

in the debt limit, the largest increase in history, without an up-or-down vote in the House of Representatives. This came less than 8 months after we raised the Federal debt ceiling by \$450 billion. To put that in proper perspective, it took our country 204 years to borrow the first \$984 billion. The Treasury Department estimates that the national debt will exceed the statutory debt limit, which is currently \$7.384 trillion, sometime in late September or October, just before the election.

But instead of taking responsibility to pass an increase in the debt limit to pay for our policies, the leadership is counting on the Treasury Department to rely on so-called extraordinary actions, such as dipping into retirement trust funds to avoid reaching the statutory debt limit until mid November and avoid a vote on legislation increasing the debt limit until a lame duck session after the election. These extraordinary actions should be a last resort to avoid a default during a crisis, not a routine action used for political convenience. It would be irresponsible to take funds from retirement trust funds simply to avoid a discussion of the fiscal problems highlighted by the need to increase the debt limit.

When the House resumes consideration of the Treasury Transportation appropriations bill today, I will offer an amendment which would prohibit the Secretary of Treasury from dipping into retirement trust funds in order to circumvent the statutory debt limit. The effect of my amendment would be to force Congress to take responsibility for the increase in the national debt by approving an increase in the debt limit before adjourning in October instead of deferring action until a lame duck session. Congress should have a full and open debate on increasing our national debt limit above \$8 trillion instead of relying on financial maneuvers to avoid a vote.

There would be no risk of default if Congress met its responsibility to approve an increase in the debt limit before we adjourn for the election. If my Republican colleagues honestly believe that tax cuts with borrowed money is good economic policy, they should be willing to stand up and vote to increase the national debt to pay for their tax cuts instead of relying on financial maneuvers. Just like credit card spending limits serve as tools to force families to examine their household budgets, the debt limit reminds Congress and the President to evaluate our budget policies.

The national debt has increased by \$670 billion over the last 12 months and \$1.5 trillion over the last 3 years. The Congressional Budget Office projects that the national debt will exceed \$10 trillion in just over 4 years under our current budget policies. As of the end of April, \$1.813 trillion of our debt was held by foreign investors, more than \$1 trillion of which is held by official institutions. Japan now holds \$695 billion of our debt, and the Chinese another

\$217 billion. Despite this, the leadership of this body is talking about bringing up legislation this week that would add another \$130 billion to that debt.

We should not pay for tax cuts or spending by borrowing money against our children's future. Congress should be required to sit down and figure out how to make things fit within a budget just like families do every day. The borrow-and-spend policies of the current majority will leave a crushing debt burden for future generations who do not have any say in what we are doing today and do not benefit from the tax cuts and spending programs for current generations.

The one tax that cannot be repealed is the debt tax, the cost of paying interest on our national debt. The debt tax consumed 18 percent of all government revenues to pay interest on the national debt last year and 40 percent of every dime of income taxes is required to pay interest today at current interest rates. Congress should not grant the administration a blank check to continue on the path of deficit spending. Before we vote to increase the debt limit, we should reinstate the budget enforcement rules which make it harder to pass legislation which would put us further into debt, including pay-as-you-go for all legislation.

If the leadership were willing to work with us to add meaningful budget enforcement provisions to legislation increasing the debt limit, the Blue Dog Democrats would gladly supply bipartisan support for an increase in the debt limit. But if the majority wants to continue with their economic policies that have us on a path to running up more than \$10 trillion in debt by the end of the decade, they should be willing to step up to the plate and approve the increase in the debt limit necessary to pay for their policies and not hide until after the elections to tell the people what the results are.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director, American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

As we begin legislative deliberations in this great shrine of democracy, we call to mind the words of an American original, Sam Levensen, that Spanish-

teacher-turned-entertainer whose homespun stories about his immigrant parents delighted our Nation for generations. Upon his death, Levensen's children discovered their father's ethical will containing these prayerful sentiments:

To America, I owe a debt for the opportunity it gave me to be free and to be me. To my parents I owe America. They gave it to me, and I leave it to you. Take good care of it.

To the Bible, I owe the belief that the human does not live by bread alone, nor do we live alone at all. This is also the democratic tradition. Preserve it.

In this year marking the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in this great land, may we all acknowledge our debt to America, to the courageous immigrants who gave us this national inheritance, and to the Source of All for endowing us with the benefit of our patriot's dream, a Nation pledged to uphold the conviction that liberty and justice are for all.

Thankful are we this day for the manifold blessings that are our daily portion and possession in this great and blessed Nation.

