

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, today we passed a truly historic bill because the Secretary of Treasury had come forward and told us that if we didn't pass it, we were to be afraid, be very afraid.

So people were beginning to panic around the country. Credit was freezing up. It was before and even more so after he spoke. And so it was necessary that we do something.

For most of us, we heard from a lot of people saying please don't bail out Wall Street, don't give them \$700 billion. The last couple of days we heard from car dealers, from bankers, from shopkeepers, small mom and pop businesses about to go out of business saying you've got to do something. So Secretary Paulson's scare tactics had worked. The underlying problems may still be there. In fact, some of them are, and we still need to address them, and I have confidence that we will.

The underlying banks had money. The community banks, solid. But there is a crisis of confidence and lending is coming to a halt.

Now, some problems in the industry were created by Congress where we forced people to lend money to people they wouldn't have otherwise. That's a problem. That needed to be fixed. But we were told basically in theory by the Secretary that this would be a type of shock and awe, that we would put so much money into the Wall Street market that it would shock the economy and people would respond favorably and everything would be great as a result.

I, like my friend Ms. Foxx, hope that this works. I don't think it was necessary. I think it was problematic. And it ought to scare people when the government says, we need \$700 billion to bail out an industry and that will make everybody better, and please raise the debt ceiling by \$1.3 trillion. I thought it was just \$700 billion. Well, we raised the debt ceiling by \$1.3 trillion today just in case.

Apparently, the good news is we will spend \$700 billion completely at the Secretary of the Treasury's whim, as he determines. You will see in the bill, those that bothered to read it, over and over "as the Secretary determines," "as the Secretary determines." And then we are going to have to hire some people to manage all these assets that we're buying. That may be outside the \$700 billion. Maybe that's why we need to raise the limit to \$1.3 trillion.

But being an historical fan, being such a student of history, you cannot find in the history of the Nation a time before when this government, this Congress, had so much faith in one person that they said, "Here is \$700 billion. Do with it as you will. Make our Nation well."

Now, if you go back before our Constitution of 1787, you will find that one time something like this was done, in 1776, December 27 to be exact. Many of the people that had signed up in the Army had done so for 6 months, and

they signed up around the time of the Declaration of Independence; so their time was going to be up in January. The Continental Congress heard that many of them would not reenlist; so they were scared.

George Washington never asked for this kind of power, but they knew this man. They knew he was not in it for himself and he wouldn't reward his friends. He was doing everything he could, to the tune of sacrificing his life and his fortune to help create this great land. So they gave him this power. He didn't use it. When he tried to get the guys to enlist, he gave one of the most impassioned speeches, and his pure leadership and example was enough to inspire them.

Well, there's a picture in the Rotunda just down the hall of him coming in. He wrote Bible verses on his resignation, and he tendered the resignation and did something no one had ever done in history: led a Revolutionary Army, won the Revolution, and then came in, resigned, and went home. Nobody had ever done it before or since. They could trust that man.

I've studied history. I am a fan of George Washington. He is a hero of mine. And Secretary Henry Paulson is no George Washington.

So let me leave you with this: When you hear anybody in the government say "We're going to take your tax dollars and we're going to make you money," then that's when you need to be afraid because they have moved over into the socialist realm. And you can always make more money than the government can.

That's the thought I leave with you, with the hope and prayer that this does inspire the confidence that was looked for so the economy does free up. I had hoped leadership would do it, but now apparently it will take \$700 billion, and may God help us all.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE MAJORITY PARTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, this has been one heck of a day here on Capitol Hill. As a matter of fact, it's been one heck of a week.

About 13 days ago, the Secretary of the Treasury came down to Capitol Hill, said that our markets are a mess, Wall Street's a mess, and if we don't give him \$700 billion immediately, it's going to be a big problem. And we take that seriously.

But then there was a little investigation, and they asked the Treasury, Where did you come up with the number \$700 billion? Well, they answered it last week in Forbes Magazine, and here's the Treasury spokeswoman's quote: "It's not based on any particular data point. We just really wanted to come up with a really big number."

Well, they succeeded. Seven hundred billion dollars is a really, really big number. It means really, really big things to Americans.

A lot of us, because the Treasury Secretary also indicated that he could only spend \$50 billion of your money a month, we had an amendment last night and we said let's make it a lot less. Let's save half a trillion dollars, and let's give him some money. If he's right, he can rescue the economy and everything will be all right. We're going to put in place some reforms, and we will come back on November 17 and we will figure out whether it's working or not. That sounded like a pretty reasonable plan to a lot of reasonable people.

But that didn't happen. People who watch the House know that everything that comes to the floor comes to the floor pursuant to a rule. And the Rules Committee voted on that proposal last night, to save half a trillion dollars. And they voted "no," 8-4. And, sadly, all 8 were members of the Democratic Party.

Each of us represents about 600,000 people. So 4.8 million people basically, through their representatives, denied 305 million Americans the opportunity to have a vote, to take 10 minutes and take a vote about whether or not we could save half a trillion dollars and perhaps not give the whole \$700 billion of tax money to the Treasury.

Then the bill left the House, and it went over to our good friends in the Senate, who, of course, are very fiscally conservative. They're wiser than we are because they have 6-year terms; we only have 2-year terms. And do you think that they just were happy sending it back to us at \$700 billion? No. They sent it back to us at \$850 billion, and they added such wonderful things like \$192 million for rum.

