

how you look at it, ascended to its level of maximum destructive incompetence.

So here we sit in the autumn of '08, almost 79 years to the day since the market crash of 1929, with the smell of panic again in the air. An alarmed president and Congress are flailing away, desperately trying to fix a financial crisis originally caused and made worse by government meddling. And with the election coming, the increasingly incongruous Barack Obama looms in the foreground.

As if Washington were not already doing too many things, almost all badly, and in the process doing far more harm than good, Mr. Obama wants to give government a vast array of additional assignments that it is not competent to handle and that taxpayers cannot afford.

FEDERAL MEDDLING

In the current instance of the bailout, even if Washington does finally find some way of re-lubricating the credit markets that its mistakes almost stopped, the systemic problem of inept governmental interference in all aspects of the economy will remain—and indeed will be magnified by the rescue plan itself. The more crisis Washington causes and the more “emergency” powers it assumes, the bigger and more tangled are the webs it spins.

After Congress spends the next year or so “fixing” the problems in the financial industry—and casting blame on everyone but itself—Washington likely will have all capital markets and credit transactions under its thumb. It would then be able to specify throughout the economy who gets financing, what for, when and how much.

Just imagine an Obama-Pelosi-Reid administration (OPRA) allocating credit and investment among companies according to how green they are, who their shareholders are and whether some federal oracle thinks they are just and fair. Never mind quality and efficiency or ability to repay. Similar “let’s pretend” standards for allocating credit are exactly what led to the home mortgage debacle in the first place.

With other made-in-Washington crises already on track to occur—think energy, entitlements, debt and the dollar—soon every aspect of American life may be under strict federal supervision, with a trajectory pointed downward.

The more government interferes in private matters, the more the economy and society as a whole take on the debilitating characteristics of government. Costs go up, efficiency and quality go down, output falls, corruption and waste increase.

Washington is already increasing its participation in the health care industry. That is the reason costs are so high. Inevitably, it will take complete control and, when it does, quality will plummet.

Government has been messing about in the housing industry for decades. Obviously, it has already made a hash of it, but the worst is probably yet to come. Washington’s energy policy has long been to restrict supply and raise prices. Now the government also has a plan to bring all energy consumers under its supervision and control. It is called cap and trade.

Because of destructive federal regulations and taxes on U.S. plant and equipment as well as on exports, America no longer has an economy that primarily makes and sells things. By default, manufacturing is being displaced by a “knowledge” industry—and most Yankee ingenuity is devoted to creating innovative financing techniques such as derivatives and securitized subprime mortgages. Like government, work consists of shuffling paper (electronically, of course).

OUR WAY OF LIFE

Through its power over education and communications, Washington already influences the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Once it takes over the financial industry, nothing will be left standing in the way of the federal government’s dominance. States and localities are mere administrative units and dispersing agents for Washington. Government has won its war against religion, sidelining churches.

In partnership with affiliated labor unions and a few public-private corporations much bigger and worse than Fannie or Freddie, Washington will more than ever be able to participate in all aspects of the economy in a manner that far more resembles the corporatist (or fascist) regimes of Europe in the early 1930s than American capitalism.

American capitalism is not just an economic theory. It is a way of life where rewards are based on achievement, not identity or class, and is therefore inextricably bound up with individual freedom and American exceptionalism.

The job of the next president and Congress, if it can possibly rise to the occasion, is first stop the destructive advance of government, then reverse it.

HONORING MAUREEN GAVIN FOR THE 2007–08 OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF THE HUMANITIES AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Maureen Gavin of Southlake, Texas, who was awarded the 2007–08 Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award on behalf of Humanities Texas. This award honors K–12 humanities teachers in the state of Texas who make exemplary contributions in teaching, curriculum development and extracurricular programming.

Mrs. Gavin, a former sixth grade English teacher at Eubanks Intermediate School in Southlake, currently works with Morningside Elementary School in Fort Worth.

In the words of Mrs. Gavin, “All good thinking begins with good questioning, and as a humanities teacher it is my responsibility to provide provocative questions that allow my students to dig deep within themselves as they learn about our world, past and present, and how they fit into it”. In this spirit, Mrs. Gavin brings to the classroom a passion for literature, language, and the ever-growing continuum of knowledge.

