

DO NOTHING CONGRESS NOT TACKLING ANY OF THE ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation faces many pressing issues; yet the House Republican leadership prefers to send Congress home for breaks rather than working to solve any problems.

Back in 1948 President Truman dubbed that Congress the "Do Nothing Congress" because it only met 108 days the entire year. The Republican Congress of 2006 is set to break that record, scheduled to meet for only 97 days this year, 11 fewer than the first "Do Nothing Congress."

Now, the budget continues to spiral out of control after finally being balanced by President Clinton back in the late 1990s; yet House Republicans approved a budget last night that makes the deficit worse and offers no plan to bring the budget back into balance.

Gas prices continue to hover at or above \$3 a gallon; yet House Republicans continue to do the bidding of the big oil execs rather than providing any real relief to the American consumer.

House Republicans, Mr. Speaker, are presiding over the most "Do Nothing Congress" in our Nation's history. They simply cannot govern and it is time for a change.

**THE NATION'S CONSENSUS:
SECURE OUR BORDERS**

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the topic of this week, the topic of discussion with our constituents, with those who are calling us is illegal immigration and their concern over Mexico's choosing and wanting to sue the United States for defending our borders.

Mr. Speaker, America has reached a consensus and our constituents have reached a consensus on this issue. What they are telling us is secure our borders. Show us a secured border. Show us a plan of action. Allow us to know that we can have our faith restored in your ability to secure this Nation.

We hear from them. They are letting us know that they expect us to uphold our oath to defend and protect this Nation. Mr. Speaker, we are listening. In this body we have been listening. Last fall we took action.

We encourage all to join us in securing the border of this great Nation.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

(Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, at 1 o'clock this morning, the

Republicans in the House of Representatives passed a budget that is fiscally irresponsible; increases the national debt; cuts veterans' health care; cuts student loans; and at the same time, President Bush passed a \$70 billion tax cut bill for the wealthiest of America.

What is just as bad is that the debt limit for our Nation has been increased five times since 2001 under President Bush and the Republicans. This is more than any Presidents that preceded him.

Is this the kind of America that you want? American people, please speak out. Please speak up. We can do better. This is the best Nation in the world. We must change the way we do business in Congress.

One hundred percent of Democrats voted against that budget at 1 o'clock this morning. It is bad for America. It is bad for our families, and we can do better.

**THE EFFECTS OF ENERGY COSTS
ON OUR AGRICULTURE ECONOMY**

(Miss McMORRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, agriculture is a billion dollar industry in Eastern Washington. And for those of us from Eastern Washington, as well as all across America, we must be promoting policies and projects that are going to help our farmers and ranchers.

Over the past several months, I have heard from our farmers about high energy costs that are hurting their ability to do business. At a time when their profit margins are slim, unexpected increases in energy costs are having a devastating effect.

I recently received a letter from a third generation farmer who prides himself on being a good steward of the land. He has never seen circumstances as severe and depressed. He mentions that the reason we are losing good family farms is because our agriculture economy is unable to absorb the energy costs for fuel and fertilizer. His costs alone are up 66 percent, and fertilizer costs are up 46 percent.

We have the energy resources available here in the United States to solve this problem. We need to be taking steps right now to better meet our energy needs because America needs American energy. It includes increasing supply, conservation, and alternative fuels.

Growing up on a family farm, I learned firsthand about these challenges, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to address this situation.

THE TAX BILL

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the President signed another tax bill that will add to the Federal deficit. And the

House budget resolution that passed last night, with 100 percent of the Democrats voting against it, contains a provision to raise the debt ceiling for the fifth time on President Bush's watch.

This President and this Congress have squandered the fiscal discipline of the Clinton years of the 1990s and created a legacy of deficits and debt that will erode the standard of living of our children and our grandchildren. This is a record-setting administration, but they are setting the wrong kinds of records.

We have seen the Federal budget deficit set a record in dollar terms. We have seen the national debt rise to a record level. And we have seen our trade deficit and our indebtedness to the rest of the world rise to a record level.

America can do better.

FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Floyd County school system on receiving an "outperformer" rating in the Standard and Poor's 2006 School Evaluation report. Floyd County was one of only 20 school districts in the State of Georgia to receive this distinction.

This award recognizes the great work Floyd County schools are doing to educate our children. I know everyone in the community was excited, but not surprised, by this honor, as Floyd County consistently displays exceptional levels of student achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the dedicated Floyd County educators whose hard work earned this award. Floyd County superintendent Kelly Henson, members of the Floyd County School Board, principals, teachers, parents at every school in the system deserve our gratitude for a job well done. I know Floyd County will continue its long tradition as a leader in educational achievement for the State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in congratulating the Floyd County school system and in thanking its educators for their dedication to developing the minds of our community's rising leaders.

OLDER AMERICANS

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, May is Older Americans Month. Let us celebrate Older Americans Month by passing a budget that will promote their dignity and health.

The once-per-decade White House Conference on Aging put reauthorization of the Older Americans Act at the top of its list of national priorities. I am proud that we are working in a bipartisan manner to pass a consensus