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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 14, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE HOLDING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 1:50 p.m.

OUR SACRED DUTY IS TO GOVERN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in Luke 12:48, Jesus said:

> From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

The Congress and the President have been entrusted with much, namely, the responsibility to govern this country. The American people rightly expect us, regardless of party affiliation, to come together, especially during times of crisis, and find ways to get things done. They are understandably fed up with the current dysfunction, and I am, too.

Each side thinks it's winning, but, in reality, the country and the American people are losing. Senate Chaplain Barry Black says there is a level of insanity involved in the current government shutdown. Asked what it would take to end the current impasse, the former Navy chaplain said, ''It's going to take humility.'' Wise words. Proverbs 16:18 says:

> Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

There is too much pride poisoning this debate. The American people should be the winner, not one party or the other, not the administration or the Congress. Shortsighted political victories aimed at capturing the latest headline in a 24-hour news cycle will not stand the test of time, nor will they be viewed well through the lens of history, especially if, on our watch, the trust that must exist between elected officials and the electorate is frayed beyond repair.

For those of us who think ObamaCare is a disaster—and that is a growing number of people in our country—its future will not be decided by the shutting or opening of the government. In fact, the current failings of the system, including the widespread glitches plaguing the Web site, are not getting the news coverage they should because the story has become the shutdown. The public debate surrounding ObamaCare, which will undoubtedly be at the forefront in heading into the midterm elections, will play second fiddle until the government is once again operational.

It also bears mentioning that, while important, ObamaCare must be placed in a larger context of the exploding national debt and deficit and unsustainable spending and entitlement programs set against the backdrop of a public discourse bereft of civility. Only through enacting reforms based on the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles recommendations will we ever solve the drivers of our deficits. We have put these tough but important reforms off for far too long.

To my colleagues in the Congress and to President Obama who think they are ''winning'' at this particular moment, we would do well to remember the words of Napoleon Bonaparte in speaking of the changing nature of public opinion. Napoleon said:

> The crowd which follows me with adulation would run with the same eagerness were I marching to the guillotine.

I return again to the sentiments of Scripture: We have been given a great trust, and it is demanded of us to come together to solve these problems. It is time to show some humility. It is time to govern. Let's get the government back open, ensure we don't default on our debt, and then commit ourselves to curbing unsustainable entitlement spending.

DAY NUMBER 14 OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, day No. 14.

Mr. Speaker, today is the 14th day of the government shutdown, and we are 1 day closer to defaulting on our debt. Mr. Speaker, we've never not paid our bills as Americans—as Americans, we always pay on time—but we are 1 day closer to a manufactured crisis. We've got to stop this.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for leadership. Enough with the games, enough with the name-calling, and enough with the finger-pointing. We have to come together as Democrats and Republicans and put the country first.

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Mr. Speaker, you are the Speaker of this House. This House has both Democrats and Republicans, and you need to lead us. It's that time. I will make a quick suggestion. Here is what you can do in three easy steps:

Step No. 1, open the government;

Step No. 2, let us pay our bills; and

Step No. 3, let's negotiate. Let's come together as Democrats and Republicans and negotiate a real budget that starts to address our debt. Let's make sure we don't leave our children and grandchildren a mountain of debt. Let's do what our parents and grandparents always did, which was to leave the country better off for the next generation.

That is what it takes—leadership. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for that leadership. You are the Speaker of this House, and we need you to lead us as Democrats and Republicans. America is watching, and we need to put the people's interests first.

THE DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the debt limit exists for a simple reason: to assure that public debt isn't recklessly piled up without Congress periodically acknowledging it and addressing the spending patterns that are causing it. If a debt limit increase is supposed to be automatic, as the President suggests, then there is really no purpose to it.

A new dimension has now appeared in this discussion. Unlike every one of his predecessors, this President has vowed that unless Congress unconditionally raises the debt limit, the United States will default on its sovereign debt.

But a failure to raise the debt limit would not, by itself, cause the Nation to default. The Government Accountability Office has consistently held that the Treasury Secretary has ''the authority to choose the order in which to pay obligations of the United States'' to protect the Nation's credit. Such authority is inherent in the 1789 act that established the Treasury Department and entrusted it with ''the management of the revenue'' and the ''support of the public credit.'' The affirmative duty of the Treasury Department to do so is underscored by the 14th Amendment.

Our revenues are more than 10 times our debt payments, so paying the debt first to prevent a sovereign default is well within the financial ability of the Federal Government—and indeed, it is a fiscal imperative.

Now, earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 807, which not only explicitly requires the payment of the national debt in the case of an impasse over the debt limit, but even allows the President to exceed the debt limit, itself, in order to protect the Nation's credit. That measure languishes in the Senate under the threat of a Presidential veto.

Protecting the sovereign credit by prioritizing payments would mean delaying paying other bills. That is also untenable, unthinkable, and something much to be avoided, but it would not imperil the Nation's sovereign credit. Only the President can do that.

The House leadership met with the President last week and offered to extend the debt limit until November 22 with no strings attached. The President refused. Senate Republicans offered a 6-month extension, but the Senate Democratic leader refused.

What the President threatens to do would be catastrophic and unprecedented. The full faith and credit of the United States is what gives markets the confidence to loan money to the Federal Government. Even a threat of default—exactly the kind the President is now making—could have dire consequences to a Nation that now owes more than its entire economy produces in a year.

So where do we go from here?

Republicans have miscalculated on two key assumptions: first, that the Democrats would negotiate the issues that divide our country—they have not; and second, that Democrats would seek to minimize the suffering caused by the impasse—they have not.

Given the ruthless and vindictive way the shutdown has been handled, I now believe that this President would willfully act to destroy the full faith and credit of the United States unless the Congress acquiesces to all of his demands—at least as long as he sees political advantage in doing so.

If the Republicans acquiesce, the immediate crisis will quickly vanish, credit markets will calm, and public life will return to other matters. But a fundamental element of our Constitution will have been destroyed: the power of the purse will have shifted from the representatives of the people to the Executive. The executive bureaucracies will be freed to churn out ever more outlandish regulations with no effective congressional review or check through the purse. A perilous era will have begun in which the President sets spending levels and vetoes any bill falling short of his demands. Whenever a deadline approaches, one House can simply refuse to negotiate with the other until Congress is faced with a Hobson's choice of a shutdown or a default. The Nation's spending will again dangerously accelerate, the deficit will rapidly widen, and the economic prosperity of the Nation will continue to slowly bleed away.

This impasse may have started as a dispute over a collapsing health program, but it has now taken on the dimensions of a constitutional crisis. Yesterday, in Washington, a group of America's veterans rose up to take a stand against these unconstitutional usurpations. I believe the salvation of our Nation now ultimately depends on the American people joining them.

HONORING 12 MEMBERS OF THE 1ST SQUAD, 2ND PLATOON, HOTEL COMPANY OF THE 26TH MARINE REGIMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 12 members of the 1st Squad, 2nd Platoon, Hotel Company of the 26th Marine Regiment. These brave men made an important contribution to the war effort in Vietnam, but their efforts could not be honored at the time without exposing ongoing intelligence operations. Like so many of our Nation's heroes, they have not received the recognition they deserve, and I am here today to share with my colleagues in Congress and our entire Nation the details of an incident that helped change the way the Vietnam war was fought.

On May 29, 1967, at the end of Operation Hickory and the beginning of Operation Prairie IV, the 1st Squad, under Sergeant Thomas Gonzalez, was on a reconnaissance patrol when they recovered a spent Russian SA–2 surface-to-air missile inside the demilitarized zone which divided North and South Vietnam. While Russian involvement in the Vietnam war was widely suspected, discovery of the SA–2 was a major find, and the command and control mechanism of the missile was transported to Washington, D.C., for analysis.

Due to the ongoing cold war and heightened political sensitivities regarding Russian involvement in the war, public disclosure of the incident was withheld.

While the unit was never fully recognized for its accomplishment, the intelligence it collected had a direct impact on combat. Prior to discovery of the missile, U.S. aviators flying B–52 bombers to attack Vietnam struggled as enemy forces became more proficient at targeting and shooting American aircraft. This forced Americans to limit their missions to areas further south; and, as the North Vietnamese Army continued to move their surface-to-air missile launch sites south into the DMZ, B–52 aircraft were forced to fly even further south, limiting the effectiveness of their missions to provide support to troops engaged in ground combat.

As a result of the recovery of the SA–2 missile, B–52 bomber crews had a better understanding of the threat, and they used the intelligence collected by the 1st Squad to alter their tactics. Changing the strategy of the B–52 bomb strikes allowed the aircraft to provide better combat support to marines and other ground troops and ultimately saved countless lives.

Forty-six years later, it is time for our Nation to recognize these American heroes. Today, let us honor these men: Sergeant Thomas Gonzalez, Corporal Gerald D. Eggers, Private First Class Ronald W. Blaine, Private First Class Charles L. Melton, Private First

Class Albino Martinez, Private First Class Anthony Astuccio, Private First Class Richard P. Light, Private First Class Michael McCombs, Private First Class Hector L. R. Rodriguez, Private First Class Lloyd Parker, Private First Class Thomas J. Lehner, and Navy Corpsman Mel Overmyer.

These young men, like so many of their generation, answered our Nation's call to service. They risked their lives in defense of their comrades in arms and our Nation. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for all that they have done, and I stand here before Congress in recognition of their accomplishment and their sacrifice.

THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE MUST DISABUSE ITSELF OF THE NAME ''REDSKINS''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I submit to my colleagues and some 181 million sports fans all over America who love the game of football just as much as I do, having played football for 4 years in high school, again and again, Mr. Speaker, this issue will not go away; and with all due respect, Mr. Speaker, I call upon the 32 football club owners of the National Football League and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to get rid of this derogatory word or racial slur, ''redskin,'' which currently describes the Washington football franchise.

Mr. Speaker, the National Football League cannot just casually pass the responsibility to Mr. Dan Snyder, owner of the Washington team. The Washington football franchise is about a $1.3 billion business, rated third in the NFL, but the NFL is also a beneficiary and, I'm sure, gets a fair percentage of the proceeds from television broadcasts and concessions for selling clothing and sports souvenirs by these 32 club owners.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Barack Obama for weighing in on this issue just 2 weeks ago, and I hope NFL Commissioner Goodell will seriously pursue this matter. If Commissioner Goodell feels that if we are offending one person that we should listen, then listen to the leaders of the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest and the largest Native American organization, which represents the vast majority of some 5.2 million Native American Indians today. And when I say ''majority,'' Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about 2.6 million Native Americans who do have an issue to pull with the NFL using this racial and derogatory slur's name.

I also want to thank Mr. Ray Halbritter, leader of the Oneida Indian Nation, for taking the initiative to get this to the American people so that they will better understand and appreciate why this word is so offensive to the Native American community.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell, and the NFL to do the right thing. Change the name ''Redskins.'' It is a racial slur and a derogatory term for the American Indians.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of wisdom, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Prior to the Great Compromise, Benjamin Franklin addressed the Constitutional Convention:

> We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom since we have been running about in search of it. In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, have we now forgotten our powerful friend?

Lord, You are the powerful friend referred to by Franklin, and we turn again to You to ask that Your wisdom might break through the political dark of these days.

Bless the Members of the people's House and all of Congress with the insight and foresight to construct a future of security in our Nation's politics, economy, and society. May they, as You, be especially mindful of those who are poor and without power.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

STAND DOWN ON INDIVIDUAL MANDATE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker:

> Consumers will be able to go online. They will be able to get a determination of what tax subsidies they are eligible for; they will be able to see premium net of subsidy; and they will be able to sign up.

Those were the words spoken by the head of the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight 3 weeks ago at a committee hearing of Energy and Commerce. I had asked for a yes or no answer to the question: Will the exchanges be ready on October 1? You heard his answer.

In The New York Times this weekend, a very insightful article: ''From the Start, Signs of Trouble at the Health Portal.'' The exchanges have been called excruciatingly embarrassing by no less than the President's press secretary for his first term. He went on to say:

> I hope some people are fired, those people who were supposed to be able to make this work.

The blame-shifting between contractors and agency officials is just beginning. Further quoting from the article in The New York Times this weekend:

> ''These are not glitches,'' said an insurance executive who has participated in many conference calls on the Federal exchange.
>
> The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. At the end of our calls, people say, ''It is awful, just awful.''

But here is the deal: everyone is required to sign up for this enormously embarrassing glitch that has been foisted upon us by the executive branch. It is time for us to stand down on the individual mandate.

END THE NIGHTMARE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the worst-kept secret in Washington, D.C., is there is a majority in the House of Representatives to reopen the government today, to reach that grand compromise that Father Conroy spoke about a few minutes ago.

Over 30 House Republicans have said that they would join Democrats to pass a clean CR, which the President has said he would sign on the spot. It has already cleared the Senate, and we could end the damage that is being inflicted on this country every passing day.

