

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICA'S DEBT CRISIS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, we face a budget crisis in this country.

America is broke. Without bold action, our budget situation will get worse—not better.

We also face a severe economic recession. The current national unemployment rate is 9.0 percent, and it has been as high as 10.1 percent back in April 2009.

With so many Americans out of work, the federal government should be doing everything in its power to encourage economic growth, not discourage it.

Cutting spending is critical to creating a pro-growth environment. Cutting spending is essential to sustained, free-market job creation.

House Republicans are the only group in Washington showing leadership on this issue.

We have voted repeatedly to cut spending in the short term. And we have passed a budget that would reduce spending by \$6.2 trillion over ten years.

By contrast, it has been more than 750 days since Senate Democrats even passed a budget.

Recently, Sen. REID said: "There's no need to have a Democratic budget in my opinion. It would be foolish for us to do a budget at this stage."

That is a breathtaking statement for two reasons.

First, the Senate is required by law under the Congressional Budget Act to pass a budget.

Second, working families across America live within their means everyday by following a family budget. It's simple: they don't spend what they don't have.

So I ask: Why shouldn't Democrats in the Senate live by the same rule?

Now the White House is asking us to raise the debt limit. Secretary Geithner wrote, "Never in our history has Congress failed to increase the debt limit when necessary."

The White House wants a clean increase in the debt limit. That means they want Congress to approve more debt without cutting back on any spending.

That is a failed policy. The vote we took tonight is a clear indicator that House Republicans reject that approach.

Our message is clear: We will not vote to raise the debt limit without significant reforms that change the culture of spending in Washington.

The American people already owe more than \$14 trillion in debt. Much of it is owed to foreign nations, some of whom are hostile to American interests.

Allowing the government to take on more debt without cutting back on spending is simply irresponsible. Doing so would continue to erode America's financial strength and threat-

en the prosperity for future generations of Americans.

Raising the debt ceiling without spending cuts—akin to simply printing more money—would likely cause the value of the dollar to plunge and the cost of imports, especially gas and oil, to increase.

This would result in a significant increase to the cost of running a household or a business. The volatility and uncertainty would cause businesses to delay investing, growing, and creating new jobs.

The statutory debt limit was intended as a check on government spending. But what good is a debt limit that is always increased?

Instead of addressing the root cause of the growing debt, past Congresses have raised the limit ten times in the last ten years.

I, like many of my colleagues, were sent to Congress to put an end to that.

Our vote tonight is a tangible sign of the commitment we made to our constituents.

But the truth is that Democrats spent this money. They made this mess. They should help clean it up.

If the White House wants us to consider raising the debt limit, they should be at the table proposing significant reforms that yield trillions—not billions—in savings to the American people.

So far, that hasn't happened.

Tomorrow, the President has invited House Republicans to the White House to discuss the debt ceiling.

His request for a clean increase in the debt limit was rejected tonight. I hope that tomorrow President Obama will offer serious proposals to cure Washington's addiction to spending.

No lip service.

No gimmicks.

No smoke and mirrors.

The American people don't want more political posturing. They want transformational reform. They want commonsense leadership. They want discipline and fiscal responsibility.

I hope that is what the President proposes tomorrow. I look forward to evaluating his ideas.

MEMORIAL DAY 2011 SPEECH BY ASHLEY SZATALA

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to place in the RECORD the Memorial Day address offered by a rising star in our district in Ohio. Ashley Szatala, a student at Sandusky St. Mary's High School, presented her remarks during the Memorial Day 2011 opening ceremony in Sandusky. The following is Ashley's Memorial Day 2011 speech and the ceremony program.

Over the last few weeks, hundreds of volunteers have placed flags at the graves of our

Nation's soldiers. Many local communities lined their streets with flags in honor of Memorial Day. Hundreds of you this morning gathered at the roadside waving a small American Flag as parade participants passed by. The flag goes wherever our leaders go. It has gone before soldiers in battles and is draped atop the casket of fallen heroes. For over 200 years the American flag has been the symbol of our Nation's strength and our unity. The Stars and Stripes—as we affectionately refer to it—stands for the ideals we hold true—liberty, equality, and freedom. Its history tells the story of perseverance by our Nation's veterans as they fought in defense of our liberty.

The most poignant moment in our Nation's history was made on January 1, 1776. Before laying siege against the British army, General of the Continental Army, George Washington, commanded that the Grand Union Flag be raised. Since that historic raising of our Nation's flag it has been a constant companion to our troops in times of war and peace. On June 14, 1777, the U.S. Congress proposed the "Flag Act," which introduced the American Flag as a prominent symbol of our nation. The original flag was decorated with 13 red and white stripes, and adorned with 13 stars amidst a blue background at the top left corner of our flag. The number 13 represented the 13 original colonies. After a series of changes from 1777–1960 to the original design, the final look of the American flag consisted of 13 alternating red and white stripes, and 50 white stars surrounded by a blue background. The 50 stars represented the 50 United States.

Since its inception, the American flag inspired Francis Scott Key to compose our Nation's anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. Like many other American citizens of the day, Key worried that the American flag would not be flying over Fort McHenry during a battle in the war of 1812. Overcome with joy to see the flag of new America, he wrote the song that we hold dear to our hearts today. Since then, the American Flag has journeyed to foreign lands during the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. It has stood as a beacon of light as our brave men and women fought against oppression and tyranny. Today, the American Flag is one of the most revered and respected symbols in America. However, it is not just a piece of cloth, but a symbol of liberty and freedom. In fact, its colors of red, white, and blue have rich symbolism.

A review of that rich symbolism will help you understand why it is only fitting that an American flag stands beside each grave of our fallen heroes. The color red stands for the hardiness and valor. Our servicemen and women are hardy. They are strong in the face of danger. Their collective strength is not measured by how much muscle they have, but by how strong and resilient their heart is. They demonstrate valor as they defend liberty, justice, and freedom against the enemy. They demonstrate personal bravery and courage far beyond what the rest of us will ever be called upon to exhibit.

White in the American flag refers to purity. Our great country remains pure in its ideals. Those ideals of liberty, justice, equality, and freedom have held strong through the years and never wavered. Our veterans and active servicemen and women have rallied around these ideals and have fought and

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