

that means that the most wealthy Americans benefited by not having the Bush tax cuts to the tune of a 285 percent increase in the stock market.

In contrast to that, since the Bush tax cuts were enacted, the stock market has actually gone down over the past 9 years by 11 percent. So I ask you whether you are working, whether you are not working, whether you are poor, whether you are middle class, whether you are rich, isn't it obvious what will happen if we extend these tax cuts any further? Whether it's for 1 year or for 2 years or for another 9 lean years. I think the answer is obvious. Fewer jobs, higher unemployment, a lower value to our homes, lower value to the Nation's net worth, and a drop in the stock market. That's the future that we face if we extend these pernicious tax cuts further.

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

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

JOHN LENNON 30TH COMMEMORATION

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

Mr. MCCOTTER. The poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote, "For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been.'"

Mr. Speaker, given the prevalence of tenebrous sadness in our oft benighted world, tonight on the 30th commemoration of the murder of Mr. John Ono Lennon, I rise not to lament his inestimable loss, but to celebrate his inspiring life.

Perpetually along our earthly journey, we stand at the crossroads of comfort and truth. Imperfect souls, we are mercifully measured not solely by our missteps into numbing comfort but also by our redemptive return to enlightening truth.

□ 2140

As shown in a recently released 1980 interview with Rolling Stone's Jonathan Cott, Mr. Lennon understood this. "I've never claimed purity of soul. I've never claimed to have the answers to life. I only put out songs and answer questions as honestly as I can. But I still believe in peace, love, and understanding."

Striving for honesty is how, in his family life, Mr. Lennon ultimately fulfilled his most challenging and rewarding role, that of devoted father and loving husband. Striving for honesty is how, in his music, Mr. Lennon met the artistic challenge expressed by Andre Bazin, namely, to "have the last word in the argument with death by means of the form that endures."

Thus, because truth is beauty, beauty is truth, and the most beautiful truth is love, I thank Mr. Lennon for striving through his enduring art to reveal the immutable human truths that eternally unite us in our mortality, our frailty, and our beauty when we love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of John Ono Lennon, and in extending our heartfelt sympathy to his widow and sons, to all whom he loved, and to all who love him. May he, and we, all shine on.

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 SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her 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 gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey 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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida 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 Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL 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 gen-

tleman 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 Georgia (Mr. GRAVES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

PUTTING AMERICA BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK ECONOMICALLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to be able to join you and my colleagues this evening. We have had a busy day and dealt with a lot of different questions and issues. And, yet, on the minds of Americans I believe all across our country people are thinking about the economy, they are thinking particularly about jobs, and they are also thinking about what appears to be imminently approaching, at least the beginning of the new year, the largest tax increase in the history of our country.

That's an odd thing to be approaching at a time when there is a high level of unemployment and a lot of uncertainty in terms of the economy. And of course that is a matter of some considerable debate and discussion and different political maneuvering. We won't talk so much tonight about political maneuvering, but try to stick more in the area of some understanding of economics and the things that we need to be doing to put America back on the right track.

I think Americans really want Congress to fix it. They don't want to hear a lot of discussion and talk. They want to know let's just get things organized, get it straightened out, get the economy going, get people back to work. You know, there is a choice people really have in our country of two different things. One, you can have bureaucracy and food stamps, or you can have a job and a paycheck. I think most people in America really want a job and a paycheck.

So that's what we are going to talk about tonight. I am joined by a couple of my esteemed colleagues, people that are very long on common sense, so they are my friends, but also people that I believe that very much are respected not only by their own delegations, the people that elected them, but increasingly known across the country.

I am joined by my good friend Dr. GINGREY. I don't know how many careers he's had. That's why he got the

doctor part. He delivered a bunch of babies, I believe, down in the Atlanta area, and also has been a State senator, and now has joined us here and helped us on a lot of health care questions. But also pretty good on these economic things. And G.T., all the way from Georgia, all the way across over to Pennsylvania, and another small business man who worked in health care businesses privately, but also a Member of Congress and a good conservative friend of mine.

I am going to start off, before I call on them to join our discussion here this evening, and just talk a little bit about something that when I first came to Congress 10 years ago seemed a little odd to me. In fact, as an engineer it almost seemed like water running uphill, because people were saying that if you cut taxes, the government can take in more money. Now, that seems like an odd thing, doesn't it, that you can cut taxes and have the government take in more money.

Well, what's going on there is an effect that when you crank taxes up high enough, you stall the economy. When the economy stalls, you can keep running the taxes up, but you don't get any more revenue because things are not working right and the machine isn't churning out any money, so you actually lose money. I came up with a way of explaining it.

And we had a chance to have Art Laffer, an economist back with the Reagan administration, who came up with this understanding. And he explained it in different ways the other night earlier in the week. But the point of the matter is that you can actually cut taxes and the government gets more money.

Here is the way it might work. Think about a loaf of bread, and you are king for a day, and you got to tax the loaf of bread. What are you going to tax it, a penny or \$10? You go back and forth in your mind and say penny, it's easy. I can get everybody to buy just the same loaf of bread that they do today. So we would sell a lot of loaves of bread and maybe get a penny for each one. But that doesn't add up very fast. Maybe I can charge \$10 on a loaf of bread. Well, maybe people wouldn't buy very much bread, but boy when they did, I would get 10 bucks.

Well, common sense would say there is someplace between a penny and \$10 on a loaf of bread where you can collect the most taxes. And that's what's going on. When the government cuts taxes, it actually gets the economy going. And this chart shows that. It's called the Laffer Curve. This red is the tax rate, and then this here is the Federal revenues. So what we are seeing here is that you have a ratio. As you start to drop taxes, actually the Federal revenue goes up. And that's what's happened a number of times. We are going to talk about that.