Day 14 is where we are today. Our National Guard, our veterans, Meals on Wheels—the list goes on and on—the National Institutes of Health, they are being crippled in this shutdown; and the power is here in this Chamber to end it by signing a discharge petition which was filed on Saturday morning.

If the Speaker won't bring the bill to the floor, then the Members should do

it. We are elected to represent the people of our district, not to represent the leaders of our caucus.

End the shutdown. Sign the discharge petition. End the nightmare that this country is going through.

TIME FOR BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in 1984, then-Senator JOE BIDEN had to make a choice about whether to support a Federal debt limit increase. He said:

> I must express my protest against continually increasing the debt without taking positive steps to slow its growth.

Senator BIDEN voted not to raise the debt ceiling.

Today, my philosophy on raising the debt ceiling is very similar to Vice President BIDEN's—we can't keep upping our credit limit without taking steps to get our future debt under control.

Fourteen days into this Federal Government shutdown and mere days away from exhausting government's $16.7 trillion credit limit, the time for bipartisan solutions is now.

The United States should always pay its bills, but the President and Members of Congress are responsible to take steps to reduce those bills for the future. Both parties need to be committed to this responsible reality.

PRESIDENT FAILS TO ADDRESS ISSUES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on January 14 of this year, the President spoke at a press conference, saying:

> I think, if you look at the history, getting votes for the debt ceiling is always difficult, and budgets in this town are always difficult.

The Federal Government has been shut down for 2 weeks. The President of the United States has a job, and it is to govern. Because of his lack of leadership, American families are experiencing smaller paychecks, limited or no access to government services, and tremendous uncertainty surrounding their futures.

Although I am glad the President did finally engage in partial negotiations with House Republicans, I find it very disappointing that it took 10 days to do so, especially seeing as he believed our current challenges to be so ''difficult.''

Our country is headed down a path of insolvency, destroying jobs. Over the coming days, it is my hope the President will take his responsibilities of negotiation seriously and work with House Republicans to reduce spending and reopen the government's doors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 14, 2013 at 1:25 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 812.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 5 p.m.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 80) making continuing appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) has 10½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) has 9½ minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), a valued member of our subcommittee and an advocate for Indian issues.

Mr. CALVERT. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear—everyone in this body wants to end this government shutdown. We are all aware of the significant impacts the shutdown is having around the country; and I am pleased that, today, both sides have finally come to the table, and hopefully we will reach a compromise here in the next day or so. Today, we are here to consider a solution that aims to ease the urgent and substantial impacts to Indian Country.

House Joint Resolution 80, the American Indian and Alaska Native Health, Education, and Safety Act, provides immediate funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Services. As a member of the House Appropriations Interior and the Environment Subcommittee, I am well aware that Indian Country was already experiencing significant challenges before the shutdown as it adjusted to reduced spending levels. Now, with the Federal Government shutdown, Native American tribes across the Nation are facing even more uncertainty. These tribes are now being confronted with different decisions about which services they can continue to provide without government resources. Just a few examples: tribal programs for home health care for the elderly and disabled, bus service for rural areas, and infrastructure projects that were suspended indefinitely. I believe we must take action and reopen these critical government operations throughout Indian Country.

I am thankful that my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and the House Republican leadership share my belief. Specifically, I want to thank my good friend from Idaho, MIKE SIMPSON, for bringing this bill to the floor and for his terrific leadership as chairman of House Appropriations Interior and the Environment Subcommittee.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill on behalf of all Americans in Indian Country. Let's pass this bill and reach an agreement to get our entire government back to work for the American people.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon, PETER DEFAZIO, the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this irresponsible, unnecessary, politically motivated government shutdown is unacceptable for all Americans, but it is particularly offensive to those in Indian Country.

The government's trust obligation to the tribes is not a discretionary act; it is a fiduciary responsibility. To assume that money associated with that fiduciary responsibility can be bartered or used as a political football is more than insulting.

It is another example here of tabloid legislating, ripping issues from the headlines and trying to legislate based on negative public reaction to just some part of the Republican government shutdown. It is kind of like a game of Whac-A-Mole, where an issue pops up and the far right pretends to care suddenly—Gee, we didn't know this would happen if we shut down the government—and they draft a continuing resolution to cover it—or their posteriors.

Now, where was all of this concern for the tribes when sequestration kicked in? Where is the compassion for the poverty faced by our first Americans every day, not just when it is politically expedient? Where has the compassion been to address the high rates of unemployment, educational challenges, access to resources, challenges tribal people face every day, challenges that have only been made worse by the Republican sequester?

This is so cynical. Not only does the temporary measure for tribes inadequately fund the few programs it identifies, picks, and chooses, but it neglects other critical programs inside and outside the Department of the Interior.

What about the Office of the Special Trustee? We haven't done so well as trustees of the moneys of the Indian nations recently. We need the Office of the Special Trustee. Oh, it is closed.

What about the Bureau of Reclamation office that disburses settlements for Indian water rights? Closed.

How about the Native American Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program? Closed.

Tribal nutrition programs? Closed.

Even if this bill passed and became law, those would all still be closed. I guess their compassion only goes so far. There are many other things missing from this bill. I could go on and on.

Already, sequestration has disproportionately impacted Indian Country. We don't need to rub salt in the wound with this continuing resolution that provides only one-third of the funding for these nations.

The irresponsible tactics need to cease. We need to open up our government to the first Americans and all Americans. It is simple.

We offered unanimous consent requests last Saturday before the Republicans adjourned in a huff and went off for a couple of days while the government was shut down. Any one of those acceded to could have brought a vote on a 6-week continuation of government at the Republican levels of funding with sequestration. That is a concession on the part of Democrats. It is your budget, those lower numbers, the Ryan budget. You could have done that. You wouldn't do it. You changed the rules of the House so we couldn't bring it up as a privileged resolution, and then you pretend to care.

Come on, guys. You can do better than that.

Mr. SIMPSON. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

So here we are, Mr. Speaker. We are 14 days into the government shutdown, the shutdown that has cost this country money, has created enormous anxiety on the part of the Federal workforce, the contract workforce, the entire country.

In fact, there was a meeting of all of the leaders of the world over in Asia, and we weren't there because of the government shutdown. The Chinese, of course, took advantage of it. Both the President and the Prime Minister were over at this meeting of world leaders, trying to suggest to them that it is time that the world became ''de-Americanized''—I think that was their term—because we can't get our act together. We can't even fund our own government. We can't even decide whether or not we are going to pay off our debts on time.

And all of this, apparently, we are told, Mr. Speaker, was an idea that came from the Ted Cruz Tea Party wing of the Republican majority to shut down the government until they could have their way on what they call ''ObamaCare.'' Even though President Obama ran on the Affordable Care Act, which is its proper name, and was elected with 5 million more votes, still, they wanted to stop it, to gut it, to gut its principal provisions.

So here we are, 14 days into a government shutdown, which is really an embarrassment to the entire institution, but it certainly ought to be to the House majority. It is ironic with this particular bill because there are 579,000 uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives, and they would get coverage under the Affordable Care Act. Nine out of 10 of them are likely to qualify for financial assistance either through tax credits or by purchasing coverage in the marketplace where you would get cost-sharing reductions, eliminate their out-of-pocket costs, or through an expansion of Medicaid if their States choose to do that. So the vast majority of them—undoubtedly, hundreds of thousands—would be better off if we were not only to not have shut down the government, but certainly by our making available to them the Affordable Care Act. So how ironic that here we are with a mini bill, suggesting that we will fund a small share of the Interior Department to take care of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Obviously, we should be taking care of Native Americans—it should be our highest priority—and I know it has been for the chairman of the Interior and the Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, my good friend from Idaho, and our colleagues on that subcommittee, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. COLE, a number of them. We have all agreed it ought to be a priority, but we also have a bill that needs to get passed. We have other agencies that need to be funded.

If we were to continue in this manner, we would get the Interior Department funded by Halloween. That is not the way to do business. In fact, this bill doesn't fund Native American education programs and the Department of Education.

It doesn't fund the law enforcement programs at the Department of Justice that carry out the Violence Against Women Act, which was a key component. Thanks to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the Violence Against Women Act that we passed makes sure that Native American women are protected.

It doesn't fund Native American social service programs at the Department of Health and Human Services. They don't get the child care and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families that they would otherwise get.

It doesn't fund Native American housing programs at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Almost 100 percent of HUD employees are furloughed.

It doesn't fund the Native American employment and training programs at the Department of Labor, the Native American environmental programs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

It doesn't fund the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, which oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education.

It doesn't fund the Special Trustee for American Indians, which administers $3.7 million in tribal funds and more than $700 million in individual Indian accounts.

It doesn't fund the Office of Navajo-Hopi Relocation, which administers the relocation settlement activities that arose from land disputes between the Navajo and Hopi tribes.

It doesn't fund the Institute of American Indian Arts or the Native American water rights activities. It doesn't do what we need to do, which is to fund the Interior appropriations bill.

So I have to ask the majority, since this bill only funds three agencies which represent 0.7 percent of the domestic discretionary budget, what are we going to do with the other 99 percent of the domestic discretionary budget? What about our other Federal obligations to Native Americans? What about their housing and their childcare services and their legal protections? This bill doesn't take care of that. It still leaves 50,000 Interior Department employees still furloughed.

Even if this bill were to be enacted—which we all know it won't until the government opens—there is no money for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for new offshore oil drilling permits.

There is no money for the Bureau of Land Management, which processes lease sales and permits for onshore oil and gas and coal and other mineral permits. They run the wild horse and burro adoption program. They award the timber sales. No money for that.

No money for the Fish & Wildlife Service so they can manage visitors to our national refuges. No money for hunting or fishing permits. What about the Forest Service?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say this was well-intended, but I know that it is an attempted Band-Aid to hide the real problem, which is the government is shut down. We need to open it.

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

□ 1715

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 521 years ago, an explorer named Christopher Columbus sailed west from Europe in an attempt to find a new route to the East Indies. Instead, he landed in the Bahamas, and as the story goes, he named the local inhabitants ''Indians.''

I note the irony that today has been designated Columbus Day, and here we are debating a bill to reopen key parts of the government so the United States can honor the treaty obligations our forefathers made to the American Indians—the first Americans.

The bill before us today is a good thing because it gives us an opportunity to continue to highlight the poverty and other hardships that exist today in Indian Country as a result of the long, complicated, and difficult history of relations between the United States Government and more than 500 other sovereign nations that were here long before we were.

So while we recognize and honor Columbus for his impact on our own Nation's history, let us also recognize and honor the first Americans for their proud history and the sacrifices they made, and continue to make, for this great Nation.

That is why I would encourage everybody to vote for this bill. Frankly, I hope this bill isn't necessary. I hope that we can find a resolution to the differences that exist between Republicans and Democrats and that we can reopen all the government, as Mr. MORAN just stated is necessary. I agree with him fully. We need to get the government open again, and we need to address the issue of the debt ceiling.

It is heartening to know that leadership in the Senate, and hopefully in the House and the White House, is having some quality time together and that maybe we can come to a resolution before more dire things happen and we can get this government open, but I don't know that that is going to happen.

In the absence of not knowing that that is going to happen, wouldn't it be wise to have at least some of these bills that fund some key elements of our government ready to go in the Senate so that we can open some areas that I think have bipartisan agreement that need to be funded and need to continue?

I said in my opening statement Saturday that Indian issues have been bipartisan on our committee. They have been supported by both Republicans and Democrats whether it was under Mr. Dicks' leadership when he was chairman, Mr. MORAN's leadership when he was chairman, or under my leadership. It has been a bipartisan issue to try to meet our treaty obligations and the moral responsibilities we have to the first Americans—American Indians.

I want people in Indian Country to know that regardless of the vote on this resolution, whether people vote for it or against it, that bipartisanship will continue. We will continue to work together to try to make sure we address these critical needs in our Nation and our treaty and moral obligations we have.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 371, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Joint Resolution 80 is postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1820

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING) at 6 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of House Joint Resolution 80 will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the joint resolution?

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. I am opposed to it in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Kirkpatrick moves to recommit the joint resolution H.J. Res. 80 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That upon passage of this joint resolution by the House of Representatives, the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, as amended by the Senate on September 27, 2013, shall be considered to have been taken from the Speaker's table and the House shall be considered to have (1) receded from its amendment; and (2) concurred in the Senate amendment.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the tribal leaders in my district join me in calling for a vote on a clean funding bill to restart our government.

Arizona's District One has 12 Native American tribes. These families are suffering, and our economy is taking a direct hit as a result of this irresponsible, unnecessary shutdown.

House leaders have wasted precious time in offering nothing but a daily trickle of piecemeal bills that are going nowhere. These partisan games and this lack of urgency show a reckless disregard for the people, communities, and economies hurt by this shutdown.

