

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, in the next couple of days, the House is scheduled to vote on a bill called the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act. Yet, for all of its parts, the bill fails to address the largest loophole of all—the double-spending loophole.

Last week, it was reported that the majority plans to fund a new billion dollar summer jobs program with revenue from a tax increase on each barrel of oil. One problem: the revenue they're counting on has already been promised to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to cover the estimated \$14 billion in damages on our Gulf Coast.

Madam Speaker, you don't need to be a CPA to know that you cannot spend the same dollar twice. Yet, just like the health care bill, the majority is again spending revenue that has already been committed to other programs. Using this deception is wrong, and it further inflames the distrust of the American people for our institution. The first loophole we ought to be closing is the double-spending loophole.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO SECURE THE ARIZONA BORDER

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I state the obvious. The Federal Government has failed when it comes to immigration. It is no surprise that Arizona is stepping forward to do the job the Federal Government has not done.

Our country is a nation of laws, and they must be enforced. Whether or not this administration likes it, it is a Federal crime not to carry status documents in the United States. If they would read it, administration officials would know that Arizona's new law gives local law enforcement the authority to enforce our laws by making it a State crime for illegal immigrants to fail to carry such documents.

Despite all of the misinformation and criticism, 71 percent of Arizonans, who live with this problem every day, support the new law. Though, it's not just Arizonans who are fed up with the government's failure. Many Kansans share their concern, and they support their efforts.

It is the responsibility of the President to defend the United States and its people. Rather than agreeing with foreign criticism, President Obama should stand with the American people who are demanding that the Federal Government address this problem and secure our border.

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COMMENDING THE HOUSE PAGES ON THEIR VICTORY OVER THE SENATE PAGES

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, on the 16th, the House pages played two games with the Senate pages. The Senate pages lucked up and won a Frisbee match—but with probably some cheating—but the House pages, standing strong, following all the rules, doing the right thing, defeated the Senate pages badly, 10–4, in kickball. And as the Senate pages, with their heads dropped and their spirits torn, left the field, they reported to the Senate only one part of that day, which was the game they lucked up and won.

So, Madam Speaker, I want to commend the athletic pages of the House of Representatives and hope that we can continue to get superior pages, as we have this year, in the future.

Congratulations to the pages.

IS NEWSWEEK THE CANARY IN THE LIBERAL COAL MINE?

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, The Washington Post Company is trying to sell Newsweek because the magazine is losing money, according to news reports.

In response, The Weekly Standard wrote that “not only has Newsweek suffered from its online competition, it seems to have done everything within its power to hasten its own demise.

“During the 2008 presidential election, for example, its fawningly voluminous coverage of Barack Obama made it something of a journalistic laughingstock, and certainly affirmed every weary accusation of liberal bias in the mainstream media.”

The Standard wrote that Newsweek's recent overhaul was “designed to create a left-wing journal of opinion.”

The American Spectator called Newsweek, “The Canary in the Liberal Coal Mine” and outlined the magazine's history of liberal bias.

Maybe Newsweek's biased reporting didn't cause its downfall, but it certainly didn't help.

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S REQUEST TO BUILD SAND BARRIERS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, today I sent, along with Representative

SCALISE of Louisiana, a letter to the United States Army Corps of Engineers supporting Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal's request for an emergency permit to dredge and build sand barrier islands. The United States Corps of Engineers must conduct an environmental assessment before granting the State a permit to build the barriers.

Governor Jindal petitioned the Corps of Engineers on May 10, more than 2 weeks ago, for approval to dredge and build the sand barriers. He has yet to receive a response. In the meantime, oil has begun to inundate Louisiana's fragile coasts and marshes. The proposed sand barriers would create a permanent barrier to prevent oil from reaching the shores and the wetlands.

We support Governor Jindal's efforts to protect the fragile ecosystems and natural resources that are of critical importance, not just to Louisiana, but in fact the entire national economy, and we urge the Army Corps of Engineers to act swiftly so that they may assist the governor in protecting these valuable resources.

Mr. SCALISE and I were both part of a congressional delegation that visited the Gulf and the protected area 3 weeks ago. We have seen the spill and the waters firsthand and seen the way it is threatening Louisiana's coastline. Every resource should be utilized to stem this spill and protect the Nation's coastline.

I insert for the RECORD a copy of the letter we sent to Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2010.

LTG Robert L. Van Antwerp,
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers,
Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Washington, DC.

LTG ROBERT L. VAN ANTWERP: As oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill begins to reach the fragile marshes and estuaries of the Louisiana coastline, it is imperative that the federal government do everything possible to stop the flow of oil and act immediately to protect the natural resources along Louisiana's coast.

On May 23, 2010, the Associated Press reported that Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, frustrated with Army Corps of Engineers delays over environmental impact studies, will move forward unilaterally in building sand barriers to protect the coastline. Gov. Jindal petitioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the week of May 10 for approval to dredge and build sand barriers to protect the wetlands, but the USACE has yet to grant approval of that request, and oil continues to damage areas of Louisiana's coasts.

