

as I speak tonight is that this nation, which our founding fathers intended to serve as the brightest and most moral beacon of hope and enlightenment for all mankind, is in danger of losing its energy and its luster. It's not lights out time, but the light is dimming. Confidence and optimism is giving way to pessimism and cynicism.

The fact that we can't even see our way through to funding the Federal Government is an example of what I'm talking about. Many in today's Congress have said they will not vote to fund our Treasury obligations when we hit our national debt ceiling in a matter of weeks. The seed corn for our future growth—education, Head Start, research and development, roads, rails, clean water infrastructure, environmental preservation, the arts and humanities, are all being cut into the bone in the pending HR1 Appropriations Bill.

I'm in this job because I believe deeply in my heart in the American dream and I believe in the essential role of the Federal Government in the fulfillment of that dream.

Government can't and shouldn't try to solve every problem, right every wrong, or even rectify every inequality. Its job is to be a catalyst and a gap-filler and the option of last resort. To do the things that the private sector can't or won't.

For example, the private sector alone can't afford the kind of basic research that DARPA and the National Science Foundation invested in that produced the internet, GPS, the human genome, and cures for so many of our diseases. And if we want to unravel the mysteries of what lies under the sea and above the sky, if we want to find a permanent cure for Alzheimer's and cancer and autism, and if we're going to secure clean, sustainable sources of energy, then the Federal Government needs to be seen as a partner worth the trust and the investment of the American people and its politicians.

The private sector can't finance all our interstate roads and high-speed rail and mass transit systems. The private sector can't fund the infrastructure to separate storm water from drinking water or salvage Puget Sound or the Chesapeake Bay or the Great Lakes. And neither the private sector nor most of the parents of this country can take on the task of educating our future workforce.

Those are inherently governmental responsibilities and we ought not shrink from them.

If we truly believe in the future of this country then we have to be willing to make the investments necessary to ensure that brighter future. That means you don't cut corners on research opportunities, you don't shortchange your transportation systems, and you don't lay off more than 200,000 teachers, as we've done over the last two years, while the number of students has increased by 750,000.

Of course, we have to reduce the deficit and ultimately balance our budget—but you can't fight two wars, expand Medicare and invest billions in our homeland's security with two deep tax cuts.

We're bringing in revenue today that amounts to 15% of GDP. We've never had a strong, stable, modern economy without investing at least 20% of our GDP in military security and in our domestic physical and human infrastructure. But, as the Bowles/Simpson Commission emphasized, spending at 25% of GDP is just as unsustainable as taxing at 15%.

Our tax code has got to be made simpler and fairer. Warren Buffet is right to ask why his secretary pays 25% of her income while he only pays taxes on 10% of his wealth. And it's fair to ask why Exxon Mobil, GE, NewsCorp, Bank of America, and dozens of

other multinational corporations are paying zero taxes to the U.S. during some of their most profitable years, while other corporations with much less profit are paying 35%.

It's not their fault. It's ours in the Congress.

We lose a trillion dollars a year in so-called tax expenditures, much of which can only be justified in a political context. And while I'm an ardent capitalist, I don't think we should be taxing those making \$250,000 a year at the same rate as we tax those making \$25 million a year.

We also have to rein in health care costs. They're crippling our economy. Medicare and Medicaid spending has doubled over the last 25 years as a percent of GDP. It doesn't make sense that we should be living shorter, less healthy lives, while spending twice what any other country is spending on its health care. The reason is that we reimburse for the quantity of services provided, rather than the quality of care needed. Hopefully, the health care reform bill that was fought over so vehemently will fix that.

A couple other things I have come to realize over the last 20 years is that the best social program is a good job and the key to economic prosperity and social stability is a strong middle class. Neither a survival of the fittest society nor a winner-take-all economy is in anyone's long-term best interest.

Carrying on the theme of societies functioning very much like individuals, I think we all have kind of a burning flame inside of us. Some call it our soul or the human spirit, but it does seem as though when we look the other way from the poor, shut our doors to the homeless, close our consciences to the sick and needy, that flame burns less bright, and eventually goes out. . . I think that can apply to our nation as well.

And in that regard, let me say a word about immigration. I just came from a ten-day trip to Colombia, Panama, Guatemala, and Mexico City. The Chinese, Canadians and Europeans are all filling the gap in Colombia and Panama left by our inability to reach a deal with them—a free trade deal that primarily lowers their tariffs on our goods and services.

But in Guatemala, fully half the population is stunted from malnutrition and crime is so pervasive a young person is more likely to be shot in a crime than to study in a college. In Mexico, 97% of the crimes committed are never prosecuted. The kids go to school for only four hours a day, but only 13% of their teachers can pass a high school equivalency exam.

What would you do as a parent in a situation like that? I think I know what you would do, because it is exactly what I would do for my own children—you would risk everything to pursue your dream of a better life for your kids. And that's exactly what the bravest, boldest and most entrepreneurial do.

And it is because people from all over the world have made that decision to come to America for the same reasons our ancestors did, that we've been able to constantly renew and reinvigorate our population and our workforce. That's why I'm a cosponsor of a bill that makes the highest achieving children of immigrants eligible for college, regardless of their parents' status and why I support the bill that requires English fluency, civics knowledge, paid-up back taxes, and no criminal record to get in the back of the line for citizenship. That's what they say amnesty is all about. I think it's what America is all about.

And finally—Libya. Who among you, if you saw a well-known bully beating up on defenseless people with a tire iron, wouldn't grab that tire iron out of his hands?

Gaddafi is not Mubarak of Egypt or King Hussein of Jordan, or President Saleh of

Yemen or the Khalifa family of Bahrain. He's a truly bad guy. He's using foreign mercenaries to torture and kill his people, who I believe just want some semblance of dignity, opportunity and human rights. Human rights that their peers throughout the Middle East are now willing to risk their lives for. President Obama has done the right thing by leveling the playing field.

The reason we've made the extraordinary investments we've made to create the strongest, smartest military in the world is to make this a better, safer world for everyone, and in so doing, to insure a more peaceful world for ourselves.

And when we seize the moral high ground, we will always win not just the battle, but the war of ideals and values. Those same values and ideals motivated my father to serve in World War II and to take advantage of the GI Bill and to save and sacrifice to get all seven of his children through college, and it's why I'm so genuinely humbled by the idea that I've been able to serve in the U.S. Congress for the last 20 years—and why I am so deeply grateful to all of you for affording me that opportunity.

Thank you.

CONGRATULATING EMERSON KAMPEN

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Emerson Kampen and the rest of the Butler University men's basketball team. America watched as the Bulldogs demonstrated hard work and personal sacrifice throughout the NCAA tournament and achieved what many said was impossible. The Dawgs epitomize what the word "team" is all about, and although they did not take home the trophy, they made their state and Bulldog fans across the nation proud. As Andrew Carnegie said, "teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to obtain uncommon results."

Emerson Kampen is one of the Bulldogs I am proud to say is from my district. Emerson starred at Yorktown High School where he was named Honorable-Mention to the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association All-State team as a senior. There is no doubt Emerson's talent helped advance the Dawgs to the final game of the NCAA tournament. I echo the pride of Hoosiers across the state on Butler's strong performance. And I especially congratulate Emerson on his leadership and strength of character throughout the tournament.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JENNIFER CARROLL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the impressive accomplishments of Florida's 18th Lieutenant Governor, Jennifer Carroll. Lieutenant Governor Carroll is married to Nolan Carroll of Miami and they have three children, Nolan II, Nyckie and Necho. She was a state legislator for over seven years, a small business owner, former