But would either one of my colleagues want to join in and talk a little bit about where we are going, what we

ought to be doing? What do we do on the biggest tax hike in the history of the country? Are we going to let that go into place in January or not? What do you think?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Well, first of all, I want to thank my good friend from Missouri for hosting this hour. This is a very important issue. We are facing, without action and intervention, the largest tax increase in the history of our country. And the Laffer Curve and the professor that put that together, very smart man. And I think it's very telling. I think that actually it could be named, take a little creative license, and in addition to being a Laffer Curve, a curve of uncertainty, or certainty.

Because there is some point in there, and you have already mentioned that word, that you either have certainty in the economy, and jobs are created, and economic development happens, or you have uncertainty and things come to a screeching halt. And that's what we've seen over this past 2 years-plus in terms of the economy. And that's jobs.

And the one thing I tell people, or what I hear when I go around and I talk with the people at home—frankly, I talk with the people who are the job creators—it's uncertainty in the economy. And a lot of that has to do with taxes. They don't know what taxes are coming. They have been not just these—and some people will call these the Bush era tax cuts. Frankly, I will call them the people's tax cuts. We have been enjoying them for almost a decade now. It's been money in the pockets of the people at home. They are making decisions.

But it's not just those; it's all the taxes that have been layered on bill after bill by this Democratic Congress over the past 2 years. And I've talked with many people who are—normally every year they will take part of their profit—and that's not a bad word. That's a good word. That's what's made our country strong. And they will take that profit, and they will reinvest it in their businesses.

□ 2150

They will build a new location or they will add a service line or a product line or maybe they are just repackaging something, yes, freshen it up, and they hire people. When they do that, they create prosperity, they create jobs, and they are sitting on the sidelines right now. And a big part of that has to do, I believe, with these taxes, that with no intervention by January 1, the largest tax increase in the history of our country goes into place.

Mr. AKIN. Well, I really appreciate your perspective, and I think you are right.

I had a similar experience back in my district in the St. Louis area. We had a meeting that we had on Main Street. You know, you have got to have a Main Street. In downtown St. Charles, across the river from St. Louis County, there is a Main Street in downtown St.

Charles. So we asked a bunch of small business owners, I think about 40 or 50 of them, to come to a meeting about a year or so ago.

We just asked them. I said, Here's the deal. I am just collecting information, and I have my own opinions as to what you are going to say, but I want you to give me your best shot. What are the things that are going to create unemployment?

And, of course, the converse of that is, if you don't do those things, then employment will come back. What are the things that are really enemies to just wrecking the economy?

And they gave me a list of five things. We didn't actually put them in order, but the one that came to their mind first was taxes. It was just basically along the same lines as what you are saying, gentlemen. Because, if you are a small business man and you get taxed and taxed and taxed, it takes away the money you have to invest in new processes, new technology, new lines of equipment, adding a wing on the building, putting some machine tools in there, whatever it is. All those things create jobs. But if you take all their money away, then they can't make those investments.

Now, if you do what FDR did and you do it over a sustained period and you keep lowering the boom on them, you will not just cause them to hunker down and not hire. You will just put them out of business. Then it will be a long time before that business ever comes back again. So far, I don't think we have shut them all down yet; although, a lot of businesses have had to close. There are still businesses out there.

If they had the revenue, and if the Federal Government would get off of their case, I think we could see some jobs turning around. But the very first thing they mentioned was taxes, and the second thing you mentioned was uncertainty. They mentioned that about second. So you were exactly in line with the St. Charles people. People in Pennsylvania and the State of Missouri—

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania folks and Missouri folks think the same way.

Mr. AKIN. Same way.

Dr. GINGREY, I see you in a contemplative air there, and we would love to hear a little wisdom on the subject of free enterprise as well, my friend.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank my gentleman friend from Missouri for giving me the opportunity to join with him and with Representative THOMPSON of Pennsylvania in this Special Order hour this evening talking about taxes and job creation and the State of the economy.

And certainly, as we look at his first slide and the Art Laffer curve referencing, of course, as the top marginal tax rate over the last 40, 60 years, in fact, has gradually decreased, then the amount of revenue has, in turn, increased. And we have seen that, Mr.

Speaker. We saw it in 1960 with the Democratic President John F. Kennedy. We certainly saw the same thing occur in 1980 under our great communicator, President Ronald Reagan. The economist Art Laffer, talks about this often, presents it in a very simplified form with his Laffer curve.

You know, I think one of the things our colleagues need to understand in regard to the so-called Bush tax cuts, and as Representative TODD AKIN has pointed out, Mr. Speaker, it's really been 10 years ago, and so it's a Bush era.

But in a time when those lower marginal rates were enacted back in 2001, 2003, we cut the taxes on dividends from a marginal rate to 15 percent, capital gains from 20 percent to 15 percent, even for the low-income earners to 10 percent. I mean, these things had a profound effect, positive effect on revenue.

And, of course, when you are faced in an 8-year period of the Bush administration with two wars, the 9/11 attack, the dot-com bubble burst, certainly deficits are going to go up, debts are going to go up, but revenue continued to go up. That's something that I think people need to understand to put it in the proper context.

Certainly, as we continue this discussion this evening, I want to close my opening remarks, if you will, by saying this President, President Obama, I am very encouraged by the coming together with the Republican leadership in regard to deciding what is best for this country, what could best stimulate the economy, put people back to work, not have another November unemployment rate of 9.8 percent and over 14.5 million people unemployed—and not only unemployed but, Mr. Speaker, over 40 percent of them unemployed more than 6 months. So this is why the President, thank God, has been, it seems to be, trying to moderate his position.

To say to a Republican leadership, I do agree. You have maybe dragged me crying and screaming to the alter of sanity in regard to fiscal policy, but we cannot, in a recession with these kinds of unemployment rates and this number of people unemployed for this prolonged period of time, we can't raise taxes on anybody, and we are not going to do that.

And I thank God that the President kind of sold the wisdom—I mean, he has said many times in the past, elections have consequences. Indeed, I think he knows now that on November 2 the American people have spoken, and he is coming our way.

