

a dirty word. It meant you give up your principles.

If you operate on that principle, you can never negotiate a settlement in anything. What they don't understand is that there is a time when you take what you can get and come back tomorrow.

Everybody who has been here for more than one term knows that nobody gets 100 percent of what they want. I have been here in this place for 23 years, and I have gotten 60 percent and I figure I'm a big winner. Now, you come back the next year for the rest. We're doing that on the health care bill. We're doing that on a whole lot of things. You do not get it all now by saying, It's my way or the highway. No, every battle is not to the death.

The only hope I had for us was that our leadership on the Republican side had been here in 1996. They saw what happened. And 2 years later the Republicans lost seats, 2 years after that they lost seats, and the Speaker, Gingrich, was gone, he's history, on the basis of coming in here and saying, My way or the highway.

Now, if you think this is the big battle, let me give you the real facts:

In 5 weeks we're going to come to the debt limit. If you think people who believe that their way is the right way are going to fight over what's going on right now, what is it going to be like when we get to the debt limit, or by September when we get to the next budget resolution? We could have three shutdowns this year with no problem at all if the leadership on the other side allows their Members to drive them into this craziness. They have to stand up and tell them, Look, guys, there is a tomorrow; all right? We're hurting people and they're going to remember. People are not going to forget what happens here. They didn't forget in 1998, and they didn't forget in 2000. They kept whacking away at the people who were in charge.

Now, what's it all about here? It's not about money. H.R. 1 was \$101 billion. Okay. The President has come all the way to \$71 billion or \$73 billion. That's more than halfway. The Republicans won that issue. Take it. Take it.

No, no, they say, but we have to change social policy.

This is really about social policy. It's not about winning or cutting down the deficit or any of that stuff. It is just as it was in Wisconsin. It was not about the deficit in Wisconsin; it was about breaking unions. The judge said that. That's why he threw the law out, because, he said, you're taking away people's rights in unions; you're not here worrying about the deficit in Wisconsin.

Well, here the issue was NPR. Now, if we took NPR off the radio tomorrow morning, do you think the deficit would be one bit affected? Of course not. If we got rid of the EPA, would there be some effect on the deficit? No. In fact, the Senate, they took the EPA repeal off the table. They said, Look,

rich people breathe the air; rich people drink the same water as everybody else in the country. That's a stupid public policy change. So we're not going to take that one.

What was left? Family planning, abortion, poor women. Now, there's a bunch that can't fight back. Let's go get 'em. Let's hold out and we will finally get the poor women in this country.

That's what this is about. It is not about balancing the budget. It is not about anything else except getting poor people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

IT'S TIME TO STOP THE SPENDING INSANITY IN WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every evening across this great land, after homework is finished and the supper dishes are cleared and the children are put to bed, Mom and Dad sit down at the kitchen table, they sharpen their pencils, and they take out a pad of paper, and they struggle to make ends meet.

Whether their budgeting technique is different than the house next door, they know, without a doubt, that they cannot have their monthly bills exceed their monthly take-home pay. If the bills are higher than the monthly pay, they have to make changes.

So bill by bill they discuss what they have to pay. They discuss things like the power bill and the rent and the mortgage, the car loan, the credit card payments. Mom and Dad cut out the things that they can do without. Maybe it's the golf membership for Dad. Maybe it's the weekly pedicure for Mom. Whatever it is, they know they have to make tough and real decisions.

It's time to stop the spending insanity here in Washington, D.C.

America, your Nation is broke. We cannot continue to borrow 42 cents of every dollar we spend. We cannot continue to spend a trillion dollars more each year than we're bringing in; and we definitely cannot do that year after year, raking up over \$14 trillion in debt that our children must one day pay.

And your Congress is struggling with cutting a paltry \$61 billion from a \$3.8 trillion spending plan. It's like we're arguing over what station the radio is on while the car is going off the cliff.

In the American kitchen, Dad looks at Mom at this point, and he says, Honey, something's got to change.

Your House of Representatives, folks, they've passed a spending plan. The Senate has failed to act. They haven't even come across with even their best-case-scenario spending plan. Even if it's the status quo of spending a trillion and a half dollars more than we are bringing in this year, they haven't

brought anything across the aisle. So how do you negotiate if one body has brought their best plan and the other body hasn't done anything?

