

American people spoke back in November with an election and said that they wanted a new direction and change.

Our long-term economic plan takes steps to reduce health care costs, one of the largest contributors to the deficit, and a growing burden on our businesses' ability to compete and families' prosperity.

Our long-term economic plan is something that the American people have been calling for, a true look at transparency, looking at the impacts of the cost of the war in both Iraq and in Afghanistan.

We have to consider in this long-term budget looking at the targeted investments that must be made that will ultimately end in savings; investments in health care, investments in energy, investments in education, and real concrete proposals that will pay for these investments.

This plan marks the beginning of a new era of honesty. I, as a Member, had an opportunity to go before the Budget Committee and to share what my priorities were, as every Member of Congress had an opportunity to do. This is a new era of honesty, budgeting accuracy, and openly representing costs like the war, as I previously mentioned. Previous Republican budgets masked these costs to make the deficit appear to be smaller.

Our economic plan contains key integrity initiatives to protect the taxpayers' money by rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, and saving taxpayers nearly \$50 billion.

The American people called for a change, a new direction back in November. That is exactly what this Congress is delivering.

#### TAX TEA PARTY DECLARATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the thousands of people in the Sixth Congressional District of Florida who stood together and told this administration and this Congress to turn off the taxpayer-funded spigot of government bailouts.

These hardworking Americans made their point loud and clear; they do not want to see our Nation bankrupt from a fiscal policy that ignores the free market principles this country was founded upon and attempts to spend its way out of record-breaking debt through increased government control and expansion of inefficient bureaucratic power.

Let me go ahead and read an excerpt from their 4-page declaration that over 1,800 people from my hometown, Ocala, signed on April 15, tax day.

"We raise our voices against the arrogance and the ruinous policies of our government, a government that ignores We the People, a government that drowns us in debt, a government that forsakes the free enterprise system that has driven the engine of the

greatest economy on Earth in favor of a relentless march towards socialism designed to subvert the worth of the individual and encourage the intrusion of government into all aspects of our lives."

Madam Speaker, I will submit the entire "Tax Tea Party Declaration" for the RECORD. And also, I have a petition signed by over 2,000 people in Ocala, Florida, demonstrating their commitment to ending this bad economic policy.

Like those who attended rallies in Starke, Trenton, Gainesville, and Orange Park, I have not and will not support bailout after bailout as sound economic policy. It is unconscionable for this administration and this Congress to continue committing good money after bad.

In October of 2008, the U.S. Government committed an astounding \$700 billion in public funds to failing private financial institutions through the Troubled Asset Relief Program, TARP. However, just last week, the TARP Special Inspector General reported that the total cost of TARP will cost the American taxpayer between \$2.4 trillion and \$2.9 trillion.

It is evident that we can no longer allow government bureaucrats such as Timothy Geithner and Henry Paulson to use their position and the taxpayer-funded Federal Reserve to act as a safety net for their partners on Wall Street when they fail due to incompetence and unchecked greed.

I am a strong believer in free markets. And inherent in that economic model is that not every person or idea makes money. It is time for Wall Street to understand this unmistakable tenet and not rely on the Federal Reserve and the American taxpayer to continue to save them when their gambles accumulate into significant losses.

Anna Schwartz, co-author along with Milton Friedman of "A Monetary History of the United States," viewed by many as the definitive account of how U.S. monetary policy turned the stock market crash of 1929 into the Great Depression and which Ben Bernanke, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, has called the "leading and most persuasive explanation of the worst economic disaster in American history," contends that the Treasury, through its actions, has prolonged this crisis. Let me quote here on this board:

"They should not be recapitalizing firms that should be shut down. Rather, firms that made wrong decisions should fail. You shouldn't rescue them. And once that is established as a principle, I think the market recognizes that it makes sense."

As true capitalists, these titans of Wall Street should understand the risks and rewards of a free market economy and be allowed to fail like the rest of Main Street when they make foolish or risky decisions.

Many economists look to the past to predict economic futures; it is a tested way to learn from past mistakes and

avoid making them in the future. Looking to the past, we discover that Henry Morgenthau, FDR's Treasury Secretary, gave this very important quote in May of 1939 during the Great Depression. He said, "We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work. I have just one interest, and now if I am wrong, somebody else can have my job. I want to see this country prosper. I want to see people get a job. I want to see people get enough to eat. We have never made good on our promises. I say, after 8 years of this administration, we have just as much unemployment as when we started, and enormous debt to boot."

This current economic policy of bailout after bailout and colossal government spending is just plain wrong, Madam Speaker, and the American people know it.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for like-minded patriotic citizens to rally as one against the powers that threaten to alter, diminish and destroy this country we love, proper respect for the opinions of our fellow citizens requires that we should clearly state the grievances that impel us to gather at this Ocala tea party to protest peacefully, but passionately in the tradition of our forefathers whose Boston Tea party resonated around the world.

The history of the present government of these United States is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having the effect of establishing an unacceptable tyranny over the citizens of these states. Let the facts be self-evident and speak for themselves . . . and let these grievances be heard in the halls of power in 2009, just as they were heard in the palace of Britain's King George the third, as they thundered forth from the text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776.