I can only hope that the Democratic leadership and the rank-and-file membership of the Democratic Party will listen to him and will listen to Vice President BIDEN as they come over here and plead with this Democratic majority that it is time to get on board and to moderate, not for the sake of the next election, but for the sake of this and the next generation.

Mr. AKIN. I really appreciate what you are saying, and I didn't think I was going to be saying anything complimentary about our President, because it seems like all his policies relative to the economy and jobs and all seemed like it was highly destructive. He was making the same mistakes that FDR made. He wouldn't listen to Henry Morgenthau.

We on the floor came out here, both of you gentlemen, week after week after week now for the last couple of years. We talked about the idea of the stimulus bill and the idea that you can grab your bootstraps and lift and fly around the Chamber; it's about as reasonable as fixing a bad economy by a Federal Government spending money. It doesn't make any sense in a commonsense way, and it has never worked, never worked historically.

But both of you have made references to what does work. And if you are Democrats, you don't have to listen to Ronald Reagan and Bush. You go back to JFK, as you have said, and he basically used this same economic principle. The idea is whether politicians like it or not.

What has to be done is that you have got to stop the Federal spending and you have got to reduce taxes and you have got to create some stability and, if you can, knock that red tape down and then give the economy some time to breathe. And that money will eventually work into those businesses, and they will start to hiring people.

Now, we saw that happen here. This is a—I have a couple of charts here, antiques. They are a couple of years old, but they are talking about when the second part of this Bush tax cut came in place in May of 2003. I hate to admit it. I was here at that time and we saw this.

So I have got a series of charts, but this May 2003 is in the center of these different charts. And if you take a look, this is job creation. In this case, this is job loss that goes down; job creation goes up. And the red is before the tax cut and the green is after.

Now, what you see going on here is we are losing jobs heavily, 2001 to 2003. Then by May of 2003 you have 1 month that we have lost jobs. But after that, it's all increases in jobs.

So this is the kind of thing that I assume the President must have looked at and gone, Oh, my goodness. I have tried our stimulus bill. We have spent \$787 billion.

I think they spent it before they really thought the economy was that serious. So in that money, they had bailouts for the California teacher pensions and the Illinois teacher pensions. It wasn't even FDR stimulus. It was just basically pork; robbing other States to pay for the mismanagement of teachers' pensions that California and Illinois had done.

So it had all kinds of stuff in it, but it really wasn't even much of a stimulus bill. They said it was going to generate, I think it was, 3 point something

or other million jobs, and the result was we lost 2 million jobs and unemployment went all the way up close to 10 percent.

So that didn't work for the President. And now he has got some true believers in the House and the Senate, the PELOSI and REID gang. They still think that you have got to tax everybody out of house and home and you can have all these jobs, but the President has had 2 years and the jobs have been going down, going worse and worse.

□ 2200

So I think maybe he's starting to pay attention to this effect. And so this first chart is actually job creation. And I have a couple of the other ones as well that we can talk about. But I want to give either of you an opportunity. If you really want to talk specifically about jobs and tax cuts, here's an example of the tax cut, and here's what happens in terms of jobs.

And I think the moral of this story is a very, very complicated economic principle which is frequently lost on my liberal friends, and that is, if you want jobs you've got to have employers. And if you don't have employers you don't have employees. It's complicated, I know, but try to grasp it. You have to have a business in order to have people working for a business. And if you destroy the business, you don't have any jobs. And that's the moral of the story.

And that's why you're going to have to allow some people to have enough money to invest in their business. And it may mean there will be some Americans that achieve the American Dream. They're actually going to be rich. They're going to have a lot of money. And just because somebody else has a lot of money doesn't mean that they're having that much fun. But maybe they are.

But that's okay because the American dream goes like this: you start poor and you have something to look forward to and before too long you actually make some money and come out okay. That's the whole point of the American Dream.

The American Dream does not work. You're rich and the government taxes you into the dirt. That's not the idea. That's how the communist dream works. This is America. We've got to go from letting people who don't have so much to save and get wise and get smart and try these different ideas and pretty soon, by golly, they have some money. That's the way it's supposed to work.

My good friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Well, I thank my good friend for dusting that chart off and bringing it out tonight. I think we need to reproduce that and get that in every one of the 435 offices because, you know, I've tried to lead my life by principles, and one of them has been the principle that the best predictor of future performance is past performance.

And here we are looming days until we have this Nation's largest tax increase in history, and what a great chart to be able to show the practical impact on job creation that tax cuts make, because you've got the documentation right there. You show it, pre-tax cuts, and you show it post-tax cuts. And the results are astounding.

We're talking jobs. And I don't—there's few issues and problems that we face, that our families face, and individuals in this country face that can't be solved by a good job. Period. Health care, economic issues, they're just so important. And I'm very appreciative, a little surprised, but I'm appreciative of the leadership that the President has shown in the past week or so in terms of really what appears to be—and I have to tell you in the first bipartisan real true bipartisanship that I've seen my first 2 years here in Congress.

Mr. AKIN. I about forgot what that word meant.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Yeah. And the fact is, and it seems like he's embraced, he's figured out who those job creators are. I mean, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they'll be the first to, and I'm sure when we get into, more into this debate, you're going to hear them talking about all we're doing is providing tax relief for the wealthy, and the top 2 percent of wage earners in this country fall into that category. It's, by definition, it's people that make \$200,000 or more a year and file their taxes individually, or \$250,000 and file jointly with their spouse. And you know, in my congressional district, and I suspect in yours, that's a lot of money.

But when we really look and drill down a little further and see exactly who those people are, and it's amazing to me to find that it's the people that are reflected on that chart with creating, it's the job creators that created those jobs that showed up after those tax cuts in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, because 60 percent of those folks or more are people who organized their businesses as a sole proprietorship, a limited liability corporation, or a subchapter corporation. And they pay their taxes as an individual.

