

construction company. We had our ups and downs. I know what it's like to live with a knot in my gut for 3½ years, to hold the company together. And we succeeded. Others around me did not. Some people got drug down and the load was heavy. And others succeeded significantly beyond a level where I did; and I'm glad that everybody had the opportunity to do that. And if the government comes in and then appoints an overseer, which is what the Barney Frank Financial Services bill does, and they go in and look at capital investments and business management and they decide who's going to make how much money with another regulator for our financial institutions, we have given up a big piece of our liberty, a big piece of our freedom.

But what we're focused on, Mr. Speaker, we're focused on this week, this national health care act, this socialized medicine act that barely passed out of the House of Representatives, that is down there now being debated in the United States Senate, and the issues as set before the Senate seem to be a couple of big ones:

One of them is the pro-life amendment. Here it was the Stupak amendment where 64 Democrats had the opportunity to vote, to put up a pro-life vote that they didn't believe that the taxpayers of America should be compelled to fund abortions through money that is extracted from them unwillingly. So, therefore, the Stupak amendment came up, and 64 Democrats voted for it. Sixty-four Democrats and, I believe, every Republican are on record saying I am pro-life and I don't believe, or at least we should not compel American taxpayers to fund abortion when they're funding a socialized medicine program. That was what the Stupak amendment actually was. Even though it made exceptions for rape and incest, even though it doesn't fit with the tenets of the Catholic Church, it was a subject that was raised and pushed through here.

Now with the Stupak amendment passing, now these 64 Democrats have cover. Now if a bill comes back down this hallway through the center of the Capitol, it's had that language, not necessarily stripped out. When Senator BEN NELSON offered similar and some said identical language to the Stupak pro-life amendment, it was defeated in the Senate. And so the Senate bill doesn't have a pro-life amendment in it. And if it comes back to this House, we will see, I think, a conference committee that is appointed and stacked by Speaker PELOSI and HARRY REID and I think they are likely to strip the Stupak amendment out and drop it back in here to the House; and what I think will happen will be some of those 64 Democrats that said, I'm pro-life, here's my vote for the Stupak amendment, I think they'll roll over and they'll say, I voted for the Stupak amendment, but on balance I think this bill is good, even though we're going to compel Americans to fund

abortions in the United States. That's what they're set up to do and that's the dynamics; and we need people in the Senate to kill this bill, so that this scenario doesn't play out here in the House.

Another piece is this public option, the public option that seems to be, or the government option that seems to be rejected by the Senate, but the liberals in the House insist that there be a government health care option; so they're trying to configure a way that they can define something that isn't necessarily a government option that can come to conference and be merged together. And right now the staff in the House and the staff in the Senate are merging these two bills, trying to get ready to drop something on and give America a Christmas that will be the least merry of anything in my lifetime. It will be something that dramatically erodes the liberty in America.

But those are the two big issues: Is it going to be a pro-life bill? And is it going to have in it a government option? I suggest that they will put together and construct a scenario by which they will be trying to compel taxpayers to fund abortions and compel taxpayers to buy government insurance because, as the gentleman from Texas said, it is about ideology, it's not about policy, it's not about producing the best result because if they did that, if they were for that, they would be for reforming medical malpractice abuse in America, lawsuit abuse reform, they would be for selling insurance across State lines, providing full deductibility for everybody's health insurance, transparency in billing.

The list of things that we can do that are constructive, that don't cost money, is long indeed. But tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, and every day this week until somebody loses their nerve, the United States Senate needs to be jammed, it needs to be filled up with people that come here respectfully and politely and follow the rules and follow the law. But give the Senators and their staff in Washington, D.C., in their district offices at home and their offices here a personal experience. It needs to happen this way, Mr. Speaker—the American people need to let these Senators know that there will be a reckoning if their liberty is taken from them and this socialized medicine bill is imposed upon them. I don't want to see it, I don't want to see it for my children, I don't want to see it for my grandchildren. I don't want to see it for America's destiny. I don't want to see America's destiny, the vitality of America's destiny stripped away piece by piece as we leap off the abyss into socialism and embrace the European version of a social democracy and more, a managed economy, managed health care, very limited freedom. The only budget that they didn't grow was the Department of Defense budget. Everything else has to have a 10 percent or more up. The idea that you can borrow from your grandchildren that have

not yet been born and compel them to pay debts today and spend money without any sense of responsibility, believing that that grows the economy, when we've established that even the Secretary of the Treasury believes that free enterprise capitalism is what brought this economy to the brink of ruin.

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Mr. Speaker, we need new people with clear thought and a respect for America and the strength of America. We need the right people in charge in this country, because, as I have often said, you don't take a poodle to a coon hunt. You want to take a registered coonhound along. He's got it in his blood, he understands it. You can train a poodle to bark treed, but his heart's not in it. These people won't even bark treed, and we need the right people in charge. And tomorrow we're going to see the American people step up to this Capitol, and they're going to demand that we preserve their liberty.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your attention, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3288. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4165. An act to extend through December 31, 2010, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H.R. 4217. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4218. An act to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to prohibit retroactive payments to individuals during periods for which such individuals are prisoners, fugitive felons, and probation or parole violators.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3 p.m. on December 15.

Mrs. BONO MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. WOLF (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a dental emergency.