

overall Federal budget. This small sliver right here is called “nondefense discretionary,” and that is where other important programmatic elements lie.

Many of the constituents who come up here come to talk to us about that very small area of the budget, whether that’s parks or roads or programs to meet special education needs and a variety of governmental functions.

This chart is very telling as well because it shows where our revenues come from. In fiscal 2009, the revenue estimates are \$2.4 trillion.

Now, you’ll remember the expenditure chart, \$3.5 trillion. To do a quick little bit of math, it says a \$1.1 trillion budget deficit for this year for our ordinary budget. This is where the money comes from. Individual income tax is about 45 percent, which is in the purple area of the pie here. This maroon area is the corporate income. Corporate income tax is about 10 percent. Payroll taxes are about 40 percent. There are others—the excise, estate and gift taxes.

But it’s that figure that I want to talk about, the \$1.1 trillion. Unfortunately, our process here, in order to create an opportunity to help their economy, has resulted in an unrestrained, unsustainable, massive, Washington-style spending bill that will be very, very difficult to reverse.

Before the year 2000, by the way, the Federal budget was about \$1.8 trillion. This year, it is almost going to be double that at \$3.5 trillion. We have been on a massive spending spree, and it should have been stimulated, but here we find ourselves in serious economic straits.

I was on the radio the other day, and the radio announcer said that it’s very difficult to get your mind around \$1 trillion—and it really is—but think about this. The very deficit that we’re leaving, should this bill pass along with other expenditures at this time, is larger than the Federal Government’s entire expenditures were just a few short years ago. The deficit this year will be larger than that of the entire Federal Government before the year 2000. That is a very serious problem because we are going to pass debt on to children or we are going to sell the wealth asset value of this country overseas. That is a shift of the wealth of this country into the hands of foreign debt holders or we are simply going to monetize it and are going to create inflation, which is a regressive form of taxation, particularly for the poor. These are very serious issues.

So, if we are to do a stimulus that is appropriate, it needs to be targeted and temporary, moving tomorrow’s decisions to today in order to maximize economic leverage and to create jobs. We should also have some basic outline of a plan to pay for it. So those are some of the real dilemmas here that I see that I wanted to come down and point out.

Thank you for hashing this out, not only among Members but for anyone

who might be watching. I thank you for the time.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding back. Again, he points out an excellent point that the level of debt is unsustainable, and the rate of growth of those so-called “mandatory expenditures” is in the range of 6 to 9 percent a year.

Let me yield a few moments to the gentleman from Texas, Judge GOHMERT, to speak eloquently on this subject.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, I don’t know about eloquently, but I am certainly coming from the heart.

There are a lot of people who we’ve heard from who are hurting, and they had great hopes because we elected a President who said he brought hope. Yet what we have seen so far is not hope. It is not change. It is the same thing Secretary Paulson started. It’s just throwing more money at the wrong places.

So what we have heard—and again, as my friend from Texas has pointed out—is that we do not have a final bill. We are supposed to vote tomorrow on the biggest spending bill in the history of the world, not just of this country, and we still do not have the bill. The latest information we’ve heard is that people, the taxpayers, are down to—it has kept coming down—what may be \$800 per family. It may be less than that. It depends on your circumstances. People were promised better than that.

There is a plan out there that has been proposed. I don’t care who puts his name on it. It is a very good plan. It puts money immediately in people’s next paychecks. If we pass it tomorrow, they could have it in their checks as soon as the President signs it. They could have it that day or the next day. It’s a tax holiday where people get their own withholding, where they get their own FICA back. For the small businesses, they don’t have to pay FICA in, and it’s paid for by money that has already been allocated.

When I brought this up to President Obama a few weeks ago, I really think he was genuine.

He said, “Oh, have you talked to Larry Summers about that?” his Harvard economist, and Larry was standing behind him.

I said, “No. I’d love to talk to Larry about it.”

So Larry steps out, and he said, “Oh, do you have a card?” I gave him my card. He said, “Yes, I’ll give you a call.”

