

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, let me say to my colleague from Massachusetts that he and I came in together. Back in 1988, we were both elected, and he and I served in the same class together. As I recollect, he was mayor of Springfield.

You balanced your budget as mayor. You had to balance your budget. Now, we've been up here trying to balance the budget, you and I, for almost 21 years. It has not been successful. I supported a balanced budget—both a constitutional amendment as well as a legislative balanced budget. I don't believe you or your colleagues did. I say this because, frankly, we have been talking about deficit as long as you and I have been in Congress. We can blame Republicans. We can blame Democrats, but let's just look at the record for a second.

When you and I came in under Bush I, do you remember those deficits? They talked about \$250 billion, and we just lamented about it and lamented about it, and we complained about it. Well, you know, that's what happened. It has exploded. So now we're looking at deficits that are a lot larger, as my colleague mentioned, \$1.4 trillion.

When you look at Bush II, George W. Bush, he had deficits of \$600 billion. I remember the folks on that side were complaining about how terrible that was at \$600 billion.

Well, the problem is now we're talking almost two, three times that amount of money. Actually, when you go back and look at when Ronald Reagan was President, critics called great criticism to him. They said the deficit was out of control in this country. The deficits were about \$250 billion. So the point I am trying to make is that the deficit under Republican Presidents and even under Republican control of the House and the Senate and the White House was small, very small, to what we have today.

You can say that there is good reason for this vote today because you support our troops and our wars, and you also support veterans. I think that's true. Yet there has been no effort by your side to hold the appropriations bill.

I have been on the House floor, and I say to my colleague, your appropriations bills are 13 percent larger than last year's. Almost every one of them was 13, 18—One was almost 20 percent. How in the world can you justify appropriations bills that are so large?

So in the end, Democrats are not trying to reduce costs nor balance the budget. In fact, they are recklessly encouraging more government spending. That is why they need to increase the debt ceiling.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. STEARNS is, indeed, my friend, and we are classmates.

Madam Speaker, he conveniently left out those 4 years when Bill Clinton left a balanced budget to America, when the deficits were eliminated and when the debt was coming down. That's the key consideration here as we begin this debate. Indeed, this is about paying for our veterans' hospitals, paying for the war in Iraq, paying for the war in Afghanistan, and making sure that those Social Security checks get out on January 1.

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nevada controls 8½ minutes, and the gentleman from Massachusetts controls 5¾ minutes.

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the Republican policy Chair, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER).

Mr. McCOTTER. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, a quick point that was raised by our esteemed colleague from Massachusetts about how President Clinton left 4 years of balanced budgets: It was with the assistance of a Republican majority in the Congress, which is an exceptional precedent, you'll remember, as we head to the polls in 2010.

As we address this issue of raising the debt ceiling, let us be charitable in this, the giving season. Let us recall that, as the Democratic Party's argument today is "the same but more," let us look at what they have tried to give the American people over the course of the past year for stocking stuffers.

First, Americans got higher unemployment, higher spending, higher deficits, and higher taxes.

Secondly, senior citizens got a \$500 billion cut in Medicare. Terrorists got new rights, new trials, and new cells on American soil, and Federal Government bureaucrats got raises.

I think that we should question our priorities and the direction in which we are taking ourselves before we decide to spend more money on this. It strikes me that it is very justifiable for the American people to watch this debate, to watch the debt ceiling be raised, and to come to the distinct conclusion that the Democratic majority in Congress has proven itself too costly and too crazy too quickly.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I am a freshman in this body. I didn't help create this mess, but I am here to help clean it up. The fact of the matter is we have to spend less than we are spending now. We have to be responsible stewards of the American people's money.

We are \$12 trillion in debt. Remember, if you spend \$1 million a day every

day, it would take you nearly 3,000 years just to get to \$1 trillion, and we are \$12 trillion in debt. When is this body going to say no?

