

We're forcing our seniors to choose between food and medicine, but we are approving \$3 trillion in spending and budgets that will double the national deficit in 5 years and triple it in 10 years. On top of this Social Security pay cut, we are raising utility costs to seniors by an average of \$250 a month through cap-and-trade.

Where are the priorities among the liberals in this country? Certainly not with the elderly and disabled on fixed incomes.

A REAL DISCUSSION ON HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. The American people want both sides of the aisle working together to help lower the cost of health care. However, according to a story in today's New York Times, even all but a few Democrats, in addition to Republicans, are being left out of the talks.

Some Washington Democrats are more concerned with implementing a government-run, bureaucratic health care system than achieving real solutions. Working together, we can lower the cost of health care in America while increasing access to a doctor and high-quality care.

Both sides have good answers, which we should consider. However, a silver bullet does not exist to solve all the problems. Compromise and common sense could produce results—such as lower costs, better access to a doctor, and coverage for all. And that's what we should be working toward.

Health care is a complex issue that affects individuals and businesses, young and old—everyone. And that's why it's more important than ever to work together to come up with good policies that will help the American people. They want us to work together to achieve real solutions—and that's what we should be working to, Madam Speaker.

THE STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

Mr. REHBERG. Across the country, we're seeing problems with the so-called "stimulus package." When I voted against this bill, I warned that time would reveal its inherent flaws.

While Americans were told that spending almost \$1 trillion would create jobs, unemployment continues to rise. It would make sense to spend stimulus money in the hardest hit counties, but the Associated Press reports that's not what's happening.

Instead, the massive and inflexible bill is causing waste. The Billings Gazette reported that a new Federal courthouse in Billings, Montana, will cost taxpayers an additional \$45 million as a result of the stimulus rules.

And now, Americans are denied the transparency we were promised. USA Today reports that the Web site meant to allow us to track every dime of stimulus spending won't be up and running for another 5 months. How many more jobs will we lose while we're waiting? How much more money will we waste? We can't afford any more of these flawed policies.

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NEWS REPORTERS JOIN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the news industry faces a new threat to its job force—the Obama administration.

A senior producer at CNN announced last week that she will take a press secretary position in the Obama administration. She joins at least nine other reporters from such news outlets as The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Time magazine, CBS, ABC News and CNN who have left their jobs to join the administration.

It will be an easy transition for these former journalists since their primary job responsibility, supporting the Obama administration, remains essentially the same.

The bad news for Americans is that the line between objective journalism and partisan politics continues to be blurred. If the media wants to restore their credibility, they should act as objective observers, not seek jobs in the Obama administration.

MISSILE DEFENSE FUNDING CUTS

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, missile defense is critical to the protection of our Nation. It requires constant improvement and innovation in order to meet the growing challenges by those who may wish to destroy us.

Iran is currently focused on developing nuclear weapons, and North Korea is hard at work, extending its military capability into space and, correspondingly, achieving a status where they can pose a threat to the security of the United States.

Some 25 countries and counting are acquiring domestic missiles, many capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction. Despite all this, the Obama administration plans to cut the Missile Defense Agency's budget for fiscal year 2010 by \$1.4 billion.

The reduction in missile defense should be of concern to all Americans. Without an investment in missile defense today, given the complexity of the science and engineering involved in developing new systems, we will not be

able to respond to the threats to the United States of tomorrow.

TARP FRAUD

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, with \$590 billion or 84 percent of the authorized troubled asset relief funds having already been handed out to Wall Street, the TARP Inspector General, Neil Barofsky, issued a 250-page report that recommended transparency and that all TARP recipients be made to detail how they will use bailout dollars and safeguard a new mortgage rescue effort against scams.

But 84 percent of the funds have already been given away. To call for greater transparency at this stage in the game is well beyond a day late and a dollar short.

However, what is encouraging is that the Inspector General, amid reports of rampant fraud, has realized and embraced his legal power and has instituted 20 criminal investigations and six audits.

In addition, he has begun to ask tough questions and look into who, quote, sought to influence decision-making by Treasury or bank regulators. Bold and encouraging words as The New York Times reported that Secretary Geithner has more than cordial relationships with many of the TARP recipient CEOs.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 12, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 11, 2009 at 2:33 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the Updated Summary Tables, the Analytical Perspectives, and the Historical Tables to his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

TRANSMITTAL OF ADDITIONAL FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET DOCUMENTS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-3)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred