

the new health care bill will alone create 159 new bureaucratic entities and it is exempt from the President's proposed regulatory reforms. The health care bill, which will create 159 new bureaucratic entities, is exempt from the President's proposed regulatory reforms. This is bad news for small business that was already struggling to get by in a down economy and which is now grappling with how to afford all the new mandates in the new health care bill.

The President has talked about streamlining and reducing the burden of government. Yet the health care bill he has signed is already increasing the cost of care and forcing people out of their existing coverage. The debate over this bill continues and the President and Democrats in Congress continue to defend it. But when nearly two-thirds of doctors surveyed predicted it will make health care in America worse, Americans are right to be concerned. It should tell us something that of the 19 doctors currently in Congress, 18 of them support repeal of the health care bill.

The President has talked about the need to cut spending and reduce the debt. Yet over the last 2 years his policies have added more than \$3 trillion to the national debt, much of it through a stimulus that promised to keep unemployment—now hovering just below double digits—from rising above 8 percent. And now we hear that he plans to stick with the same failed approach of economic growth through even more government spending with a call for “investments” in education, infrastructure, research, and renewable energy.

We have seen before what Democrats in Washington mean by investments. In promoting the failed stimulus, the President referred to that too as an investment in our Nation's future. Fourteen times alone during his signing statement he referred to the stimulus bill's investments. We all know how that turned out.

The first stimulus, we were told, would include critical so-called investments in education, infrastructure, scientific research, and renewable energy—the same areas we are told he will focus on tonight. Only later did we learn that some of these critical investments included things such as repairs on tennis courts, a study on the mating decisions of cactus bugs, hundreds of thousands of dollars for a plant database, and a \$535 million loan to a California solar panel maker which, instead of hiring 1,000 new workers as planned, just laid off 175 instead.

This is what happens when the government decides to pick winners and losers without considering what the marketplace wants. Competitors are left out in the cold, employees get a false sense of security, and taxpayers are left holding the bag. Unfortunately, the President does not seem to have learned this lesson quite yet. But tax-

payers now know that when Democrats talk about investments they should grab their wallets.

So I am all for the President changing his tune, but unless he has a time machine, he cannot change his record. If we are going to make any real progress in the areas of spending, debt, and reining in government, the President will have to acknowledge that the policies of the past 2 years are not only largely to blame for the situation we find ourselves in, but that unless we do something to reverse their ill effects, the road to recovery and prosperity will be a bumpy one.

The President has spoken in the tones of a moderate many times. He did so in his campaign. He has done so in countless speeches. He has a knack for it. I have no doubt he will do so again tonight. But speeches only last for as long as they are delivered. Americans are more interested in what follows the speech and, in the case of this administration, Americans have good reason to be skeptical. Time and time again the President has spoken in a way that appeals to many, then governed in a way that does not. My hope is he will leave that method aside. A better path, in my view, is the one Republicans have been proposing for 2 years, one that respects both the wishes of the public and the two-party system.

Last year, prior to the President's State of the Union, I proposed a number of areas where I thought the two parties could find common ground and work together to help the economy. The President ignored just about everything I proposed. So when the pundits ask whether there are areas where the two parties could come together, I would say yes, I have proposed several of them, but the Democrats don't seem to be interested. Some have suggested that in this new post-election environment I might find a more receptive audience. So in the spirit of bipartisanship, I wish to propose once again a few areas where I believe the two parties can work together in the weeks and months ahead.

I believe the parties can and should work together on energy initiatives that expand America's domestic energy supply and make us less reliant on foreign sources; on expanding exports and creating jobs through free trade agreements with Panama, Colombia, and South Korea; and on reforming corporate taxes so American businesses are more competitive in an increasingly global marketplace. These are just a few of the things we can do beyond the symbolic gestures and the posturing to help the economy.

Beyond that, we must work to cut spending and to rein in the size and scope and cost of government. The voters have been crystal clear on this point. By proposing more government spending tonight, the President is not only defying their will, he is refusing to learn the clear lesson of the failed stimulus—government may create debt but it doesn't create jobs.

I think we have a lot of work to do in bringing the two parties together in a program that will actually address the problems we face. But there are reasons for optimism. The President's change in tone is an acknowledgement at least that something has to change, as was his willingness to work with Republicans last month to keep taxes from going up on anyone. In the coming weeks and months Americans will be looking to him to come around on spending and debt as well, and Republicans will be working hard to persuade him to do so.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois.

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last week President Hu Jintao of China came to Chicago after he was received in Washington. He was received in a gala manner in that great city and I happened to be there for the dinner. There were leaders of the community and business all there because China has become an important part of American life. It wasn't that long ago that China was stuck in the past. We can recall the Chinese in their green quilted identical clothes on their bicycles holding their “Little Red Books” of Chairman Mao's great quotations and basically being discounted and dismissed as not a major factor.

In the world economy today, China is a major factor and that is why the remarks of the Republican minority leader need to be put in perspective. The real question the President will ask us tonight is, is America ready to compete in the 21st century? Do we have what it takes to regain the edge when it comes to manufacturing jobs and to be competitive? The challenge the President offers us is to do what is responsible when it comes to our budgeting but not to forget the investments necessary in our future. When I look at how the United States is likely to succeed, you have to start with education and training. We have to have an educated workforce, the best in the world. We have to reward innovation; provide the kind of research incentives at the Federal Government level that lead to the commercialization of products and ultimately manufacture and production that grows our economy.

If we walk away from that, if we say that the United States can no longer

afford to invest in America, we are walking away from what is essential for our competitive edge. When I hear the Republican leader stand and say we cannot afford these investments in America anymore, I wonder what his vision is when it comes to our competitive edge. I think it is important that we maintain that. The President is going to do that, I believe, in the context of responsible budgeting.

