It should be done. It can be done.

There's plenty of places to do it.

thing. There's plenty of places to do it.

raise taxes, creating more of an eco-

Speaker.

utes.

in 2007 and 2008 with Speaker PELOSI at

the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

How we respond to the problem.

huge problem. We're equal to that

What can we do about this. Today, we

how we respond to the problem.

I yield back the balance of my time.

BUDGETARY AND OTHER

CONCERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr.

We're in a time of massive over-

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr.

We're in a time of massive over-

spending, a time when some want to

raise taxes, creating more of an eco-

nomic problem. But it's been shocking

I yield back the balance of my time.

We'll be back and talk about how we respond to the problem.

I yield back the balance of my time.

2010, it has been estimated that

$522.8 billion was spent on Medicare.

When you divide the number of house-

holds in the United States that have

been estimated to have one or more

people on Medicare out, we're apparently spending between

$20,000 and $30,000 a household for Medi-

care. You can buy some really great

private health insurance, especially if

you have a high deductible, for a lot

less than $20,000 a year.

That's why the proposal I had—some

have called it bipartisan—has clearly

become a partisan entity. After being
called to the woodshed by this current
President, they were able to strike

about $300 billion or $300 billion from

their estimated costs of ObamaCare

only to find, once it passed, it put

back in. Well, if CBO has a margin of

error of $300 billion out of every $1 tril-

lion they estimate, then it's probably

not something we ought to keep. It's

kind of like the Energy Department.

When they're that bad at what they do,

it's time to get rid of them and doing

something new.

But you can't blame the folks who

are there. Their hands were tied with

rules that were put in place in 1974 up

until the last 5 or 6 years with the

most liberal Congress in our history,

the same Congress that said we weren't

going to stay with our commitments to

allies in Southeast Asia. We left, some

estimate, 2 million people to be killed

when we fled Southeast Asia. Now this

President seems to be following the

same trends that we saw with Jimmy

Carter: turning on our allies, hurting

our friends, helping our enemies—and

there's always a price to be paid for

that.

So we've got ObamaCare put in place.

Over $1 trillion could be saved. Just re-

deal the thing, and let's start with real

reform.

Even though CBO refused to score it,

Newt Gingrich told me if I could get

that bill scored, it might revolutionize

the discussion on health care. So, natu-

rally, CBO wouldn't score something

like that even after they were re-

quested by the ranking Republican on

the Committee of jurisdiction—and by

the ranking Repub-

lican on the Joint Committee on

Taxation. They both requested it be

scored, but CBO didn't score it. It

might have interfered with ObamaCare

being passed. The bottom line was it

would have given solace to a particu-

larly anxious part of the Republican

leadership.

Do you want to keep being on Medi-
care and have the Federal Government

tell you what you can or can't have,

and have to go out and, with the pre-

cious few dollars you have from Social

produce that oil at the increasing rate

to meet increasing demands. We're not

running out. There will be oil for an-

other 150 years. Ever less and less,

more and more expensive, harder and

harder to get.

Our time is running out.

If you have only one chart to look at,

this would be the chart.

This is when we discovered oil way

back there. Huge amounts of oil. This

dark age of our energy future is our con-

dition of oil. You need to kind of thank

the Arabs or their Arab oil embargo. If

they hadn't had that in the seventies,

look where this curve would be. It

would have gone off the top of the

chart. That woke us up. Your air condi-

tioner now is probably three times as

efficient as your air conditioner was

then.

Well, we will return to talk about

what we can do about this. Today, we

talked only about the problem. It's a

huge problem. We're equal to that

problem. We'll be back and talk about

how we respond to the problem.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Security, have to pay AARP or somebody else’s Medigap insurance or wraparound insurance or supplemental insurance? Do you want to have to keep paying precious dollars?

