

pay the same. And it lets our free enterprise system work, Mr. Speaker.

We talk about creating jobs in this country, Mr. Speaker. We have to do that. But our Tax Code is destroying jobs. We have to create new jobs; but, Mr. Speaker, that's hard. Preserving the jobs we already have has to be a part of that. And yet we run jobs overseas each and every day in large part because of our Tax Code.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, the FairTax is revenue neutral. So many folks think about a conservative Republican like me liking every tax cut he can get his hands on. I do. I'm a big proponent of leaving more money in individuals' pockets. I will always believe the American family will spend their own money better than we will spend it on their behalf in Washington. Always. But, Mr. Speaker, there are bills to pay in Washington. We do need to support our troops, we do need to defend our homeland, and we do need to protect our border. And so the FairTax brings in every penny of revenue that we bring in today. It's revenue neutral.

In fact, given the bill that's in front of the Senate right now on payroll taxes, we're actually going to bring in more revenue with the FairTax than we bring in with the current system, but it's designed to be revenue neutral because I know that we must pay taxes. But we mustn't make it hard to do. That's a choice we've made in this body, and it's the wrong one.

Mr. Speaker, take a look at H.R. 25, the FairTax. You can find out all about it at www.fairtax.org, all the information, all the studies. We started with a blank sheet of paper, we came up with a plan that starts everyone on a level playing field. And so far, Mr. Speaker, we've attracted enough cosponsors on both sides of the Hill to make it the single most popular fundamental tax reform bill in Congress.

I thank you for giving me this time this afternoon to talk about it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2009. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

CONGRESS REPRESENTS ALL OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Happy holiday to America. Let me reinforce that we live in a great coun-

try, and that is evidenced by the opportunity of Members to come to this democratic body and the other body to speak about the values of this Nation and the importance of our democracy and our responsibility to address the concerns of all Americans. It is good for us to have an opportunity for a dialogue and to be able to listen to each other.

I know that I'll be joined shortly by the whip of this Congress, Mr. HOYER. So let me just quickly say that I remember serving in this Congress when President Bush was the President, and I always made the point that once we are elected, even as we come from constituency, even as we come out of tough political battles, it really is the oath that we take that ensures that we represent all of America, whether we have the glory of coming from a State that is claiming progressiveness or one that is conservative. When we get on that train or airplane or drive that car and come to Washington, D.C., we represent all of America.

So let me quickly just say that you're looking at a stack of papers that represent the approach that my Republican friends took to fund the needs of the American people. Under the Democratic Caucus and the Democratic Congress of last Congress, we had the appropriations bills, almost 12 of them, come to the floor, and Members openly debated all of the issues around the different bills dealing with transportation, housing, homeland security and defense. They had an opportunity to be on the floor. The constituents could email or call or say what is that in this particular bill. But under this Republican leadership, this is what they brought us and gave us 1 hour to read these pages because of the emergency of funding the American people.

That's not a way to run a country. It's not Democratic or Republican. It's not conservative or liberal. It's just not the way.

And I would offer to say that we're committed and should have done this weeks ago, extending the payroll tax relief, providing for 160 million working Americans and extending the unemployment, helping 6 million Americans. You see, I don't believe that those Americans care whether we are conservative Republican, whether we twitter, whether we email or whether we speak on the floor of the House. They want us to abide by the oath that we take when we stand and affirm our relationship with the United States and our obligation and duty to the American people.

When our soldiers who are coming home now, yesterday being the last day of war in Iraq, the casing of the colors, not one soldier that I visited in Iraq or Afghanistan ever put up and said, I'm a Republican or I'm a Democratic. Every one of them was proud to be an American. And that's what we are obligated to do on this floor.

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You know, it saddens me to report to you and the American people, my colleagues, that the banks of America have \$64 trillion in their accounts, refusing to spend it, to yield, to loan it to small businesses or those who want to buy homes. Our businesses have over \$1.12 trillion in cash on hand.

It saddens me to hear that businesses who are protected by our flag and our soldiers and can do business in a democratic setting, just because of wanting more money, they will lift up their business and take it to another country and remove the employees who invest in this country. It saddens me.

I ask the simple question: Where there is a benefit, is there not burden?

And I do want to correct any impression that we tax Americans 90 percent. Yes, we need tax reform, real tax reform. We need to help Americans keep money in their pockets. But I can tell you, out of \$10, we don't take \$9. We want people to be able to work and reap the benefit of their work.

But may I just share with you that America is an umbrella on a rainy day, that when there are hurricanes and tornados and earthquakes, you expect us to come running and restore your communities. You expect us to take care of the dams and bridges, the highways, to ensure that America's infrastructure is working, that the electric grid can withstand a cyberattack, a potential homeland attack, if you will.

After 9/11, you asked America why, and you wanted us to get busy and get to work and ensure the homeland is protected. And I sit on the Homeland Security Committee. Every day our responsibility is to read the fine lines in the classified information to make sure that we are in front of the terrorists, whether it's a lone wolf or whether it is a massive attack. We have been fortunate, because of our young men and women in the military, because of our intelligence community, that we have not had a major attack on our soil since 9/11. That's what the government is all about. You cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater.

And we have some other responsibilities as well. The responsibilities of ensuring our children are safe and that we don't allow and condone sexual abuse of our children or bullying of our children. Yes, you can make a national statement on that, though we want families to get help and children to get help, but the circus that is going on in Penn State is so unacceptable.

I've introduced legislation to stop the Federal funding of any entity that covers up or tolerates child sexual abuse. I have introduced legislation to make a stand against the bullying and ask communities and school districts to establish best practices to help our children and families.

And then it is important to note that we do need to have the harmony and the collegiate collaboration that really speaks of this grand place, this august institution of which we've had so many