

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, today the President of the United States continued a tradition that has existed since the beginning of this Republic, and that is for the Presidents of the United States to send to Congress a message including his budget. This is the blueprint for this administration in the area of taxation and spending for the foreseeable future.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, let me give the President credit where credit is due. We should remark that the President's budget does highlight the dire problem with unsustainable growth and entitlement spending. He acknowledges that, as it should be acknowledged, and he does it up front. And for that, he is due respect.

Secondly, the President does propose to fix the alternative minimum tax, the AMT, and builds the impact of this proposal into his budget's out-year projections. Now, this is something the previous administration did not do. So this is an improvement in terms of what we might call accounting procedures.

The reform of the AMT does fall short of full reform since it only adjusts for inflation, and bracket creep will push more and more of our constituents, the taxpayers of America, on to the AMT, which was originally considered to catch just a few, a handful, of multimillionaires who, in periods of time some decades ago, escaped any payment of taxes—not because they did anything illegal, but because they took advantage of various tax credits, tax shelters, et cetera, that were then available in the Tax Code.

The President does one courageous thing, I would suggest. He asks us to consider means testing Medicare Part D premiums. Always a controversial issue but one that the President at least presented us with the facts forcing us to deal with those facts.

And the President should be commended for proposing in this budget for emergencies. The previous President, President Bush, set aside \$5.6 billion in a reserve for emergencies in his first budget, but President Obama should be advised that the results of that were that Congress quickly spent the re-

serve on other problems—base programs, not emergency programs. And there is a tendency in this body, and that on the other side of the Capitol, to do the same thing.

Now, those are the things for which I can give the President credit, but overall, this budget is of great concern to me and ought to be great concern to the rest of the American people.

What it would do is increase the national debt by \$2.7 trillion. That's not billion; it's trillion with a "T." \$2.7 trillion this year to \$12.7 trillion requiring another increase in the debt limit which was just increased to \$12.1 trillion in the stimulus bill. It actually doubles the national debt in 8 years.

Now, I know my friends on the other side of the aisle have said, "How can you Republicans speak? You didn't do a very good job." And I will be the very first to admit that when I came back here after an absence of 16 years, I was surprised by the lack of intestinal fortitude in this institution towards fiscal responsibility, and my party was in charge.

You might say, well, President Bush allowed the debt to rise from the first day he was in office to the day he left by \$4.9 trillion. That is a record. But President Obama has already shown us that he's a record breaker because under his budget, the debt is projected to increase by \$5.6 trillion in just 3 years.

How are we going to take care of this? Are we going to be more indebted to the Communist Chinese? Are we going to be more indebted to those around the world? When do we stop the printing presses printing our money? When does the impact of that fall on our most vulnerable in this society, that is those on fixed incomes, when the value of the dollar they have in their pocket or in their bank account or somewhere in their investment portfolio is worth less than it was just a few months before?

So we raise taxes by \$1.4 trillion over the next 10 years. Now, some of it doesn't really look like taxes because it's called cap and trade revenues. Cap and trade. So under the guise of global warming or climate change, we now are going to have a huge tax increase.

So what we have here is a budget with some small good points, huge debt, huge taxes. That's not the way forward. We must do something better. We can do better.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NOT DOING AWAY WITH "POLITICS AS USUAL"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker; you and I are freshmen colleagues, and it's wonderful to see you in the chair this afternoon.

You and I came to this Congress as freshmen with a desire to do away with "politics as usual" and start anew. And what I saw yesterday on this floor was not exemplary of that particular goal of mine, and I suspect yours and some of our other freshmen colleagues as well.

What I saw was a rule that was brought to the floor that would prevent us from discussing amendments to the big omnibus \$410 billion spending bill. If you voted for that amendment to stop amendments to the bill, that was your way of being able to voice support for keeping congressional salaries capped. So those of us who are fiscal conservatives had to vote for that amendment in order to be consistent and true to our fiscal conservative roots; but at the same time, we had to disallow ourselves the opportunity to debate and discuss a \$410 billion spending package. So I want to discuss it a little bit today. That bill has already passed, but there are some concerns I have about it, especially when coupled with the stimulus package we passed, especially when coupled with the President's budget that we just received today.

Some of my concerns are these: the President's proposal would provide that those who are making \$250,000 a year and above will be those who are subject to a tax increase. That applies to many of our small businesses in the United States. And my State of Wyoming has no large businesses; it is entirely made up of small businesses. And those businesses create jobs for 70 percent of the jobs in this Nation. So we are, in essence, going to tax those who are creating jobs. And to me, when we're in a budget crisis and a fiscal crisis and a mortgage crisis, those are the wrong people to whom to turn and ask for more revenue.

In addition, the previous speaker pointed out that the President's message, although very comforting to me coming from a coal-producing State like Wyoming, that he does acknowledge that we need clean coal technology, in the very same sentence said we also need cap and trade. And cap and trade is a tax, it will fall primarily on coal, that will send us to other nations to derive our energy. And that, I think, is a step in the wrong direction as well.

Furthermore, the debt that we're taking on will have to be absorbed in large part by other nations. We're already the largest debtor nation in the world. China already owns over \$1 trillion worth of our Treasury notes, our debt. And it must be of great concern to them that we would approach them to buy more of our debt knowing that the consequence of all of this spending will mean we will be paying them back in dollars that are worth less than the dollars that they needed to purchase our U.S. treasuries now. Inflation will be the consequence of all the spending we are doing.

Consequently, I was so hopeful that the President's budget would provide a modicum of discipline and would be flat spending so that the American people will have a chance to see if the stimulus package works before we un-

dertake more government spending to see if the budget that was passed yesterday, the \$410 billion, is responsive to stimulus so we can flatten budgets in the future. But what we saw yesterday is that we're going to increase spending over last year's budget, followed the very next day, today, by even more spending. The levels of spending just get higher and higher, government intervention into the private sector gets higher and higher. The people of this country need us to go shoulder to shoulder with them and exercise the fiscal discipline that they are having to exercise themselves.

Mr. Speaker, again, it's wonderful to see you in the Chair. I thank you for your time.

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 Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 5.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 5.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. LUMMIS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 234. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the "Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 2, 2009, at 12:30 p.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2008

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Juan Lara	12/01	12/02	Rome		150.00						150.00
Mike Brinck	12/01	12/02	Rome		150.00						150.00
Kingston Smith	12/01	12/02	Rome		150.00						150.00
Juan Lara	12/01	12/05	Berlin		682.00						682.00
Mike Brinck	12/01	12/05	Berlin		682.00						682.00
Kingston Smith	12/01	12/05	Berlin		682.00						682.00
Kimberly Ross	12/14	12/17	Rome		313.00						313.00
Brian Lawrence	12/14	12/17	Rome		313.00						313.00
Kimberly Ross	12/14	12/23	Paris		1,071.00						1,071.00
Brian Lawrence	12/14	12/23	Paris		1,071.00						1,071.00
Committee total					5,264.00						5,264.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HONORABLE BOB FILNER, Chairman, Feb. 10, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, THOMAS W. ROSS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 26 AND JAN. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Thomas W. Ross, Jr.	1/26	1/30	Kosovo		796.00		10,093.73				10,889.73
	1/30	1/31	Austria		361.00						361.00
Committee total					1,157.00		10,093.73				11,250.73

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

THOMAS W. ROSS, Jr., Feb. 9, 2009.