

evaluations by issuing a certificate of authority to elevate Neumann College to university status.

The process of converting from a college to a university is lengthy and complicated, requiring the addition of full undergraduate studies in the arts and sciences, professional graduate programs, a doctoral program, and cultural programming open to the community. Neumann College's visionary and perseverant leaders, President Rosalie Miranda and Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Sister Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF, have worked tirelessly with the entire Neumann staff to make the conversion possible.

In addition to schools of business and nursing, Neumann offers a college of arts and sciences, as well as six graduate and two doctoral programs. What sets Neumann apart from other colleges and universities is its unparalleled ability to educate its students outside of the classroom through programs that sharpen social awareness and ethical concern, which I have observed myself.

As Dr. Miranda so eloquently writes of Neumann, "We will give you the opportunity to experience the reality that learning and living are one; that education is truly the combination of the intellect, the body, the heart, and the soul, and that education is about relationships, going deeper into your being to discover the special gift of yourself and all creation that surrounds you."

As part of its mission, Neumann University has a very strong minority recruitment program. Neumann works aggressively to see that a values-based private education is affordable to as many young men and women as possible. Neumann imbues each student with the notion that learning is a life-long process.

Achieving university status marks the culmination of a remarkable transformation for Neumann. It is a living testament of the decency, hard work, and absolute commitment of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, today I acknowledge the 8,327 living alumni, the 3,037 current students, and the 507 faculty and staff, board of trustees, and President Miranda especially on achieving their goal of advancing Neumann University as a recognized institution of higher education in the Catholic Franciscan tradition. I commend their dedication to making ours a better community, Nation, and world with so many better students and people.

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.)

REVISIONS TO THE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009 AND 2010 FOR THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

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

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, under section 423(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 13, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revised 302(a) allocation for the Committee on Appropriations for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010. Section 423(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 13 permits the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust discretionary spending limits for overseas deployments and other activities when these activities are so designated. Such a designation is included in H.R. 2346, a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes. A table is attached.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS—APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION

[In millions of dollars]

	BA	OT
Current allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,391,471	1,082,540
Fiscal Year 2010	1,220,843	1,269,745
Change for H. R. 2346 overseas deployment and other activities designation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	90,745	0
Fiscal Year 2010	24,989	34,888
Revised allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2009	1,482,216	1,082,540
Fiscal Year 2010	1,245,832	1,304,633

THE PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE  
FROM THE PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, let me welcome America and the rest of the world to the Progressive Caucus Special Order hour. We would like to call it "The Progressive Message."

And the Progressive message is something that the Progressive Caucus does every week to project a Progressive vision for America; not a reactionary vision, not a status quo vision, but a vision of America as we believe that it could be, can be, that all men and women are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The Progressive Caucus and the Progressive message, tonight, are here to come to bring a message to the people about where we are going, where we have been. And tonight's topic is "Why I'm a Progressive."

Why I'm a Progressive; here's why. We are going to talk about it tonight, and it's going to be good. And to help us get kicked off on this subject of why I am a Progressive, I want to yield to

the gentlelady from the great State of California, who is also one of our co-Chairs, LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I would like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota and the gentleman from Colorado for being here, and the gentlewoman is going to be here, too.

Mr. ELLISON. From the great State of Maine.

Ms. WOOLSEY. She just announced to us the great progressiveness of her family and her State. Believe me, I honor you. Thank you for being part of this.

Progressive liberal, liberal Progressive. I mean, how often have we been chastised for being liberals? So we changed the word to "progressive." It means exactly the same thing to me. I am proud if people call me a liberal, and I am proud to be a Progressive, because it is the same thing.

And what does that mean to all of us? What does it mean to me? Why do I want a label? Why do I care?

You know what? It's because I can count on Progressives, the people that I know to be Progressives, to put out their hand when somebody needs help, and that means here, as legislators, to know that our job is to work for those who have less, who maybe have come upon hard times and need a short-term lift. That's why I supported a welfare system that had a floor to it, that would actually help poor people so they didn't fall through the net.

