made part of the record of a Committee hearing, did not originate in the Committee or the House, and are not otherwise records of the Committee shall, while in the custody of the Committee, be segregated and maintained by the Committee in the same manner as Committee records that are classified. Such documents and other materials shall be returned to the Executive branch agency from which they were obtained at the earliest practicable time.

(C) Access by Committee Staff.—Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to Committee staff members with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know, as determined by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member, and under the direction of the Majority or Minority Staff Directors.

(D) Maintaining Confidentiality.—No Committee Member or Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, to any person who is not a Committee Member or authorized Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, any testimony given before the Committee in executive session. Classified information and controlled unclassified information (CUI) shall be handled in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities and consistently with the provisions of these rules and Committee procedures.

(E) Oath.—Before a Committee Member or Committee staff may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service on the Committee on Homeland Security, except as authorized by the Committee or the House of Representatives or in accordance with the Rules of such Committee or the Rules of the House.

Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Chief Clerk as part of the records of the Committee.

(F) Disciplinary Action.—The Chairman shall immediately consider disciplinary action in the event any Committee Member or Committee staff member fails to conform to the provisions of these rules governing the disclosure of classified or unclassified information. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff, criminal referral to the Justice Department, and notification of the Speaker of the House. With respect to Minority staff, the Chairman shall consider such disciplinary action in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

RULE XVI.—COMMITTEE RECORDS

(A) Committee Records.—Committee Records shall constitute all data, charts and files in possession of the Committee and shall be maintained in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(e).

(B) Legislative Calendar.—The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee Member showing any procedural or legislative measures considered or scheduled to be considered by the Committee, and the status of such measures and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of such revisions shall be made available to each Member of the Committee upon request.

(C) Members Right To Access.—Members of the Committee and of the House shall have access to all official Committee Records. Access to Committee files shall be limited to examination within the Committee offices at reasonable times. Access to Committee Records that contain classified information shall be provided in a manner consistent with these rules.

(D) Removal of Committee Records.—Files and records of the Committee are not to be removed from the Committee offices. No Committee files or records that are not made publicly available shall be photocopied by any Member.

(E) Executive Session Records.—Evidence or testimony received by the Committee in executive session shall not be released or made available to the public unless agreed to by the Committee. Members may examine the Committee's executive session records, but may not make copies of, or take personal notes from, such records.

(F) Public Inspection.—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action including recorded votes. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of each amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against each such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, as well as the names of those Members present but not voting. Such record shall be made available to the public at reasonable times within the Committee offices.

(G) Recorded Votes on the Official Committee Web Site.—The Chairman shall create a record of the votes on any question of agreeing to a bill, resolution, or amendment or ordering reported any bill or resolution on which a recorded vote is demanded in open session in the Full Committee. Such record shall be made available on the Committee's official website not later than 3 legislative days after adjournment of the markup at which such vote was taken, excluding days when the House is in session pro forma. Such record shall identify the offeror of the bill, resolution, or amendment, in addition to a description of the bill, resolution, or amendment, the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such bill, resolution, or amendment, and the names of the Members voting present.

(H) Separate and Distinct.—All Committee records and files must be kept separate and distinct from the office records of the Members serving as Chairman and Ranking Minority Member. Records and files of Members' personal offices shall not be considered records or files of the Committee.

(I) Disposition of Committee Records.—At the conclusion of each Congress, non-current records of the Committee shall be delivered to the Archivist of the United States in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House.

(J) Archived Records.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee. The Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member on any communication from the Archivist of the United States or the Clerk of the House concerning the disposition of noncurrent records pursuant to clause 3(b) of the Rule.

RULE XVII.—CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Full Committee provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken.

KENTUCKY CELEBRATES ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, February 12 is going to be an interesting day in Kentucky. On February 12, at the birth place of Abraham Lincoln, we're going to have a ceremony celebrating the 200th birthday of our great President. And we had planned for it to be at the log cabin. The actual log cabin still exists on its site. Unfortunately, we had to move it because of the damage from the ice storm that we had the last couple of weeks.

