disciplined and you are willing to say no.

This is like giving candy to a baby, and then the baby wants more candy, and they keep giving it to them. That is the oil industry. That is the top 1 percent. And really, quite frankly, I am even starting to meet people in my district who are in the top 1 percent who are saying I don't want any more tax cuts. I am doing fine. I have a Hummer, I have this, I have a nice house, I have Italian marble flown in, I am doing okay. But kids 2 miles away, on the other side of town, aren't doing well. Their parents are trying to work for minimum wage, a single mom with one child is living in poverty with that kid by working a minimum wage job. It is unacceptable.

And when you run these huge budget deficits and you raise the debt, and this is the interest we are paying in the 2007 budget, $230 billion, just on the interest on the debt. We get no value from that. That is not lowering tuition costs, where people would benefit, get educated, contribute to the economy and generate wealth. That is not taking care of our veterans. That is not investing in health care or research or alternative energy sources. There is no value from that. And that is the disappointing part, is that we are not getting any kind of benefit from that money.

In fact, as Mr. MEEK pointed out in the last hour, that money is going to Japan and China to pay down the money that we are borrowing, and paying interest on the money we are borrowing from them. So here we are, and this is just silly, we are borrowing money from China to give tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent, who don't need it, and to give $16 billion in subsidies to the oil companies, to give huge subsidies to the health care industry, and then the money that we borrow, China will charge interest on it, and then take the money they make off us and invest it back into their state-run factories because China is a Communist country.

That is not a level playing field, to begin with, because China manipulates their currency, as we talked about yesterday. They do not enforce their intellectual property laws. They have no environmental laws. They have no human rights, no religious freedoms, none of the things we value. So they are taking this money and wiping out the middle class of the United States. That is not free trade. That is not fair trade. It is an unbalanced system.

And we just keep feeding the beast: Right here. How much more do you want? How much more interest do you want?

Be happy to yield.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, referring back to the chart, we are talking about $230 billion on the debt. And I am looking at education there on that chart, and you can stack three of those charts, the education dollars investment beside the debt and you still won't make it to the 230.

You have the homeland security folks running around here talking about we have to protect the homeland on the majority side, as though, Mr. Speaker, that just became a problem. Folks burning all kind of Federal jet fuel running down to the border talking about how we are going to get tough. Sending National Guard troops from throughout the States when we already have an overextended military and saying we would like to do more in homeland security. But as it relates to the Republican majority plan, the investment dollars are not there.

Look at veterans, the blue over here, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, which is quite interesting. Goodness, what we are paying down on the debt because of the Republican out-of-control spending on the majority side, the rubber stamp Congress, doing everything the President says to do for the billionaires and millionaires and all of the people that Mr. RYAN pointed out, who are not outside rallying in front of the Capitol saying we need more money, doing what I just pointed out here in The Washington Post editorial just today, just stacking on top, piling on, putting more cream, and whip cream, and whipping it on up and throwing eight or nine cherries on top of this eight-floor cake they are giving to the special interests. Looking at what the veterans are getting. Nothing. Little or no investment. Well under $50 billion.

I am looking at this chart, and it is well under $30 billion. So when you look at it as it relates to the investment, it just doesn't pay off.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And just so we can segue into how we would do it differently, what we would do is we would go back to the days of PAYGO rules. We would make sure that we have some fiscal discipline that we impose on ourselves, just like the State legislatures that we came from, just like they do, which is that we are not going to deficit spend. Just like families who struggle every day to not spend more money than they take in; to not put all their wants and desires on a credit card and live on credit card debt. We need to operate this budget like families feel compelled to operate their family budgets. We are simply not doing that.

What we would do, and we have offered amendments time and again, Mr. RYAN, through Mr. SPRATT, our lead Democrat on the House Budget Committee. He has offered amendment after amendment that has been rejected unanimously by the Republicans again and again opposing reestablishing PAYGO.

PAYGO is tough. It forces some difficult choices. But it would make sure that we could really cut the deficit and go back to the surpluses that we had under the Clinton administration. I mean, that is the direction that we need to move in. If we continue down this path, if we continue in the direction that the Republicans have taken us, we will continue to spiral downward and pass the deficit and the debt onto future generations.

Really, we only have a couple of minutes, and what I didn't get to mention at the end of our last hour was what Speaker Gingrich had said. So if you would just before we end yield back to me, I kind of want to throw that out there for everyone's final thoughts. Be happy to yield.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, one other thing that we have forgotten to mention tonight, and I know the clock is ticking, but with all these other costs, we keep forgetting to mention interest rates for people who are going out and trying to get a car or a house and the significant increase over the past year or so in interest rates. So you have the health care, you have the tuition costs, you have the gas, natural and what you get at the pump, and you throw in there if you are trying to get a new house or car and what your interest rates are now, or they would have been because everybody is going out trying to borrow money, you run into a difficult situation.

Again, by balancing the budget, as President Clinton and the 1993 Democratic Congress proved, by balancing that budget, you will in turn reduce interest rates and then let the private sector go out and borrow money and make things happen in the market.

Www.housedemocrats.gov/30something. All of our charts and everything are available, including the article that voted Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ one of the 50 most beautiful people on Capitol Hill.

With that, I yield to Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Well, just to throw this out, I want to end by telling you what Speaker Gingrich said at the end of that panel. He said, ''While waiting for voter backlash to clean up Congress, he had some pithy advice for lawmakers, who in the current wave of scandal and personal enrichment on Capitol Hill have confused the public interest with their personal interest, said the former Speaker, my answer to them is: Go home.''

Good advice.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was an honor once again to address the House.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)