For the record, we had a deficit commission proposed on a bipartisan basis last year by Senator CONRAD and Senator Gregg, and it was a commission that came up for a vote on the floor of the Senate. Does the Senator from New Hampshire remember what happened? We failed to pass this deficit commission when seven Republican Senators, who were cosponsors, came down and voted against it.

The President had no choice at that point but to start an executive commission, on which I was proud to serve, and that executive commission did not have the binding authority that the legislative commission did, which was defeated by the Republicans on the floor of the Senate. So, now, as they pose for holy pictures in deficit reduction, they want us to erase that memory of seven Republican Senators, cosponsors, who turned and reversed their position when it came to this deficit commission.

I served on this commission. The one thing the commission reminded us of over and over is that when we hit the deficit brake, do not hit it too soon or we can skid off the road. We can be back into a deeper recession if we are not careful.

There is good news—not as much as we would like, but there is good news. A CNN opinion research poll released this morning said the percentage of the American people who felt things are going well is up 14 points since December. And the polling director said: We have not seen numbers like this since April of 2007. One likely reason for the change is the public's growing optimism about the economy. Why is it that this good news about the economy makes the Republicans feel so sad and gloomy? It is an indication we are moving in the right direction.

When the Senator from Kentucky gets up and says: Government just creates debt, it does not create jobs, that was not the speech we heard when we extended the tax cuts. Exactly the opposite was said on the floor of the Senate. Republican Senators stood up and said: Give tax cuts to people, and they are going to be able to spend more money for goods and services and have more confidence in the future.

That was a government decision—a government decision endorsed by the President and a strong bipartisan majority in the Senate and the House. The government can work in a positive way.

Let me say one word about health care. I listened carefully as Republican after Republican came to the floor to

decry the notion that there would be a government-administered health care plan. Now, it is not a government health insurance plan; it is private health insurance administered through the government and insurance exchanges to give everybody a chance to have health insurance. But those on the other side who stand up and decry government-administered health insurance plans are, in fact, insured under a government-administered health care plan called the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

So I would basically say this: We all know the Hippocratic Oath, and we all know the saying “Physician, heal thyself.” I would say to those Republican Senators calling for repeal of health care for the rest of America, first, Senators, repeal your own. Step away from the government-administered health care plan. If you find it so objectionable for the rest of America, then reject it when it comes to your own health insurance. Members of the Senate, Democrats and Republicans, I think without exception, are all members of the government-administered health care plan. If it is good enough for Members of the Senate, why is it not good enough for the rest of America? I think that is the basics.

Let me close by saying this: When it comes to trade agreements, I believe we should have good ones, ones that are fair to American workers and businesses, ones that are enforced when there are unfair trade practices. But we have to be careful as well that we have a tax code that also rewards good conduct by American businesses.

Our Tax Code currently subsidizes America corporations that want to ship production overseas. Why in the world would we spend a dollar in our tax money to reward a company that wants to remove a job from America? Over and over again, we have begged the Republicans to join us in a bipartisan effort to end this subsidy for shipping jobs overseas. That would be a good way to build the economy here in America, create good-paying jobs here at home, and invest in a country which has a bright future if we do not get caught up in the political rhetoric of the day.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

TUCSON TRAGEDY

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I would like to call timeout from this partisan discussion to speak for a moment about the events in Tucson of January 8. It is the first opportunity I have had to address my colleagues about the tragedy of that day. The theme I would like to discuss is the goodness of people because if I have gotten any lesson from this, after meeting and talking with all of the people whom I could who were involved in this tragedy, the overwhelming notion of the goodness of people is what I am most left with.

Tomorrow, Senator McCAIN and I will offer a resolution in support of the victims of the shooting, offering condolences to those who were lost and their loved ones and our prayers for the recovery of those who were injured and expressing appreciation to those who engaged in real acts of heroism. We will have time more formally to talk about it when we do that tomorrow, but I wanted to share some thoughts from my heart based on my interaction with the people over the last 2 weeks after this event occurred.

It begins with the proposition that Tucson likes to call itself a town, not a city. It is over half a million people. But you are all familiar with communities which, though large in numbers, seem small because people work together, they play together, and they have a sense of community and of helping and working with each other. That is Tucson, where my wife and I both attended the University of Arizona. The Safeway where this event occurred is only two blocks from my Tucson office, and the head of my Tucson office and his staff were at the Safeway that Saturday morning shopping, and they left about 7 or 8 minutes before this occurred.

Judge John Roll, who was a very close friend and attended Mass virtually every morning, had just come from Mass and had decided to come to the Safeway to express his appreciation to Representative GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. They were friends. Among other things, he wanted to tell her he appreciated her signing a letter, along with Representative GRIJALVA, that supported the Arizona Federal District Court in its desire to be named an emergency district by the commission that does that for the Federal courts because of the overwhelming caseload in that court.

Judge Roll, though he had significant administrative responsibilities, kept a full caseload himself because to do otherwise would have been to put part of the burden onto his colleagues. So he was really carrying two separate loads, administering a very busy court, and at the same time acting as a judge on all of his cases.

One of the things he and I had been working on—in fact, Senator BARRASSO, Senator LeMieux, and I had lunch with Judge Roll the Friday after the election to talk about how we could strengthen the courts, especially because of the crushing caseload from drug and immigration cases because that is the district that is right down on the border. Part of his work, which I was working with him on, was to try to find ways to ameliorate the load of this court and potentially get some additional magistrates, if not judges, to help handle the caseload.

When Representative GIFFORDS decided to hold this “Congress on Your Corner” event, many of the people on her Tucson staff went with her to the event. They are very devoted to her. I