And I am also going to say one more thing about being a Progressive. A Progressive, to me, knows that organized labor made the difference in this country in bringing a middle class to the United States of America, a class where families could work, could afford to buy their own home, could send their children to college and at the same time pay into their own retirement system so they could be independent when they retired, and, oh, what a concept, have health care.

So that's what Progressive values are to me and that's what being a Progressive is about, having the values, having the concerns, having the empathy for others and knowing that it isn't about us. We work for everybody in this country.

Mr. ELLISON. We have been here on the House floor together before, and at that time in the past you shared one of your own personal stories about what motivated you toward Progressive politics.

□ 1730

But leave it to say that the gentlelady from California, our co-Chair, LYNN WOOLSEY, came to Progressive politics not just because of something she read in the book, but because of the life that she lived that helped her understand what the importance of Progressive politics are all about.

I yield back to the gentlelady. Is that right?

Ms. WOOLSEY. That is absolutely true. But I have to tell you, when I was

a mom with my three little kids and my husband that eventually became mentally unbalanced but was very successful before we were 30 years old, I was the one in our group of friends that was arguing for other people.

So I have gone through going on welfare and taking care of my three children and all that. That just solidified for me. Thank heavens, I had that hand up. I certainly think that my job is to make sure others get the same advantage as I had.

But I was fighting for the underdog, for the person who needed help, and for the education of all, way back there when I was very comfortable.

Mr. ELLISON. The fact is that many of us come to our own conclusions about the need for shared prosperity, and some of us find that that helping hand that we would give others, sometimes we need it ourselves.

But, you know what? It's okay, because Progressive politics has a long, strong, proud history in the United States. Part of that history has been fighting for peace. And that fight goes on today.

I want to yield to the gentleman from Colorado, Representative POLIS, who has some views on that. How does Progressive politics inform you as you search for America as a more peaceful partner in the world?

I yield to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. POLIS. Thank you. I thank my colleague from Minnesota. Just today, hours ago in this very Chamber, we had a debate—not enough debate—but a debate about American military activities overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, and specifically around Congress's role in funding these efforts.

I was proud to cast my vote against the supplemental. I think we need to fundamentally rethink the militaristic aspects of our foreign expeditions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To me, what is a Progressive? It's somebody that questions the status quo. Who always asks, What can be better? Somebody who constantly seeks something closer for humanity to the state of perfection.

We know that it is patriotic to question authority rather than blindly follow authority. And that's an important distinction both in this Chamber as well as with one's friends when we're having discussions.

The most patriotic thing that we can do as Americans is ask ourselves these tough questions: Why are we occupying Iraq? Why are we occupying Afghanistan? Why are we putting our men and women in harm's way and causing many more casualties on the other side as well? What is our role ongoing in these countries?

Of course, Progressives want to protect America. Of course, we're concerned with the terrorist threat; of course, we want policies that protect our citizens and reduce the risk of terrorism here and abroad. But we question the conventional wisdom. Why

does attacking a country that had nothing to do with 9/11 reduce the risk of terrorism here?

Mr. ELLISON, do you think that that had any effect on terrorism here?

Mr. ELLISON. The gentleman has yielded to me. The attack on Iraq is the single worst decision any President of the United States has ever made. And I'm proud to say the Progressives stood up and voiced opposition to it. But not only that—Vietnam. Not only that, members of the Progressive community have stood up and questioned the very military buildup itself and the United States posture in the world.

You know, I'd like to share with the gentleman, if I may, and the gentlelady from Maine, that if you took every military budget in the entire world—I'm talking about Palau, Timor-Leste; I'm talking about places like Indonesia, Kenya, wherever—and you added them all up and you compared them to the United States military budget, ours would still be bigger.

We spend more money on military armaments than every other country in the world—and many of our military expenditures go to things that have absolutely positively nothing whatsoever to do with fighting terrorism. They're for fighting Russians—states that are confined within nonporous borders, state actors, not nonstate actors who are fluidly moving throughout the world.

So I toss it back to the gentleman from Colorado and yield to the gentleman from Colorado. Have Progressives stood up for peace? What do you think?