Today, as House leadership puts forth yet another piecemeal bill that will go nowhere, I would like to share some comments from my district's tribal leaders. These are in their own words.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly said:

> The current piecemeal approach House Republicans are using to fragment tribal communities from the rest of the country is insulting. Tribal communities, like the majority of Americans, want a comprehensive resolution.

Peterson Zah, the former Navajo Nation chairman and their first president said:

> Tribal issues should not be used as political props in this shutdown. Our kids, families, and elders are all part of the large community, and we all suffer from a shutdown. We need the House to vote on a clean funding bill to reopen the entire government.

On the White Mountain Apache Nation, where I grew up, tribal chairman Ronnie Lupe said:

> Head Start and Impact Aid are vitally important to the tribes, but we also need furloughed workers from BIA, Interior, and all other agencies allowed back on the job. Our tribal members need their paychecks, our small businesses need their customers, and our veterans need their benefits without any lapses.

And from the Hopi Tribe, Vice Chairman Herman Honanie said:

> Piecemeal bills are empty gestures that have no chance of passing both Chambers and being signed into law. We need real action to reopen the entire government, or we will continue to lose important resources like those from the Violence Against Women Act that help protect women and families.

Mr. Speaker, if House leadership were genuinely concerned about our Native American tribes, then I suggest they listen to the tribes and allow a vote to reopen the government.

Congress should stop picking winners and losers and stop playing games that only prolong this shutdown.

House leadership should stop this shutdown right now. They should stop this shutdown tonight. Let's vote on a clean funding bill to restart our government and protect our economy.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order that the instructions contained in the motion violate clause 7 of rule XVI, which requires that an amendment be germane to the bill under consideration.

As the Chair most recently ruled on October 11, 2013, the instructions contain a special order of business within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules, and, therefore, the amendment is not germane to the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I insist on my point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I wish to be heard on the point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Arizona is recognized on the point of order.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, doesn't the bill before us fund the Federal Government? My motion to recommit would open the Federal Government entirely so that all our needs can be met.

Why are we only providing funding for Native Americans through the Interior Department? What about education and law enforcement programs for Native Americans? Are they somewhat less important?

Can the Chair explain why it is not germane to keep all the Federal Government open instead of just a tiny slice?

Why are the Republicans in favor of closing down the Federal Government and denying taxpayers the benefits they have already paid for? This makes absolutely no sense to people who have to work hard every day to make a living.

Mr. Speaker, if you rule this motion out of order, does that mean we will not have a chance to keep the entire Federal Government open today? That we will not have a chance to vote on the Senate continuing resolution?

Can the Chair please explain why we can't keep the entire Federal Government open today? Can the Chair please explain why we can't keep the entire Federal Government open tonight?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, may I speak on the point of order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized on the point of order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on the question of the point of order—and I would like to have an explanation about this—why are these rules being interpreted in such a way as to prevent the United States Government from operating? What is the purpose of this rule? Where was it conceived? And why is it constantly being put forward as a way of stopping the Federal Government from acting?

Mr. Speaker, there is a world of hurt out there. All across this Nation people want government to work; they want the parks open; they want the National Indian Health Service operating; they want to make sure that Head Start is up and operating; that the medical services are available; that Homeland Security is functioning.

Mr. Speaker, what is the point of the point of order, other than to stop the Federal Government from working?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is prepared to rule.

The gentleman from Idaho makes a point of order that the instructions proposed in the motion to recommit offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona are not germane.

The joint resolution extends funding relating to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service. The instructions in the motion propose an order of business of the House.

As the Chair most recently ruled on October 11, 2013, a motion to recommit proposing an order of business of the House is not germane to a measure providing for the appropriation of funds because such motion addresses a matter within the jurisdiction of a committee not represented in the underlying measure.

Therefore, the instructions propose a non-germane amendment. The point of order is sustained.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the House?

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to table will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of the joint resolution, if arising without further proceedings in recommittal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 180, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 547]

YEAS—216

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NAYS—180

Andrews
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia

Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—35

Bachmann
Brady (PA)
Bucshon
Clay
Culberson
Diaz-Balart
Fattah
Forbes
Gabbard
Gerlach
Gosar
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Herrera Beutler
Kuster
Lummis
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
Meng
Moran
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Pastor (AZ)
Richmond
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Valadao
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Westmoreland
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

□ 1854

Messrs. BUTTERFIELD, RUPPERSBERGER, and CONYERS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. DUFFY changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 233, noes 160, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 548]

AYES—233

Aderholt
Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Daines
Davis, Rodney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallego
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lynch
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Massie
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IN)

NOES—160

Andrews
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Nadler
Napolitano
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Walz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—38

Bachmann
Brady (PA)
Bucshon
Clay
Culberson
Diaz-Balart
Fattah
Forbes
Gabbard
Gerlach
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Herrera Beutler
Kuster
Lummis
Marchant
McCarthy (NY)
McIntyre
Meng
Moran
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Noem
Pastor (AZ)
Richmond
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Tipton
Valadao
Velázquez
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Westmoreland
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

□ 1903

Ms. WATERS changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for the following votes on October 14, 2013. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 547, and "nay" rollcall vote 548. on passage of H.J. Res. 80, the American Indian and Alaska Native, Health, Education, and Safety Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRAYSON

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''Making continuing appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes, although we prefer—and would support—a comprehensive, clean continuing resolution to end the government shutdown.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 6 of rule XVI, the amendment is not debatable.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 228, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 549]

AYES—161

Andrews
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
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□ 1920

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3190) to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3190

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2013''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 1984.

For purposes of section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98–473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, each reference in such section to ''26 years'' or ''26-year period'' shall be deemed a reference to ''31 years'' or ''31-year period'', respectively.

SEC. 3. PAROLE COMMISSION REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the following for fiscal years 2012 and 2013:

(1) The number of offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction, including the number of Sexual or Violent Offender Registry offenders and Tier Levels offenders.

(2) The number of hearings, record reviews and National Appeals Board considerations conducted by the Commission in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(3) The number of hearings conducted by the Commission by type of hearing in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(4) The number of record reviews conducted by the Commission by type of consideration in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(5) The number of warrants issued and executed compared to the number requested in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(6) The number of revocation determinations by the Commission in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(7) The distribution of initial offenses, including violent offenses, for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(8) The distribution of subsequent offenses, including violent offenses, for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(9) The percentage of offenders paroled or re-paroled compared with the percentage of offenders continued to expiration of sentence (less any good time) in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(10) The percentage of cases (except probable cause hearings and hearings in which a continuance was ordered) in which the primary and secondary examiner disagreed on the appropriate disposition of the case (the amount of time to be served before release), the release conditions to be imposed, or the reasons for the decision in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(11) The percentage of decisions within, above, or below the Commission's decision guidelines for Federal initial hearings (28 C.F.R. 2.20) and Federal and D.C. Code revocation hearings (28 C.F.R. 2.21).

(12) The percentage of revocation and non-revocation hearings in which the offender is accompanied by a representative in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(13) The number of administrative appeals and the action of the National Appeals Board in relation to those appeals in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(14) The projected number of Federal offenders that will be under the Commission's jurisdiction as of October 31, 2018.

(15) An estimate of the date on which no Federal offenders will remain under the Commission's jurisdiction.

(16) The Commission's annual expenditures for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(17) The annual expenditures of the Commission, including travel expenses and the annual salaries of the members and staff of the Commission.

(b) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS.—For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the items in paragraphs (1) through (17) of subsection (a), for the fiscal year.

(c) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAROLE FAILURE RATE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the following:

(1) The parole failure rate for the District of Columbia for the last full fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report.

(2) The factors that cause that parole failure rate.

(3) Remedial measures that might be undertaken to reduce that parole failure rate.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DO NO HARM

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected to Congress, I worked 28 years as a health care provider. Through working to provide patients with the best possible care, one of the earliest lessons I learned was the principle of Do No Harm. The Nation would benefit greatly if those elected to public service followed this same principle. Unfortunately, this principle has been seriously violated throughout the government funding debate.

Mr. Speaker, the American people were harmed when President Obama failed to come to the negotiating table until 11 days after the shutdown occurred. The American people were harmed when the administration purposely sought to ''win'' the shutdown by causing as much pain as possible before seeking to reopen the government.

''It's a cheap way to deal with the situation. We've been told to make life as difficult for people as we can. It's disgusting,'' stated an angry Park Service ranger in Washington, according to The Washington Times.

This is not public service; this is a public injustice. It is time to do no more harm. It is time to end the politics and start solving problems. The American people deserve as much.

SHUTDOWN'S RIPPLING EFFECT

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, the devastating effect of the shutdown is now rippling beyond the Federal workforce.

Last week it was learned that scientists at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratory who work as Federal contractors will be furloughed this week. This is the largest employer in the 15th Congressional District, and their job is to uphold the national security mission of the United States, maintain our nuclear weapons stockpile, and provide energy security.

I flew home yesterday to hold a town hall meeting for Sandia and Livermore employees, and the room was filled with fear and anxiety about how they would meet their bills and obligations and what they would do next.

Enough is enough. The responsible thing to do is to end the government shutdown and put back to work our Federal workforce and our government contractors.

I have sent a letter to Secretary Ernie Moniz of the Department of Energy asking that we guarantee back pay for the furloughed workers at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratory.

This ripple will continue as long as this shutdown goes on. The responsible thing to do is to end this shutdown, make sure that the cause of science is advanced at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia, and we put back to work these hardworking individuals who are serving the national mission.

ODD COINCIDENCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I received the following email from a constituent who forwarded me comments from a former government worker:

As a former government employee, I have worked for the government for over 40 years. During that time I became familiar with requisitions, bidding, and awarding contracts. It is time-consuming with bean counters and pencil neck bureaucrats. A request takes months, not days or even hours. In less than 8 hours of the shutdown, miraculously professionally printed 3x4 signs—with logos—appeared all over the country in the 1000s saying: ''This park facility closed due to government shutdown.''

There has not been a government shutdown in 17 years. Signs had to be designed, requisitioned, and bids had to go out, approved and contracts signed; then the signs were made and distributed. Either this is the most efficient thing the Federal Government has ever done, or this quick shutdown was planned and determined months ago.

Mr. Speaker, if the writer is accurate, this is an interesting and odd coincidence, don't you think?

And that's just the way it is.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Tonight the country is facing great challenges—the challenges of ObamaCare, of runaway spending here in Washington, and of our fiscal crisis that is increasing our debt over and over again. Now is the time for solutions, and now is the opportunity that we have to get things right and to turn things around. I am looking forward tonight to visiting with my colleagues about the challenges we have before us as well as the opportunities.

You know, this situation that we are in today kind of reminds me of a story that I heard a few years ago. I think it is very fitting to this time in history. This is a true story. There was a man who went hunting with his dog many years ago; and as he walked through the great outdoors and came back from his hunting trip, he noticed that his pants were covered with something that in Missouri we call cockleburs. If you are not from Missouri or that part of the country, it is basically a weed, and it leaves very prickly seed pods that are about the size of a dime. And they will stick to anything from your clothes to your pet's fur, or anything else that happens to brush against it as it passes by the weed.

So this man got to looking at all of these cockleburs on his pants and his dog when he got back, and he was trying to pull them off and clean them off. And then he stopped a minute and got to look at that cocklebur and he got to thinking: What is it that causes this cocklebur to stick so well? And he wondered, is there a way we could use that same format to help provide some solutions.

He thought about some friends who had arthritis, that had trouble buttoning up their shirt or zipping things. He thought about young children, and they have trouble fastening things together. And he thought, I wonder if we could take this challenge of this cocklebur and make an opportunity out of it.

□ 1930

Do you know what he did? He invented something we all use every day called ''Velcro.'' He laid the groundwork for what I think we need to do here in Washington: take the challenges before us and use them as an opportunity in this point in history to create a better health care system that addresses Americans' needs, that gets spending under control, makes government more efficient and more effective, and it also addresses our long-term debt and reverses course so that we will get out of debt as a Nation and balance the budget. This is the opportunity that we have before us.

Before my colleagues share their thoughts on this, I want to talk just a minute about the challenges that we have in ObamaCare. There are so many reasons that at this time in history we

have been taking a stand here in the House and saying: it is time to reverse this onerous policy, because the American people don't want it and it is hurting them.

I wanted to share at least seven things that are challenging about this law:

The first thing is that ObamaCare is causing an increase in premiums. I got last week an email from a constituent who sells insurance back home. They were very distraught because they had a customer come in who wanted to renew their health insurance. After they figured out what it would mean through ObamaCare, they discovered this customer was going to have to pay $1,500 a month. That isn't even the full premium. Their employer would pay some others. So when you added it all up, this family—she had to tell them—was going to have to pay $18,000 a year for their health care. This makes a difference in that family whether they can send a child to college or not. It is wrong. We need to have some solutions here.