So, yeah, maybe they make \$200,000 as an individual or \$250,000, but out of that, they make a payroll. They create jobs. They provide prosperity, both for themselves, and there's nothing wrong with that. That's the American Dream, to work hard, to take risk, to sacrifice and to achieve great things. That's the American Dream. And so that needs to be rewarded.

But also they create prosperity for other people. Those are the job creators. And I am so thankful that President Obama has, in a very enlightened way, embraced that in coming together in this bipartisanship of his making, extending these tax cuts.

Now, honestly, I would really like to see, if I had, if I was king for the day, and I think you all would agree, we'd make them permanent because that's

the best way to provide continued certainty in the future. But this is Washington.

Mr. AKIN. But, gentleman, you did mention the point that if you take a look at what it is businesses need, they need to have the taxes off their back. But they also need a certain sense of stability, because you're not going to make a decision that's really going to be with you for a long time if you're not, if everything looks turbulent in front of you. You want to kind of hunker down and wait and get through the not knowing where things are going to bounce. And you see if those tax cuts are permanent, that gives you that sense of, okay, now we know what the environment is that we're in. And people take some risks if they think, okay, things are going to be stable a little bit.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. They do that in forecasting, and they build their business plans and their business models.

Mr. AKIN. I got an email before I left St. Lewis from one of those people. And the choices are really more bureaucrats and food stamps or more jobs and pay checks. You know, that's the choice. Are you on the bureaucrat/food stamp team, or are you on the jobs and pay checks? And most of the people I know, they kind of hold their head up and they'd really like to have a good job and a decent pay check. You feel better at the end of the day than a bureaucrat telling you what to do and giving you food stamps. And that's the choice.

And this guy was complaining about all these tax cuts for the rich. Blah, blah, blah, you know. And the fact of the matter is that the people that this thing affects is the people who own the businesses. And if you don't allow them to have some of their own money to plow back into the business, you're not going to have the jobs. And people miss that.

And then it's always this class warfare, rich and poor. This guy's too rich; we ought to take him down, you know. And it's because we forget the American Dream. It's okay for some that you have some money. It's okay for them to run a business and hire people. That's what we want. That's what we're trying to accomplish. And that's what this all shows, that when you ease off on the taxes, it's a blessing to everybody.

And I know my good friend from Georgia is not going to let that talk about the American Dream go by without a comment or two, because I'll tell you, that Georgia delegation's looking like they're some pretty patriotic folks, and I'm proud of your State for who they're sending down here to Congress.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends from the Show Me and the Keystone States. We Representatives from the Peach State are very proud of our colleagues and the commonsense discussion that we're

bringing to the House floor this evening as part of this Special Order hour, pointing these salient points out to both our Republican and Democratic colleagues.

And I join with my friends in saluting the President. I would only wish that I had the opportunity, not being part of either the current Democratic majority leadership or the current Republican minority leadership, to be in that room over at the White House, the Oval Office or wherever they've gotten together to sort of discuss these things.

But I would love to be a fly on the wall and listen to some of the advisers. Of course Christina Romer's gone, Peter Orszag's gone, but people like David Axelrod and others are still there. And I can just hear them saying to President Obama, you know, Mr. President, we have given you some advice over these last couple of years and, indeed, you've gotten some advice from Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID and the members of the Democratic majority in the legislative branch that hadn't worked out too well. And, you know, Mr. President, you had said to the American people, elections have consequences and, indeed, you know, we're looking back on November the 2nd and seeing a net gain of Republicans, a net gain of 63 in the House of Representatives and a net gain of six in the United States Senate, Republican Members, and something like 600 Republican new Members in State legislatures across the country; 29, in fact, new Republican Governors.

Mr. President, indeed, elections have consequences. It's time, sir, for you to maybe moderate, to get back to the middle a little bit and to listen to the American people. If it's so partisan that you can't listen to the minority party, listen to the American people.

□ 2210

They have spoken loud and clear. They are saying it makes absolutely no sense to raise taxes on anybody, especially those who create the jobs. You know, I had heard and have heard from my Democratic colleagues, Mr. Speaker, this mantra, you are going to cut taxes for the rich and it is going to add \$800 billion to the deficit, totally ignoring if you cut taxes for everybody else making less than \$200,000 a year, that you are cutting \$3 trillion of revenue out of the budget.

So where is the concern. You are concerned about spending \$800 billion to extend the tax cuts for everybody, but you totally ignore the fact that keeping the tax rates in place for everybody making less than \$200,000 a year, if you listen to this arcane way of scoring, CBO, that is a \$3 trillion increase to the deficit. Our colleagues tonight, Mr. Speaker, are talking common sense, and that is what the American people want. They understand it. They understand when you have a 14.5 million population out of work, an unemployment rate in November alone of 9.8 percent and over 40 percent of these people out

of work more than 6 months, no wonder they are begging for an extension of unemployment benefits to the 99 weeks for these additional workers.

But the bottom line is when the President comes together with Republican leadership and says: I agree, it is a give and take. It is a check and balance, and I am going to sit down with you guys and gals and I am going to agree that we are going to keep those marginal tax rates just where they are for everybody, we are not going to let the taxation on dividends go back up to 39.6 percent. We are going to keep it at 15 percent so mom and pop can get a decent return on the dividends, we are going to let capital gains stay at 15 percent. And, furthermore, we are going to cut the payroll tax one-third on Social Security, from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent for the individual, for the employee.

It is a little contradictory to do that at the same time under ObamaCare that we raise the payroll tax 3.8 percent on the so-called high earners, but that is a whole other story.

But I think we are coming together with the President. I am pleased with that. I am pleased with him. I think we need to look very closely. Obviously, it is not perfect. I know there are Members on our side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, who are very concerned with the fact that extending unemployment benefits for another 13 weeks to 99 weeks for those who have been unemployed for more than 6 months is not paid for, and that is a concern and we need to address that.

