

The gentleman has been an advocate always for paying for what we do. And so I would say, as to the request as to where and when we were doing the supplemental, we still have not heard from the administration because, as the gentleman knows, there's a process that goes on at the local and State levels to make a determination about the need and to make a determination that the need exceeds the capacities of the local and State governments so as to then turn to FEMA and the Federal Government to come in.

So I say to the gentleman, we need to understand exactly what the costs are going to be, and we will make sure that we find the money. I will also say that we continue to try and get out of the sort of ad hoc way of appropriating for such emergencies. The fact is in the past that we, in this Congress, have not adequately funded the disaster accounts and have found ourselves caught shorthanded when disaster hits.

As the gentleman knows, part of the debt ceiling agreement included a 10-year rolling average to now be the amount for which we will budget for the disaster fund. Hopefully, that will get us on a much more even keel and allow for the adequate funding of what's needed, both in the short term and long.

But as for the supplemental, we are still waiting for the administration's determination of what is needed. And if it is FY12 monies, we will have the opportunity to roll that into the process of budgeting for the disasters the way we set out to do that in the debt ceiling agreement.

Mr. HOYER. I appreciate the gentleman's observation and also his reference to the head room that we gave in the agreement that was reached in raising the debt ceiling, understanding that there are emergencies that occur and you need head room to deal with those emergencies. I'm appreciative of the gentleman's observation.

I understand as well, I want to acknowledge that his district was hard hit, not only by the earthquake, but by Irene and, I presume, by the rains as well that have compounded that issue.

In any event, I appreciate his willingness to ensure that we do, in fact, get a supplemental that will meet the needs, the immediate needs of those people throughout certainly the Atlantic coast, but in other parts of the country as well. I appreciate and will look forward to working with him on that objective, as I will look forward to working with him on realizing the early passage of a jobs bill which will, in fact, get Americans back to work and get our economy growing, as is essential.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when with the

House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia? There was no objection.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against the Intelligence reauthorization act reluctantly. On the eve of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, there's still nothing more important than the security of our people. But I am troubled by a clear lack of progress in getting our arms around the sprawling intelligence bureaucracy.

There are 856,000 people with top security clearance in the United States. Think about it: that's nearly the population of the entire State of Delaware. It's more than the number of people who live in San Francisco.

In over 10,000 locations scattered across the country, there are 1,200 government organizations, 1,900 private companies that focus on intelligence-gathering and homeland security. But, unfortunately, we have an inability for anybody to know exactly what is going on. And the flood of information that is generated by hundreds of thousands of people with opportunities for leaks and mistakes is troubling. It can be a source of vulnerability. After all, parts of the bureaucracy were well aware of the threat from Osama bin Laden immediately prior to 9/11. It's time for us to give this the scrutiny it deserves.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Today we introduced a resolution to honor those whose lives were lost on 9/11. As a Member of Congress, I vividly remember as we rushed from this building and glared at the Pentagon and saw the remains of the plane that had attacked this Nation. From Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. to New York, our lives were changed as America watched.

Today, as I stand on this floor, I offer my deepest remorse and sympathy to the families who still are in pain, to the first responders whose memories are still glaring in their attempt to find those who were lost and to save what might be left and the pain they have and the health conditions they suffer.

But what I will say to America is that we are still America, strong, patriotic and believing in all that we are, the great diversity that we are. Thank you to the Muslims who are in the Capitol right now providing the gift of life, giving blood. Thank you to the City of

Houston that will be honoring those this coming weekend. We will be together because we are America. We will not be deterred.

PROTECTING OUR WATER SUPPLY

(Mr. CLARKE of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, nearly 10 years after the horrific events of 9/11, Americans are still at risk, especially at risk of being poisoned, poisoned by terrorists who would choose to dump large amounts of chemicals into our drinking water supply. So in order to protect the safety of our people, especially Metro Detroiters who drink water from a large municipal water system, today I'm introducing legislation to better secure our municipal water systems all around this country from such a terrorist threat.

REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, we all have our own stories, personal stories on how 9/11 affected us, where we were, what we were doing. For my generation, I'm sure the day will go down in history as our day of infamy.

My perspective is as a first responder on that day and someone who grew up in New York. I was working for the Department of Defense at the time, leading a counterterrorism medical response organization. And my partner, Paramedic Jason Kepp, was actually conducting some training with the U.S. Park Police over at their aviation facility in Anacostia when they saw a low-flying plane and then heard the loud explosion. Jason quickly jumped on a U.S. Park Police helicopter and was one of the first responders to arrive at the Pentagon and provide aid.

I was traveling and in St. Louis when I turned on the TV that morning and saw the first tower in flames and was watching as the second tower was struck by another aircraft.

□ 1200

I knew that I needed to get back to my office in Bethesda as quickly as possible, a task made more difficult by the fact that aircraft had been grounded nationwide. So I remained on the phone, coordinating my teams, dispatching them to the various sites, and preparing for what might come next.

I carried that out until I made my way back to my office here and then subsequently on my way to New York City.

The tragic events showed us the darkest side of humanity: My drive up the New Jersey Turnpike, along with