After I didn’t hear for a week or so, I called, and I made clear that the President had said, “Call Larry Summers and talk to him.” So I waited. Eventually, I got connected. Was it Larry Summers? No. It was some young man named Brian. It was his voice mail. I thought maybe it was a mistake. So I’ve called back since then, and they always put me through to some voice mail of some young man named Brian. I’m sure he’s a fine

young man. They’re not interested—apparently, Larry isn’t or whoever is advising this administration—in letting them get back to the people who can do the most good.

□ 1945

And the average median income a household was going to get, on the average, \$2,000 or more, the average. I mean, that’s hardworking families getting a couple of thousand dollars to catch up on things

Now that is a stimulus. That would allow them to do all kinds of things and get—including getting a down payment for a nongas-guzzling car like someone had told me.

The American people can get us stimulated and going if the government, if the people that are in charge in this House and in the Senate and in the White House, had had enough confidence like so many of us do.

And I appreciate the gentleman yielding, and I hope that people, Mr. Speaker, will let our Speaker, the majority leader in the Senate, HARRY REID, and the President know they can stimulate the economy if they get to have some of their own money back.

Mr. BURGESS. The gentleman brings up an excellent point, and maybe the Speaker people perhaps should weigh in on that issue with our leadership.

#### COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN’S BIRTH

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the bicentennial of President Lincoln’s birth. Today, as we celebrate the 200th birthday of one of our greatest Presidents, I take great pride in representing the district where President Abraham Lincoln was born. From a one-room log cabin in Hodgenville, Kentucky, Abraham Lincoln rose to the highest office in our land, where he worked diligently to heal our Nation from deep wounds.

As the place of his most formative years, Kentucky played a primary role in forging the family and political life of President Abraham Lincoln. It was in the Bluegrass State that he began the path to the highest office in our Nation. It was in the Bluegrass State that the foundation for President Lincoln’s ideals and beliefs were laid. It was from the Bluegrass State that President Lincoln met his closest friends and mentors.

Often remembered for his physical height, measuring over 6 feet, 4 inches tall, Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday also reminds us of his height of character—a character that was formed on the banks of Knob Creek, Kentucky. A man of faith and wisdom who loved his country, President Lincoln’s birth is clearly worthy of commemoration.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Tommy Turner, the County Judge/Executive of LaRue County, Dan Kelly, my

former colleague in the State Senate, and the rest of the Kentucky Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for their tireless work since 2004 to organize and coordinate the many events celebrating President Lincoln's birth. Judge Turner and Senator Kelly's roles to ensure that Kentucky played an essential part in the national celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday deserve recognition.

I trust that my colleagues will join me in commemorating this historic day for Kentucky's Second Congressional District, the entire Commonwealth, and our nation.

#### STIMULUS MONEY NEEDS TO PURCHASE AMERICAN GOODS

(Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, thank you so much.

I just want to add one other element to what's being discussed here.

As the final moments are taking place in putting together this economic stimulus package, I'm still holding out a little bit of hope that we can put some things in there that protect American jobs.

There is a segment in the bill, we think, that would say that steel used in transportation infrastructure would be bought in America. There is no provisions yet that say that \$600 million worth of cars purchased would be bought in America, \$400 million worth of buses would be bought in America, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of furniture for Federal buildings would be bought in America, \$1 billion worth of computers.

It is so important. This is not a violation of any treaty. It's clear that when a Nation is spending money to create jobs, we ought to be creating those jobs in this country. We love other countries, but we can't trade with other countries if we don't have the money to buy their products.

I still hope this is part of what may end up in this bill. The American people are depending on it. I hate to see our dollars go overseas or where we're borrowing money from other countries. Let's make sure it's used to purchase American goods.

#### CELEBRATING ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, this commission has worked for a few years now to help pay homage to commemorate the life of, from my perspective, the most extraordinary American who ever lived: Abraham Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln was our 16th President who, today, would have been 200 years old. This President's impact on the lives of every American has been told in more books than any book writ-

ten on any single figure in human history.