This body is not making difficult decisions. I am sorry, but the Democrats in control have refused to find a solution to things that don't cost literally hundreds of billions of dollars every time we turn around. We can't be all things to all people. We have to learn to say "no." At what point will there actually be a cap? At what point will there actually be a ceiling? We see no hope on the horizon for that.

We have got to be responsible stewards of the American people's money. We cannot be all things to all people. We are spending nearly \$600 million a day just in interest on our debt.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4314.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

#### CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 7 of rule XX, I move a call of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question being ordered, the Chair notes the absence of a quorum in accord with clause 7(c) of rule XX and chooses to entertain a motion for a call of the House pursuant to clause 7(b) of rule XX.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 987]

Abercrombie	Bonner	Castle
Ackerman	Bono Mack	Castor (FL)
Aderholt	Boozman	Chaffetz
Adler (NJ)	Boren	Chandler
Akin	Boswell	Childers
Alexander	Boucher	Chu
Altmire	Boustany	Clarke
Andrews	Boyd	Cleaver
Arcuri	Brady (PA)	Clyburn
Austria	Brady (TX)	Coble
Baca	Braley (IA)	Coffman (CO)
Bachmann	Bright	Cohen
Bachus	Broun (GA)	Cole
Baird	Brown (SC)	Conaway
Baldwin	Brown-Waite,	Connolly (VA)
Barrett (SC)	Ginny	Conyers
Barrow	Buchanan	Cooper
Bartlett	Burgess	Costello
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Courtney
Bean	Butterfield	Crenshaw
Becerra	Buyer	Crowley
Berkley	Calvert	Cuellar
Berman	Camp	Culberson
Berry	Campbell	Cummings
Biggert	Cantor	Dahlkemper
Bilbray	Cao	Davis (AL)
Bilirakis	Capito	Davis (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Capps	Davis (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Capuano	Davis (KY)
Bishop (UT)	Cardoza	Davis (TN)
Blackburn	Carnahan	Deal (GA)
Blumenauer	Carney	DeFazio
Blunt	Carson (IN)	DeGette
Bocchieri	Carter	Delahunt
Boehner	Cassidy	DeLauro

Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Doggett  
Donnelly (IN)  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Driehaus  
Duncan  
Edwards (MD)  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emerson  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Fallin  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Flake  
Fleming  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foxx  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gallegly  
Garamendi  
Garrett (NJ)  
Gerlach  
Giffords  
Gingrey (GA)  
Gonzalez  
Goodlatte  
Gordon (TN)  
Granger  
Graves  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Guthrie  
Gutierrez  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Halvorson  
Hare  
Harper  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Heinrich  
Heller  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herseth Sandlin  
Higgins  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hodes  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Hunter  
Inglis  
Inlee  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jenkins  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones  
Jordan (OH)  
Kagen  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick (MI)  
Kilroy  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston

Kirk  
Kirkpatrick (AZ)  
Kissell  
Klein (FL)  
Kline (MN)  
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Lamborn  
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Larsen (WA)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Latta  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NY)  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luján  
Lummis  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Mack  
Maffei  
Manzullo  
Marchant  
Markey (CO)  
Markey (MA)  
Marshall  
Massa  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCotter  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McMahon  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Melancon  
Mica  
Michaud  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Minnick  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (KS)  
Murphy (CT)  
Murphy (NY)  
Murphy, Patrick  
Murphy, Tim  
Myrick  
Nadler (NY)  
Napolitano  
Neal (MA)  
Neugebauer  
Nunes  
Nye  
Oberstar  
Olson  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pascarella  
Pastor (AZ)  
Paul  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perriello

Peters  
Peterson  
Petri  
Pingree (ME)  
Posey  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe (TX)  
Polis (CO)  
Pomeroy  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Putnam  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Reyes  
Richardson  
Rodriguez  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Rooney  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Salazar  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schauer  
Schiff  
Schmidt  
Schock  
Schroeder  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Sestak  
Shadegg  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sires  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Space  
Spratt  
Stearns  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tanner  
Taylor  
Teague  
Terry  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
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Tierney  
Titus  
Tonko  
Towns  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walz

Wamp  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Welch  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (OH)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Yarmuth  
Young (AK)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the call). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1548

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 415 Members have recorded their presence. A quorum is present.