One example of this passion was displayed when Mrs. Gavin’s students read the book *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli, the story of a homeless orphan who makes a positive difference in the lives of other. With the guidance and encouragement of Mrs. Gavin, her students created a “Kids Helping Kids” initiative that ultimately raised \$2,000 to support kids in need. This is just one shining example of how the passion of Mrs. Gavin’s teaching translates to a world far larger than the walls of a classroom.

Among Mrs. Gavin’s many accomplishments include: Carroll Independent School District

(CISD) Teacher of the Year, Eubanks Intermediate School Teacher of the Year, EPISD Teacher of the Year Top Ten Finalist, Carlos Rivera’s Teacher of the Year, W.W. Bushman Teacher of the Year, presenter CISD parent University, creator of the sixth grade language arts curriculum, former member of the CISD language arts vertical team, former language arts department chairperson, and many, many more.

Madam Speaker, it is a special honor to present Mrs. Maureen Gavin the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award. Educators in the humanities like Mrs. Gavin advance not just the knowledge of life, but the critical importance of reflection, wide-angle perspective, and the wisdom of a larger world. As her former school’s Member of Congress, I am especially proud that we have teachers like her who enlighten our students in the arts, history, and languages; ultimately emboldening our nation’s cultural framework as well as our future.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take the time to recognize the retirement of my friend and colleague from Alabama: TERRY EVERETT. TERRY has served the people of the Second District of Alabama with honor and distinction for the past eight terms. He has been a faithful public servant fighting for farmers, veterans, and conservative values.

TERRY has served on four committees including Agriculture, Armed Services, Veterans Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. However, I would like to highlight TERRY’s extraordinary work for the agriculture community. As a farmer himself, TERRY brought real world experience to the committee, experience that we see less and less from our members. The country as a whole has become more suburban and urban, and the members who represent it have followed. He knew firsthand how the laws we passed in the Agriculture Committee impacted the livelihood of our producers.

Since coming to Congress in 1993, TERRY has been a strong and consistent voice for not only the producers of Alabama, but the entire Nation. Agriculture is Alabama’s largest industry and TERRY served as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs during the 2002 Farm Bill. He also currently sits on that subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit and Energy and Research.

The peanut farmer knew no better friend than Congressman EVERETT. He served as a co-chair of the House Congressional Peanut Caucus. Under his leadership on the 2002 Farm Bill, the peanut industry moved from a 60-year-old Depression-era supply management program to a thriving industry that could

respond to market signals and bring peanut farmers into the 21st century.

During the 2008 Farm Bill, TERRY expanded his reach and authored a provision to help producers who were suffering from drought. This provision provided a cost-sharing component for producers to build irrigation ponds for their crops during periods of drought. Without this provision, many producers in the South would not have been able to cover the cost of an irrigation pond project. This was yet another example of TERRY taking the lead on an issue that was critically important to the livelihood of producers across the Nation.

His leadership and experience will be missed. But, we do wish him and his wife Barbara all the best for a wonderful retirement.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 6064, THE
"NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support the National Silver Alert Act. I also urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is necessary.

Thousands of vulnerable older adults go missing each year as a result of dementia, diminished capacity, foul play or other unusual circumstances. The Alzheimer's Foundation of America estimates that over five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that 60 percent of these are likely to wander from their homes. Alzheimer's disease and other dementia related illnesses often leave their victims disoriented and confused and unable to find their way home. According to the Alzheimer's Association, up to 50 percent of wanderers risk serious illness, injury or death if not found within 24 hours. The problem can be exacerbated greatly by national disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, that can, in a matter of hours, increase the number of missing persons by the thousands.

At least eight States, along with non-profit organizations such as the National Center for Missing Adults, Project Lifesaver International and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, have developed programs to address various aspects of the problem of missing adults, but the need for a coordinated national approach, similar to the Amber Alert Program for children, still exists. In addition, financial support is needed for existing and new local and State programs.

The Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, administered by the Department of Justice, is the only Federal program that currently provides grant funding to locate vulnerable elderly individuals who go missing. Authorization for this program ceased in 1998, but Congress has continued to appropriate some monies for it through fiscal year 2008, when it appropriated \$940,000. Another Federal law, Kristen's Act, had authorized annual grants in the amount of \$1 million for fiscal years 2001 through 2004 to assist law enforcement agencies in locating missing adults and for other purposes. Between fiscal years 2002 through 2006, Kristen's Act grants were

made through the Edward Byrne Discretionary Grants Program, primarily to the National Center for Missing Adults, a non-profit organization. In 2006, Congress appropriated \$150,000 for this purpose.