I have been honored and privileged by Speaker NANCY PELOSI to serve as the Democratic representative on the extraordinary commission that has worked tirelessly to pay, globally, the kind of homage to the 16th President that President Abraham Lincoln deserves.

I got up early this morning and went to a dedication ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial. And there, Mr. Speaker, I had this awesome sense of the impact, in my own small way, that the 16th President had on his generation of Americans.

To look at that extraordinary temple, to see the figure, the enormous figure of Abraham Lincoln recessed into the temple with a constant vigilance over our Republic, even in death, the presence of Abraham Lincoln is felt and it is awe inspiring.

To see President Lincoln looking out over the National Mall, looking out over the activities of the Congress of the United States, gives him a sense of divine presence in the life of our democracy. In fact, he becomes, and is, the most pre-eminent figure in American history.

And as you sit there looking at the enormity of the temple, it's not that Lincoln is looking over us; it's also that we look to Lincoln for guidance. In other words, because Mr. Lincoln offered the last full measure of his devotion, saved the Union and saved our country, President Abraham Lincoln has earned the trust of the American people.

And since his Presidency, very few Presidents of the United States have not ventured in deep and reflective thought upon the single proposition of what is it that Mr. Lincoln would have me do. Members of Congress and others who have entered into public life throughout this country, they look to the example of Lincoln knowing that he gave the last full measure of his devotion to keep this country together, to guarantee for us the future; that even as our newest President, President Barack Obama, said today in the Capitol Rotunda, he said, "It seems that the problems that we have as Americans are small compared to the problems that Mr. Lincoln dealt with. And yet, Mr. Lincoln persevered."

Sure. We're arguing about to vote for the stimulus or to not vote for the stimulus, to support the President's agenda or to not support the President's agenda, to help our economy, and from some others' perspective to not help our economy.

But the central issues that we deal with, President Barack Obama said are small by comparison to the issues that Lincoln dealt with. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

There have been some questions raised during the Lincoln bicentennial about whether or not Abraham Lincoln should be credited with freeing the slaves. And I came to the floor tonight,

Mr. Speaker, to address three central issues.

The first part of my presentation is to answer the question, Did Lincoln free the slaves. The second part of my presentation tonight, Mr. Speaker, is to answer the question, What is it that Lincoln saw. And it's in that second part of the presentation that we will venture back through American history to understand the complex issues that Abraham Lincoln had to deal with—and I apologize for the limitations upon my time to answer all of those questions.

And I hope tonight, Mr. Speaker, to close on the future that Abraham Lincoln guaranteed for all of us. I hope to accomplish this in the allotted time frame.

Interpreting Lincoln's life and work is extremely important. It's important to the past, it's important to the present, and it's important to the future. It's why I've come here tonight to lay before the House of Representatives my understanding of that interpretation.

Recently, there have been questions raised as to whether Lincoln should be credited with freeing the slaves. The argument goes, given some of Lincoln's history, his racial attitudes and statements, his moderate views on the subject, his noninterference with slavery where it already existed, his once proposed solution of colonization, his gradualist approach to ending the institution, his hesitancy with respect to issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, and using colored troops in the war, his late conversion to limited voting rights for blacks and more, why should Abraham Lincoln be credited with freeing the slaves?

Some have even argued that it was the various actions taken by the slaves, including the power given to the Union cause as a result of the moral case for overturning slavery, plus the actual military role of working and fighting in the Union campaigns that actually freed the slaves.

I've heard the arguments. I've read the arguments of our Nation's most profound historians who make this case.

By forcing the Emancipation Proclamation issue on to the agenda, first of military officers, then of the Congress of the United States—which we all know then and now know to be reluctant—and finally of Lincoln, it was their actions, the actions of the slaves themselves that led to their freedom.

I think when looking at this argument—clearly just as the Congress and President Lyndon Johnson would not have been able to pass and sign the civil rights and social legislation of the 1960s apart from a modern civil and human rights movement—so, too, the military commanders, the Congress, and Lincoln would not have been able to achieve what they did without the agitation and the movement of the slaves and their allies. There is no doubt about that.