First, let me say that the citizens of Kentucky are very thankful to the outpouring of help that we received around this country. Today, as I was driving to the airport, there are still convoys of utility trucks heading into our State continuing to bring our people back onto power. I toured a shelter, and there was a nurse from Alabama, a volunteer from Indiana, and they're all over. And Saturday morning, I ran into a crew from North Carolina that came to help remove debris.

But unfortunately, the great trees that surround the log cabin of our President, several of them have had damage. Therefore, they're having to move it to the LaRue County high school. It was actually in Hardin County where Abraham Lincoln was born, but it's now LaRue County. The high school will be hosting a celebration on February 12.

And we understand that there's been a lot of talking about Abraham Lincoln and Illinois in the last few weeks and last few months, but Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky. He's a Kentuckian, and we're very proud what he has meant to our State, and we invite people throughout this country—as you look at the Lincoln heritage—we invite you to come to LaRue County. And you can go to Washington County where his mother and father were married. There is usually a reenactment during the summertime where you can go to the Tom and Ms. Hanks wedding, Tom Lincoln and Ms. Hanks wedding. I saw that re-enactment this summer.

The Lincolns then moved to the spot in LaRue County where Abraham Lincoln was born. And the City of Hodgenville has a beautiful downtown square that's been remodeled for the State for the purposes of the bicentennial. And there is a beautiful statue of Abraham Lincoln as a young boy as he would have been when he lived in that area before he moved to Indiana and then on to Illinois.

So I think it's extremely important that we do recognize the great decisions that were made by Abraham Lincoln. As we sit here today, and as I've been in the House for the last few weeks, I'm new at this, a freshman. I've been in this the last few weeks. The decisions that we've had to make. And you wonder what was going

through—how Abraham Lincoln was able to withstand the pressure that he had for the decisions that he made that meant men and boys and the women that were sent, that were in harm's way, cities that were in harm's way and nothing—I did a dome tour when I first came here. And we went to the top of the Capitol dome, the great cast iron dome that we have. And it was built—a lot of people don't realize, but the dome to this building from which we speak was built during the Civil War. And people were asking why would you use cast iron and build a dome when we're at war when the iron could be used in the war effort.

And Abraham Lincoln, our great 16th President, thought it was vitally important that we continue to build this building to show the union of this country. It was symbolic. And that was just a small decision, but a symbolic decision that he made.

And Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address this body.

BUDGET DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, we are here this afternoon to talk about a serious subject, something gravely facing our country, and that is the budget deficit for this fiscal year 2009 and for the years thereafter for as far as the eye can see.

As we speak, the deficit for the year 2009, fiscal 2009, is soaring to record highs. CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, our budget shop, which is neutral and nonpartisan, has recently projected that the deficit for 2009 will be $1.2 trillion. And as high as this projection may be, our friends, it's probably a low-ball estimate.

It omits, for example, the supplemental to pay for our deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq, which will be around $70 billion for the remainder of this fiscal year; it assumes that the alternative minimum tax will stay in full force and effect reaching 20 or so million-income tax payers for whom it was never intended. This increases the revenues by $70 billion though AMT has, in fact, been omitted year so that it does not apply for middle-income taxpayers for whom it was not intended.

It also assumes that the tax cuts passed in 2001 and 2003, despite the fact that we have huge deficits, will expire on December 31, 2010, and as provided by the law which enacted them in the first place.

When you add all of these into the equation—the Bush administration's last deficit, the deficit that we inherited from President Bush and must work our way out of—the deficit could easily top $1.4 trillion. It staggers the imagination.

These are deficits that happened on the watch of the Bush administration and under their fiscal policies. But we, as Democrats, won the election, and it is our responsibility to decide what should we do about the deficits left us.

