

"I never thought the person on top here mattered all that much, except to keep the rhythm of the place going," he said. "We've established a good transition. I don't think my departure will be more than a blip on the radar screen."

HONORING ROHAIL DADWANI

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great Nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Rohail Dadwani is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is crucial in our lives. Without government, we would all be barbarically fighting for the limited amount of resources we have available. Government helps our society function the way it is, but just like anything else, too much of a good thing can be bad. Therefore, government intervention should be limited on our lives. Too much government control can lead to dictatorships or the government playing a "Big Brother" kind of role. This "Big Brother" type of role would be bad in the long run because the people would lose faith in the government, so the citizens would try to find any way they can to overthrow the government. Government's role should be to help society but within its boundaries set by society. Crossing these boundaries can lead to too much government intervention in our society. I think the boundary that the government should never cross would be the boundary of the government tracking your every move and everything you do. The government's main role should be to lay down the expectations, make laws that people should follow, help society when needed, but don't interfere in society so much that it makes the people dependent on the government to run effectively. The government's role is important to how this society functions. Therefore, the government needs to let society work in a way so that it isn't making the society completely dependent on them. Every individual should be able to speak their mind, without control, to promote new ideas that better society. That can only happen with a limited government role, to make society work on its own. The government should do nothing except give a little push to society every now and then to keep it running. With this, the government isn't running our everyday lives but just helping us to be able to run it ourselves. We should all follow the government's laws but, at the same time, be able to have a mind of our own. To conclude, the government shouldn't play a huge role in our every day lives, rather a limited one, so we can be more effective on our own and be able to think for ourselves.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 115, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when George W. Bush was inaugurated, the national debt was \$5,727,776,738,304.64. When Barack Obama was inaugurated, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08. This was a \$4,899,100,310,608.44 increase in 8 years. Today, the debt is \$15,583,383,846,149.34, which means that President Obama has raised the debt more in just over 3 years than President Bush did in 8 years.

This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAN HOLDINGS CORPORATION

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago—on July 24, 1972—Tan Siu Lin, arrived in Guam from Hong Kong with a young family, one cargo ship, and plenty of ambition. He began buying surplus materials from the military in Guam and shipping those goods around the Western Pacific while distributing American movies, an especially prized commodity, to the islands.

Over the years, Doctor Tan, along with his wife Lam Pek Kim, and their children, Henry, Willie, Lilly, Raymond, Jerry, and Sunny, nurtured their small, homegrown enterprise into the 40,000-employee, international powerhouse of affiliated companies that it is today. From tourism, to insurance, logistics, information, and entertainment, Tan Holdings is vital to the economies and communities of the island Pacific.

The Tan family has not only brought employment and economic opportunity to our islands, they have brought our islands to the world. Tan Holdings is our region's premier exporter of tourism and importer of tourists. Starting with Century Travel Agency in 1992, then with the addition of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, the Fiesta Resort and Spa Guam, and the Saipan Grand Hotel, the Tans have contributed significantly to the islands' economic mainstay of tourism. Even when times have been difficult, Tan Holdings President

Jerry Tan has declared, as he did this past January keynoting the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's annual gala, his company's campaign to "Believe in CNMI," and backed up that declaration by confirming that Tan Holdings would soon be launching a new airline. Saipan Air will initially bring tourists from Japan and China to the Mariana Islands, but no doubt with Tan Holding's business acumen, the airline will soon be a force throughout the Asia-Pacific Region. Tan Holdings is no stranger to the airline industry. In 1991, the company established POI Aviation to provide ground-handling services for Northwest Airlines, Asiana Airlines, United Airlines, Korean Air, and other private airlines. And in 1999, the company began operating Asia Pacific Airlines, which provides air cargo services to the region's tuna fishing industry.

Nor is Tan Holdings limited to tourists and airplanes. Through its subsidiary Century Insurance Groups the company is the number one property and casualty underwriter in the Marianas. Tan Holding's Realty Management Services owns and operates approximately 150 residential apartment units on the island of Saipan. And Tan Holdings developed one of the preeminent buildings in our islands: TSL Plaza, which is a flagship for their commercial real estate holdings in Micronesia.

The Tan portfolio includes Cosmos Distributing and Dickerson & Quinn International Distributors, bringing some of the world's best-known consumer brands to island businesses and residents, names such as Procter & Gamble, Campbell's, Gillette, Nabisco, Cadbury, and General Mills. In Guam the public benefits from the company's investment in Tango Theaters, which provide world-class movie viewing at seventeen screens in the Micronesia Mall and Agana Shopping Center. And in Saipan the community gets its daily news from the Saipan Tribune, which has been a trusted outlet of information since 1993.

One of the greatest contributions of the Tan family and Tan Holdings to our community, however, has been the establishment of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Although the Tan family has been generous to the island community throughout all of Tan Holdings' 40 years, the formal establishment of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation in 2009, heralded a new beginning in regional philanthropy. The TSL Foundation has donated millions of dollars to deserving, nonprofit, educational, athletic, and community ventures in our islands. Guided by its motto of "iServe. iGive back." the Foundation has not only donated from its corporate proceeds, but has also encouraged philanthropy at the grass-roots level—through its employees. The social responsibility practiced and taught by the TSL Foundation will be as enduring in our islands as any of the Tan Holdings businesses.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Tan Siu Lin, and his family, for their 40 years of contribution to the commerce, economy, and livability of the Northern Mariana Islands and all of Micronesia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 112–117. Had I