Mr. POLIS. I just have one more thing to add. A majority of Americans agree that Iraq was a mistake—invading Iraq was a mistake. It shows that Progressives were right at the time to question that war. And if you recall, as I do, at that time there were many people saying, Oh, you're against the war; you're un-American; you're unpatriotic. You're rolling over to the terrorists.

That war—and this is the majority consensus now, and you have mainstream groups across the ideological spectrum, you even hear this from the other side of the aisle, looking back, saying, If we knew what we knew today, we should not have invaded the country of Iraq.

Asking those tough questions, those critical questions, can be politically difficult at times. But it makes our country greater and it's how Progressive Americans across our country express their patriotism, by asking those questions that nobody else is asking, by not taking the wisdom from on high, be it from a Republican administration or a Democratic administration, that that's the way things are, but to use our own minds and rational thought to look at the information and look at it from an objective perspective and try to make our own opinion—not being pressured by outside groups or groups that might have an economic interest in a perpetual war, but rather

to form our own opinions and voice our dissent where appropriate.

Thank you for the time.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. Let's now introduce our freshman colleague from the great State of Maine, Representative PINGREE, who comes here with a long-term service of the people of the State of Maine, but who is going to focus on another aspect of what it means to be a Progressive.

There's the peace aspect, there's the question of domestic economic progressivity, but there's also this element of Progressive politics, which says individual liberty is very important.

Let me yield to the gentlelady because she made a very important 5-minute speech today, which we would ask her to elaborate on just a little bit. Let me yield to the gentlelady from Maine.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Thank you very much. Thank you to all of my colleagues here today. It's nice to have the opportunity to join the two of you.

I first want to say that I concur. It was an important day to cast the vote that many of us did to recognize that there are serious issues around Iraq and Afghanistan. In spite of many of us coming from States where we have a lot of people serving in the military, and I greatly respect their service and the importance that all of us see in taking care of those who serve their country, this was also an important day to talk about the essential nature of finding an end to the conflict and making sure that we send the President that message.

I thank you for giving me this chance to talk a little bit about what it means to be a Progressive. You're right, I was fortunate to be on the floor just a few moments before we started the Progressive Hour to recognize something that had gone on in my State in the past week.

Maine is now the fifth State in the Nation to recognize the equality of marriage that everyone, regardless of their gender, should have the right to marry. As we all know, this can often be a contentious and difficult debate.

Thousands of people literally turned out at a public hearing in Maine to discuss this topic. People from all walks of life; from all religious backgrounds; people who were married and who weren't married.

I very proudly quoted from my daughter today. My daughter happens to be the Speaker of the House in Maine—far more important than her mother—and she gave a very eloquent speech about the fact she was married only a couple of summers ago by a wonderful friend of our family. And during the conversation preparing for the wedding, it occurred to her that her good friend who was marrying her had been part of a couple for 30 years, but because he was the same gender as her partner, was not allowed to be married.

So the person who gave her good advice, who performed the ceremony, was able to remind her everyone should have this right. I believe fundamentally it should be a Federal right. We should be talking about this at some point in our tenure.

But I'm just so proud of my home State, my own Governor, the State legislators, many of them who thought long and hard about the best way to cast their vote, but in the end said, Our goal is to do the right thing.

I just want to follow up a little bit about some of the things that you were already talking about before I close my remarks, but really on this idea of what it is to be a Progressive because JARED rightfully said that it's sometimes about asking the questions, of searching a little bit further, of taking the tough votes. I also think it is a matter of recognizing that we're all in this together.

For me, getting into politics—and I was first elected to the State legislature in 1992—but I became a school board member in my community years before that. Part of what I learned along the way is that the reason we do this is to recognize that we're all in this together. That if we're not all succeeding together; if we don't have health care; if everyone doesn't have a job; if we're not thinking ahead about the security or everyone, whether you're a soldier or not a soldier, we're not going to get ahead in the world. We're not going to have the kind of world that we want to have.

To me, that is the fundamental of this—our overarching political philosophy is just recognizing that none of us get ahead unless we all do it together. For me, that's always a question when I make a decision, whether it's an economic decision or an issue of health care.