Now, listen, I like rum. And it may be some of the Senators were nervous that they were losing the pirate vote. I don't know. But there's \$192 million for rum, \$100 million for NASCAR. I like NASCAR, but what's it doing in this bill saving the treasury? There's \$81 billion to Hollywood and \$2 million for wooden arrows for children.

Now, listen, all of these projects might be okay. They don't belong in a bill when the administration is saying that we need to act now or else the economy's going to melt down.

But, you know, some of my friends back home say, well, 3 weeks, okay, if it's an emergency. What have you guys been doing?

Well, we had in August a little discussion around here, and I don't know how Mr. MCCOTTER from Michigan feels, but my constituents were not really happy when gasoline went to \$4 a gallon. And I'll bet we were probably talking about that and that's why we couldn't get to the economy.

Well, this Congress started in January of 2007. Gas was \$2.22 a gallon. People said that's high, but, okay, I can get by. So the Congress got together and we decided—actually, it was the Democratic majority that decided that the most important thing that we could discuss on that day was congratulating the University of California at Santa Barbara soccer team for their championship. I like soccer. That's important. I'm sure their parents are real proud. But gas is \$2.22.

Well, then it goes up to \$2.84. And people say, well, sure, I'll bet now you're going to try to figure out an energy policy for the country. Well, on that day we declared it National Passport Month. And I know that everybody in America, when they filled up their gas tank at \$2.84 a gallon, said, well, I know it's expensive but at least it's National Passport Month.

Then gas went up to \$3.03. And we have all been told that we have to get the vote of the soccer moms to be re-elected. So we tried that again. When gas was at \$3.03, we commended the Houston Dynamo soccer team because we really like soccer.

Well, gas goes up to \$3.77. Surely now your elected representatives in Washington get the picture, that we're going to vote on gas. We declared it National Train Month, folks. National Train Month.

Well, then it goes up a little higher, \$3.84 a gallon. Your Congress, thanks to the new majority, figures the most important issue is the Great Cats and Rare Canids. And for those of us who don't follow this, canids are dogs. So basically we were voting on foreign aid for cats and dogs rather than dealing with energy.

Then it goes to \$4.09. The first time in my history I paid over \$4 for gasoline. Well, we're going to act on your behalf: We declared it International Sanitation Month because we really felt your pain.

It crested \$4.14 on June 17 of this year. You know that the United States Congress was grappling with energy prices. You know that the United States Congress had to be grappling with this meltdown of the economy. The majority party that day decided that the most important issue facing America was the Monkey Safety Act.

Now, folks, you deserve better than the Monkey Safety Act. You deserve

lower gas prices. And, folks, you deserve a better bill than you got today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## HOUSE BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles:

July 10, 2008:

H.R. 6304. An act to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence, and for other purposes.

July 15, 2008:

H.R. 430. An act to designate the United States bankruptcy courthouse located at 271 Cadman Plaza East in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Conrad B. Duberstein United States Bankruptcy Courthouse".

H.R. 781. An act to redesignate Lock and Dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System near Redfield, Arkansas, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 24, 1946, as the "Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam".

H.R. 1019. An act to designate the United States customhouse building located at 31 Gonzalez Clemente Avenue in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the "Rafael Martinez Nadal United States Customhouse Building".

H.R. 2728. An act to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 25762 Madison Avenue in Murrieta, California, as the "Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George F. Azrak Border Patrol Station".

H.R. 3721. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1190 Lorena Road in Lorena, Texas, as the "Marine Gunnery Sgt. John D. Fry Post Office Building".

H.R. 4140. An act to designate the Port Angeles Federal Building in Port Angeles, Washington, as the "Richard B. Anderson Federal Building".

H.R. 4185. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11151 Valley Boulevard in El Monte, California, as the "Marisol Heredia Post Office Building".

H.R. 5168. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19101 Cortez Boulevard in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Cody Grater Post Office Building".

H.R. 5395. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11001 Dunklin Drive in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "William 'Bill' Clay Post Office Building".

H.R. 5479. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 North Kidd Street in Ionia, Michigan, as the "Alonzo Woodruff Post Office Building".

H.R. 5517. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the "Texas Military Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 5528. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 Commercial Street in Brockton, Massachusetts, as the "Rocky Marciano Post Office Building".

H.R. 5778. An act to preserve the independence of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority.

H.R. 6040. An act to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 to clarify the authority of the Secretary of the Army to provide reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by members of the Committee on Levee Safety.

July 17, 2008:

H.R. 634. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 814. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers.

July 21, 2008:

H.R. 802. An act to amend the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI.

H.R. 3891. An act to amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

July 23, 2008:

H.R. 3403. An act to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encourage the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities.

H.R. 3712. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 1716 Spielbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the "James M. Ashley and Thomas W.L. Ashley United States Courthouse".

July 29, 2008:

H.R. 1553. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to information regarding pediatric cancers and current treatments for such cancers, establish a national childhood cancer registry, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancer.

H.R. 3890. An act to impose sanctions on officials of the State Peace and Development Council in Burma, to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to exempt humanitarian assistance United States sanctions on Burma, to prohibit the importation of gemstones from Burma, or that originate in Burma, to promote a coordinated international effort to restore civilian democratic rule to Burma, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 93. A joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

July 30, 2008:

H.R. 3221. An act to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

H.R. 3564. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States through fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3985. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4289. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Euripides Rubio Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".