Or would you like the alternative of having the Federal Government buy you basically the best private insurance you could have with a high deductible—of $3,500, $5,000, whatever we want to say, whatever ends up being the most cost-effective—and we would give you a health savings account that you’d control with your own debit card, where you’d make the decisions? The only restriction is it would have to be for health care. You couldn’t use that money for anything else. Give people a check, let them decide if they want to quit buying Medigap insurance.

I know, as wonderful as AARP is, 2 years ago, I think, they cleared over $400 million in clear profit from their supplemental Medicare insurance. You hate to cut in on a charitable institution like AARP’s massive profits like that off people who can’t afford to buy the product. But gee, let’s give sensible choices.

Then, of course, we would need to give incentives to young people. Put your own money into a health savings account. It would be your money, but it could only be used for health care. You can’t pull it out for something that’s not health care. You can gift it to other people’s health savings accounts. When you pass away, if you’ve got money in there, you can pass that on and have someone inherit that from you. Give people’s HSA, but once it’s committed as health savings account money, it has to be spent on health care.

Yet we’ve been told if that happens, then the vast majority of young people in their twenties and thirties would have so much massive amounts of money built up by the time they’d be eligible for Medicare, not only would they not want Medicare, they wouldn’t need it. They’d have way too much money to do what they wished.

Now, that would get us off this road to the dustbin of history, because we have bankrupted ourselves on entitlement programs. At the same time, what an incredible deal—you’d get better health care; you’d get more control; you’d put patients back in control; you’d put patients and doctors back making the decisions.

I’m big consumer of health insurance, but the trouble is for a number of years now we haven’t had health insurance in America; we’ve had health management. I’m very concerned that, unless health insurance companies get back into the business of health insurance instead of health management, then there will be some bill that ends up running them out of business.

It, of course, will be ObamaCare if it’s not repealed. Then it will be the government controlling things—a massive takeover.

As I’ve said before, ObamaCare is kind of like the cap-and-trade bill.

They’re all about the same thing. It’s all about the GRE—the Government Running Everything. That’s what it’s about.

We could save money and return freedom to people who have not had it in the area of health care, and they would control their destiny. But there are some people here in Washington who genuinely, honestly believe they need to be making the personal decisions for people across America because, gee, they’re smarter, and they would make better personal decisions for people who haven’t done so well on their own.

Thinking like that caused the original Revolution. They didn’t want some king who thought he knew more about what they should do with their lives making the decisions about their personal lives. Some have drawn the parallel that there is a correlation between the American Revolution and the French Revolution when compared to the Tea Party movement and the Occupy Wall Street movement, because the American Revolution was about one thing: It was about liberty.

There were people who signed and pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor. They were all at stake. And many who signed, pledging their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor, lost their lives and their fortunes—but their sacred honor was intact when they died.

The Declaration of Independence says we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights and that among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Nobody is guaranteed happiness. Yet the Founders knew that we were endowed by our Creator with these rights.

Some of them were born on third base. Well, they haven’t hit a triple. Well, they haven’t gotten back.

I learned a lot about the nature of God as a father who loved his children. I learned even more about the nature of God as a judge and challenge. You don’t want to punish people. You got a taste of that as a father. But there has to be laws, there has to be enforcement, there has to be to equal enforcement and people not be above the law.

Well, when you get people in positions of authority who think they’re above the law, that they should be in a position, as was King George III, to decide legislative, judicial, and executive decisions, we’re in trouble.

In North Dakota, there has been the largest oil find since the discoveries in Alaska. Some think the shale finds of oil in North Dakota may even exceed Prudhoe Bay. It’s big.

We, those of us who believe in God, should be thanking God for the endowment of all the natural resources in this country. We have been richly blessed, and yet we have got an administration that says hands off, this might make us energy independent, this might move us down the road to stop sending money to countries that hate us, to stop sending money to countries who are funneling money to terrorists.

This energy resource blessing that we’ve been given, if we used it, would create jobs; but we’re not going to allow it because we want to use something they call alternative energy. The phrase is given incorrect usage; it is called alternative energy because it isn’t real energy. You use more energy getting the energy out than you actually get back.