I have been a small business owner. I'm proud to say that I employ other people. But I want to make sure that they're treated well, that they get fair wages, that their health care is covered. I believe that's part of the fundamental of the responsibility that we share to each other in this country and in countries abroad.

For me, that's a fundamental principle, and I'm proud to share these moments with my colleagues from Minnesota and Colorado, where I know those are their fundamental values, as well as many others that they bring to the floor today.

Mr. ELLISON. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Absolutely.

Mr. ELLISON. Do you think that perhaps part of the Progressive tradition is this idea of individual liberty? There are certain things that we as Americans may not agree on, but we will agree that the decision rests with the individual.

I can't tell you, from Maine, how many children you should have, or whether you should have any. I can't tell you who to marry or who not to

marry. I can't tell you about these essential decisions that are like your business.

This is a very Progressive idea. Sometimes when you hear about the government getting off people's backs, you associate it with people who are on the "right" end of the political spectrum. But when it comes to many other decisions that are essential and private, these are Progressive values.

How does the gentlelady from Maine feel about this idea?

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Well, absolutely. Maine is an interesting State. We're about a third Republican, a third Democrat, and a third Independent, but pretty much everybody is independent there. I would say the overarching value that most people share is this idea that there is a right of privacy, of individual liberty; that I'm not going to interfere with your right to live your life in the way you choose as long as you respect my rights as well.

Because of that, even though we're economically quite disadvantaged in my State—it's about 38th in per capita income—people have worked hard to take care of each other, but also to somewhat leave each other alone. We have a lot of independent fishermen and farmers and people who make a living in a variety of ways, and most of them would say, Just preserve my independence and individual liberty and, while you're at it, can you make sure we get health care coverage.

But I think it's because people see those as values that should be shared, that come together.

Mr. ELLISON. If I can turn to the gentleman from Colorado. The gentlelady from Maine makes an interesting point. Part of the Progressive vision is doing things together which we should and could do together, and doing things separately, then maybe we get to make that call on our own. Maybe we should make sure that all Americans have health care, that everyone is safe, that women don't have to live in a home where they fear battering, and that we have a criminal justice system that protects them from that.

But maybe on certain other decisions like marriage or other things, that's just your business and we let people make decisions for themselves on that. How does the gentleman feel about this issue?

Mr. POLIS. If only those who object most vociferously to the government taking a dollar from my wallet to care for my brother and sister in this country would also object to the government appearing at the bedroom door, telling me who to marry, telling a woman whether or not to make the difficult decision to terminate her pregnancy. It is in fact somewhat hypocritical that while there seems to be a lot of care for the material aspects of freedom, there doesn't seem to be as much concern that I hear voiced for the equally, if not more important, personal aspects of freedom.

Truly, each individual is more important than the sum of their assets or a

little entry on a ledger book. That might be a part of who you are—a very small part—but that's how you put food on the table and how you live, but there's a lot more to everybody. And when we as Progressives are talking about freedom, we're talking about the rest of the realm of our lives; those important everyday decisions in how you live.

And no, government shouldn't be telling people who to marry or whether or not to end a pregnancy or whether or not to use a certain kind of research that could save lives. No one is forced to engage in that research; no one is forced to even terminate a pregnancy; no one is forced to marry a gay person. But the question is: Should you have the right to do it if you wanted? And I think as Progressives, our answer is an unabashed yes.

Mr. ELLISON. If the gentleman would yield, when it comes to this issue of marriage equality, I always say to people that it's not mandatory. It's up to the individual. What about individual liberty?

I just want to ask the two Members with me today, the gentleman from Colorado, the gentlelady from Maine, to just review with me, if you would, some of these things that I believe were Progressive in nature.

□ 1745

When it comes to this issue of the American Revolution, I think it was progressive. Yes, America was a slaveholding country. Yes, women didn't have equal rights. And, yes, there were a lot of problems. But if you look in that day and in that time for the American colonialists to say we are not going to ruled by a king and we are going to choose our leaders, that was a progressive step forward.