Something else I heard today: I was visiting with a constituent who told me that they went on the exchanges to see what ObamaCare would do to their health care premiums. What she found out is that her insurance next year is going to cost $200 more a month than she is paying right now, plus she is going to have to have a larger deductible and her coverage is going to decrease. So she was obviously very upset. ObamaCare is increasing premiums and increasing costs on Americans. That is wrong. It is time for solutions.

Number two, ObamaCare is killing jobs. Despite what others on the other side of the aisle say, it is killing jobs. One in five small businesses report that they are letting employees go due to the new law. Others are deciding not to expand their business due to the new law. The Gallup survey this year found a staggering 41 percent of small business owners are holding off hiring new employees due to ObamaCare, and 38 percent have pulled back on plans to grow their business.

I have an example I wanted to share with you from my own district. I was visiting with a small business owner the other day. They are doing pretty well. They have a small business that has been growing. The exciting thing is, they said: Representative HARTZLER, we want to open up a second location, we want to hire some new workers, we are very excited about it. But they looked at ObamaCare and the requirements involved and they said: We cannot afford it. If we open up the second location and hire new workers, we are not going to be able to keep going. So they decided not to expand their business.

Now, the thing that makes this extra tragic is, in this town there has been a manufacturing plant closed down over the last few years. There are hundreds of people in my district looking for work who would love to have that job, but because of ObamaCare they are not going to be able to do it. This business owner wants to expand, but they can't. That is wrong. ObamaCare is killing jobs. That is why it is time for solutions.

Number three, ObamaCare is reducing the take-home pay. It has been many years since many Americans have got a raise. They are ''making do,'' but if anybody goes to the store like I do every weekend and buys groceries and other things for your family, you know that things are costing more and more. So we have a real problem here. Americans aren't getting pay increases and yet the cost of living is going up.

There are many businesses that are cutting back on their employees' hours because of ObamaCare to get them under the 30-hour requirement. In fact, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Outlook Study showed that 27 percent of businesses have and will cut hours to reduce from full-time employees to part-time. So we are becoming ''part-time America'' because of this law.

Just today, I got an email from a large business owner in Missouri, and here is what they said. It validates this very point. It says:

> As one of the largest out of state employers in Missouri, we are not expanding or hiring. Our health insurance costs will increase by an estimated $800,000 in 2014 due to ObamaCare, despite significant reductions in coverage for our employees and reducing hours to less than 30 hours per week where we can. Our taxes have gone up, regulations are overwhelming, and there is no end in sight.

It is happening.

Number four, ObamaCare is jeopardizing our personal security and our privacy. How would you like to have your Social Security number made available to everybody? According to an August 7 Forbes magazine article:

> In order for ObamaCare to work, the government will need to know a lot about your financial, medical, and employment situation.
>
> And this could very well—ObamaCare's exchanges—end up illegally exposing American's private records to hackers and criminals.

Just last week, when ObamaCare went online, McAfee, which is one of the Nation's premier Internet security companies, they tweeted out that ObamaCare is a ''hacker's dream.'' This is very, very concerning. It is clearly time for solutions.

Five, ObamaCare is simply not working. I am sure many of you have heard the news reports. This is just a 4-page outline of all the different headlines from around the country about how this is not working.

Florida:

> The glitches in the new electronic health care sign-up system began almost immediately, and they never let up.

Missouri:

> But in Kansas and Missouri, it was more fizzle than bang.

North Dakota:

> North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm said he and his staff were monitoring the Federal Web site Tuesday but were unable to access it.

West Virginia:

> Ten hours later—after two attempts at signing up and one 45-minute call with a consumer service agent—technical glitches have prevented the 60-year-old grandfather from purchasing a plan.

It goes on and on. There are real problems there.

Six, ObamaCare is unfair. President Obama has exempted Big Business from having to comply with ObamaCare for a year, and he has granted over 1,300 waivers, yet he hasn't given a waiver to the hardworking American public who deserves it. That is not fair.

And lastly, something that a lot of people don't know, but a lot of people should care about, is that ObamaCare uses tax dollars to pay for abortions for the first time, and it hides the fact that people will be paying for abortions in their monthly bill.

Here is how it works. The law says that at least one policy in every exchange has to cover abortion. But it also says—the law says—that they can only disclose that as part of the huge summary of benefits in all the fine print that is there at only the time of initial sign-up. So many people right now are going online, and they have got these policies that come up and there is all this fine print. They don't even know that that policy includes abortion.

ObamaCare is going to have subsidies to help people pay for their premium. That subsidy comes from our tax dollars. Many Americans do not want their hard-earned tax dollars to go and pay for abortion, yet it will. Sadly, the people many times will not even know if their policy has abortion or not. There are many Americans who support life, and when they go to buy it directly, they will not know.

Inside the bill, not only does it cover abortion, but ObamaCare has what is called a ''secrecy clause'' in it that specifically says that that charge for the abortion fee cannot be listed in their monthly bill. So many pro-life Americans who value life unknowingly will buy an insurance policy that is covering abortion, and every month they will be paying their own hard-earned dollars to go towards abortion. It is just wrong.

So clearly, clearly we need some solutions. Republicans do have solutions. We are putting forth a health care bill that replaces and is better than ObamaCare. It allows for increased access and lower costs. You are going to be hearing more about it in the days to come. We call it the ''American Health Care Reform Act.'' There are better solutions. We have got a lot of challenges with ObamaCare, but this is our opportunity to make it better for the American people, and that is what we are going to do.

We also have a challenge of a huge debt crisis at this time in history. I

know many of my colleagues here are going to share about that. We have got to quit spending money we don't have. People at home are tightening their belt. It is time for Washington to do that too.

This is where we are at tonight—Monday night, October 14, 2013. How this is going to play out, we don't know. But I know I am going to continue to fight for positive solutions that are good for the American people. I am going to be looking for opportunities to take the cockleburs of life and look at them and say: Is there a way to turn this around and make something good out of it?

I believe that is where we are right now. We can make something good of this situation. It has been hard on Americans, it is hard on families, there is a lot of uncertainty. It has been hard on us as Members of Congress.

But we can make something better than has ever happened before from this country. We can produce a health care bill that the American people deserve. We can rein in this runaway spending and get it right, make government more efficient and more effective, and we can address our debt crisis. We can do it. That is our challenge, that is our opportunity, that is why we are fighting, that is why we are here tonight.

I want to thank my colleagues who stayed tonight to share their thoughts on this important time in history, this Monday night that we are at.

I would like to yield to my friend from Utah, CHRIS STEWART.

Mr. STEWART. I would like to thank the gentlewoman, Representative HARTZLER, for sharing the floor with myself and other colleagues tonight. It is an honor, especially on a topic that all of us know and recognize that is so very, very important.

Dean Acheson once said that ''Negotiation in the classic diplomatic sense assumes parties are more anxious to agree than to disagree.''

For the past 2 weeks, President Obama and Senator HARRY REID have made it very, very clear that they are much more anxious to disagree than they are to agree with Republicans—a situation that has very honestly prevented sincere negotiations. It is impossible to work out a deal when one party just sits on the sidelines and won't talk, like we have experienced over the last few weeks with the President. Now, we heard rumors this afternoon that the President has finally begun to negotiate with Republicans. I hope that that is true because our Founding Fathers established a system that was intended to be deliberative.

Whether you agree or disagree with the President, this much we know: he has been willing to push our Nation toward an economic crisis all for the sake of a political agenda. When this happens, every American loses. It doesn't have to be this way. It shouldn't be this way.

For 14 years, I was an Air Force pilot—which was, by the way, the coolest job in the world. I loved doing that. At one point, I was selected to be a member of the START verification team—Strategic Arms Reduction Team. Of course, we were working with the Russians during this time. They would come to my base to verify that we had complied with elements of the START treaty.

During the 1990s, the Russians were not our friends. By the way, Mr. Speaker, I would cautiously add that today the Russians are not our friends either. These were in some cases tense and very carefully orchestrated events, but we did them. We extended a hand of trust and fellowship between two nations that had very little in common and had much to lose if they did not develop a working relationship.

Mr. Speaker, if we could do it then between the Russian and the U.S. militaries, surely we, with the Republicans and the President, could do the same thing now. The President is the leader of this Nation. He has a responsibility to lead. But part of leadership is being willing to sit down and in a sincere way be willing to listen to the other side. The President has failed in this responsibility and the Nation has paid a price.

Before being elected to Congress, I was the president and owner of a small company. Being part of a small business means developing relationships that are built upon trust. With the disastrous rollout of ObamaCare, the President has clearly broken the trust of the American people.

$634 million—$634 million—that is how much it cost to develop the ObamaCare Web site.

□ 1945

Facebook operated for 6 years on less money than that. Twitter was launched and operated for less than half the cost. Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify all were designed, implemented, and operational at a fraction of the price of the ObamaCare Web page. And yet, in one of the most embarrassing moments in ObamaCare history, and I believe this will be a history that will be rife with embarrassing moments, news organizations had to search high and low throughout the country to find one person who could be verified that they had actually signed up on the ObamaCare Web page. And, of course, days later we had born the legend of Chad, something many people are very familiar with.

Harkening back to my military days, if I had been given a mission and had so utterly failed to accomplish that mission, I would have been held accountable. So I ask, Mr. Speaker, when will Kathleen Sebelius be held accountable for this disaster? After more than 3 years and after more than $630 million and a failure to launch such as this, why does she still have her job?

But let's remember this: at the end of the day, we are not talking about ObamaCare, and we are not really talking about a Web page or a sequester or a continuing resolution. What we are really talking about at the end of the day is our Nation's crushing national debt. Our national debt is now approaching $17 trillion. Now, President Obama congratulates himself on having reduced the debt by half; but listen, when you run up a debt after 1 year in office of $1.2 trillion or $1.3 trillion, when you have nearly 4 years in a row of a greater than a trillion-dollar annual deficit, and then you congratulate yourself because you cut it $6 or $7 billion, that is not something to celebrate.

Now is the time to work together towards a balanced budget and actually beginning to pay down that debt. Yes, this is a tough decision, but we were elected to make tough decisions. My plea to the Senate and to the President is: Please, come to the table. Let's start the conversation now about how we can put our fiscal house in order. Time is running out.

With that, once again, Mrs. HARTZLER, thank you for yielding to me.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, CHRIS. I really appreciate your perspective. As a former Air Force pilot, I think what you said about leadership is very true. It is time for the President to show some leadership and for us to get together and to talk about this. That is why it is time for solutions. Thanks for sharing those things.

Now I would like to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), who is chairman of the Republican Study Committee and a real leader here in this House, and I certainly appreciate you sharing tonight.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for her leadership as the chair of the RSC Communications Committee for leading this effort to talk about real solutions. Of course, today we are in day 14 of a government shutdown, a shutdown that has seen Republicans bring proposal after proposal after proposal to fund government. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, there are more than 20 bills now that have been passed by the House of Representatives to fund all or parts of the Federal Government—20 bills. This chart chronicles the timeline, going back to September 20, well in advance of the midnight hour where, today, on day 14, by the way, President Obama has still yet to even engage in conversations.

In fact, we went to the White House Thursday to meet with the President, sat in a room with him for an hour and a half. The simple offer was: Mr. President, we will increase the debt ceiling. All we are asking is for you to start talking, just to agree to have conversations; and, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we left that meeting without the President even being willing to start talking.

And so we are 14 days into a government shutdown that the President is decrying and calling people names. You have got people in the White House literally calling people suicide bombers,

terrorists, and all kinds of other things that are so unbecoming of the Office of the President of the United States—again, a President who said he was going to change the tone in Washington allowing people in his White House to call people on the opposition terrorists and suicide bombers—and yet he refuses to even sit at the table and negotiate our differences while we have passed 20 different bills to fund all or parts of government.

What are some of those parts of government? A bill to fund veterans affairs. Mr. Speaker, for all the areas of disagreement we have in Washington—and clearly, with a divided Nation with a divided government, there are areas where we have disagreement, but we should all be able to come to the table and say we ought to fund our veterans while we are negotiating our differences on the things we disagree upon.

And yet we sent the bill over to the Senate to fund our veterans, and HARRY REID tabled that bill, Mr. Speaker. We sent a bill to say that disaster aid shouldn't be something that we disagree over. We passed a bill with bipartisan votes and sent it over to the Senate. In fact, we saw one of the most disgraceful acts by a Commander in Chief, Mr. Speaker, where for days we saw this administration refusing to give death benefits to our fallen heroes, a moment I don't think we have seen in our Nation's history.

And we passed a bill to say don't hold our veterans hostage, and yet you still see barricades—I call them ''Obamacades''—up in front of the World War II Memorial, an open-air memorial where, in normal days, there is nobody there being paid to guard or block this memorial. It is an open-air memorial built to honor our World War II heroes. And yet when our World War II heroes come from all around the country, some in their nineties, come to see their memorial, they are greeted by barricades by this administration. This is the kind of embarrassing leadership that we are getting out of the White House when all we are saying is let's negotiate our differences like has always been done.

