

which would raise home mortgage rates and, thereby, threaten the long-term growth of the economy. The fiscal discipline of the last 8 years that produced the largest budget surpluses in decades would be wiped out by this legislation, especially when combined with a \$2 trillion tax reduction bill passed earlier by this Congress.

The bill includes long-term tax benefits for the wealthiest 2 percent of our taxpayers, \$24 billion in retroactive tax relief for the largest corporations in America, accelerating the reduction in the top individual tax brackets affecting those persons making more than \$297,000 per year, and provided \$21 billion in tax benefits to U.S. corporate profits made outside the U.S. as long as the money is kept outside this country.

A scant 11 percent of the overall benefits of the bill would benefit those that are unemployed due to the downturn of the economy. That is 11 cents out of every dollar would only go for those that are in need.

The irresponsible failure to offset the cost of those tax cuts will leave us with future budget deficits and upward pressure on long-term interest rates. I would repeat that this bill would come and create additional deficits for our country.

Finally, the passage of this bill, and as we look at a bill, we have to make sure that it helps those that are in need and that it looks at stimulating the economy. It should follow the balanced alternatives that would quickly put money in the hands of people who have been hurt by the economic downturn and most likely to spend it and stimulate the economy. September 11 not only hurt New York, but it hurt everyone. It hurt those people on the borders that are having to wait. I ask that we really take into consideration and that we seriously look at what we are doing and that we vote for an appropriate piece of legislation.

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

(Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BREATHING LIFE INTO HUMANITARIAN LEGISLATION FOR AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States signed legislation to assist the starving Afghan women and children. Not only was this legislation to address these terrible physical needs, but also to address the need to include Afghan women in the political

and governmental structure of a new Afghan.

I would simply say that the signing of the legislation and the work that was done by the women of this House and the Senate, many women in the Democratic Caucus who began many, many months ago speaking about the plight of the women in Afghanistan, is something that we all can be proud of. I salute the signing of this legislation.

Right now, there are 1 million people from the Afghanistan nation on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. These individuals are suffering because of the inclement weather and the very cold season. In refugee camps, 175 people have already died, and most of those are children.

It is important as we sign legislation, Mr. Speaker, that we utilize part of the \$40 billion to act on the legislation. The people in Afghanistan need food, they need clothing, they need the ability to be resettled, they need housing that will be warm. In order to make this legislation a living, breathing document, I call upon the President of the United States to expend some of those dollars to utilize them immediately to help the starving children and the plight of those families on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is enormously important that as we fight to rid ourselves and the world of terrorism, that America emphasizes and reemphasizes its humanitarian approach and its view that there is a need to protect families, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago I passed a resolution, H. Con. Res. 228, and that resolution was to emphasize that those children who lost parents or a guardian on September 11 should receive Federal benefits or any benefits with the highest priority. We know of the horrific tragedy of September 11, the divide that it caused in families and the loss of loved ones here in the United States, and I believe it is extremely important to emphasize the need to provide resources for those children. But equally so, as we have made a commitment to helping restructure the nation of Afghanistan, meaning to provide the opportunity for that government to build itself in a peaceful manner, we have also committed to making sure that women will be included in the rebuilding of that nation and in the governmental structure. We realize that the imprisonment of the burqas was the imprisonment of the spirit and of people's freedoms.

Now women are able to take off those uniforms. Now we need them to be fully involved in the structuring of government so that women's interests and children's interests can be emphasized.

Next week I intend to hold a briefing on the plight of children in Afghanistan and the hunger that they face, the devastation that they face, the fact that children have to go to work at 7 and 8 years old to provide for their families making bricks. We must find a

way to involve ourselves in the aspects of giving Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan a future and a sense of hope. Particularly, we must find a way to involve ourselves in the lives of those children so that they will become freedom-lovers, lovers of stability and government, and appreciating their own faith and recognizing that their faith, the Muslim faith, the Islamic faith, is one of love and peace.

We must do that now, Mr. Speaker. We must ensure that the resources are there. We must breath life into legislation that was signed today. We must address the question of 1 million refugees. We must find a way to stop children from dying in refugee camps. We must find a way as well to help rebuild this nation in a way that it stands alongside of the rest of the world family as a freedom-loving place, a place of peace, and a place where all can raise their children in harmony and with opportunity.

SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today was a day that our majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), announced that he would not be seeking reelection in the 26th district of Texas, his hometown of Denton, Texas and the county of Denton.

Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader ARMY, upon making this announcement, gathered his family together and spoke with his family about his hopes and dreams of a new life that he wishes to have outside of the Congress. He spent 16 years in this body. This body respects DICK ARMEY. This body loves DICK ARMEY. This body also understands that DICK ARMEY is a man who brought high energy, ideals, high ideals and ideas that have moved this country, that have been a part of the political debate of this country.

I, as one Member, was asked to run for Congress by DICK ARMEY, and he described it to me as a place that would be not only an honorable place and a place where ideas would be talked about and discussed, but also a body upon which was an institution, the institution of the Congress of the United States. DICK ARMEY is one of the few people who have been to the very top who, upon their own choosing, has decided to leave. He served this body with honor and distinction, and he looks forward to those times that he will spend with his family.

But today was a special time, for he had his beautiful wife, Susan, and his family gather with him in this body as he described not only his hopes and dreams of this country that he has served, but also the hopes and dreams of this country when he goes into retirement. It is DICK ARMEY who worked to make this a better place. It is DICK ARMEY who chose to bring ideas not