Unfortunately, we've got forces converging on the budget which make it difficult to bring the deficit down to realistic terms. For example, we have the severest economic downturn in our economy since at least the first or second world war ended. So we have the mounting costs of counter-cyclical policies, TARP, the stimulus now pending in the Senate, the conservatorship of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. All of these things are hugely expensive. We have the rising costs of major entitlements—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid—due to the retirement of the baby boomers.

We have defense budgeted and funded at historically high levels and sustained for an historically long period of time. Funds funded to front-end accounts, accounts in the budget which need to be funded adequately but are not. Transportation is a good example. It will exhaust its reserve early next year and run close to zero unless we can get funds back into that particular account.

Of course, as always there's education, which is not funded as robustly as many of us think it should be. And of course there are new topics—alternative energies and various incentives for increasing the energy supplies and making this country energy independent.

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Then we have the renewal of existing tax cuts, which are slated to expire on December 31, 2010.

When we add all of these things in, in addition to the price commitments we have to do something about the climate and something about universal health care coverage, it becomes very, very difficult to do anything to the bottom line of the budget, despite the fact that it is bigger than it has ever been before in peace time.

The overarching question that faces this whole country as we incur these huge sums of debt is: How long will foreigners help us? How long will they keep buying our Treasury debt?

We have, therefore, the worst budget since World War II and the worst economy in which to work out the problems of these budgets. Every recession has its own pattern to it. But it is clear that it is difficult in every recession, any recession, to work out of the recession when you're swimming upstream, when the economy is working against you; to work out of a budget deficit when the economy is working against you.

Let me show you some charts, those who are listening. This is a simple bar graph. It shows that the Bush administration, when he came to office, had a phenomenal inheritance. A budgeting surplus over the next 10 years by $5.6 trillion. That was January, 2001.

By January, 2004, that surplus of $236 billion was gone. Vanished. In 4 year's time, we went from a $236 billion surplus to a $412 billion deficit. This happened under the policies and the watch of the Bush administration.

This next chart portrays out over time the assets of this administration and the previous administration. This is the first George Bush administration. The first Mr. Bush. There was a significant decline in the budget at that point in time. But, when the Clinton administration came to office, President Clinton sent us a budget in February of 1993, on February 22, the first full significant action taken by his administration, and every year after the adoption of that budget by one vote in the House and one vote in the Senate, the bottom line is the budget got better and better and better, to point where we were at this point right here, 1997, 1998, the year 2000.

The budget was, in those years, balanced for the first time in recent memory. Then, in 2001, the year 2000, we had a surplus of $236 billion. The second Mr. Bush came to office here. You can see the bottom line got worse and worse and worse until there was a slight pickup here. But, then in the out years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, the budget got worse and worse and worse, until the point it runs off the chart at the bottom of the page. That is the deficit we are now looking at, a deficit of as much as $1.4 trillion.

Now, that would be a concern under any circumstances. But, in the present situation, the deficits that we have incurred over the last 10 years have largely been funded and financed by foreigners. Japan, China, Great Britain, Europe, and Pacific Rim countries. They have run trade surpluses with us and used the surplus dollars they hold to buy back our Treasury bills. It's a convenient short-term arrangement. But, over the long term, it means foreigners own more and more of our debt, and you find it hard to be totally independent as a country, certainly the world super power, when you're also the world's largest debtor.

As of 2008, the total amount of foreign-held Treasury securities had tripled under the Bush administration. Starting out at $1 trillion, it rose to $3.1 trillion—over $2 trillion—during the period 2001 to 2008. That is the accumulation of foreign-held Treasury bills and certificates.

As for the total debt of the United States, this is where we began—$5.7 trillion in 2001. That is where the total debt of the United States stood when Mr. Bush came to office. A substantial sum. But every year that number went up and up and up, to the point where, when he left office a couple of weeks ago, the amount of debt stood at $10.7 trillion. Nearly doubled in an 8-year period of time—from $5.7 trillion to $10.7 trillion. And, as a consequence of that, we are feeling the effects of it in all sectors of our economy.

Would the gentlelady from Massachusetts care to make a comment or a statement? I gladly yield time to her.