That’s been seen with wind energy; and we know that these massive windmills, though producing some small amount of electricity, they’ve chopped up a lot of birds in the process.
And yet what has been this administration’s position in response to the biggest oil find in modern history in North Dakota, Slawson Exploration Co. of Wichita, Kansas, was charged under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for killing birds—these aren’t endangered species, they’re migratory birds, like mallard ducks—after landing, allegedly landing in oil waste pits in western North Dakota.

So our Justice Department, which abandoned prosecution of funding of terrorism around the world against the United States and our friend Israel, it has abandoned that responsibility, they are purging their training records of any reference to radical Islam. They are refusing to go after the people that want to bring down this country.

They’re appointing people on the Homeland Security Advisory Council who have glowingly talked about Ayatollah Khomeini, or the Holy Land Foundation that funneled money to terrorism, they’re putting people like that on the Homeland Security Advisory Council, giving them secret clearance and letting them peruse our classified documents. That’s what this administration has been doing.

But those energy resources could make us energy independent, and what are they doing? They’re putting their foot on the throat of anybody that tries to produce them to the point that they will ignore the tens of thousands of birds that have been killed by windmills and go after the biggest oil find in modern history in America and charge them criminally because maybe there were 12 ducks that got into some of their oil.

It’s incredible what this administration is doing—they think to help America. But, clearly, just as clearly in retrospect as President Carter hurt this country, hurt those who love liberty by recognizing the Ayatollah Khomeini as a man of peace, proudly proclaiming his coming back to Iran, and thousands and thousands and thousands of people have died because such a man was encouraged to come to power.

Just like this administration did in Egypt, like this administration has done in Libya, without really knowing who we were helping, and now the Muslim Brotherhood that is devout in pursuing an international caliphate that would put the lovers of liberty in this country under the shackles of following sharia law, it’s a disgrace.

There is so much damage that this administration has been doing; the Justice Department going after people because they believe there is a God.

I will just close with what Ben Franklin said in the Constitutional Convention, 1787, toward the end of June:

How has it happened that we have not once thought of humility applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding? In the beginning of the contest with Great Britain when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered.

He ultimately said:

If a sparrow cannot find to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We’ve been assured, sir, in the sacred writings that “unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this.

He also said:

I firmly believe that without his concurring aid, we shall succeed in our political building no better than the builders of Babel. He was right. We’ve had over 200 years of American building and it’s time to acknowledge the result of our blessings and the source of our blessings.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

**HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT**

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

**June 7, 2011:**
- H.R. 2276. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 1383. An Act to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2553. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

**August 3, 2011:**
- H.R. 2715. An Act to provide the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and direction in enforcing the consumer product safety laws, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2887. An Act to provide an extension of surface and air transportation programs, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2062. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Meetinghouse Lane in Sagamore Beach, Massachusetts, as the “Matthew A. Pucino Post Office”.
- H.R. 2149. An Act to temporarily preserve higher rates for tuition and fees for programs of education at non-public institutions of higher learning pursued by individuals enrolled in the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs before the enactment of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

**September 16, 2011:**
- H.R. 3249. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2887. An Act to provide an extension of surface and air transportation programs, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3249. An Act to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2943. An Act to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through December 31, 2011.

**October 5, 2011:**
- H.R. 2887. An Act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2946. An Act to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**October 12, 2011:**
- H.R. 771. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1061 Eibel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the “Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office”.
- H.R. 1843. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 489 Army Drive in Barrigada, Guam, as the “John Pangelinan Gerber Post Office Building”.
- H.R. 2832. An Act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 2943. An Act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3078. An Act to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.
- H.R. 3079. An Act to implement the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement.
- H.R. 3080. An Act to implement the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement.  November 1, 2011:
- H.R. 357. An Act to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3078. An Act to implement the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement.
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