But again, this opportunity to come together on the floor tonight to talk in a bipartisan way to all of our colleagues, to say yes, the American people want us to do this now. They don't want us to wait until after January 1. They want us to get this accomplished now.

I thank my colleague for giving me an opportunity to weight in.

Mr. AKIN. I appreciate your perspective. One of the things, when you keep looking at this from the poor people/rich people kind of continuum, that is really the wrong question to be asking. The question should be: What do we need to do to put the economy back on track? That should be the question. What do we do to provide jobs and paychecks? That is our objective, not to discuss whether somebody is paying too much or their fair share of taxes.

I forget the exact numbers, but as I recall, I think it is the top 10 percent of people who pay income taxes, pay something like over 70 percent. All of the tax money that is paid to the Federal Government comes from only 10 percent, and the bottom 40 percent pay zero. Now that is a pretty graduated income tax, that you have only the top 1 percent paying a very, very high amount, I am trying to remember if it is as much as 50 percent but it is quite a lot. But all of this stuff about the rich and the poor and the pay, it really should be about America. It should be

about the American dream. And it should be common sense that when the economy is in bad shape, the one thing you do not hear anyone with any common sense saying is that you want to increase taxes. That is just plain nuts. And yet that is exactly the train wreck that is about to happen January 1 if this Congress doesn't take action.

I at least credit the President for getting the message. He got it late. I don't know whether he has true religion or not, but he appears to be on the right track. At least they are going to keep these things going for a couple of years so in the middle of a recession we don't hammer the economy with another shot.

But let's look at this from a logic point of view. Here is another chart. This is the GDP after the tax relief. This is the same tax relief in 2003 May. In May 2003, we did the tax cut here for dividends, capital gains, death taxes. Take a look at what the GDP is then doing. This is gross domestic product before the tax cut. You can see, it is kind of a shaky line. The GDP not up to 3 percent, dropping down so we are actually losing it on a couple of different quarters here.

Then you put this tax cut in place and look what happens to GDP. It looks like you just gave it a shot of fertilizer all of a sudden. So you can see there is quite a difference in the average. So not only from the first chart that we saw here, not only did the tax cut affect job creation, job creation is much better. It doesn't surprise you, when the job creation is up, so also your gross domestic product is up.

These are a couple of charts that show this effect, that tax cuts don't really lose the government money. They actually get the economy going. That is why JFK did it. That is why Reagan did it. That is why Bush did it. It worked in all of those instances. That is what we should be doing.

In this case, unfortunately, what we are talking about is not a tax cut. What we are talking about is a tax increase which we are trying to prevent. It is a very different thing. If we prevent an increase, it means that the damage won't be done. But these things economically, they work both ways. If you do one thing it makes it better; if you do the reverse, it makes it worse. So why do we want to do a big tax increase? It doesn't make any sense.

My last chart, this kind of completes it. Here is the tax cut right here. This is Federal revenues. This seems to be an odd chart, doesn't it? You have 3 years of decreases. As we are going into this recession, you have capital gains, dividends, and death tax, and all of a sudden you have cut taxes and what is happening? Federal revenue is going up. That is why the deficit under Bush, even though we had a couple of wars going on, things were looking better because we had 4 years. This chart was made back in 2007, I guess, because we had 4 years of straight increases where

we did this. So do you want to reverse this thing now? Do you want to put the biggest tax hike in the history of the country and have that effect go the other way so Federal revenues plummet, jobs plummet, and GDP plummets? Is that what we want to do for January 1? I don't think so.

I appreciate you gentlemen being out here on the floor tonight and standing up for the commonsense Americans who know. We say if there is a recession going on and the economy is not strong, we say what you have to do is cut taxes. You have to cut government spending. You have to cut redtape. You have to create certainty.

The average person on the street in our districts understands that. The average business person says of course. Even an awful lot of people who are carpenters, machinists, they are people who work with their hands. They are people with a lot of common sense. They understand when you are in a recession, when you have economic problems, you don't go out and just bust the budget spending money. They look at what goes on in this city and they think, what in the world is wrong with that place? We need to get some people in there that will talk some common sense.

Fortunately, we think that the President is, whether it is because he really believed or because he just felt the political heat, has put us back in the right direction not to reverse this very thing that worked so well for us. Now this doesn't solve the problem we are in; it just prevents an evil from happening. But right now that looks good.

I see my friend from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY, has joined us again, and I yield to Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I wanted to at this point interject once again my thoughts as a physician Member of this body about the enactment in March of this past year, almost 10 months ago now, of the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act of 2010, or what we refer to as ObamaCare.

□ 2220

Mr. AKIN. I thought that was socialized medicine. That's what I call it.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Well, there are a number of terms to describe it. I think, if you do look at a Canadian system or if you look at a British system or many other countries across the world, certainly it is a national health insurance program or, certainly, a march in that direction, and some people do refer to it as socialized medicine.

When I joined the Energy and Commerce Committee at the beginning of the 111th Congress, when President Obama took office, I had the opportunity to serve with our Governor-elect of the great State of Georgia, Nathan Deal, who was the ranking member on the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce. We saw that, as this bill came forward, you know, right

after several months of trying to pass and, indeed, passing in the House so-called “cap-and-trade,” not all of the above, that there was this great emphasis on a carbon tax and on an energy bill that would end up costing every family in this country about \$3,000 extra a year in utility bills.

So we spent all of this time on this. Why? Was it because elections have consequences or because this was near and dear to the hearts of a Nobel laureate for Vice President Al Gore or our very liberal Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ms. PELOSI, from Haight-Ashbury? You know, I don't know. They were determined, since they had these giant majorities, Mr. Speaker, that we were going to do these things come heck or high water.

Then, all of a sudden, you come with this health care bill that costs in a very conservative—I don't know—almost “cook the books” estimate by the Congressional Budget Office of only \$1 trillion at a time when, as the gentleman's charts depict, we were suffering. The American people were suffering. People were out of work. There were 16 million who were out of work. If you had asked them after 6 months of unemployment, Hey, you can have your job back, but we're not going to be able to offer you health care, they would have taken it in a minute.