We may look at that time and say there were problems, people didn't overcome a lot of social injustices. But if we look at it for what it was, individual citizens saying I don't want a king making up my mind for me, I want to cast a vote and select my own leaders, that, I believe, was a progressive step forward.

The Bill of Rights I think was progressive. Think about the first one: No government religious institution, everyone practices their own religion as they choose; the establishment clause; right to freedom of the press; right to assembly; right to redress grievances. It was a progressive step forward.

Universal white male suffrage. Of course, not all Americans got the right to vote at the same time, but there was a time when being a white male was not good enough to get you a ballot. You had to have some property. You could not be Catholic, you had to be a white male Protestant property owner. So when America said the property thing and the religious thing, those don't apply any more. Of course we would have liked to have more people get the franchise, but a lot of people got it.

Public education; emancipation of the slaves; national park system; food safety; break up of monopolies; anti-trust legislation—progressive. The Homestead Act. Land grant universities so that all Americans could really enjoy a university education.

What about this one, I would like to ask the gentlelady from Maine, what about rural electrification, was that a progressive step forward for America?

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Absolutely. I am glad you put this list forward today. I think it is an excellent collection of those things that we have done collectively to make sure that we are all better off.

Rural electrification was a very progressive idea. The idea that for economic development, for everyone to succeed, for people to have better opportunities, we all needed to be connected to each other.

I think one of the things that this underscores about Progressive values is the idea that you need to choose those things that will really benefit everybody. We all recognize we can't do everything. People sometimes accuse us of expecting government to do everything. We don't want to do that, and we don't want government to meddle in everything. But this is a very good list of those things that have benefited the greatest amount of people. And coming from a rural State, I know the importance of rural electrification.

In fact, I happen to live in a community that is about to construct a major wind tower, benefiting us as we look into the future, and we are still able to do that because of the organization that is there around rural electrification.

Mr. ELLISON. Would the gentlelady talk for a moment about the corollary of rural electrification and extending broadband access to all of America?

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Absolutely. Again, representing a rural State, most people don't know, but Maine happens to be the most rural State in the Nation. Most of us live in small communities without access to cable, and the kinds of things that many other people have. Broadband has become essential for communication, education, and running a small business. Any kind of business, you need to be able to connect to people on the Net.

I personally run a business, and people wouldn't be able to find us if it wasn't for the Internet. But the fact is that many small communities don't have this. This is one of the reasons that this was part of the stimulus package that many of us supported and voted for because we believed it would help communities move ahead. Sometimes it is an inner-city neighborhood, and sometimes it is a distant neighborhood that needs that access to broadband. I think there is a correlation between what went on with the REA and rural electrification and what we are trying to do today to make sure that everybody in America has access to high-speed Internet. It is funda-

mental for education and now for medicine. We have many doctors who are able to diagnose at a distance in those communities that can't have a full-time doctor or the kinds of medical specialties that they need.

But people want to live and work in those communities. It is a great part of the American tradition. Whether you are a fisherman or a farmer, we want to continue that. It is a very important part of why we need to expand broadband.

Mr. ELLISON. I think it is a Progressive value because it says, look, we know Americans who live in rural America like living there. They grow the crops and they enjoy that life. But if there is no economy out there, then it is difficult to live out there and you see young people moving into the city, not necessarily because they want to but because they feel that they have to.

This rural electrification in one generation, broadband access in another, represents our shared commitment to each other to live our lives as we would choose.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Absolutely. People would say fundamentally, it was a part of America to expand west and be in rural areas. Many people choose the environment of rural America. But, frankly, we are dependent on those people who choose to grow our food, harvest our fish. Many in my State harvest the trees that make our paper and make our furniture. These are people with solid American values. Kids have wonderful schools to attend, and feel safe in their communities. We want to have more people who can have the opportunity to live there.

One of the biggest issues in my State is, How am I going to make a living and support myself? I think it is an important Progressive value to say what exactly does government need to do. We know we need to have security and roads. Maybe a high-speed train. You need to have health care available to you so you can feel comfortable and secure. But you also need broadband access. It is a very important thing.