When Ronald Reagan was President, Tip O'Neill was the Speaker, and you had divided government. There were 12 different shutdowns during that time in our Nation's history. What Ronald Reagan did as a leader, as a great leader, one that we surely miss today, Ronald Reagan started having regular meetings with Tip O'Neill. They actually built a relationship, started getting things done. And we saw one of the greatest revolutions, economic expansion in our Nation's history because you had a real leadership in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have sent 20 different bills over to the Senate, all chronicled, many of which had large Democrat votes out of the House. Still to this day, not one word from the President over whether he would agree to start talking. Of course, he wants to make it all about ObamaCare. Clearly, there are big areas where we have disagreement, but it is not just a partisan issue. It is not just Republicans who have issues with ObamaCare. Let's start with the occupant of the Oval Office.

Barack Obama has problems with ObamaCare. He has issued over 1,200 waivers to his signature law, as the gentlelady from Missouri pointed out. I have yet to find one small business in my district who got one of those waivers, by the way. It was handed out to a lot of special-interest friends who could get access to the White House. Is that the way the government is supposed to run? In fact, he even worked out a deal to give Members of Congress an exemption from his signature health care law.

So what we are saying, Mr. Speaker, is why don't we start with the basic premise of fairness. If this law is so good, make it apply to everybody. If it is not that good, if it is so bad you need to issue 1,200 waivers to your friends, Mr. Speaker, then why not give that same waiver to all Americans until this thing is ready to work, which clearly it is not. As somebody once said, the failures of this law, October 1 was a date that for 3 years they knew was coming, where these exchanges had to be up and running, and now we are hearing debacle after debacle, people registering 12, 14 times without being able to get through. Somebody said it is like Flowers.com not being prepared for Valentine's Day.

So as we stand here today talking about getting our economy back on track and talking about the 20 different proposals we have sent over to the Senate to get government up and running, most of which have not been given even a minute's consideration, literally tabled on party-line votes by Senator REID, what we are saying is: How about just fairness? Let's start with fairness and make ObamaCare apply to everybody. If it is that good, why don't we make it apply to everybody? Get rid of all these special waivers, all these special backroom deals to everybody from the President's friends to Members of Congress. Let's make it apply to everybody. Let's get the government back open, and let's start tackling our long-term spending problems that are causing programs like Medicare and Social Security to face bankruptcy where we have put good plans on the table to save those programs from bankruptcy and, frankly, Mr. Speaker, to save our country from bankruptcy so we can hand off to our kids and grandkids the same opportunity that we enjoy today in the greatest country in the history of the world, a country that is facing serious problems, a country, unfortunately, facing a lack of leadership from the President who, 14 days into a government shutdown, still to this day has not even agreed to start talking with people from the other party to work out those differences.

I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for creating this forum to talk about solutions, and my other colleagues in the Republican Study Committee who have been bringing forward solution after solution to get our economy moving again and restore the greatness that this country knows is there, that beacon of light that we are all fighting for here tonight on the House floor.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank you, Mr. SCALISE, talking about the leadership that we have been providing here in the House.

I think it is very important that people know, we proactively worked to make sure that government stayed open. We passed these bills way before October 1. Unfortunately, we haven't had leadership from the White House or from the Senate willing to come together. Thank you for bringing that up.

In fact, something that a lot of people don't know is that, at this point in the House of Representatives, we have already passed one-third of all appropriations bills in the continuing resolution. We have been passing bill after bill to keep this government open, to fund it and make sure it keeps going and working for the American people. The Senate has not passed them. They haven't taken them up. So it is not us that has shut down the government or is responsible for this lapse in funding, and it is certainly not us that is keeping it shut. Thank you very much for sharing that.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER). I am glad to have you here tonight and appreciate what you have to share.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, it is good to be here.

Mr. Speaker, since 1978, the debt ceiling has been raised 53 times, and 27 of these increases have been used as a negotiating tool both by Congress and the President. So why not now, Mr. President? Can we not negotiate now? And to borrow a somewhat trite phrase from days gone by, yes, we can.

Sadly, today we have a President who does not want to make any concessions with House Republicans. You know, Thomas Jefferson once said, ''Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold.'' Has pride gotten in the way, clouding the judgment of our President, do you think, Mr. Speaker? Has this President chosen party politics and his unworkable health care law over working with House Republicans toward fair solutions that would help hardworking Americans keep more money in their pockets?

Mr. Speaker, think with me here for a second. During the debt ceiling debate in March 2006, then-Senator Obama said:

> The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance

our government's reckless fiscal policies. Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that ''the buck stops here.'' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better.

Yet, here we are, 7 years later, and we are debating the exact same thing. Why is that okay, now, I would ask him, Mr. Speaker. Why is that okay, now, Mr. President? Do we have a failure of leadership? Can we admit that? Yes, we can.

It is a failure of leadership also for spewing such venomous rhetoric when the governing process doesn't go your way, calling Republicans names. It is a failure of not listening to the American people. Can we call this a failure of leadership? Yes, we can.

□ 2000

The American people want the government reopened. They want to make their own health care decisions. The shutdown the American people want is the out-of-control government spending, the $17 trillion debt that has been amassed that the President in his own words said ''is a failure of leadership,'' and then in another instance, ''unpatriotic.'' Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have put forth proposal after proposal to fund this government, to keep it open, to protect the American people from the President's hostile takeover of the health care system.

Sadly, we still have a President and a Senate majority leader acting like petulant children, refusing to come to the table to negotiate, prolonging that failure of leadership. Each day that passes, with the Affordable Care Act going into effect, our Nation's fiscal health gets worse—a failure of leadership. I love America too much to let it fall under these circumstances. I will not stand by and watch as our country crumbles because of a President who is not willing to work with us and come to the table and to carry out this prolonged failure of leadership.

I am RANDY WEBER, and America is worth fighting for. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for fighting alongside me and continuing this valiant effort.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Randy. It is an honor to stand beside you in this. This is a time for solutions. And people wonder, Can we get this right? Can we make things better? Can we keep the opportunity for the future? With you, I would say, Yes, we can, but we are going to keep working on it. Thank you very much.

I now yield to my friend from the Midwest, from Indiana, MARLIN STUTZMAN. What would you like to share with us tonight?

Mr. STUTZMAN. First, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and organizing this Special Order about solutions. That is what the American people expect from us as Congress, whether you are a Republican or whether you are a Democrat. The American people are looking to Washington to find solutions, to work together, to make America strong again. So I want to thank you for your comments today and for representing your district so well.

It doesn't take much to sort out and to realize the difficulty that we are facing in our country and what our Federal Government is facing: $17 trillion in debt, a struggling economy, a health care system that does need to be fixed. People are looking to Washington to gain confidence in the marketplace. And in spite of Washington, you will find bright spots throughout the country where good things are happening, but it is not enough. We can still do better. And it is time for Washington to find solutions for our economy, for the American people, for American families so that way when a family sits down to have dinner tonight, they are not going to be wondering if Dad is going to be going to work next week. They don't have to worry whether Mom will have her job the following month. What is going to happen after Christmas time? What is going to happen next year? They hear so many different stories about the new health care law and what it means for them. What is their insurance plan going to be like next year? There are so many unknowns and questions that are not answered because of the uncertainty that Washington has placed irresponsibly on the American people.

While we know we have $17 trillion of debt, a deficit that is running out of balance, a health care law that is crushing the American people today, an Independent Payment Advisory Board that has 15 board members that are unelected and unaccountable who will be making health care decisions for Americans in the near term, we still have an unemployment rate of 8 percent and mandates from ObamaCare that are forcing companies to cut hours. Too much uncertainty is being created by our Federal Government.

Small businesses are trying to figure out how they are going to make ends meet next year, how they are going to plan their budget when they know the mandates and the cost of insurance continue to crush them, how they are going to create new jobs and expand their companies if regulations continue to hamper them and the new health care law continues to sidetrack them.

One of the taxes that is in the health care law that is driving jobs away from Indiana is the medical device tax, also known as the pacemaker tax, the wheelchair tax. Anything that is a medical device, such as a hip, a knee, a joint, these things are taxed now because of ObamaCare. It is over 20,000 jobs just in Indiana. Warsaw, Indiana, in particular, is the orthopedic capital of the world. It is the home to Zimmer, Biomet, DePuy, Paragon, and so many other companies that are doing so much remarkable work for the betterment of Americans.

I know that my grandmother had her hip replaced before she passed away 10 years ago, and it changed her life. It gave her a new ability to enjoy life with her children and her grandchildren. This is an industry that is being harmed by ObamaCare, and it is time that we take a step back and reevaluate and find new solutions.

Unfortunately, this tax is putting 2,000 jobs in jeopardy in Indiana, and I believe that it is time for Washington, for the President, for the Senate, and for the House to come together. Let's stop stumbling from crisis to crisis. That is not the best way to govern. The American people are tired of the way Washington has these cycles of political stunts and fiscal cliffs and all these other manufactured crises.

Hoosiers know, as many Americans know, that in order to get a job done, you have to sit down and figure out a way to get it done, talk about it, and then go out and do it. But Washington is broke because government spends too much and talks too little. So I think now is the time for us to get serious about our debt. We need to reform our entitlement programs. We need to work towards reforming our Tax Code. We have solutions. We have ideas. We can make things better for not only the American people, but for the world, if we would just trust the instincts of the American people. If we followed those instincts and followed the example of the American people, the Federal Government would be in a much better place today.

It is time for solutions, and I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on this issue tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, MARLIN. That is right: it is time for solutions. And I very much appreciate you bringing up the concern with the taxes. We haven't talked about that yet tonight, but there are 20 new taxes in ObamaCare, and especially, as you pointed out, the medical device tax, which is very onerous and killing jobs all over.

The statement you said that is going to stick with me most tonight that I hope the American people remember and that I love that you just said is that Washington is broke because it spends too much and it talks too little. Well said.

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts.

I now yield to my friend from Michigan, KERRY BENTIVOLIO.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Thank you. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before this Chamber today to talk about the Democrat shutdown.

In the House we are standing strong to prevent ObamaCare from hurting people. Just today, the Detroit Free Press, a liberal-leaning paper, reported that two health insurance companies are dropping the low-cost plans for

146,000 Michigan families due to ObamaCare. This will cost each of these families thousands of dollars per year, more to be covered by ObamaCare-approved health care plans. That is unacceptable. Our government is shut down because the extreme liberal Democrats refuse to negotiate and have rejected bills to keep most of the government open. This behavior reminds me of a spoiled child having a temper tantrum who runs to their room, slams the door shut, and refuses to come out until their demands are met.

This is no way to behave and is a disservice to all Americans. Mr. Speaker, they are obsessed with forcing health care legislation, which they are exempt from, onto the American people. They want two classes, the majority who live under ObamaCare and the elite who use their connections to get waivers.

By refusing to fund veterans, to keep the parks open, or support pediatric cancer research, Senate and House Democrats are showing whose side they are on, and it is not the American people.

I plead with my responsible, adult Democrat colleagues that it is not too late. Let's move forward. Join the rest of the American people and support equality under the law.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, KERRY. And thank you for your leadership. I know you have been going down to the World War II Memorial and helping to open up the barricades for our Honor Flights coming in. It is sad that we have to do that, but thank you for your leadership in that.

I now turn to one of your colleagues from Michigan, BILL HUIZENGA, and yield time to him.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Thanks. I appreciate my good friend from Missouri putting this together and having this conversation.

This is a conversation we need to have with the American people. There is obviously a lot of misinformation that is going out over the airwaves as we have talked about a number of times, and I think people are looking for that information. I know I have been tweeting out a few of the articles that I have come across on my iPhone here.

For those of you out there watching, it is @RepHuizenga. I would love for you to follow me and take a look at this, this #Time4Solutions hash tag that we have going here because it is talking about some of those challenges, as well as the solutions that, I think, we are all looking for.

I appreciate you pointing out to my friend and colleague from Michigan, KERRY BENTIVOLIO, who is a great veteran himself of Iraq, as well as earlier times, and has done a couple of tours. For me, that World War II Memorial was something very special to be able to be a part of. That first day, there weren't television cameras around, there wasn't media. There wasn't anybody around except for those of us who cared about making sure that our veterans had an opportunity to go in and see a memorial that they earned.

I will tell you, as someone who is the son of a disabled World War II veteran, a man who suffered a B–24 crash in Italy in 1944, I can tell you I know how powerful it is for him, how powerful it was for his buddies that he was able to go to the memorial, and how powerful it was for me as a family member to be along on that very special day. The least that we can do is to open that up.