So it is a matter of priorities, Mr. Speaker, and that is what I want to point out to my colleagues. We wasted a lot of time spending a lot of money while people were suffering and couldn't support their families, while they didn't have jobs and while they were becoming frustrated, depressed and angry. By golly, the result was the election on November 2.

I think the President got a wake-up call, and to his credit, he has awakened. What we are talking about a lot here tonight is to say we tip our hat to him in order to be able to come together, to be willing to moderate and to do something to get us back on track.

Now, I don't know at what point he might, if ever, admit that ObamaCare was a mistake, but come the House majority of the Republican Party in the 112th Congress, we will, as depicted in our Pledge to America, do everything in our power to repeal that expensive monstrosity that failed on every promise: if you like what you have in health care, you can keep it. It's going to lower the cost of premiums, and on and on and on.

So I yield to my colleague as we continue to have this spirited discussion.

Mr. AKIN. Well, you know, I really appreciate your perspective, particularly as a medical doctor.

As to the whole medicine thing, you know, the public just isn't behind it. We have had enough trouble with the government running Medicare and Medicaid. As to those things, all of the economists—liberal and conservative—say that, at the rate they're growing over time, because of the changing de-

mographics of the population, they are going to put us in the poorhouse nationally in terms of spending.

Well, if the government can't manage Medicare and Medicaid, how are they going to manage the entire medical system?

The public does not want the Federal Government running our health care system, and that's what was shoved down our throats. That \$1 trillion price tag, as you correctly point out, gentleman, that is a very optimistic trillion-dollar price tag. It is going to cost much, much more than that.

You're right. The Republican leadership and all of us are committed to trying to stop that bill. That's not so easy to do, but at least we will try to defund it. Eventually, if there are enough votes, we will try to repeal it. There are certainly things that need to be done to health care in America to improve it but certainly not just throwing it under the bus and having all of health care taken over by the Federal Government. That has to be repealed, and then we can start with what we are going to do to the existing system.

So that's just one of a whole series of these things, which is just runaway Federal spending. Boy, is that ever a recipe for disaster.

You know, you mentioned your constituents were upset and angry and worried and scared and all those kinds of things. The three of us here on the floor have been feeling that way also for 2 years. I was ready to move away to some island somewhere if the election results hadn't come along the way they did. Now, at least, I think there is a little ray of hope.

Today, we've been talking about the fact that we want to change the way things are done down here. We've taken a few steps even today, announcing how the House is going to be run in a much more businesslike kind of way. We're going to know what our schedules are, and we're going to know when the last votes of the week are so we'll actually be able to plan our time and schedules and do a better job in visiting with our constituents. I think that is a very encouraging first step.

I think the other thing that was very encouraging to me—and I don't want to get too much into the touchy-feely department. You know engineers don't do well in the touchy-feely department. But I remember our first meeting a couple of weeks ago. The Republican Party got together in a conference, and we had won the biggest election since 1946, which I don't remember. I was born in '47, so it was a year before I was born. We had the biggest victory we have ever had, and the tone in that room was dead sober, and the attitude was:

We've been given another chance, and it's time for us not to do the same old things. It's time for us to really do what is right and to use some common sense. Let's get this mess under control. Let's stop the Federal spending. Let's start cutting the things that need

to be cut, and let's start backing off on the taxes in order to get this economy back on track.

We don't think that the American Dream is bureaucrats and food stamps. We think it's jobs and paychecks. That's the course that we think the public has told us to take. Common sense, a good bit of hard work and good management is what is required—and also learning a little bit of something from history. That's where we have to be going. There is a strong commitment now. Even the President has seen this, and we are encouraged.

Congressman GT, I just really appreciate the fact that you run your own business and that you have that just commonsense kind of experience to know what it takes to make it work. A lot of Americans understand that; but somehow or other, for a couple of years, the majority down here just hasn't gotten that.

The fact of the matter is we are, right now, kind of sitting at this precipice. You know, we're just a week or two away from January 1; and the question is: What is going to happen on this massive tax increase? Are we going to get, after these last 2 years of not only socialized medicine, but the idea of cap-and-tax or cap-and-trade or whatever it was about the global warming thing?

You know, I asked my constituents a question on a survey: Are you more concerned about global warming or about our dependence on foreign oil? Do you have a guess as to what the results on that were? About 80 percent said, We're worried about being dependent on foreign oil. Let's keep this conversation somewhere in the reasonable zone.

Anyway, I yield to my good friend GT.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I appreciate that.

For my whole life as a young boy, I grew up in a family-owned sporting goods business. It wasn't a very big operation. It really was my mom and dad, a brother and a sister. The store was open 7 days a week and for 12-hour days. As a teenager, I remember I had the 6 a.m. shift on Saturday mornings.

Mr. AKIN. Whoo, what did you do wrong?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I felt like I was getting up in the middle of night back then. In the hunting season, there was ammunition and supplies. In the fishing season, it was bait and minnows; but it was a wonderful way to grow up and to be able to see and to live the private sector, because that's what it was. We were immersed in it, and it was very positive from that standpoint of interacting with the public.

At the same time, it was a front row seat on just how many burdens the government can layer on business and on jobs. Whether it was taxes, whether it was regulations, they were just incredible, incredible burdens.

You know, I guess I have very fond memories, but I have some very useful

lessons that I take from those early years. I then went on into health care and created jobs and managed rehabilitation services and worked within a skilled nursing facility.

□ 2230

We're talking taxes tonight and the impending, looming taxes that will go into effect here January 1.