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 the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 138. Concurrent resolution commending John W. Kluge for his dedication and commitment to the United States on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

The message also announced that the Secretary be directed to request the return of (H.R. 4567) "An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes," in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public law 106-170, the

Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, after consultation with the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Finance, announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel: Andrew J. Imparato, of Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 128, of Public Law 108-132, the Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, appoints the following individual to the Commission on Review of Overseas Military Facility Structure of the United States—

Admiral Anthony A. Less of Virginia.

WELCOMING DR. GARY PHILLIP ZOLA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES, CINCINNATI, OHIO

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome a distinguished constituent of mine, Dr. Gary Phillip Zola, who we just heard from, who was the guest chaplain of the House today. Dr. Zola is the executive director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, which is the world's largest archival resource which documents the history of North American Jewry. Dr. Zola also serves as an associate professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Under Dr. Zola's leadership, the American Jewish Archives has initiated an impressive array of innovative projects that have captured the attention of both the Jewish and general communities in our country. Currently, Dr. Zola is serving as Chair of the Commission for Commemorating the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History, which has been organized to help our Nation mark the 350th anniversary of Jewish communal life in North America. This commission represents a historical collaboration of the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the American Jewish History Society, and the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives. The exhibit, by the way, is currently open at the Library of Congress right across the street.

Prior to assuming leadership of the Marcus Center, Dr. Zola served for more than 15 years as the National Dean of Admissions, Student Affairs and Alumni Relations for Hebrew Union College, a true treasure in greater Cincinnati.

Dr. Zola and his wife, Stefi, live in Blue Ash, Ohio, with their four children, Mandi, Jory, Jeremy, and Samantha.

I thank him so much for taking the time to come join us this afternoon and to deliver a very thoughtful prayer and thoughtful moment for us here in the House of Representatives.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, positioned at the base of Capitol Hill, the National Museum of the American Indian rises up out of the ground with its curved limestone walls to celebrate the lives and achievements of our country's first citizens. This museum is a unique addition to our National Mall, in so much as it displays a living history of a vibrant people who exists among us today.

Native Americans are not an extinct people to be catalogued. Theirs is not a culture that can be relegated to the confines of a glass display. Accordingly, the new National Museum of the American Indian does not exhibit archaeological artifacts to be surveyed by passersby, but rather offer visitors a glimpse into a lively and vibrant culture that lives on through the customs and traditions practiced by generations of native peoples.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome the thousands of Native Americans that have come to Washington today to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, and I ask my colleagues to join in the celebration this week and take time to reflect upon the rich culture of Native Americans.

MEDIA BIAS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, between now and the election, I am announcing the weekly award for the most biased media story.

The CBS broadcast on President Bush's National Guard service has collapsed. CBS and Dan Rather issued an apology, but still tried to justify their actions.

However, there is no excuse for why this broadcast made its way into the homes of millions of Americans. There is no excuse for not trying to obtain the original documents. There is no excuse for not checking the credibility of the person making the accusation who has a history of attacking President Bush. There is no excuse for being in a rush to smear President Bush. There is no excuse for contacting the Kerry campaign before airing the broadcast, and there is no excuse for this serious breach of journalistic ethics.

Mr. Speaker, this week's media bias award has no competition. It goes to CBS News.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today is a very special day for our country because we celebrate the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

I urge all Americans to visit the museum because it will take you through a personal journey to the different experiences of native peoples of the Americas by exposing you to their histories, their art, and their cultures.

Included in its vast collection, the museum shares the stories of the 12 tribes in my own State of Michigan whose historical roots lie with the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Nations.

As a child, I learned of the injustices perpetrated against the Indian people of Michigan; and when I was first elected to public office in 1964, I vowed to work for the human dignity of the Native American people.

That is why I, along with so many of my colleagues, fight so hard today to protect the sovereign rights of our country's first Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better physical interactive monument that pays tribute to the past, present, and future of the American Indian than the National Museum of the American Indian.

RIGHTFUL PLACE OF HONOR OF THE FIRST AMERICANS IS REALIZED

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, in the nearly 10 years that I have been honored to serve in the House, I have welcomed many constituents from Arizona to our Nation's capital, but one visit stands out in particular. It was in my first term. The gentleman visiting me was a Vietnam veteran. He was a White Mountain Apache, and he came to my office late in the day and he said, Congressman, I have seen all the monuments, I have seen so many statues, but where is the Indian?

It was not a rhetorical question; but now, for that constituent, and Mr. Speaker, for all Americans, the rightful place of honor of the first Americans is realized. As my colleague from Michigan mentioned earlier, today we celebrate on our National Mall the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored when I first came to this House that nearly one out of every four of my constituents was Native American, and I think the challenge we can confront is that, though we may divide between political parties, there are really only two types of people who serve in the Congress of the United States, those who represent what we now call Indian Country and those who represent what was once Indian Country.