It is not just the World War II Memorial. It is the Korea memorial. I had a chance to bring a group of veterans from the Grand Rapids area in my district and in and around Kentwood and those areas. We went down to the World War II Memorial, and we also went down to the Korea memorial. That is where most of them were. They were greeted with no crowds, but the same barricades, as well as a park ranger who was in a very tough spot. He told me, Congressman, I am here to tell you that this monument is closed, this park is closed. I said, Well, respectfully I am here to tell you that I am going to help my constituents exercise their First Amendment rights and open up that barricade. We were able to get some people in there.

Today, as I was coming in, I drove past the Martin Luther King memorial. It was the same thing. There were buses lined up on the street with their flashers going, and there was a tremendous number of people in there exercising their First Amendment right, that civil disobedience that had gone on. The gate was kicked open, and they were in there going and seeing that memorial to a great man the way that it should be, open and available, right now, without the excuses, without the rented barricades, without those other things.

I also want to touch a little bit on the health care side as we are going through this. I appreciate you saying it is not just challenges, but also the opportunities. Frankly, we need to be talking to each other, to get to those solutions. This hash tag, #Time4Solutions, is very timely. We have had a Senate leader who has said absolutely no negotiations, none.

Now we are finally getting there, I think because they are hearing from their constituents back home that we need you to be talking.

□ 2015

The same with the White House. I think the White House even came around a little sooner than what the Senate leader did. But it is time to make sure that we are having these negotiations and these conversations.

A lot of us know the challenge, many of them are very well known, the signup glitches that happened. Glitches might be charitable, shall we say, for what was going on.

But one of my colleagues from Michigan, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, MIKE ROGERS, had put forward an op-ed not that long ago, and I have a copy of it here that I was reading. He is talking about the privacy threat.

If you look at the hub, the data hub that is being built, you know, our health care records are going to be exposed to a tremendous number of people.

Your privacy information, your private information, health care information, yours, mine, all the constituents that are out there watching this, their information, your information is at risk. Your information is at risk, and it is time that we do something about it.

Now, who hasn't heard the ''if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor?'' Well, maybe not so much.

This is one of the things I just tweeted out. CNNMoney today was reporting about doctor choice and ObamaCare—not so much. This is CNN. This isn't me. This is CNN.

They are saying that, for example, there was a major insurer that was offering policies in 14 different States, and what they are saying is that they are looking at the more heavier areas of population, eliminating up to half of the doctors.

Think of that. Half of the doctors that currently you could go to if you had one of their off-exchange plans won't be available to you. In a lesser populated area, it is ''only'' going to be 10 or 20 percent of those same doctors.

I can tell you, I sat, for a number of years, on the Michigan Rural Health Association board of directors as we were looking at health care issues in Michigan, especially in the rural areas. If you are starting to limit health care choices, even more so than what they already are in some of these rural areas, the damage that is going to be done to people and that relationship that they have with their doctor and with their health care provider—a place where you maybe have to do telemedicine just to be able to get the proper diagnosis and the things that are going on.

We have all heard, ''If you like your plan, you can keep your plan.'' Maybe not so much.

Oh, but the plans are going to be more affordable. Well, they had the number right. There was a discussion that this was going to save $2,500 for the average family. Unfortunately, we now know it is the right number, but the wrong direction. So it is actually going to cost the average family, like mine—I have got five young kids—it is going to cost $2,500 additional. That is the wrong direction.

Some of the lesser-knowns—I will give you an example. My nephew, Andrew, is putting himself through college. He is working as a waiter in a nice restaurant.

A couple of months ago they called everybody in for the staff meeting and said, by the way, we are going to be starting this soon: No more than 29

hours per week. No more than 29 hours per week.

And he said, you know, Uncle Bill, I can get through this. It is not going to be easy. It is not going to be my choice, but I can get through it.

But he is looking at these colleagues, these single moms, these single moms that are saying, now where do I go for another 10 hours? Now how do I figure out where I am going to make ends meet and how I am going to make ends meet?

I think that is why we have seen letters by those big Republican organizations like SEIU, the Teamsters, the AFL–CIO, not exactly institutions normally related and associated with the Republican Party. They have put in formal letters saying, Wait a minute; this is not being implemented the way that it was supposed to be implemented.

They are afraid that there is an attack on the 40-hour work week, as well they should be afraid. That is exactly what is happening right now, and we need to be making sure that we are pushing back at that.

The medical device tax has been brought up a little bit. This has a significant impact in Michigan. Stryker Corporation, out of the Kalamazoo area, they have said publicly that it is going to cost them 1,000 jobs, 1,000 jobs. All right?

It is also going to be hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes that are being laid on. This ObamaCare tax, it has been deemed a tax by the Supreme Court, so let's talk about it in the terms of a tax.

It is time that we repealed this tax. It is time that we not take those 1,000 jobs away from Stryker; time that we not take those jobs out of Ann Arbor, an innovative hub; time that we not take those jobs away from the next entrepreneur in Grand Rapids, on Pill Hill, Medical Mile, as it is sometimes called; that we make sure that they have got the same opportunities, not less opportunities, the same opportunities. That isn't going to happen under this.

As you had pointed out, coverage, the mandatory, forced coverage of abortive services that is mandated in this bill, is absolutely wrong.

I have a company that is gaining some prominence in my district called Autocam. John Kennedy, the majority stakeholder and president and CEO of Autocam, was just in Washington sharing his story last week.

As a devout Catholic, he had made the decision that that wasn't going to be something that he would offer in his plans. They are self-insured, and if his employees wanted to go do that, that was their choice, but he wasn't going to be forced to pay for it, until this bill came along and said: It doesn't matter what your personal beliefs are.

It doesn't matter that you own the company. It doesn't matter that your religion says this is wrong. We know better. This government knows better, and we are going to force you to spend that money to provide a service that you wholeheartedly disagree with.

Does that sound like the American way to you?

Does that sound like the American way to any of us? Absolutely not, yet, somehow we are viewing it as acceptable.

Waivers for the politically-connected, as has been talked about; as long as you have got a good friend that is either in the White House or at Health and Human Services, we can probably work something out for you.

Now, how does that feel?

Now, today though, we finally maybe got to the root of it. The Senate had been going along, no negotiations, no negotiations, no negotiations.

Oh, but if you want to spend some more money, if you want to roll back those automatic, across-the-board cuts that we had agreed to 2 years ago, maybe we will start talking about some reforms. That is what it is.

As we talked about, this is about spending. This is about a group of people that want to see government grow. They want to see the footprint of the government just smash down on top of everything here and take control of our daily lives. That is really what the problem is.

So now we are seeing what the Senate is really all about. It is about spending. It is about more spending and more control for them. Now, that has got to stop.

Now, the opportunity side. I want to wrap up because I know we have got some other colleagues that are here, and we are having a great conversation and, again, I appreciate your hashtag, Time4Solutions, because this really is about those opportunities, as you talked about, the invention of Velcro and how we got there.

I have learned that most of the times you learn more from the things in life that are tough, not the easy things. Major shifts in society are not easy. They might be simple, but sometimes those simple things aren't real easy. Well, this is neither simple nor easy, and it is because it is the wrong direction.

First and foremost, we need the White House to acknowledge these problems. They won't even acknowledge these problems. It is all hunky-dory, peaches and cream here in Washington, D.C. We are rolling this program out.

Excuse us. We had to make sure that you don't worry about those ''glitches'' that were in the system as we rolled it out. Please don't look at those exemptions and carve-outs that we have had. Please don't, whatever you do, please, oh, please, don't talk about how this is a growing frustration that the American people have, because that would somehow acknowledge that the American people might know better than they do down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

We have to acknowledge those problems. Words speak louder—I am sorry—actions speak louder than words. The words are, everything is fine. The actions are very, very different though. The actions are very, very different out of this administration, as they have signed 17 changes into this law, as we have seen these carve-outs, as we have seen them do things like make sure that the individual mandate is kept in place, but the other mandates are not put in.

I know my colleagues are here too, and I want to give them time, so I am going to wrap up with this. My friend from Missouri, thank you for doing this.

It is time that we do make those substantive changes and restore some faith, restore some faith with the American people, that we have their best interest, and make sure that Congress can live under the same laws that they vote for and that they pass.

I appreciate you having this conversation tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, BILL. Those were very eloquent remarks. You really brought home the need that it is time for solutions and all the challenges that we are facing.

Before I go to our other friends here, I do want to get this motion in.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, KEITH ROTHFUS, who is new here but, boy, he hit the ground running.

Appreciate your leadership, KEITH. What would you like to share tonight?

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentlelady for organizing this talk.

Pennsylvania's 12th District in western Pennsylvania stretches from Beaver to Johnstown and to the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh.

Last week we had a visit from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who was in town to tout the benefits of the health care law. She also attempted to help enroll some western Pennsylvanians in the exchanges.

According to press reports, however, those who showed up were not able to enroll, or even access the Web site. Apparently, glitches were to blame.

As reported in yesterday's New York Times, however, one industry source said, ''These are not glitches. The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. It's awful.'' These problems took more than 2 years to build, and cost the American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The health care law's troubles aren't limited, however, to the Web site issues. Many western Pennsylvanians have reached out to me to share stories about how they are seeing their hours

reduced, or losing their jobs. Other western Pennsylvanians are seeing their health care premiums go up, or losing coverage altogether.

A woman recently got in touch with me and told me that her family recently received a letter from their insurance company, and they will lose the health insurance they have had for more than 25 years on December 31. The alternatives they have been able to find will cost them three times what they pay today.

Mr. Speaker, it is a time for solutions. We do have a new solution that we are proposing, The American Health Care Reform Act, which will actually lower costs, and I encourage our colleagues across the aisle and in our conference to take a look at that.

I thank the gentlelady for the time.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, KEITH. Good point there.

Now I yield to a friend from Kentucky, ANDY BARR.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for her leadership in leading this Special Order.

Many Americans watching on TV right now are frustrated. They are angry with what they are seeing in Washington. They don't understand why political conflict has to get in the way of solutions.

They are saying, and they are saying to all of us, why are the politicians putting their political agendas ahead of what is good for the country?

I share that frustration and anger, and I understand what they are saying. They are saying, why can't the politicians get their act together?

Why can't they reopen the government and avert default?

But you know, as important as it is to reopen the government, and as important as it is to avert a short-term default, and those are very critical, it is equally important that we stop business as usual in Washington.

It is important that Members of Congress do what they were elected to do, which is exercise leadership, stand up for what is right and what is in the long-term best interest of the Nation.

What is in the long-term best interest of the Nation is to stop spending money we don't have. It is to stop racking up mounds of debt to end the reckless practices in Washington that are literally mortgaging the future of our children and our grandchildren and pushing this country to the brink of national bankruptcy.

Now, some have accused House Republicans of holding the country hostage solely for the purpose of repealing or defunding the President's signature legislative achievement, ObamaCare.

Why is this relevant?

The President says ObamaCare should not be part of any negotiations to fund the government or raise the debt limit. But my constituents in Kentucky recognize the President's health care law for what it actually is, which is a massive increase in Federal spending.

Its projected cost has more than doubled since the President originally claimed it would reduce the deficit. It will cost American taxpayers $2 trillion over the next decade, and its true cost will continue to grow.

ObamaCare was rammed through Congress on a partisan basis through a process that was specifically reserved for budget-related bills, the reconciliation process. So for anyone to suggest that ObamaCare is unrelated to the budget is both cynical and inconsistent with Congress' ongoing responsibility to scrutinize Federal spending.

After racking up $7 trillion in debt in just 5 years, the President stubbornly refuses to negotiate over ObamaCare. But make no mistake: Congress would not be doing its job if it ignored ObamaCare and its massive cost in the ongoing debate about how to save America from bankruptcy.

□ 2030

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just conclude by saying this. It would be unfair for young people and the next generation if we simply raised the debt limit without also addressing the underlying cause of our problems, without also addressing the cause of our fiscal situation, and that is runaway government spending. This is our opportunity. This is our moment. Let's seize this opportunity on a bipartisan basis. It is time for solutions.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in this Special Order.

Let's not just raise the debt limit and keep kicking the can down the road. Let's solve America's problem and finally force the government to live within its means.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank the gentleman.

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and my privilege today to stand in the House of Representatives, along with my distinguished colleague from the Silver State, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, to coanchor the CBC Special Order, the hour of power, where, for the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to talk directly to the American people about the situation that we face in this country right now related to both the government shutdown and the impending debt ceiling crisis that we confront.

Mr. Speaker, this is day 14 of a government shutdown brought to us by reckless, irresponsible, and unreasonable behavior by our friends on the other side of the aisle. It is a government shutdown that is hurting the American people. It is hurting children, placing their Head Start programming at risk. It is hurting seniors who rely on the Meals on Wheels program. It is hurting expectant mothers who may be unable to receive the nutritional assistance that they are otherwise qualified for. It is hurting the more than 800,000 hardworking civil servants who have been unceremoniously cast out of their jobs, uncertain as to when they may be able to return. It is hurting America.