A. H.R. 6064, THE "NATIONAL SILVER ALERT ACT"

Importantly, today I urge my colleagues to support another important piece of legislation, H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert Act. H.R. 6064 sets forth a comprehensive national program. It directs the Attorney General to establish a permanent national Silver Alert communications program within the Department of Justice to provide assistance to regional and local search efforts for missing seniors. The bill requires the Attorney General to assign a Department of Justice officer as a Silver Alert Coordinator.

The Silver Alert Coordinator acts as a nationwide point of contact, working with States to encourage the development of local elements of the network, known as Silver Alert plans, and to ensure regional coordination. The bill requires the Coordinator to develop protocols for efforts relating to reporting and finding missing seniors and to establish voluntary guidelines for States to use in developing Silver Alert plans. The bill requires the Coordinator to establish an advisory group (1) to help States, local governments and law enforcement agencies with Silver Alert plans, (2) to provide training and educational programs to States, local governments and law enforcement agencies, and (3) to submit an annual report to congress. The bill also requires the Coordinator to establish voluntary minimum standards for the issuance of alerts through the Silver Alert communications network.

H.R. 6064 directs the Attorney General, subject to the availability of appropriations, to provide grants to States for the development and implementation of programs and activities relating to Silver Alert plans. The bill authorizes \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 for this purpose. The bill also authorizes an additional \$5 million for fiscal year 2009 specifically for the development and implementation of new technologies. The Federal share of the grant may not exceed 50 percent and amounts appropriated under this authorization shall remain available until expended.

B. MY PAST AMENDMENTS ON ELDER JUSTICE BILLS

In similar elder legislation, namely the Elder Justice Act and the Elder Abuse Victims Act, I co-sponsored amendments with Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California to provide funding to State, local, and non-profit programs to locate missing elderly. Specifically, my amendment would allow a voluntary electronic monitoring pilot program to assist with the elderly when they are reported missing. In these particular bills, my amendment would allow the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue grants to States and local government to carry out pilot programs to provide voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals when they are reported missing.

C. ELDER LEGISLATION IS IMPORTANT

Elder legislation such as the legislation before us today and the prior elder bills that I mentioned are important. As elder Americans enter their twilight years, we must do more to

protect and ensure their safety. Nothing reminds me more of the necessity of this kind of legislation than my very own experiences in Houston, Texas. A few years ago, the family of Sam Kirk, a native of Houston, Texas, called me to help look for him. Mr. Kirk was elderly and suffered from dementia. He had wandered off and could not be located for several days. His family looked for him for many days but could not find him. In an act of desperation, they called on me to lend my services to help them find him. I helped his family look for him and we found him. When we found Mr. Kirk, he was dehydrated and in need of medical attention. We searched for hours and days to find him. It was worth the time and effort we spent to find him alive and well. Legislation that helps America find and take care of its lost and missing elders is extremely important.

SAMMY KIRK AMENDMENT

I fought hard to get an amendment to this bill, H.R. 6064, the National Silver Alert. The amendment would authorize a voluntary electronic monitoring program to be used to assist in the location of elderly persons. Specifically, the amendment requires the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award grants to States and units of local government to carry out programs to provide for voluntary electronic monitoring services to elderly individuals to assist in the location of such individuals in the event that such persons are reported missing. It is authorized for \$2 million for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2014. The amendment is named after Mr. Sammy Kirk, a former constituent of the 18th Congressional District who suffered from Alzheimers and was lost. I, along with his family, searched for him for 3 days only to find him dead near the bayou. The Sam Kirk amendment ensures that other senior Alzheimer patients do not suffer the same fate as Mr. Kirk.

I believe that my amendment and these bills help elderly people. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE GRAND OPENING
OF THE CEDAR HILL GOVERNMENT
CENTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 3, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the grand opening of the Cedar Hill Government Center in Cedar Hill, Texas. The grand opening for this new facility was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

A community known for its beautiful natural landscape and rolling hills, Cedar Hill is now home to one of the most innovative and efficient government centers in the country. Cedar Hill has always been a community committed to providing the best for its citizens, and the new Government Center is yet another example of that commitment.

The center houses the City of Cedar Hill and the Cedar Hill Independent School District. Built with native Texas materials such as