

protect a mouse in San Francisco. And that is just to name a few.

Taxpayers have had enough. Across our State and across this country, they are gathering together to voice their outrage. Inspired by our Nation's early patriots, thousands of taxpayers are gathering at hundreds of modern-day tea parties to protest Washington's wasteful spending, the Democrat-written stimulus package, the housing bailout, and President Obama's budget. A recent tea party in Greenville, South Carolina, attracted more than 2,000 participants, and a similar rally in Cincinnati drew more than 4,000 dissatisfied taxpayers.

I want to let the people know that I hear what they are saying, and, Madam Speaker, I am doing something about it. Today I am introducing the Taxpayer Empowerment and Advocacy Act, the TEA Act.

Over the next 5 years, the TEA Act will save taxpayers over one-half trillion dollars by reducing spending, restricting the growth of government, and strengthening the definition of emergency spending to close loopholes and prevent abuse.

Across South Carolina, around kitchen tables and behind the small business counters, individuals are making tough decisions about their budgets. But Congress has refused to do the same, and it is time for that to change. I believe the TEA Act is a start to setting Congress on a new, more accountable course, and to protect the taxpayers' best interest. Enough is enough.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and protecting the American taxpayer.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the Republicans are at it again. It would be funny if we weren't in such dire financial straits as the government is, thanks to a number of years of Republican rule.

During the Bush era, George Bush inherited a balanced budget, he inherited projections of a surplus for years to come, and paying down the debt of the United States substantially. Well, he went to work busily, and using restrictive legislative rules the Republicans passed massive tax cuts favoring the wealthiest of us. Those with estates over \$5 million, those who earn over \$250,000 a year got huge largess from the Republican Party.

Now, in a time of surplus, it didn't hurt too much. But then, George Bush launched an unnecessary war in Iraq and decided to pay for it off the books; i.e., he did not score it in the budget, and just every year declared it as an emergency as much as it might cost. So far, close to \$700 billion has been spent on George Bush's war in Iraq.

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Of course George Bush's tax cuts and his off-the-books spending and a mas-

sive expansion of government under total Republican rule, took us from a time of surplus to a time of massive deficits. George Bush set record after record with deficits during his Presidency, and he managed in 8 short years to double the debt that it had taken us more than 200 years to accumulate as a Nation. And the Republicans were all for it.

But now they would have us believe that their born-again fiscal conservatives, with a 19-page document with no specifics—and guess what it contains, this is how we are going to balance the budget, folks—more tax cuts for rich people. Oh, what a surprise. That will solve everything. They do have this cockamamie theory, and it is that if we give all of the money to the rich people, the rich people will go out and invest that money. When they invest that money, the little people will get jobs, and the little people will pay taxes because the rich people shouldn't. That is their budget, plain and simple.

Eliminate the estate tax. That would mean that if Bill Gates died tomorrow, and God forbid, I hope he is healthy and he won't, but if he did, the unrealized capital gains of his stock would then become nontaxable. No taxes would have ever been paid on that stock, passed on to his kids. If his kids invest it for a living under the Republican plan, they would earn capital gains and under their plan investors don't pay taxes. So you can have multi-generations of people accumulating more and more wealth who haven't paid a penny in taxes. But don't worry, the Republicans tell us, they will invest that money in America and put the little people to work. Well, no, maybe they will invest that money in China where labor is cheaper, or Mexico where labor is cheaper, or who knows where. Who knows how they will waste it. Who knows what new, speculative instruments they will come up with. Their so-called alternative would be funny if it wasn't so serious. But this is deadly serious.

President Obama is trying to dig us out of an incredibly deep hole and a very difficult time in the American economy. The radical deregulation of the Bush years and all of that wealth creation on Wall Street, which has now tanked, many people's pensions and their 401(k)s, it is killing jobs, we are trying to fix that, and we are trying to re-instill a sense of fiscal responsibility here in Washington, DC. It will not be easy. And particularly it won't be easy if the Republicans continue to play the clown on their side of the aisle and say eliminating taxes for rich people will solve all of the problems confronting the American people. Maybe it will provide them health care; I'm not sure how that works. Maybe it will help educate their kids in public schools; I don't quite get that part. Maybe it will rebuild our infrastructure; hmm, it won't do that, either. But it will make the rich richer, and that's all they are about.

DEMOCRATS REWRITING HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is very interesting to come and listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It is clear they are living the book "1984" by George Orwell because they are constantly rewriting history to suit their purposes. I want to say that if there is anybody out there who hasn't read "1984" by George Orwell, or hasn't read it in a long time, I strongly urge you to do so because we are obviously living through what Orwell predicted. We are just a few years later than he suggested it would be.

I love the attitude of my colleagues, too, who say we are going to give all of the money to the rich. It displays their approach to our country. Their attitude is that the government owns all of the money and if money is not taken from citizens, then it is being given to them by the government.

Our country is the greatest country in the world, founded on capitalism and founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs, and founded on the rule of law. The money doesn't belong to the government, it belongs to the hardworking people who earned it. I think that in a nutshell sums up their attitude: The government should be in charge of absolutely everything, and we are seeing that play out with the proposals coming out of this administration and out of this Congress. Again, they are doing their best to make excuses for it by rewriting history.

Our economy was doing very well under the Bush administration until January 2007 when the Democrats took control of the Congress. They like to ignore those 2 years they were in control of Congress and President Bush was still President. We had 55 straight months of job creation. Suddenly that ended in January 2007 when they took over. Gas prices started going up, and they reached their peak under this Democratically controlled Congress. And I think it is very, very important that people be reminded of that.

They have said that President Bush created the largest deficit in our Nation's history. That simply is not true, and it isn't true that President Obama has inherited the largest deficit in history. But we are going to do our best to straighten out that issue.

They also like to say that the Republicans have no alternatives to what the Democrats are proposing. That also is not true. We have always had alternatives. This session in particular we have brought forth very specific alternatives. Last week we presented a 16-page document primarily of principles. This week we are releasing our balanced budget resolution, and we will have a balanced budget and it does the kinds of things that the American people expect to be done. It will be balanced, unlike the Obama budget which puts us greater and greater into debt