But as bad as this government shutdown has been, we are also faced with a crisis that might be even worse if we are unable in this House to raise the debt ceiling within the next several days. The Treasury Secretary has indicated that the United States effectively will run out of the capacity to pay all of its bills and its creditors if we do not raise the debt ceiling by Thursday, October 17, just a few days from now.

Now, the debt ceiling has been a vehicle that all too often has been mischaracterized, perhaps intentionally, perhaps out of ignorance. I am not certain. But let's just clear the record as to what the debt ceiling actually represents. It is a backward-looking vehicle, not a forward-looking vehicle designed to give the President the ability to spend more. That is a gross mischaracterization. The debt ceiling is a backward-looking vehicle designed to give the President and this administration the capacity to pay bills that this Congress has already incurred.

We just want the Congress to undertake its constitutional responsibility pursuant to the 14th Amendment, where, in section 4, it makes clear the validity of the public debt authorized by law shall not be questioned. And it is Congress, in section 5 of the 14th Amendment, that has the responsibility to adhere to that constitutional requirement.

We are going to explore this theme and the consequences of a debt ceiling default during this Special Order. And I am very pleased that we have been joined by the dynamic leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, the distinguished chairperson from the great State of Ohio, Representative MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD, for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, here we stand, nearly 72 hours before the United States Treasury reaches the debt limit. We are 72 hours away from compromising our

ability to make Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans benefits payments. We are 72 hours away from risking default on our international debt obligations; 72 hours away from the potential of stocks plummeting and interest rates soaring, reversing recent gains in the housing, automobile, and banking markets. Our Nation is 72 hours away from the possibility of a severe economic disaster both at home and abroad.

Unfortunately, the House majority's inability to move beyond partisan politics has created one economic crisis after another. Our country is still feeling the effects of the economic downturn and subsequent recession that began in 2007. Communities around the country continue to struggle with high unemployment, less access to loans for small businesses, and a fragile housing market. It is irresponsible to do further damage to our economy by even threatening to allow America to default on its bills.

We must first do no harm, Mr. Speaker. Yet that is exactly the position we are in because of House Republicans.

Now, don't be misled by Republican talking points that would lead you to believe that raising the debt limit leads to more spending. This only allows us to pay debts that have already been accrued, debts that have already been authorized by this Congress.

While both parties have politicized the debt limits in the past, we have never—and I repeat, never—seen this degree of brinkmanship. Prior to this dysfunctional Congress, the debt limit debates never contemplated an actual default. Members of Congress never faced the impact of crossing that threshold and artificially forcing the Nation into the depths of economic disaster. And ultimately, when legislative language was attached to the debt limit, it was a part of a package that passed with strong bipartisan support.

We simply cannot afford the catastrophic consequences of a government default. It is time for Congress to put the American people first, work together to find a solution, and put partisan bickering behind us. Our Nation has worked too hard to put us on the path to recovery.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to move forward. The American people expect Congress to do its job. The CBC stands ready—ready to work with our colleagues to raise the debt ceiling, reject the politics of brinkmanship, and get our economic house in order.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished chairwoman for her insightful, thorough remarks.

I now yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who has joined us today to share her remarks and observations as to this debt ceiling crisis that we are confronting right now.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentleman for his courtesies and look at this in a somewhat unique fashion to speak to the pending crisis and to join with my colleagues, and particularly in following the chairwoman, Congresswoman FUDGE, and thanking her for setting the tone of the interests of the Congressional Black Caucus to be collaborative and to be problem solvers.

Let me thank the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for his timeliness in bringing us to the floor tonight and the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) for recognizing the vital importance of speaking to the American people and certainly to our colleagues.

I do want to offer to my colleagues a legislative initiative that I hope all of my friends—Republicans and Democrats—will join in sponsoring, H. Res. 375, which commits this House to refraining from conditioning the resolution of fiscal and budgetary disputes on the taking of action related to nongermane legislative matters.

As I listened to my friends on the other side of the aisle, one person sought to refute the representation that all of us have made, which is that we have never been in a position to hold hostage the whole budgeting process through the idea of a legislative fight, and I would beg to differ on the interpretation of my Republican friends that that has occurred. It did not occur during the shutdown dealing with President Clinton and the Speaker of the House, then-Speaker Gingrich; and, in fact, we had passed a number of appropriation bills that had already been passed. So even though the government was shut down, there was not this dire, complete collapse of the government that we are facing now.

In addition, there is a representation that we have passed any number of pointed appropriations during this shutdown. Mr. Speaker, those were only political votes. The reason why they were ineffective and members of our party voted against them was because they were political votes. They were meant entirely to get Democrats on the record for half-funding Health and Human Services, half-funding Indian Services, half-funding Homeland Security, half-funding any number of departments that, in fact, did not make sense.

So let me give you the real cost, if you will, of where we are today and give it from the perspective of my committee, and that is, the Judiciary Committee. And one of our major agencies, the FBI, that clearly has focused on the security, domestic security of this Nation, very vital work of field agents that I work with every day, just about 72 hours ago, FBI agents joined with my local officials in Houston and busted a heinous and horrific human trafficking operation, little girls sexually used and abused and manipulated, if you will—the FBI.

Well, here is a quote from the FBI:

> The impact of sequestration, which is part of the budgeting process, puts us further behind enemies and criminals that pose threats to national security and public safety.

And they list a whole litany of issues that are impacted. Let me just read a few: undermining counterterrorism investigations, exposing vulnerable populations to greater risk, halting counterintelligence cases, closing white collar cases has been delayed, limiting mortgage and financial fraud cases, constraining use of official vehicles, losing informants, impeding surveillance, harming local cooperation, reducing field time, increasing retirements.

All of this impacts on the very basic responsibilities that we give to them; and it seems sad that we are putting these individuals who are putting themselves on the front lines of criminal enforcement, that we are, in fact, causing that to be halted.

Lastly, on the FBI, Quantico, we all know, is a training ground for agents and others all across America:

> Quantico is quiet. I have no new agent classes going through there. I can't afford it.

There are any number of other issues, of course, that we could comment on, but let me continue by moving to my State, the State of Texas.

But before I do that, here is a document from the administrative Office of the United States Courts. Again, something that the Judiciary has concern for. And we are told, as of tomorrow, possibly, that judicial matters may be shut down, may be stopped because of the restraints on our article III judges, and that is shameful.

That means justice is stopping. That means public defenders are not being paid. Although all of those folks are continuing to come, in some instances, there may be major impacts in the court system.

But I would like to turn our attention to the discourse that is occurring here; and as I do that, let me make mention for my friends of one answer to why we should not be holding ObamaCare and the American people hostage.

First I want to say, coming from my district, I met with over 40 navigators. They have concerns. We all want to make sure this works right, which is what I wished my Republican friends would do. But they had smiles on their faces because what they are saying is the people are eager. They are eager in Texas, a State where we have denied the expanded Medicaid. We don't have our State exchange. We have done damage to those who need insurance. It is a shame what we have done in Texas.

But those who have been assigned to get an outreach are smiling, not because they get paid a whole lot of money, but because they are reaching people who are desperate and who want to be insured.

□ 2045

And so I will put in the RECORD an article called, ''ObamaCare Saved My Family From Financial Ruin.'' It talks about a young boy with a brain tumor and leading up to the point of losing all of his insurance. He might have been

born with this tumor, but he was only diagnosed at about 6 years old. Mason is his name. He played basketball and did a lot of things until they determined in later years—I think he was age 14—that he had this horrific brain tumor. It is only because of ObamaCare that his life now will have the kind of coverage of insurance that we are all desirous of.

But I want to sort of finish my remarks. There is a lot I can say about Texas, and I may offer one point if I might, Mr. JEFFRIES, to make sure that I have that in the RECORD. We all are concerned about our individual States. And so for my friends back home, this is a State that has some 36 Members of Congress, two Senators, and I am on the floor fighting against this shutdown.

The reason that Texans need to be aware that it is important that you fight against this shutdown and put out a clean CR is that this will cost 582,829 Texas residents who took out a home mortgage or refinanced an existing mortgage last year $36,000 over the life of a typical 30-year loan. And I am jumping to if we go into default over the next 2 days.

The Republican debt default will put at risk the retirement plans of 4.473 million Texans, and 300,000 vets would have a concern about their disability compensation for November 1; and 24,000 or 25,000 poor and disabled vets would be questionable about the pension they live on.

But I want to close with something that has disturbed me as we have watched the rhetoric. I have pages and pages. We all are emotional. We all have the talent of rhetoric. We all have, if you will, the affection for the use of words—hyperbole, metaphors, using examples, and making our point. Mr. Speaker, I respect that. I am not a thin-skinned person. I am as much engaged in the debate on this floor as many of my friends, but all of us should be sensitive to the words that suggest that we have other motives.

So I come to the floor today to raise issue with what is perceived in many communities of the different treatment of Barack Obama. You can read between the words why he is treated so differently and why he is cast about with such utterly ugly and demeaning suggestions. And in demeaning him, you are demeaning a whole body of other folks. I take issue with that.

And so let me see if maybe Larry Klayman of Freedom Watch will call us back and give us a response to his words uttered yesterday that I find totally out of order. Protected by the First Amendment, absolutely—I have no quarrel with that. But I believe it is important to put this in the RECORD as we talk about this government shutdown because if we are going to get where we need to go, we need to all realize that we have a greater cause—and that is America's cause.

So I finish on these words.

Apparently, he was moved yesterday in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—which many in the Million Vets movement denounced yesterday, and he said:

> We are ruled by a President that bows down to Allah.

I am already insulted because I believe in the freedom of religion. I respect the dignity of all religions.

He is not a President of we the people, says Mr. Klayman of Freedom Watch, but a President of his people.

I don't know who that is. All I know is that the President was elected to be President of all of the people of the United States of America.

He goes on to say:

> We should wage a nonviolent revolution.

I have never been ashamed of the nonviolent civil rights movement. We didn't call it a revolution. We called it a movement to give dignity to people and move them from second-class citizenship.

But he says:

> We should wage a nonviolent revolution. This President should get the Koran out of his hands.

This is denigrating a religion that I believe is absolutely appalling.

> Get off his knees—

Is there some documentation about the President's private prayer allegiances or responsibilities or desires that this gentleman knows what he is talking about?

> —and get out of town.

That is, I believe, one of the most appalling statements that we have heard charged against a President of the United States in a time of crisis, when the American people are looking for hope, looking for serious response.

I would hope that there will be Members of the Republican Conference that will come to the floor tomorrow and join in with the solution that may be offered as it is being discussed in the Senate; and I hope they will denounce these words, as I am denouncing them tonight. For we will never get a solution to move this Nation forward if we are to denounce religions that are respected and given the privilege of being worshipped by those who worship—by the First Amendment—and to try to denigrate a President by denigrating a religion and going in the circle of diminishing all of us.

I want to thank the gentleman for giving me this opportunity. I may ask for some more time if I am able to stay around, as we go forward, because there is a long list of what I think we are being deprived of.

But I do want to let everyone know that when I was home in the district for the short period I was, I know that those in Texas who are suffering are happy about Barack Obama. They want us to get it together right like we did with Medicare part D, which did not work when it was first put in place, but they are happy.

I would hope that, as I indicated these words on the floor, that we would take the words of Chaplain Barry Black and ''stop sowing in the wind'' and stop, in essence, doing things that undermine our very leadership. Thank you, Chaplain Black, for giving us these words of inspiration. Maybe we will take notice. And when words are said that are ugly, inappropriate, and without any truth, I am looking for my friends tomorrow to come on the floor and denounce these ugly words that were said by this gentleman that have no bearing in truth and have the audacity to denigrate faiths that are, in essence, respected and show their love for a higher power.

We should all be grateful that the different faiths we grant in this Nation under the First Amendment of freedom of religion can pray to their God—pray to God—and ask for the blessings of God on this Nation.

With that, I thank the gentleman for his courtesies.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 9, 2013]

OBAMACARE SAVED MY FAMILY FROM FINANCIAL RUIN

(By Janine Urbaniak Reid)

House Speaker John Boehner and his tea party friends shut down the U.S. government because of people like me. I am the mother of an insurance hog, someone who could have blown through his lifetime limit of health coverage by the time he was 14. My son has managed to survive despite seemingly insurmountable challenges, and he wears his preexisting condition like a Super Bowl ring.

