

keeps his or her price the same. Wouldn't it be interesting if we had some alternative to government, where the folks said, which one of you folks can do the government the best and raising prices in that arena would be much more difficult than we have today, where all it takes is 218 of us on this side and 51 on the other side to make that happen as opposed to hard work and sweat and labor that is usually required for folks to make money in the private sector.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I think the gentleman from Texas brings up a good point. I come back to what made this country great, and it was entrepreneurial spirit where an individual could take a small amount of assets, invest it, start a small business.

In the smallest vein, these policies, my son, who was running around here a moment ago, and his brother, Daniel, and sister, Miriam, decided they were going to start a lemonade stand because they wanted to create economic opportunity for themselves. They pooled their allowances, they went to the store, they bought their resources, and they began to sell it.

Mr. CONAWAY. Did they pay rent on the front steps of the shop?

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. I did a long-term note for them for room and board. We will work that out with the family tax man over time.

But the good news is, I think all young people, when you see kids in this country have that natural desire to create opportunity, and what do we do with Big Government? Big Government stifles that opportunity.

We stifle it by creating excessive regulations. We stifle it by tax. What might sound good, again, I come back to the politics of class warfare where they say, oh, we have got to just stop these profits from going to companies. It is not fair for somebody who is working 100 hours a week in reality to be more successful than you. But it is those people who are creating the jobs for others. They are fueling the economy for research. They are fueling the education and research and development programs in our universities.

I look at another time in history where there was a government attempt to control energy prices, when OPEC began to assert itself in 1973 and 1974. There was an attempt to control prices. What did we end up with? I remember when I was in high school.

Mr. CONAWAY. That is your Gas Policy Act in 1978 under Carter is what you ended up with.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. There you go, what did we have? We had rationing; we had gas prices skyrocketing.

Mr. SHUSTER. We had lines.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. The next aspect of this was the markets for investment to create jobs in the private sector began to drop. When I graduated from college, I was glad I enlisted in the Army because there were no manufacturing jobs left in western Pennsylvania when I was 17 years old.

The next thing that we saw was inflation at the highest rate it had been in anybody's memory. When I graduated from college, I think the prime rate was under 17 or 18 percent. It was impossible for a working family to afford a mortgage or to buy a house. It was driving the very people these Big Government tax solutions were designed to help, actually were hurting more than anything else, which concerns me with this vote 14 days into the new Congress. We are going to raise taxes on the fundamental bedrock economy that drives the entire economy, the energy that fuels it all, literally, and in 1,446 days every working family in this country, unless we stop that, will have a \$2,096 tax increase.

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Mr. SHUSTER. Does the gentleman have closing remarks?

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman sponsoring this hour again tonight. We tend to spend a lot of time trying to scare each other into actions one way or another. I am as guilty as everybody else. It is almost as if whoever of us can scare us the most wins the argument.

The truth of the matter is, the policies in place now are helping the economy. We don't have this great economy because of the policy; we have this great economy because we have great men and women throughout the country willing to take risks and work hard, get up every morning to go to work and provide for their families and build this country. That is why it is there.

What these policies have done is make their job less difficult. It is not easy. It is hard to make money. In the real world, it is a very difficult prospect to make money. So low tax rates and a consistent tax policy that people can count on help pave the way for that. It makes it less difficult for the hard-working men and women of this country to do what is being done, and that is to grow this economy, and by growing the economy, the tax receipts into this government have increased double digits for the last 2 years, and in all likelihood we may have a double digit increase again this year for a record collection. So that is doing it the right way.

As this Congress begins to try to lead toward a different direction, toward a different policy that says bigger government, higher tax rates on these folks, it is my opinion that it will make it much more difficult for the entrepreneurs in this country to continue to do what they do.

They will continue to do it in the face of an insurmountable odds, that is just their nature, but by this 1,446 days away, if that does happen the way we think it will, then the tasks of growing this economy, continuing to provide greater opportunities for most Americans, will be much, much more difficult than currently today.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank both of you gentleman for joining me,

Mr. DAVIS and Mr. CONAWAY, for your thoughts tonight. You pointed out rightfully so that the government doesn't create jobs, the government doesn't create wealth, it is people out in America, working hard, day in and day out, saving their money, investing their money, sweating at a job, and it is just wrong for us here in Congress to take more of their money than we should.

I put up 1,446 days to remind the American people that they are going to receive a tax increase unless we act, and that is a little less than 4 years. I am so grateful that the gentleman from Texas is a CPA and got my numbers right, that it is not 20 days into this new Congress, it is only 14 days, and we are already starting to hear about the first tax increase that the American people will see coming out of this Congress.

Mr. CONAWAY. This is on top of the unfunded mandate on small businesses that the minimum wage increase that was done last week will be.

Mr. SHUSTER. Absolutely. Except for the Marianas Islands.

Mr. CONAWAY. American Samoa, which the average rate there is \$3.15 an hour. So apparently StarKist wants tuna that pack cheaply instead of good taste.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank both of you gentleman for joining me tonight.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5, COLLEGE STUDENT RELIEF ACT OF 2007

Mr. CARDOZA (during the Special Order of Mr. SHUSTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-1) on the resolution (H. Res. 65) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reduce interest rates for student borrowers, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6, CLEAN ENERGY ACT OF 2007

Mr. CARDOZA (during the Special Order of Mr. SHUSTER), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-2) on the resolution (H. Res. 66) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy alternatives, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.