Probably about 2 months ago, I was in Titusville, Pennsylvania; it's where one of my district offices is. We just happened to be having an event there one evening. Titusville may sound familiar to those who remember their history. That's where we drilled oil for the first time anywhere in the world in Titusville, Pennsylvania, 150 years ago. We are very proud of that. We call it the valley that changed the world with the discovery of oil. But I was talking—

Mr. AKIN. Would that have been about 1870s or so?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Yes, absolutely. This is our 151st anniversary.

But I was talking with an individual whose family actually had roots maybe going back 151 years. I was talking with this gentleman, and he has a family business. His family has been in this business for at least 100 years or more. And he talked about how just during his lifetime—now this is just his lifetime—he has had to purchase his family business from the government three times, every time a generation has passed away. That's just morally wrong, and it's economically stupid. The fact is this is a company that has, for over a century, created and provided really good jobs for that community, for that part of Pennsylvania.

Mr. AKIN. And yet he's having to buy his own company back from the government.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Because of the—I guess the official word is the "estate" tax.

Mr. AKIN. It's a death tax.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I like to call it what it is: it's a death tax. And we know that today, as a result of these tax cuts, the schedule that was set up almost 10 years ago, for someone that passes away in 2010, the death tax is zero percent.

Mr. AKIN. They've already been taxed all through their lifetime. They have saved something up for their kids and they die.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Which is a part of the American Dream.

Mr. AKIN. And they want to pass it onto their kids. So the death tax is going to tax them, whereas if they had gone out and got drunk and gambled it away, they wouldn't have to pay any tax. So what sort of incentive is that? It's immoral, you're right. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. No, you're making great points. And I think those are points the American people understand, that the American

Dream is you work hard, you sacrifice, you take risk, you accumulate wealth, you make profit, and you want to pass it along to your children or grandchildren. You want to provide for them. That is the American way, it's the American Dream. And what does the government do? The government comes in and takes a large portion of it back.

There have got to be a lot of people right now thinking that it would be much better, more convenient to die between now and December 31 because the estate, the death tax is zero percent. But if you are unfortunate enough and you die 1 minute after midnight on January 1, it's 55 percent. If you think about someone that owns a business like that gentleman, or a family farm for that matter, I mean, what part of a business or a farm do you sell, do you liquidate in order to come up with 55 percent? If it's a farm, do you sell the livestock? Do you sell the barn, the outbuildings, the acreage, the crops, the equipment, the resources, the inventory? If you sell any of those, you don't have a business or you don't have a farm. And frankly, people don't have jobs because we drive those jobs out. I think there are many taxes like that, but that is just one of the most egregious ones and it's coming back.

Mr. AKIN. That death tax is a killer, isn't it?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman would yield back to me. And I would claim time from my friend on this same point that I think we do need to elaborate on this.

I would, Mr. Speaker, suspect that all of my colleagues—certainly most of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, the Republican Members of the Congress—would philosophically agree that there should be no tax on death. Death should not be a taxable event. I think Steve Forbes, the brilliant owner, editor and publisher of Forbes magazine, said a number of years ago when he was running for President—I will always remember this—"no taxation without respiration." I love that comment. And as a physician, I certainly can relate to it. And again, I would prefer that there be no death tax, estate tax, as our friend from Pennsylvania, Representative THOMPSON, has just said. This year there is none, there is no taxable event if you die in this calendar year of 2010; but you better hurry up and do it because come January 1, all of a sudden the estate tax goes up to 55 percent with a little old exclusion of \$1 million. Well, there are many, many, many small business men and women and farmers who paid for that investment with after-tax dollars that would get hit with that.

So as part of this compromise, as my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker knows, the President sat down with the Republican leadership and said, you know, you guys passed a bill on the House floor and it would be a 45 percent tax on everything above \$3.5 million, but

we will compromise and agree that there will be a \$5 million exclusion and the tax on the average would be only 35 percent. In fact, that's what soon-to-be-former Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN from Arkansas had proposed on the Senate side, along with our Republican colleague, JOHN CORNYN from the great State of Texas. They wanted to do that. That was the bill in the Senate. So basically, again, the President has recognized that.

So we get down to the point where .03 percent—a very, very low number—of estates have any tax at all. Well, do our colleagues on this side of the aisle, do the American people say, oh, well, the principle is no double taxation, no taxation without respiration, or do we accept this compromise where hardly anybody pays an estate tax? Again, these are tough questions. They are going to be tough for our Republican colleagues in the House and Senate and I guess tough for our Democratic colleagues as well because they want the 55 percent and they want the exclusion to be \$3.5 million or less.

So these are the things that we are debating. I think the American people need to know about it. Mr. Speaker, our colleagues need to think about it. But again, I will take the opportunity this evening to commend the President to be willing to come that much closer to what the American people want.

Mr. AKIN. Right. I think what Congressman THOMPSON said earlier about it being permanent, that would add a tremendous amount of stability to what's going on, particularly if you're trying to think about doing estate planning and things like that and it's zero this year and 55 next year—unless it gets changed to 35 and there is this exemption. But how in the world does anybody plan what's going on and how in the world can a small business survive?

You know, if you've got a multitrillion-dollar business and armies of accountants and people like that, you've got the flexibility that if the tax rules change, you move your business overseas. You don't want to create jobs in America, fine. We'll create jobs overseas. You show us the rules, we'll play the game. Big business can do that. But those small businesses that have most of the jobs in America don't have that flexibility.

And when we hammer them with a 55 percent death tax—which is what's fixing to happen, as they would say in Missouri, on January 1, that's pretty tough. You could picture a farm and, as you said, what are you going to do? Are you going to sell the fields? Are you going to sell the tractors and the equipment? Are you going to sell the sheds? What are you going to do? You inherit the farm from your dad, you've worked it, he's worked it all his life, you've got the homestead there. Are you going to sell that, liquidate the whole thing and sell half of your farm just so you can pay the government for something that you already paid taxes on that you bought with your money?

I just can't imagine your discussion, G.T., with the family that bought their own business three times. You can see why people get a little hot under the collar.