Yesterday, I was proud to vote to provide military pay for the guys and gals across this great land that are standing on the wall defending the liberties that we have. They deserve to be paid. They don't deserve to stand on that wall and wonder if back home Mom is wondering if the power is going to stay on, if she's going to be able to pay the rent, or if she's going to be able to put food on the table for her children. That's the American way, to take care of the military.

I was no prouder than to stand on the steps of the United States Senate yesterday and implore, encourage, ask, beg the majority leader in the Senate to get to work, to come to the table with a real solution, because I don't want to be with my colleagues many years from now dying in our beds waiting for one chance, hoping for one chance, to trade every day from this day to that for another chance to come back here and do what we should do as Americans, and that's fund our government, get our spending under control, and protect the future for our children.

□ 1050

GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise not to debate the economic crisis. Our national debt recently reached \$14 trillion and our deficit continues to rise annually. So we know that we have a crisis, and that is really not the debate here today. However, I want to remind my colleagues that our economic deficit is dependent on our job deficit and our ever-growing education deficit.

While we must work to rein in spending, we must not indiscriminately cut funding in areas like education, health, and employment that will hamper our immediate and future economic growth. As we remain vigilant in cutting the debt and reducing deficits, we must remember that the most powerful driver of both is a growing economy, which includes an increase in revenue.

During this recession, unemployment has impeded economic growth. One of the challenges in addressing unemployment has been the rapid decline in certain occupations and industries and our labor market's inability to meet the demand of new occupations and industries.

More than two-thirds of workers in occupations and industries that are growing have at least some postsecondary education compared to one-third of the workers in occupations and industries that are declining. The demand for a post-secondary education, as well as the increase in baby boomer

retirement, is predicted to result in a shortage of more than 14 million college-educated workers by the year 2020. This is the deficit that should garner our national attention and we should work together on. We can only address this through our continued focus on education, training, employment, and social services, which make up a total of 2 percent of our Federal budget.

To build sustainable economic growth, we must continue our investment in employment and training programs, which have experienced an increase in demand of support for displaced and unemployed workers. We must continue our investment in higher education by maintaining Pell Grant funding, as well as support for programs such as TRIO, which sends the largest amount of low-income students to and through college, which helps the economic prowess of this country. We must continue our investment in title I programs, which are intended to supplement local resources of underserved schools, which bring our economy down.

We must continue our investment in School Improvement Grants, which provide important resources for States to turn around their lowest-performing schools and significantly reduce the high school dropout rate, which causes our country a great deal of deficit.

We must continue our investment in programs that address the 17,000 word gap between low-income 6-year-olds and their more advantaged peers. We must support programs such as Head Start that work to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline and replace it with a cradle-to-career pipeline by providing early childhood education to low-income children. These supports, in tandem, produce a higher number of taxpaying citizens and add growth to our economy. Yet, my colleagues continually try to attack these efforts by cutting these programs.

Further, my colleagues—who made a “pledge to America” to develop a plan to create jobs, end economic uncertainty, and make America more competitive—continuously introduce and support measures to undermine this pledge and devastate our economic growth as a Nation.

In March, unemployment fell to 8.8 percent, a 2-year low. Payrolls grew to 216,000 for the month, following 194,000 in February. Private hiring rose by 230,000 people in March, following a 240,000 growth in February. Manufacturing expanded to a 7-year high in March. Incomes and consumer spending increased in February, helping to expand the economy. Yet, ignoring economic facts, the experts, the political reality, and the best interests of the American people, the Republicans continue to embrace an ideological spending plan that would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail the economic recovery just as it is beginning to gain momentum.

The current Republican spending plan would: Give away tax breaks to companies that shift jobs overseas;

give away tens of billions of dollars in tax subsidies to Big Oil companies; and make tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, which adds \$1 trillion to the deficit.

This plan would kick almost 1 million college students out of the Pell Grant program.

218,000 low income children and families would be removed from the Head Start program.

170,000 families trying to find or retain employment would lose childcare.

2,400 schools serving nearly a million low-income students would lose funding.

Job training programs for those out of work or attaining new skills would be dramatically cut.

