

Mr. GOHMERT. The gentleman is exactly right. It seems like the big push is to resolve the issue of what is owed to the bondholders who invested money; and, apparently, they are the ones running commercials in some people's districts about, oh, don't do a bailout, because they want to get their full money on what they invested. I sure understand that.

But as my friend has pointed out, we can't be sure that there will be any reforms. I know some of our friends, we think, well, there is such massive unemployment. Well, one cure in some places to help with massive unemployment is to lower the minimum wage and get more people to work, and that is being suggested; but in Puerto Rico, I was reading that, for a typical family of three, if someone works a 40-hour-per-week minimum wage job, at the current minimum wage before it is lowered like some people are advocating, the take-home is under \$1,200. However, the welfare payments they would be entitled to, typically, on average, would be about \$1,800 a month; so sometimes lowering the minimum wage would be a solution.

In Puerto Rico, where—and of course I think it is totally appropriate and fair, as the Founders said: If they don't elect one representative to the body that makes taxes, then they have no right to make taxes on us. So, in Puerto Rico, which is also true of Guam, Samoa, the Mariana Islands, any territory where they elect a delegate or they don't elect a full voting Representative, because those come from the several States, they don't pay any Federal income tax.

So I had in my mind that, wow, Puerto Rico could be the American Hong Kong. They have all the Federal benefits. I read one estimate that 20 percent of all of the income made by people in Puerto Rico is actually welfare benefits, paid by people of the 50 States.

But some of the towns—I saw a chart—I think the highest was right at 46 percent of the local community work for government. And, you know, you have got communities, 28,000, 35,000, where 40 percent of the whole population works for the government. Something has to be done about that.

Our friend, fellow Republican Luis Fortuño, got elected Governor, and he could see the handwriting on the wall. We have got to get our government down and under control because, if we are going to expect anybody to help us at all, we have got to show we are able to take care of our own problems. He was promptly fired at the next election for trying to get the massive government bureaucracy under control. That hasn't been dealt with. There is no indication it will actually be dealt with.

President Obama will make all the appointments of the board we are talking about that will have oversight, but those will come from recommendations from Minority Leader PELOSI, Speaker RYAN, Majority Leader MCCONNELL, and Minority Leader REID; and the

President will make what will be the deciding vote on close calls. So there are no assurances that there is going to be reform in these areas.

As my friend, Senator INHOFE from Oklahoma, has pointed out, Puerto Rico had the only area, he was telling me, in the world where all of our military branches could come together and do tactical exercises, you know, storm the beach type of things. And that was taken away; and that land, 17,000 or so acres, is owned by the Department of the Interior.

Puerto Rico, apparently, is part of this deal. They don't want to sell any Puerto Rican land, but they are willing to let the Department of the Interior sell their land and give that money to Puerto Rico. So we are not giving them direct payments, but the Department of the Interior, part of this deal is going to be selling things.

Mr. SANFORD. If the gentleman would yield, and then I will leave it to you.

You hit on Luis Fortuño, and I do want to shout out, I worked with him in a former role in government, and you are absolutely correct. What he tried to do, I think, was brave in political terms, courageous, and he paid a price for it in the political world; but I think that the record will show that he was trying to do the right thing on that front.

I think also, what has happened here is a reminder of how, if everybody is in charge, nobody is in charge. And too much of what we see, again, I absolutely empathize with the plight that leadership finds themselves in in terms of: How do you manage these competitive interests of the need to have financial stability on an island like Puerto Rico, and how do you manage that with the precedent that it might set for other States and other territories and the overall notion of financial responsibility?

I see your time is about to wind up, so I am going to stop for you since it was your time. Thank you for letting me borrow a few minutes of it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JONES (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 18, 2016, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5045. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0382; FRL-9944-34] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5046. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R02-2015-NY2; FRL-9935-51-Region 2] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5047. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Findings of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for Attainment of the 2010 1-Hour Primary Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [NAAQS]; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0098; FRL-9944-88-OAR] received April 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5048. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-088, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5049. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-148, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5050. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-107, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5051. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-061, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5052. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification, pursuant to Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Secs. 614(a)(3) and 652; Public Law 111-117, div. F, Sec. 7009(d); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5053. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a certification of the Arms Export Control Act, Transmittal No.: DDTC 15-133, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d)(1); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(d) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (90 Stat. 740); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5054. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,