## PERMITTING CONTINUED FINANCING OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the Republican leader, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. My colleagues, there's been a lot of lecturing on the House floor today from my Democrat colleagues about fiscal responsibility. And I heard a lot of about fiscal responsibility in 2005 and 2006 when the then-minority wanted to take the majority.

I think it's time for everyone in this room to take their fair share of blame for the spending that's gone on in this town for far too long. For 36 of the last 40 years, we've spent more than what we've taken in. There's not a household in America that could get by with this. There's not a company in America that could get by with it. And certainly, this government can't get by with it.

For the last 3 years, the Democrat majority, though, after having run on this mantra of fiscal responsibility, has done nothing more than spend, spend, spend and spend. Now, we did our best in 2007 and 2008 to put the brakes on all that spending, and succeeded somewhat. But after this year, for you to criticize us about fiscal responsibility and to lecture us about fiscal responsibility after spending \$1 trillion on a stimulus bill that was supposed to be about creating jobs, and what have we done? We've created more unemployment. We've not put anyone back to work. And we're asking our kids and grandkids to pay \$1 trillion in principal and interest for a bill that's not doing anything other than increasing spending.

But what makes this bill that's on the floor here today to increase the debt limit by \$290 billion a real joke is that as soon as this vote is over, we're going to take up Stimulus II or, as we like to call it, Son of Stimulus. We're going to take up Son of Stimulus, which is going to spend \$150 billion on the same kind of failed spending programs that we passed earlier this year.

And what are we going to do? We're going to use that TARP money that those banks and those financial institutions have paid back. Well, where'd that money come from? We had to go borrow it. Everybody knows, everybody that voted for or against TARP in this Chamber, knows that money was intended to go to pay down the deficit. And to take that \$150 billion and spend it on more wasteful Washington spending is putting it right on the backs of our kids and grandkids. That's going to happen right after this vote.

Who are we kidding? We're not kidding anybody. I just think it's time to put the brakes on all of it. Let's get really serious about cutting spending. And the way we start is by saying no to increasing the debt limit.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, let me recognize for 1 minute the Majority Leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), a voice for fiscal reason in this institution.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

A little over a year ago, Mr. BOEHNER and I spoke on a bill that I said would be noted as a day of consequence in the House of Representatives. That bill was to, at the request of President Bush and Secretary Paulson and Ben Bernanke, give some \$700 billion to the Treasury to try to stabilize the financial sector of our economy. Mr. BOEHNER voted for that. My friend, Mr. BLUNT, voted for that. I believe Mr. CANTOR voted for that. Others of you voted for that. And many on our side voted for that bill. It failed.

And we came back here a few days later, on Friday, and that bill was called up again. It was called up again because we knew that there really wasn't an option. Mr. Bernanke, President Bush's appointee as Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said that we were at risk of going into a depression if we did not vote for that bill. Nobody wanted to vote for that bill on either side of the aisle. That was a bill that we ultimately concluded on that Friday, approximately half of the Republican side of the aisle, a little more than half on my side of the aisle, was a bill that we needed to pass to avoid the risk of depression.

Since that time, over the next 4 months, we saw an erosion in the economy, not a depression, but the worst recession we had seen in 8 years. Now I have a speech here that we've prepared. I'm not going to give it because it, to some degree, points the finger at one another. And I agree with Mr. BOEHNER. There's blame to go around. We have been concerned about cutting revenues and increasing spending during the first part of this decade. You have been concerned about the spending that we believed was necessary to make to try to create jobs and bring our economy back.

Mr. BOEHNER and I disagree on the impact of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Since its passage, the stock market has gone from 6,500 to 10,500.