

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)C

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

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008, TO TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns tomorrow, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5715, ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5715 to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering, and cross-referencing, and insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1500

THOMAS JEFFERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, this Sunday was the 265th birthday of Thomas Jefferson, one of our Nation's

greatest Founding Fathers, and someone who we, I think, as a Nation do not pay enough attention to.

His birthday, unfortunately, went largely unnoticed. And I'm going to take this time on the floor today, Madam Speaker, to honor this great good man, recognize his genius and the application of his core principles as solutions to the core problems our Nation faces today, and in conclusion, to read his first Inaugural Address which was given in this Capitol on March 4, 1801 as a reminder of his genius and as a guideline to really lay out a path for the solutions that we really need as a Nation today.

The financial hole the United States finds itself in today is absolutely unprecedented. The Comptroller of the United States, David Walker, who just left office a few weeks ago, audited the books of the United States and concluded that we, as a Nation, are in a \$54 trillion hole, that every living American would have to write a check for \$175,000 in order to pay off the existing obligations of the Federal Government. That includes the \$11 trillion national debt to pay off the obligations of Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid. All those existing obligations of all the Federal programs already on the books are so massive, with the retirement of the baby boomers, with the profligate Thelma-and-Louise spending of this Democrat Congress, existing financial obligations are so severe that we would, every one of us, have to write a check today for \$175,000 just to pay off those existing obligations even if Congress didn't create a single new Federal program. It's an extraordinary number, one that is absolutely terrifying and that not enough Americans know about.

If we, as a Nation, would just adhere to the principles of Jeffersonian republicanism, if we would remember Mr. Jefferson's vision, his genius, his adherence to the core principles of republicanism, with a small "r" as he called them, we, as a Nation, can dig our way out of that financial hole, we as a Nation can return to the prosperity and freedom that the Nation has always enjoyed, the level of freedom that our founders enjoyed.

It's disturbing to me, as a Member of Congress, to see the ease with which programs like the funding for anyone in the world who has tuberculosis, AIDS or malaria, under a bill that this House passed last week, anyone in the world in a third world nation that has malaria, TB or AIDS is entitled, at U.S. taxpayer expense, to \$1,200 a year worth of medication. Now, that bill passed at a time when we're in this \$54 trillion hole, when we have an \$11 trillion national debt, when every one of us owe \$175,000 a piece. It's just unbelievable to me and utterly irresponsible, the continued expansion of the Federal Government, the continued creation of Federal programs like this by this Thelma-and-Louise Democrat Congress. To grow the Federal Govern-

ment at a time of record debt and deficit is absolutely intolerable, and it just has to stop.

Mr. Jefferson's birthday is an appropriate time to remember the core principles that not only really created the Nation, but would serve us well, as a Congress, today to help dig out of that financial hole, to make sure that we live within our means.

Thomas Jefferson often said that if we, as a Nation, would only apply core Republican principles to any problem, the knot will always untie itself. He was absolutely right about that. Mr. Jefferson believed that we should trust the good hearts and the good judgment of individual Americans to make the right decision. Never entrust the solution to a problem to the Federal Government except as an absolute last resort. Washington, D.C. will usually foul it up. And Mr. Jefferson understood that. And it was not because there aren't good people here. The Nation's capital is full of wonderful, good people dedicated to representing their districts to the best of their ability and based on their core principles as they see them. We bring in, in District Seven, 25 young people, one junior from each of the high schools in my district, I have set up a program as a nonprofit 501(c)(3), the Bill Archer Student Intern Program, to bring one young person from each of the high schools in my district for a full week, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. so they can see firsthand that the Nation's capital is full of people who have good hearts, they're doing the best they can to represent their districts from their perspective.

The young people in my district who participate in this program meet Members of Congress, they meet Members of the Senate, they meet administration officials, cabinet members, they meet judges on the Supreme Court, and they have an opportunity to see firsthand, Mr. Speaker, that the government is truly made up of good people doing the best they can. And it is just human nature that when decisions, as Mr. Jefferson said, are removed to Washington, D.C. where the people can't see them, can't not only see what's going on, but a real voice in what's going on, when those decisions are removed to Washington they become, by nature, less responsive, less effective in solving the problems of the American people.

This government has grown so far beyond what the founders intended that I'm not sure Mr. Jefferson would recognize the Federal Government today. And I know he would be as alarmed as I am, as my colleague, my good friend, Congressman ROSCOE BARTLETT, who will follow me, is with the continued growth of this government.

As fiscally conservative as I am, Mr. Speaker, I've found in the time that I've been here I've become even more fiscally conservative as I see the record growth of this government, as I read David Walker's report. And I encourage everyone out there to take the time,