And then what are we using the money for? That's another big question. To bail out the California teachers' pension when they can't manage their pension? That makes me mad. In the State of Missouri, we've got teachers too. They've got a pension, and they're expected to manage the pension properly. If they don't, it goes bankrupt and they don't get their pension money. So why are we bailing out the teachers of some State that can't manage their own pension? I don't understand that. That's why I don't like that great big old bailout. It was a scam, and it didn't work and a whole lot of people are hurting.

□ 2240

I was asked by a very liberal talk show host, What are you going to say to somebody that lost their job? I told them, I can't say anything. These are the policies that this liberal Congress allowed to happen, and this isn't what we need to be doing. We need to be getting back on to some good solid economic footing.

I think we've probably got about 3 or 4 minutes, but I would be happy to yield to my good friend from Pennsylvania. Congressman THOMPSON, if you would like to add a couple of finishing comments.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Sure. Just real briefly, you had a chart there that showed a lot of different spending schemes, health care, IMF bailout, the bank bailout, the omnibus. We're talking billions of dollars are being spent and all in the name of supposedly good causes. I question many of those as being very ineffective.

Mr. AKIN. You've got your Wall Street bailout here, economic stimulus. Boy, that was a doozy. Here's that socialized medicine at \$1 trillion. That's the Optimist Society's version. They are not going to get by with \$1 trillion on that. And the IMF bailout. Yeah, there are some winners there.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I think the absolute best economic stimulus that we could have is extending these tax cuts. I think that what happens as a result of that is it provides some certainty back into businesses, especially those 2.1 million small businesses that create 60, 70 percent of our jobs that you referenced, Mr. AKIN. And I think if we create that certainty, we're going to see a lot of business plans take off. And what we're going to see is unemployment will go down because jobs will be created, and people will have more prosperity, and that will solve a lot of problems that we're experiencing currently.

Mr. AKIN. Yes. We're saying, Jobs and a paycheck beat bureaucrats and food stamps.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentleman from Missouri would yield, and I thank him very much.

I am going to ask him to give me permission to speak and to shift gears just a little bit. I know we're talking about the economy, and that's the main point of the Special Order hour this evening. But we had another vote this afternoon that was pretty important as well, barely passed on the House floor maybe an hour or so ago, the so-called DREAM Act.

Mr. AKIN. The nightmare act.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. The DREAM Act which people in the 11th district of Georgia, northwest Georgia think is a nightmare. It may be a dream if these students want to go back to their own country and attend one of their great universities. But bottom line is, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say, and I will put in the RECORD, that I came to the floor and, with my electronic vote card, voted a resounding "no." I had to step out quickly, only to come back in and find out that it wasn't recorded. That was very disappointing to me because I think that vote was to allow about 2.5 million people in this country illegally to ultimately be granted amnesty, and I think it was a very boneheaded wrong vote.

And with that, I will yield back to my gentleman friend from Missouri.

Mr. AKIN. Well, you brought up a tender topic here basically. And I appreciate you gentlemen joining us. I appreciate your commitment to the American Dream. And God bless you and the American public.

IT'S NOT A ZERO-SUM GAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives and the opportunity to express some things that are on my mind, perhaps while others are sleeping and perhaps while others are having trouble sleeping, for they see what happens around this Congress.

I am very, very grateful to the C-SPAN cameras and the transparency that exists here in the House. And I think back those years now, maybe as far back as almost 20 years ago, maybe even more, when I sat in my living room, and I watched what was going on in this room. And I listened to the speeches, and I analyzed the presentations that came from the various Members of Congress on either side of the aisle.

As I sat back, as an American who was busy building a business and creating jobs and meeting payroll for 1,440 consecutive weeks, trying to build capital where there was none that existed and shape that together so that we could take care of the longevity of my family and that of the families of the people that I had hired that worked for me and did so well to help build the business with us all together, while all

that was going on, I was watching what was going on in Washington, DC, in Des Moines, Iowa. And I saw and heard the voices of the people that came forward to tell America there was something wrong in this Congress. And as I listened to them, they inspired me. They inspired me to get more involved in public life, to get engaged in politics, that there were a lot of decisions that were being made in this city and in the capital cities in the States across the land that were affecting the very lives of the American people down into their families. And a lot of folks didn't know it. They weren't paying attention.

So I started to pay attention. And from those years forward, I saw what was going on. The irresponsible spending that was taking place and the dysfunctional Congress that had rolled itself up into a point where it no longer represented the American people, but it seemed to exist for its own purposes and not for the purposes of serving the American people. And as this unfolded, personalities that were here on the floor—Newt Gingrich and Dick Armey and a number of others that stand out in my mind and cause me to think that I might be able to make a contribution at some level, whether that be the State level or the Federal level—but they convinced me that there was a broad philosophical disagreement in America. And on the one side of the aisle, you have people that believe in growing government, that government is the solution and that higher taxes are necessary in order to fund this growing government. And if there's a problem that exists out there, even if it's for a single individual, there is somebody over on this side of the aisle that will try to pass a law to fix that problem for a single individual, and government grows. And they won't look at empirical data, by the way.

I offer study after study, and they turn a blind eye to those studies. They simply want to try to reach out and touch people's heartstrings and tell the anecdote, the single anecdote. And with 300 million people, we always have someone who got the short end of the stick. That's this side of the aisle. The case of the people with the "poor me's," the ones that think that these greedy capitalists are victimizing the poor proletariat, and that it's a zero-sum game, and the glass is half empty, and it would have been maybe three-quarters or maybe, let me say, it would have been not as empty as half empty if these people that went out and got out of bed and went to work every day and produced something hadn't been taking from that glass. It might have been full from them, they wouldn't have had to do anything.

But truthfully, Mr. Speaker, it's not a zero-sum game. And anybody that thinks their glass is half empty, their resolution of that is to go to government and ask government to tax the person whose glass has got the same level in it. But theirs, over here on this side, this is the half full side of the