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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I continue to be disappointed in the House leadership in that we are not looking into this issue of the CIA giving tens of millions of dollars to Karzai, the corrupt leader of Afghanistan. We don't hold any hearings about it, we're spending money there, and kids are still dying. In fact, we had four American soldiers killed yesterday in Afghanistan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator CORKER from Tennessee for taking the lead on Monday and writing a letter to the Secretary of State, John Kerry, and demanding an explanation of the secret payments by the CIA. I fully agree with the Senator's decision to place a hold on U.S. funding for Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, we're still having kids killed in Afghanistan, severely wounded, and yet there is no full debate on the floor of the House. That to me is a tragedy. We should be debating the issue of Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, to make things worse, yesterday in *The New York Times*,

Karzai's office made the following statement:

In view of the contradictions between acts and statements made by the United States of America in regard to the peace process, the Afghan Government suspended negotiations currently under way in Kabul between Afghan and the U.S. delegations, on the bilateral security agreement.

Mr. Speaker, it would be my wish that we would just totally scrap the bilateral security agreement. That means that America would be there for 10 more years after 2014 with a semblance of a military presence and also spending money that we don't have. This is just another failed policy that we in the Congress continue to support.

Karzai will not last as the leader of Afghanistan. What will happen is the Taliban will eventually take over. They are the Pashtuns that make up the majority of the Taliban. They are the largest tribe in Afghanistan, and they will eventually lead Afghanistan.

I do not understand why the Taliban that we're fighting today, who will probably be the leaders in the next 2 or 3 years of Afghanistan, why we're going to support them with finances and with young men and women. There's something wrong here, and I hope that the House of Representatives, the leadership in both parties, will come together and say we're going to debate the policy in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, this cartoon that I have that I've been handing out in a flyer to members in my district, it's got Mr. Karzai standing in front of a CIA ATM machine. He's got a little card. I guess it's paid for by Uncle Sam. He's taking money out, and you can see bags of cash at his feet. Karzai says: "I'm just making a quick withdrawal." But the sad thing about it is that a soldier standing behind him says: "I would like to make a quick withdrawal from Afghanistan."

I hope the American people will put pressure on the House and Senate to stop spending money we don't have in

Afghanistan if for no other reason than to save the lives of our young men and women who are dying over there each and every week. And I will continue to ask how a Nation that is financially broke can continue to pay a corrupt leader to stay in power when he criticizes us in the paper almost every other week.

It's time for Congress to meet its responsibility based on the Constitution and have a debate on this war in Afghanistan.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God in His loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I ask God to bless the House and the Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God. I ask God to please bless the President, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And I close three times by saying God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

SNAP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MASSIE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Last week I went shopping. I wouldn't exactly call it a spree. What I did was I went to one of the lowest cost grocery stores in the Eugene-Springfield area where I live to try and purchase a week's worth of food for \$31.50. That's the average SNAP benefit for a single individual.

There are those on the other side of the aisle with regard to the FARRM Bill that will come up later today and say, This is the first place to cut: food assistance to hungry people, to kids, to seniors, to the unemployed, the disabled. That's where they want to cut first.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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