

do that under the guise that this is creating the jobs. And the President mentioned last night he wants to continue creating jobs that way. Well, guess what? It's not working.

So we do half of nothing. We allow the Social Security tax holiday to expire. It doesn't create any jobs. We don't borrow the \$110 billion from China to put in the Social Security trust fund. Instead, we borrow \$110 billion to put people back to work in private sector jobs. We resolve to begin to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure.

That \$110 billion applied to the 150,000 bridges falling down on the Federal system, the \$80 billion backlog on our transit vehicles, the pavement that's disintegrating across the country could put millions to work. And not just construction workers. Engineers would go to work, people who manufacture things—steel, buses, tires, engines. All those people would go to work. We could put millions to work.

Guess what that does? When people go to work, they don't collect unemployment, they don't need food stamps to feed their family, and they pay taxes. That reduces the deficit, too. So by doing one big nothing and one half of nothing and then one little action to put people back to work—nothing that anybody's talking about around here. Where are the jobs? Who's talking about jobs? We need jobs.

Let's stop blathering around here. Let's resolve to do nothing and solve the debt crisis and resolve to do half of nothing and then apply the money that we save by doing that nothing to putting people back to work.

That's an agenda a little more productive for the American people.

SAVING TAXPAYER MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes. Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to cover two or three things very briefly here this morning.

First of all, The Washington Post reported on its front page yesterday that "U.S. taxpayer money has been indirectly funneled to the Taliban under a \$2.16 billion transportation contract."

This is crazy. It should not be part of the job of the U.S. military to promote Afghan businesses. The official report found "documented, credible evidence of involvement in a criminal enterprise of support for the enemy." This is ridiculous. And it comes on the heels of a report last week that the Navy had spent at least \$300 million on two ships that were never completed, never sent on a mission, and are now headed for a salvage yard in Brownsville, Texas.

Are there no fiscal conservatives at the Pentagon? Sadly, most people in Congress today are afraid to cut the Defense Department for fear they will appear to be unpatriotic. Yet it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that it's unpatriotic to continue with megabillions in wasteful spending or billions in spend-

ing that promotes businesses in other countries. No part of the Federal Government should be immune from having to save taxpayer money. The American people would be far better off today if every Department and agency had to take a fair, across-the-board 10 percent cut.

Let me mention a couple of other things. We're going to vote later today on the Keystone pipeline project. This is a project that will provide 20,000 jobs and also will lead to 500,000 gallons of oil coming into this country each day. This will help bring down the price of gasoline. And yet it is opposed by a very powerful group of wealthy environmental elitists. Most of these environmentalists today seem to come from very upper-income or very wealthy families and perhaps they don't realize how much they hurt the poor and the lower-income and the working people by destroying jobs and driving up prices. But that's what they're doing, and they're certainly doing that in blocking or delaying this Keystone pipeline project.

We also need to make sure that more jobs are created in this country in every way possible. Just today in The Washington Post, there's a poll that says that 49 percent of the American people are finding it very difficult to find jobs and 33 percent say somewhat difficult. Eighty-two percent of the American people say that it's difficult to find jobs in this country today. Yet we continue to cave in to environmental radicals that destroy jobs and really do just nothing other than help foreign energy producers.

□ 1030

So I think it's time that we start siding with the American people and stop siding with foreign energy producers.

Lastly, let me just say that the most false thing that has been said during this debate over the debt ceiling is that some people are trying to help billionaires or multimillionaires. No one is trying to help the billionaires. They can help themselves. What the debate is about is: Do you want the money spent by the Federal Government, and they will spend it without any question in the most wasteful, least effective, least efficient way possible; or do you want the money to be in the private sector, where it will do much more to create jobs and hold down prices?

If that weren't true, the Soviet Union or Cuba would have been heaven on Earth because, in those countries, the government took almost all the money. So it's not about protecting billionaires, not in the least.

NO ILLUSIONS: A CLEAR-EYED SMART SECURITY APPROACH IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last week, General David Petraeus relin-

quished control of the Afghanistan command. He did this as he prepares to take over as CIA Director this fall.

We are all grateful to General Petraeus for 37 years of honorable and distinguished service, but the fact remains that the fundamental realities in Afghanistan haven't changed. The New York Times put it plainly, noting that the general is "leaving behind a country racked by deep political instability, whose fledgling security forces are fighting a weakened but deadly insurgency that kills coalition troops and Afghan civilians and officials nearly every day."

That's a pretty damning assessment, Mr. Speaker, and it's accurate.

In recent weeks, two of President Karzai's most powerful allies, including his brother, have been gunned down by the Taliban, and ordinary Afghan citizens are caught in the line of fire as never, never before. The U.N. recently reported that more Afghan civilians were killed in the first half of 2011 than in any other 6-month period since the war began. Some of these casualties are the accidental result of errant attacks and night raids by U.S. and NATO forces, but the overwhelming majority of civilian deaths came at the hands of insurgents who were often using suicide bombers.

There were nearly 1,500 civilian deaths between January and June, but according to the U.N., that might be a low estimate given that it doesn't include killings in northern Afghanistan in the last few months, because the U.N. closed its office in that region after it was attacked by a mob that killed several staffers.

It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that after nearly a decade of war we haven't been able to vanquish the enemy and bring stability and security to Afghanistan. If after 10 years we can't do more to subdue the insurgency, then clearly—clearly—we must be doing something wrong. Clearly, there must be a better approach.

I've been pushing for that new approach for many years now. It's called SMART Security. It's based on the belief that sending 100,000 troops to occupy a sovereign country is not the best way to win trust and to promote peace, which has proven to fan the flames of resentment, to give increased momentum to extremists and to put the lives of American troops and Afghan civilians in danger.

What we need, Mr. Speaker, is an Afghanistan civilian surge as bold as the military surge that has gotten us further entangled in this failed war. That's what SMART Security is all about. Instead of sending troops, let's send humanitarian aid. Let's send our civilian experts who can help rebuild Afghan schools and hospitals, who can help—and I say "help" because we want the Afghan people to be doing this, but we can help where necessary—rebuild the political infrastructure and rule of law that will strengthen Afghan democracy, who can promote political