We support Gov. Jindal's efforts to protect the fragile ecosystems and natural resources that are of critical importance not only to Louisiana but also to the entire national economy. And we hope the Army Corps of Engineers will expedite any environmental studies so that the Corps may assist the Governor in protecting these valuable resources.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a serious tragedy, resulting in the loss of 11 lives onboard the exploratory rig. Every resource

should be utilized to stem this spill and protect the nation's coastlines. We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
STEVE SCALISE.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KOSMAS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICA'S ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the recent explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico has raised legitimate concerns regarding safety and environmental standards of deepwater, offshore drilling. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families that lost loved ones in this tragic accident. Eleven individuals were killed.

Safety and responsible operating procedures must always come first, particularly when human lives are at risk. It is important to reevaluate and address our safety procedures and hold those responsible for the accident accountable.

At the same time, I believe the Federal Government has the obligation to make informed and responsible decisions regarding offshore drilling. We have to differentiate between the causes of this accident and other responsible and safe drilling operations.

Our primary purpose right now should be to stop the leak and determine the cause of this tragedy, and the Federal Government needs to simultaneously address the cleanup. We need the full cooperation of Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as private industry, to immediately address the cleanup and containment situation in the Gulf of Mexico.

In my opinion, there has not been sufficient urgency to do this thus far. Cleanup remains inadequate and is still bogged down in redtape from Federal bureaucrats. This bureaucratic response from Interior Secretary Salazar has been to shut down all new offshore drilling permits, including both shallow water and deepwater offshore drilling.

However, shallow water drilling is fundamentally different from deepwater drilling. It has operated safely in the Gulf of Mexico for over 60 years, yet this prohibition treats both the same. This drilling in shallow water is primarily for natural gas. The oil remaining in these reservoirs has largely been produced, so it is at lower pres-

sure than the oil found at deeper depths. And unlike deepwater drilling, the blowout preventers in shallow water drilling are located above the surface, not thousands of feet below on the ocean floor.

I recently joined our congressional neighbor in Louisiana, Congressman CHARLIE BOUSTANY, and 40 other additional colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter urging Secretary Salazar to resume permitting for the shallow water drilling.

The unintended consequences of this wide range ban are far-reaching. The blanket ban has the potential to cause more widespread economic damage in the gulf coast and the entire United States.

The devastating effects of the oil spill go beyond waters and wetlands. For southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana, our lives are intertwined with the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico. Over 180,000 Americans are directly employed in the oil and gas and mining industries along the gulf coast, and the prospect for severe economic hardship is very real. And that doesn't include the countless people that make their living in fishing and restaurant and tourism-related industries. Many of these out-of-work fishermen stand ready to help with the cleanup but are denied the ability to help because it is stalled down in Federal redtape.

I think we should have an all-of-the-above energy policy, one that I believe we can achieve with the highest safety and environmental standards. Our Nation and our economy, however, run on fuel supplied by the oil-producing sector of the Gulf of Mexico. We cannot simply shut off the spigot and expect this Nation to run on nothing. Meanwhile, we need to clean up the mess and find out what caused this tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico. And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE EDWARD DAVIS, QUESTIONS REGARDING GULF OIL SPILL, AND COMMENTS ON REPUBLICAN "YOU CUT" PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart because of the loss of a very good friend of mine, Judge Edward Davis of the Southern District of Florida. He passed this morning. My love and condolences go out to Pat and the rest of the family for this tragic loss. I shall speak more at another time about my dear, good friend.

Additionally, Madam Speaker, while we are "slick and tired" of hearing people pontificate about this ecosystem disaster of apocalyptic proportions,

there are questions that do need to be raised, not only for the entirety of the oil industry, but certainly for the United States Government in this particular case.

I would like the questions answered, and am proposing by way of a letter what steps are being taken to determine how much oil is underwater, where it is located, and what path it will take over the next decade.

What do we project the threat to be from a potential hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, and how is our government planning for the potential impact of such a possibility?

What are the potential long-term impacts if the oil plume stays in its location and/or begins moving through the loop current and Gulf Stream to various coastal locations?

Why have we not used our tankers that can suck in oil and water and pump out oil?

Why have we not asked Russia or Norway or China or Japan to use their submersibles in a meaningful way?

Interagency coordination is required. I happen to like Thad Allen. I think he is one of the better commandants that the Coast Guard has ever had, and I think he is doing an incredible job trying to coordinate. But what does the Federal Government's short-term, mid-term and long-term response structure look like, and what agencies are in charge, is what I would ask him and anyone else involved.

What steps are being taken to coordinate long-term observations, impact analysis, mitigation research and research that is needed? Not BP's research, but our research. We have an institution, NOAA. They have modeling efforts to improve hurricane intensity forecasting and a sufficient amount of information that could be beneficial, and I am sure many are using it.

What is the government's plan to improve security at these oil facilities? Nothing has been really said to us here in the Congress directly regarding this.

But, now, Madam Speaker, I want to turn to my colleagues on the other side for the remainder of my time.

Earlier today, I spoke on the House floor regarding the Republicans' latest ploy to stall the important work of this body known as "YouCut," which I like to call "CutYou." Each week, a targeted pool of online and cell phone users are supposed to vote for one of five programs that they would like to see cut from the budget. Simply put, YouCut can and probably does undercut our representational responsibilities, which leads to undercutting our democracy.

Once we start getting into the business of government by referendum, we negate representation. Ask my friends in California and ask those of us in Florida what impact that kind of activity has had on our representatives.