



Mr. Speaker, I know that there's a debate about when the world began and there is some who think it began 4,000 years ago and some who think it began earlier.

We have a rare specimen today, people who think it began on January 20th, 2009, who do not think anything happened before that, who do not remember the years of Republican rule where many things went wrong.

Now they are talking about the economic recovery bill. Ben Bernanke who was the Chairman of the Council of Economic advisors appointed by George Bush -- that happened before January 20, so you may not have remembered it, I would say to my friends on the other side. But he told the House Financial Services Committee that unemployment would be higher if it was not for the economic recovery bill. That was Ben Bernanke. In his report he twice cited examples of it.

And as to this argument the bill was of no use -- I debated this bill in February with Republican members of congress when they scoffed at the notion that there was something in it for police and fire. I was very pleased today to be notified that 23 police officers will be added to two of the communities in my district, Fall River and New Bedford, directly as a result of the economic recovery plan. Magnify that nationally and it's 10,000.