Be it resolved on this 15th day of April, in the year 2009, at the Great Ocala Tea Party in the Town Square in Ocala, Florida, that just as our forefathers at the Boston Tea Party protested tyranny at the hands of the British Crown and taxation without representation, we hereby raise our voices against the arrogance and the ruinous policies of our own government . . . a government that ignores the will of "We The People" . . . a government that drowns us in debt . . . a government that forsakes the free enterprise system that has driven the engine of the greatest economy on earth, in favor of a relentless march toward socialism designed to subvert the worth of the individual and encourage the intrusion of government into all aspects of our lives.

Let the word go forth from this time and place that we are freedom loving Americans who cherish individual liberty, our constitution and all that this nation has stood for over 233 years. We love our country, and we are here to take it back!

Let us hereby resolve that we have had enough of massive government driven bailouts using our money! Stop spending money we do not have! This is not your money, this is our money, and we demand you stop the madness!

We have had enough of so-called economic stimulus plans that falsely promise we can spend ourselves back to prosperity!

We have had enough of trillion-dollar spending schemes being passed without congress or the people knowing what is in them. This is taxation without deliberation and we will not tolerate it!

We have had enough of the out of control government spending that is mortgaging our future and threatening our very way of life!

We have had enough of both major parties being arrogant and unresponsive to the people they were elected to serve!

We have had enough of seeing money taken unfairly from honest hard working Americans through excessive taxation and redistributed to individuals who have not earned the money!

We have enough of capitalism being targeted as the problem instead of the solution!

We have had enough of government being called the solution, when government is the problem!

In every stage of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions to our elected officials have been answered only by repeated injury, if, in fact, they have been answered at all. A government so arrogant and unresponsive to its people is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

We, therefore, the people of the United States of America, in general congress assembled, here in the Town Square of Ocala, Florida, on this 15th day of April, in the year 2009, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this city and nation, solemnly publish and declare that we are a free people, in this free and independent state, and that we have the power to demand that our government cease serving its own interest, and whatever political and ideological agendas it may be pursuing, and become the Government Of The People, By The People, and For the People to which we are entitled as Americans. And that for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

As Your people and as a Nation, we hear Your summons: "Sing a new song to the Lord."

Our song, Lord, is the song of freedom. As our ransom, You have set us free. As Your children, we chose to resemble You in all our choices and decisions.

Throughout our history, some others have been shocked by the rhythm of our song; others have been inspired to find their own voice and enter the song.

But the song of true freedom is planted within us by You, O Lord. Your spirit finds expression and touches others around the world because Your song of

freedom comes from our hearts. So all honor, power and glory go to You, Lord, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCHWARTZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WHY THE BUDGET IS IMPORTANT FOR HEALTH CARE

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, as we mark President Obama's first 100 days in office this week, the House will vote on the President's budget which sets a new vision of hope and responsibility for America.

As vice chair of the Budget Committee, I know that this budget is fiscally responsible and it sets forth a path to meet our Nation's greatest challenges. With more than 47 million Americans uninsured, this budget includes critical language ensuring that Congress will act this year to expand access to care and to reduce costs.

Soaring health care costs are impeding our economic competitiveness, straining the Federal budget and causing families all across this country to make difficult choices about their health and well-being. This budget sets the context for this important work that Congress will do to find a uniquely American solution to health care access and costs, one that includes innovation and technology, incentives for an effective delivery system, a renewed commitment to prevention, and consumer protections in the private-public marketplace.

We cannot sustain the status quo, nor should we. Now is the time to finally get health care to all Americans. We should pass the budget resolution and begin the task ahead.

A BUDGET OUR CHILDREN WILL LIVE TO REGRET

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has voted for unprecedented debt,

and a look at Treasury's borrowings shows a stark picture. On Monday, we borrowed \$98 billion. Tomorrow, we will borrow another \$61 billion. On average, Congress is forcing the Treasury to borrow \$157 billion a week.

Over the first 100 days, our debt has increased by more than \$5.5 billion per day. China has cut its lending to the United States by 95 percent, effectively canceling this Congress' credit card.

Let me finish with a couple of personal facts.

With only 111 million Federal taxpayers, the rate of spending by this Congress in the first 100 days has shown the congressional leaders put each taxpayer into debt at a rate of \$1,400 per week, \$3,200 per quarter, and over \$9,000 each just for the first 6 months of this Congress. That's quite a record, a world record, and one our children will live to regret.

HONORING ROBERT DANA

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

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a man who has affected the lives of countless Iowans, Mr. Robert Dana. His life and work are shining examples of Iowa's long tradition of excellence in literature.

For 40 years, Mr. Dana taught at Cornell College where I was honored to teach and now represent as part of Iowa's Second District. While there, he had a tremendous impact on students, developing young writers' minds and pushing them to new heights.

After leaving Cornell, he continued to inspire Iowans serving two terms as our State's Poet Laureate. Mr. Dana has used his signature poems to give an everlasting voice to official Iowa events. With his poetry, R.P. has captured the feeling Iowans have for their towns and land.

Thank you, R.P., my former colleague, for your contribution to Cornell College, to Iowa, and to American literature.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO NORTH CAROLINA SHOOTING VICTIMS

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

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, eight people died 1 month ago when a gunman opened fire at the Pine Lake Health and Rehabilitation Center in Carthage, North Carolina. On that dreadful day, the staff and residents at Pine Lake Center responded very effectively and professionally. Equally professional and effective were the law enforcement community and the citizens of Carthage and Moore County.

This cruel and unforgivable act imposed upon Pine Lake that day did not succeed in defeating the spirit of the