Mr. ELLISON. Moving down the list, women's suffrage, 1920. It is important for Americans to know that women could not always vote in America. It was progressive women, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and others who stood up and fought. It was Sojourner Truth and a man by the name of Frederick Douglass fighting for women's right to vote. And it was women in the West who made the claim, we are already voting. You may not have a constitutional right to do it, but we do it in our State, and they helped lead the way.

But what about the abolition of child labor, the 8-hour workday? Pretty progressive. We all hope we can do that. Minimum wage, Social Security, civil rights for minorities and women, voting rights for minorities and the poor. Cleaning up our air, water, toxic dump sights, consumer product safety and Medicare.

Today, I ask the gentlelady from Maine, are we done? Has the Progressive agenda been completed? Do we have more work to do?

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. We are both standing here and many of our colleagues are here, many who wouldn't necessarily call themselves Progressive, but they are here because they want to pass more legislation that will foster our Progressive values.

That is a wonderful list that looks at issues that people struggle with in the economy. But the fact is, I would say that one of the number one concerns of people in America today is to have access to health care and have it be affordable. I think that needs to be added to that list. I think many of us won't rest until it is done.

Many Members in this Chamber hear from their constituents every day. Do something about health care. I am thrilled that we passed a budget with \$630 billion in it for health care, but we have a lot of work to do to actually design the system and make sure that it is available to everybody, whether you are running a small business or you are an individual who has no coverage, or struggles with coverage that has such a big deductible it doesn't provide you with the care you need when you are sick.

Mr. ELLISON. Yes, we have a great progressive history, but we have a tall order to do. We have to get health care to all Americans. We have to make sure that we have a green renewable future so we can live in harmony with the planet. The planet is going to keep on turning. Whether we can continue to survive on it is another question.

I am happy that in the 110th and 111th Congress, we were able to pass legislation like the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which is an important step forward for people to bring pay equity lawsuits when they were victims of gender discrimination on the job.

We were able to pass the children's health insurance program, not health care for all, but health care for children, a very important bill.

We were able to pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which is a law that says, Look, you can have your value system as to how you feel about different sets of Americans, but you better not harm them. They are within the protection of the law. They have a right. People like Matthew Shepard will not be harmed. The rest of us will not tolerate it, and that is how we express our values for all human beings.

And as you pointed out the, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the so-called stimulus act which gave a tax cut to middle-class Americans. Progressives aren't against tax cuts; we are just against tax cuts for only the rich people. We believe that working people ought to get a break sometimes, too.

So these kinds of things are things that we are fighting on. This may be the history, but we have a tall agenda

for the future that we want all Americans to partake of.

I want to say briefly that to be a Progressive is to be one who believes, yes we have our individual rights, but we also have things that we proudly share together, like our safety and clean water and like our environmental legal regime.

But on the other side, what a Progressive is not, what a Progressive is not is somebody who basically operates on the basis of fear-based politics. We boldly say we can do this new thing together. We are not afraid to embrace the future. But there is a set of politics that says be afraid, be very afraid. The Russians or somebody is going to get you, and you have to be afraid. You can't share with anybody. You just have to look out for yourself. That is a set of political ideas that is prevalent around here, too; and those ideas are not the ones that made America great. The ones that made America great are the ones listed on this board and the ones that we are talking about now.

I yield to Ms. PINGREE for your final comments.

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. You have said almost everything that needs to be said. You have a great chart. In talking about some of the proud things in progressive history, I want to emphasize that virtually everything on that list is where people have said, We are all in this together. What do we need to take care of the basic fundamentals in this world so that we can prosper, so we can be safe and healthy and have a sense of security? That is what we are dedicated to.

I know those are the commonsense values of people in my State, people of vastly different political perspectives and economic perspectives who say, Look, unless we are all in this together—we have to move forward together or we are not going to get anywhere.

As you mentioned, we have a tall order in front of us. We have done a lot in the few months we have been here. And I feel proud as a freshman to have come at this moment in time when we have a President who cares so deeply about our relations around the world, economic justice for people and health care. It is a great moment to be here, but it is certainly a difficult task. Many, many people are struggling in this economy. States like mine are having a hard time balancing their budget and getting ahead. We have a lot of work here to do. I have been pleased to be here tonight, and look forward to many other dialogues like this in the future as we accomplish many of our goals.

