days of my life here because I believed finally we were about to put something into the Constitution to demand what we would do and not be able to do what we have now done in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Tax cuts with borrowed money, no reputable economist today believes that is good economic policy. Tax cuts with money that is surplus that should not be spent, that is a different argument. That is one I would gladly join with my friends on the other side of the aisle, but we are borrowing $639 billion next year, $615 billion this year; and we keep hearing we are just giving the money back to you because it is your money.

It is not your money. It is our children and grandchildren's money that we are giving back. The result of the supply side economic theory folks is not working.

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It is kind of like we heard some speakers earlier today, we have got a problem in Iraq, and our plan for peace is not working as I had hoped it would, as I had been supportive and still support certainly the troops and my President regarding that endeavor. But we have got a problem, and we will continue to be on this floor talking about it. We look forward to joining with our colleagues on the other side very soon and hopefully coming up with a bipartisan solution and no finger-pointing.

FORMATION OF GROUP AIMED AT ELIMINATING WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we have already heard from a number of my colleagues here regarding this new working group, the Washington Waste Watchers Group, to expose and to help root out waste, fraud, abuse, the double-talk that is so rampant up here in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new here, as you well know. This is my first term. What I have found when I got here is a number of interesting things. Number one is how here in Washington when you see huge increases in government spending, some on the Democratic side call that cuts. How we have found in a very short period of time, millions? No, Mr. Speaker, not millions, billions of dollars of wasted, of lost taxpayers' money, money that is being robbed from the taxpayer. And also, Mr. Speaker, that money is also being robbed from the people that are dependent on the services of government. It is money that is being robbed from the students, money that is being robbed from the teachers, from the law enforcement officers, from our brave men and women in uniform.

While we heard some of my colleagues specifically mention some of those billions of dollars worth of overpayments, our dear friends in the minority party propose as a solution this year on this floor $890 billion in more government spending. Mr. Speaker, while my colleagues here mention billions of dollars of lost money, money that has evaporated with zero accountability, our good friends in the minority party propose as a solution to spend another $890 billion of the hard-working American people. Take it from them, Mr. Speaker, and bring it up here so we can waste, we can misspend, we can lose and we can hire more bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, while we heard from some of my colleagues, Republican colleagues, about improper payments, billions of dollars of improper payments, some going for dead people that did not then go to serve, for example, our seniors, our friends in the minority party still propose increasing taxes to do more of that? Mr. Speaker, this group is a group of young, when I say young, some are younger than others, but new Members of this Chamber; and we want to see if we can change the culture a little bit here in Washington, D.C. We commend the President for trying to do the same thing, to change the culture from a culture of irresponsibility, of lack of accountability, of it doesn't matter because we will take more money from the hard-working American people to bring it up here. So it doesn't matter if we lose money, it doesn't matter if nobody is held accountable, it doesn't matter if nobody is indicted, it doesn't matter if nobody is imprisoned, it doesn't matter because we will just raise taxes on the American people, on those hard-working American people that are struggling to pay their bills.

Mr. Speaker, again, we are here to announce that, with a number of colleagues, we are not going to sit by idly and watch as money is wasted, is thrown away, evaporates, is lost. We are here to come up with solutions, to first highlight the problem and then come up with solutions, specific solutions so that the American people can know that when they send us their valuable, hard-earned tax money, that money is going to be well spent on essential services for those that truly need it and not on more bureaucracy, on more misspending, on more evaporated dollars that nobody can find.

THE GROWING FEDERAL DEFICIT

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, if only what the previous speaker said were true. If only he really cared about a balanced budget. There is an amendment that would require Congress to spend no more money than it collects in taxes, and it has been languishing in this House for 1,560 days. Every day that DENNIS HASTERT has been Speaker, we have not had one opportunity to vote on a balanced budget amendment. It was written by a Republican, a nice guy by the name of ERNIE ISTOOK. His own Speaker will not let us vote on it.

But if you guys are as serious as you say you are about a balanced budget, you can walk right over here, you can sign discharge petition number three, and it would force a vote not on my balanced budget amendment, not on Congressman STENHOLM's balanced budget amendment but on your colleague ERNEST ISTOOK's amendment to balance the budget. Your own guy. Tell your own Speaker you want to vote on your own guy to balance the budget.

Let me remind you why you need to do that. Two years ago, May 9, we passed the President's spending plan. The President's tax cuts passed with almost every Republican vote, passed with a couple of Democratic votes. I voted against it. I did not think it would work. It turns out this time I was right. In just over 2 years under that budget passed by you guys, you have increased the national debt by $1 trillion.

Let us put that in reference. If you went all the way from the Revolutionary War to 1979, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, built the interstate highway system, built the Golden Gate Bridge, the intercoastal waterway, we borrowed less than $1 trillion. In 25 months, you guys have borrowed $1 trillion.

The Speaker in the chair knows what a $1,000 check looks like. It is what a lot of us write for rent checks up here in Washington. If you wrote that $1,000 rent check a thousand times, you have spent a million. If you wrote a $1 million check a thousand times, you have spent a billion. If you wrote a $1 billion check a thousand times, you have spent a trillion. That is how much money a trillion is.

In just the past 12 months, you have increased the national debt by $544 billion. More importantly, you have stolen $371 billion from the Social Security trust fund. Mr. Speaker, the reason I say stolen is if you take it back and you do not have a plan to repay it, it is stealing. If someone pays on their payroll taxes toward Social Security, they fully expect it to be put in a trust fund just for Social Security and that it is going to be sitting there for when they need it.

That is not the plan, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage you or any of my colleagues to tell me the name of the bank account that the Social Security trust fund is put in. Because you know and I know there is not a dime in it. It is nothing but IOUs, government securities.

You have borrowed $167 billion from Medicare, the same thing. Hard-working Americans pay payroll taxes. On that payroll tax is a line item that