses don't pay business taxes. Business taxes can only be paid in one of three ways: By us as consumers through higher prices; by us as employees through lower wages; and, by us as investors through lower earnings, mainly on our 401(k)s.

Another \$12 billion comes from cuts in food stamps starting in 2014, but we are going to use the savings starting now.

I tried that one out on my wife the other day. "Honey, sure we can afford that new jet ski this year. I am planning to cut our grocery budget by \$10,000 in 2014." I am sad to report, she didn't buy it.

We are told this is part of the plan to save or create jobs. Well, Mr. Speaker, this is not saving jobs. It is destroying jobs. Government cannot inject a single dollar into the economy that it hasn't first taken out of that very same economy.

We see the jobs saved or created when the government puts the money back into the economy. What we don't see as clearly are the jobs that are lost or prevented when the government first has to take that money out of the very same economy. We see the lost or prevented jobs through chronic unemployment rates and a stagnant jobs market at a time when we should long ago have moved into a normal V-shaped economic recovery.

Nor does this even guarantee saving teaching jobs. Good school boards, faced with the choice between a couple of good teachers or a pointless and overpaid bureaucrat, are probably

going to keep the teachers and fire the bureaucrat. But this bill says they don't have to make that choice. Indeed, this bill says they are actually prohibited from doing anything that would reduce their spending below last year's level.

What about Medicaid? A bipartisan group of legislators in my State of California tells us that they need this bailout money to save the State's Medicaid program. But bailing out bad management doesn't improve it.

At the peak of the good times when California was taking in more money than ever before, it was already running a deficit of over \$9 billion, almost 10 percent of its budget. Just 4 years ago, those same bipartisan legislatures voted Medicaid expansions that have increased its share of general fund spending from 14 percent to 19 percent. California offers such Medicaid options as acupuncture, chiropractic services, and psychological counseling. And now they are shocked, just shocked, that they keep running out of money.

I love my State, but deficits that are made in California should stay in California.

Mr. Speaker, with the Nation now some \$13.2 trillion in debt, that is about 93 percent of the entire U.S. economy, it is time to invoke the first law of holes: When you are in one, stop digging. And if Congress doesn't invoke that law now, it is becoming increasingly clear that the American people will invoke it in November.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning because three teenagers are dead.

I have made a commitment as a mother to reconcile this horrific tragedy and to ask our government for help.

I believe every American should have the opportunity to have the feeling that, when all else fails, our government will stand there and assist us where they can. Americans don't ask for handouts. They don't ask to have their lives interrupted. They simply want to know there is a Federal Government that can stand up for them. Whether or not it is a young man or woman in the United States military, whether or not it is a senior who needs Medicare or Social Security, we need to know that when there is a need that the Federal Government can fulfill, they will do so.

In the middle of July in Houston, Texas, Sajan Tamalshina, a native of Nepal, decided to drive his car through a red light. In the course of that, he hit a family that were bringing their teenagers home from a legitimate night out in a legitimate teenage club, if you will, picked up by their parents and being driven home, as families will do

across America. Rashaundra 17, Avianca 13, Detrihanna 13, were all happily and busily talking about the fun they just had, and the right way that it was done where the parents picked them up and took them home. But Sajan Tamalshina decided to drink and run the red light, and now three teenagers are dead, expelled from the car, laying on the hard cement.

The police came and looked at the situation. He refused to take an on-scene Breathalyzer, so he was taken to the hospital and, as you well know, chemical tests go about. The police even called the District Attorney who came to the scene and decided that he could be released. My heart aches for that decision, because I asked the question, Mr. Speaker, three dead children on the ground does not at least require some common sense and judgment to hold someone overnight? Parents are asking now for justice and I am asking our Nation for justice.

The police department said they contacted the U.S. Marshal. There is an investigative arm of the State Department, but yet we look like the most powerful Nation in the world, and we have our hands tied. You cannot reach the U.S. Marshal's office. They will not respond. They are talking about maybe something will happen. Because he is in Nepal, there is no diplomatic relationships with them.

Three teenagers are dead. The letter says, "Unfortunately, the United States does not have a treaty with Nepal that can serve as a basis to secure Mr. Tamalshina's extradition. In some cases, in the absence of an extradition treaty, countries may be able to expel or otherwise remove from their territory persons wanted for prosecution in another jurisdiction. However, expulsion or removal usually are not viable options when the person sought is a national of a country of refuge." As Mr. Tamalshina appears to be a national of Nepal, it is highly likely that an expulsion or other removal from their country will be possible.

The Department's criminal division works closely with Federal, State, and local prosecutors and the Department of State to seek the extradition or other lawful return of fugitives wanted for prosecution in the United States. In cases involving State charges, we can initiate an extradition only upon request of the State prosecutors. Prosecutors in our criminal division have worked with the Harris County District Attorney's Office on fugitive matters and we have discussed this case. Just a benign conversation. It doesn't matter. Three teenagers are dead.

Well, I say to the Justice Department, wake up and do something. The U.S. Marshal needs to stop hiding from my office and get over to my office to discuss why you can't do something. You can engage in diplomatic dialogue. You can ask the country of Nepal to be able to work with you to return this individual. He will not be getting the death sentence. Maybe 60 years. You