Mr. ELLISON. As I just wrap up, this is the Progressive message. We have had Members, including Congresswoman WOOLSEY, Congressman POLIS, and Congresswoman PINGREE, talk about why I am a Progressive, giving their personal testimony and giving their own ideas and values about this critical subject.

We also want folks to be able to check in on the Website right here: <http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov>. Very important for people who are watching to check in and check out the Progressive Caucus agenda. It is very important. The Progressive Caucus is a moral force within the Congress bringing America to its better half.

I agree with Congresswoman PINGREE, who pointed out that all of these things on this list are things where people said, Look, let's embrace our common life, our shared life. But these are all things, and I think that Congresswoman PINGREE would agree with me, that before they were passed, people said it can't be done. They said this is something that we shouldn't do. But you know what? All of these things were done, and we are all as Americans much better off for it.

Let me also wrap up by saying that it was the words of President Barack Obama, who said in his first address to Congress, "I reject the view that says our problems will simply take care of themselves, that government has no role in laying the foundation of our common prosperity." That rejected view, I submit, is a conservative view because government does have an important role to play in our common prosperity, and our problems will not simply take care of themselves.

□ 1800

President Obama went on to say, "For history tells a different story. History reminds us that at every moment of economic upheaval and transformation, this Nation has responded with bold action and big ideas." I quite agree with the President on this point.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL NOMINEE DAWN JOHNSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate being recognized and having the privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

One of the things that I am able to receive as I come down here and prepare for my hour here is an opportunity to listen to my colleagues and sometimes an opportunity to get an education. And if one listens carefully, Madam Speaker, there is a lot to be learned in this Congress. In fact, I believe that this is the most amazing educational experience that one could ask for.

We are the center of information here in many ways. Washington, DC, is a magnet for information. And as Members, we have staff and committee people that gather that information at our request and give it to us in a means by which we can understand it, process it, and utilize it.

In this information age that we have, this electronic era that we have, the Internet is full of information. The Library of Congress is full of information. There are all kinds of links out there; many of them are very credible, some of them are not very credible. So we sort through, and we are always looking at what is the original source. How do you document the credibility? Well, you figure out who the person was that wrote it and their measure of credibility.

So as I come to the floor and listen tonight, I am rather amazed at what I've learned. I saw this long list of successes of the Progressives. And I've lived through a fair amount of history by now, Madam Speaker, and I've studied a lot of history by now, and I had never equated the Revolutionary War to Progressives. That's a new thing to me. That's a revolution to me. It's a revelation to me that it was the Progressive group that decided that we should throw off the yolk of King George and grasp our freedom.

It seems to me that it was the Founding Fathers and those who shaped this Nation who put down in the document of the Declaration of Independence—that inspirational document—that our rights come from God and that those rights that flow from God into man are granted willingly to the people. That's a structure that—I guess you could call it progressive, but I haven't heard anybody on this side of the aisle that calls themselves Progressive stand up and say that their rights come from God or that there are natural rights and there is a natural order of things and it's ordered by the Master of the universe. That's what our Founding Fathers believed. That was the inspiration that shaped America. It was the inspiration that brought about the Declaration, and it was the inspiration that caused the perseverance that allowed the United States to prevail over the British in the Revolutionary War.

The Nation was forged on those fundamental values that haven't been openly rejected by the Progressives, but neither have they been embraced by the Progressive Caucus. But almost night after night I hear these things. The American Revolution, a success of the Progressives. That's a new one. I had not heard that one before.

The emancipation of the slaves. Well, that's an idea that is related to change. The institution of slavery had existed for thousands of years. But I didn't know that Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionists were considered to be Progressives. I thought they were, Madam Speaker, Republicans. In fact, I'm sure they were Republicans. I have no doubt about it.

The history of my family and the history of my understanding of the Republican Party is it was forged in order to abolish slavery. That's why they came about. That's why they formed together and nominated Abraham Lincoln because he was the abolitionist