Guaranteed coverage for seniors under Medicare would be eliminated.

Cuts will be made to Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes, health care for children and Americans with disabilities.

This spending plan that my colleagues have proposed only highlights the misplaced priorities.

The Republican budget is the wrong choice for the American people: it is unfair; it doesn't create jobs; and it doesn't grow the economy.

This proposal attempts to cut the deficit on the backs of working families, seniors, children, and our middle class. But I contend: We cannot build this country's economy on the backs of the vulnerable.

The public wants Democrats and Republicans to negotiate and compromise. My Democratic colleagues and I are willing to make responsible budget cuts that don't cost jobs, don't hurt the economy and that reduce the deficit responsibly.

Yet, our Republican colleagues continue to waste precious time with draconian spending proposals filled with divisive “policy riders” that are unacceptable to the American people.

This is irresponsible. Working families deserve more. Our children deserve more. Our future as a Nation deserves more.

LONE SURVIVOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, this past week, I had the opportunity to read a book called “Lone Survivor,” a tale about four Navy SEALs that were inserted into Afghanistan territory, Lieutenant Mike Murphy, Petty Officer Matthew Axelson, Petty Officer Danny Dietz, and Marcus Luttrell. Marcus Luttrell, the lone survivor, writes the book and says, “If they built a mountain as high as the Empire State Building for Lieutenant Murphy, it would not be high enough.”

These four young men—physical specimens, men of valor, men of courage—were inserted into the dark on top of an Afghanistan mountain. Shortly after arrival, daylight hit. Three goat herders came upon them. They easily subdued them. Then the choice was to kill—if they represented a clear and present danger—or to let them go. One voted to abstain. There was a tie vote between the other two. Finally, Marcus Luttrell voted to let them go. He knew

what the consequences would be. Twenty minutes later, the Taliban that they were after, over 100 came rushing over the top of the mountain firing their AK-47s and RPGs.

The four young SEALs moved to the back of the precipice. They were forced back by the fire and finally jumped off the edge of the mountain, 200 to 300 yards, the equivalent of three football fields straight down.

Lieutenant Mike Murphy had already been shot through the stomach. They were facing odds of 35 to 1, at least. They were worried about being tried for murder in this country because of their actions. They fell back off the mountain doing back flips headlong. Enemies swarmed after them. They were pushing through trees, grabbing limbs, trying to stop. Danny Dietz is shot. No SEAL is ever left behind. Mikey, bleeding out of his stomach, and Marcus move into the open and drag Danny back to cover. The enemy keeps closing in.

They are forced back a second time to another precipice and jump off a sheer cliff, the equivalent of four stories, straight down. Danny was shot again in the lower back. It blew out his stomach. He was still firing. Grenades are now pouring in on them. The Taliban reinforcements are coming closer, yards away, 20, 30 away. Danny is shot again. This time he slumps over, drops his rifle. He props himself up miraculously and continues to fire.

They have fallen over 900 feet down the mountain now. They fall back to the edge again and go over the edge. The SEALs had taken a heavy toll. Eighty Taliban are rushing after them, firing. Danny is shot again, this time in the neck. He slumps over. No SEAL is left behind. Marcus Luttrell steps out into the hail of gunfire to rescue him, props him up, and starts pulling him back by the pack. Danny is still firing his weapon.

Again they have to go over the edge. This time, Lieutenant Murphy understands they've got one choice. He casually walks out with his severe wounds into the opening to where he can get his cell phone open and get a call for help. He sits there with thousands of rounds of AK-47 rounds hitting near him. He makes a call and says, sir, taking heavy fire. Need help.

A round hits him in the back, blood spurts out his chest. Marcus Luttrell listens to him saying, “Yes, sir.” He drops his rifle, he picks up his cell phone from the ground and says, “Yes, sir, I'll tell the men, sir.”

Mortally wounded, he sits there, rounds continuing to come in. Lieutenant Mike Murphy falls on the ground and says, “Marcus, help me. Marcus, help me.” Axelson, the third soldier to die that day, is dying on the other side. Miraculously, Marcus Luttrell survives.

We made this, yesterday, a discussion that was academic about supporting our troops. We have friends on the other side of the aisle saying it's a