Mason, now 16, was probably born with his brain tumor. We discovered it six years ago. Biopsies showed a slow-growing mass, which was the good news. The bad news was that the tumor could not be removed because it had grown around essential structures in his brain. Under the care of some of the country's finest specialists, Mason had frequent scans. There was little we could do between tests but hope for the best. Like other children his age, Mason played basketball, argued with his siblings and avoided cleaning his bedroom. He managed to undergo chemotherapy for eight months without getting too sick. He insisted on finding ways to laugh, saying things like: ''I have brain cancer. What's your problem?'' It was an uneasy peace—until the tumor ruptured in December 2010, three years after his initial diagnosis, and Mason suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Mason spent most of eighth grade in the hospital. In the six months he was hospitalized, he spent 65 days in the pediatric intensive care unit. He underwent four brain surgeries. Halfway through his hospitalization, the Affordable Care Act was passed, alleviating lifetime limits on coverage and saving us from the financial abyss. Mason moved to a rehabilitation hospital where he was retaught the most basic skills—sitting up, eating and standing. We faithfully paid the premiums on the employer-sponsored plan through which our family is covered, along with the rest of our bills, thanking God and whoever else would listen for our good fortune to have coverage.

The biggest fear for families such as mine is that we will lose our health insurance and be rendered uninsurable because one of us has been sick. The Affordable Care Act does away with dreaded clauses barring preexisting conditions. It also enables us to keep Mason on our insurance until he is 26; then, he will be able to purchase his own coverage on an insurance exchange. At least, that was the plan until last Tuesday, when the government was shut down in protest of such excesses.

As far as the brain tumor goes, our family might have drawn the short straw. Maybe our story lacks a certain universal appeal. People might thinking to themselves, ''I'm so sorry that happened to you, but odds are it won't happen to me.'' I hope it doesn't, really.

But having lived in hospitals with Mason for months, I have seen that bad things—accidents, freak illnesses—happen to smart, cautious and otherwise undeserving people. It's one thing we all have in common. We are fragile beings. So what is wrong with allowing us to purchase a financial safety net? What's so un-American about that?

If I could get John Boehner and Ted Cruz on a conference call, I would explain this to them. I would tell them that, while they were busy trying to derail the Affordable Care Act over the past two years, Mason has again learned to walk, talk, eat and shoot a three-point basket.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from the great State of Texas for her observations and certainly hope that all people of decency on both sides of the aisle will denounce the hateful words that we saw on display here in the Nation's Capital this weekend.

We are pleased to have been joined by the distinguished Representative from the great State of Virginia, Representative BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for organizing this Special Order, and the gentlelady from Ohio for her leadership in the Black Caucus, and the other Members who are participating tonight.

Mr. Speaker, our economy has been improving very slowly over the last few years, and we need to do everything we can to make sure that we create as many jobs as possible.

Thursday, the United States faces a crisis, and that is whether we will pay our debts or whether we will, for the first time in our history, default on our debts. The debate on the debt ceiling really isn't much of a debate because every credible economist has already concluded that failure to adjust the debt ceiling will cause serious adverse consequences to the domestic economy, and even the global economy. That conclusion really ought to end the debate.

For those who want a little more information, you only have to look back a couple of years. The Republicans made a credible threat on the debt ceiling, and the S&P, just based on the credible threat—although we raised it in time—downgraded the creditworthiness of the United States for the first time in history.

So we really don't know exactly what would happen. We know none of it is going to be good, but we would be looking at possible increases in interest rates, lost jobs, stock market collapse and people's pensions at stake, government checks like Social Security and veterans benefits, and doctors not being paid under Medicare. All are adverse consequences for failing to adjust the debt ceiling.

My Republican colleagues have threatened to use this crisis as an opportunity to gain legislative advantage to pass legislation that they can't pass through the normal process. Unfortunately for them, the Nation Magazine published their wish list. It starts, of course, with undermining ObamaCare, but then it goes on to entitlement reform, better known as cutting Social Security and Medicare; Keystone pipeline; corporate tax cuts; sabotage EPA clean air regulations; offshore drilling. It goes on and on. They published the list.

But the full faith and credit of the United States should not be a bargaining chip held hostage unless some legislative ransom is paid.

Suppose the Democrats played the same game and put on the table immigration reform, gay rights, a jobs bill, or gun safety, and we are going to shut down the government or mess with the debt ceiling unless we get our way on that legislation. How dysfunctional a government would we have then?

In the past, there have been debt ceilings; and people have referred to the fact that in the past, there have been negotiations over the debt ceiling. But those are different negotiations. Those are negotiations on the debt ceiling in the context of, Of course we are going to adjust the debt ceiling. And then you put things on the bill. So if you can get your amendment on the bill, you know you are in good shape because that bill is going to pass. You will get over the line.

It has never been in the context of, If I don't get my way, we will explode the economy—until 2 years ago when the Republicans pulled a stunt and the S&P downgraded our credit rating. About 45 times since the 1980s we have increased the debt ceiling. It has always been in the context of, Of course, the debt ceiling will be increased.

This isn't like a credit card where you increase your credit limit so that you can spend more. We have already spent it. We have passed the spending bills. We have already spent the money. The question is whether we are going to pay the bills; and if you are going to discuss fiscal responsibility, it ought to be at a time when you are deciding whether to spend the money, not after you spend it and then decide whether you are going to pay the bills that you have already incurred.

We are discussing this debt ceiling while the government is shut down. And shut down for what reason? It started off on ObamaCare. Many Republican Senators have already said that this wasn't going to happen, and it wasn't a good idea to shut down the government over ObamaCare. Apparently, they have pretty much given on that and some have said, Well, we have shut down the government; we have got to get something.

The problem with giving something for shutting down the government is that there is apparently a fundamental concept in psychology of positive reinforcement. If you reward somebody for doing something, they will probably do it again. If they get a reward for shutting down the government, this will become part and parcel of the legislative process that if you can't get a bill passed, you will shut down the government until you get it passed.

Several Republican legislators have praised the fact that we passed some piecemeal bills to reopen government one little agency at a time. It looks to me like every morning they read the newspaper and find out the latest disaster caused by their shutdown and then some things like servicemen not getting death benefits, the World War II Memorial, cancer patients not being treated at the National Institutes of Health, Head Start.

Every morning, they read the tragic effects of their shutdown and then run to the House to address the disaster of the day and try to get some 30-second sound bite to cover up the fact all they are doing is cleaning up part of the mess that they already caused.

Passage of these little piecemeal bills only serves to elongate the shutdown. We need to reopen the government and put an end to all this; and while some of us are working hard to produce jobs, this shutdown is costing hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have criticized Democrats for not negotiating. I just want to remind everybody we are talking about the budget. The Democrats started with one number, the Republicans with another number. The Democrats didn't come halfway or two-thirds of the way. They just agreed to the Republican number on a short-term basis so we can continue to negotiate without shutting down the government.

So we need to reopen all of the government and stop losing jobs. Let's pay our debts, and then we can get to the real serious negotiations on the budget.

I thank the gentleman for yielding and look forward to reopening government, paying our bills, and then getting into the tough negotiations.

□ 2100

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Virginia for his observations and for reminding the American people that the President, the Senate majority, Democrats in the House of Representatives have always been prepared to sit down and attempt to find common ground as it relates to the challenges that we confront here in the country. We have been asking for a conference committee to be put into place so we can discuss the budget passed by the House and passed by the Senate and figure out how we can negotiate around those differences since March; but the House majority has refused to appoint Members to negotiate the budget differences.

But we are not going to be put into a position where essentially you say, Give us everything we want—the right-wing Republican agenda for this country rejected by the American people on

November 6, 2012. But notwithstanding that fact, give us everything we want or we are going to shut down the government or force a default that plunges this country and the world into a painful recession. We are not interested in negotiating on those terms because it is not in the best interest of the American people.

I am pleased that we have been joined by the distinguished Representative from the great State of California.

I yield to Representative BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. First let me thank you both, Congressman JEFFRIES and Congressman HORSFORD, for your tremendous leadership, your vigilance, and your diligence. We appreciate your conducting these Special Orders to make sure that the American people know the truth about what is taking place here in Washington, D.C.

Also, I have to salute our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the gentlelady from Ohio, Congresswoman Marsha Fudge, for her leadership and ensuring that the entire Congressional Black Caucus continues to be the conscience of the Congress.

Here we are 14 days into the Tea Party Republican shutdown and 3 days away from the Tea Party Republican government default, which would be the first in American history. Since taking control of the House of Representatives 2 years ago, the Tea Party has governed by brinksmanship. First, they were unable to accomplish their goals of decimating the government through legislation, so they have resorted to the type of tactics that eventually led to the sequester and to the shutdown of the Federal Government.

Now, the last time that the Republicans refused to lift the debt ceiling and relied on brinksmanship to get their way, a supercommittee was formed as a way to reach compromise—which of course didn't work and led to the sequester, which has caused devastating, across-the-board cuts to programs that the American people rely on, including 57,000 slots which were cut from Head Start already, and services such as Meals on Wheels that our seniors depend on for a nutritious diet.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Budget Committee, I have joined Democrats in demanding an end to sequester and fought to restore the cuts to these vital programs. Yet even though we disagree with the funding level that these reckless cuts enacted—the sequester was a horrific action that we took, unfortunately. It has wreaked havoc on the lives of so many people. Even though we oppose that, we have agreed to vote for this budget, to reopen the government, and to put people back to work, and to provide the desperate services that people need.

Then, of course, to add insult to injury, Republicans insisted on shutting down the government all because of an obsession with repealing and destroying the Affordable Care Act. Now, the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It has been upheld by the Supreme Court, and Americans are finally enrolling in coverage that they have been waiting for for years just to gain access to affordable health care. In fact, in its first week, the Covered California exchange in my home State had nearly 1 million visits to its Web site; and Californians have begun filling out nearly 44,000 applications for coverage.

The only thing that the Tea Party Republicans have accomplished with this shutdown is the loss of nearly $4 billion in economic activity and misery and pain for the American people. They continue to deny Federal workers, the National Park Service, lifesaving cancer research, pregnant women, mothers, young children, seniors and veterans who have risked their lives for the Nation; they have denied them a fully functioning government. It is a shame and disgrace.

In my own county, funds for the Women, Infant and Children nutrition program and funds for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, these funds will run out at the end of the month.

Now, the consequences of the default: Republicans have simply refused to listen to what the vast majority of Americans are saying, and now the Tea Party Republicans are willing to risk the Nation's credit rating and the world economy to achieve their goal. If the Tea Party refuses to raise the debt ceiling and forces a default on this Nation's debt—which, mind you, are bills that we have already agreed to pay—every American household will feel the impact. Retirement savings will be lost; mortgages will be harder to get.

The full faith and credit of the United States is nonnegotiable. We are not a deadbeat Nation and should pay our bills. It is time for the Tea Party Republicans to end the brinksmanship, open the government up, put people back to work, pay our bills, and let's begin to negotiate on a real budget that will ensure the American Dream for millions of Americans for whom this dream now, quite frankly, is turning into a nightmare.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Congresswoman LEE, thank you for continuing to be an unyielding advocate for the downtrodden, the disaffected, and the disenfranchised in such a tremendous way.

I now yield to a distinguished member of the freshman class, also joining us from the great State of Texas, my good friend, Representative MARK VEASEY.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the time to thank my friend from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for helping to put together this special hour on what is really important in this country. We know just how vital and vibrant we want our economy to be, and it is hard to do that if we are not taking care of our credit. I appreciate both of these gentlemen for taking this hour to talk about this.

I would also like to thank my colleague from Texas, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who spoke so eloquently on so many different areas in government that would be affected if we were to have a shutdown and how the Affordable Care Act is helping Americans—helping working Americans do better.

Whether you are from Houston, where she lives, or the north Texas area where I am from, in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, people are concerned. People are starting to get very worried about the very dangerous prospect of approaching the legal debt limit since we are only 3 days away from default.

In 2011, the credit agency Standard & Poor's downgraded the U.S. credit rating for the first time in history. S&P said this back then:

> The political brinksmanship of recent months highlights what we see as America's governance and policymaking becoming less stable, less effective, and less predictable than what we previously believed. The statutory debt ceiling and the threat of default have become political bargaining chips in the debate over fiscal policy.

Now, following that particular downgrade, it is estimated that job growth took a 28 percent nosedive. Can we afford a 28 percent nosedive right now? I think not.

This also cost Americans more than 200,000 jobs right when we are starting to do better. The economy is starting to be kicked into motion from what was a very bad period over the last several years. We can't afford 200,000 jobs right now. We have to do everything we can to get ourselves out of the situation that we are in right now.

Also important is that consumer confidence dropped to levels mirroring those during the Great Recession, which had a negative impact on economic activity. The GAO found that taxpayers paid $1.3 billion in additional interest. Let me repeat that: the GAO found that hardworking taxpayers paid $1.3 billion in additional interest costs because of the delayed 2011 debt limit increase. Is that what we want, the hardworking taxpayers of our country to have to pay additional taxes because we can't get our act together, because Republicans can't get their act together on the debt ceiling?

Two years after S&P's bleak assessment and the clear economic data, here we are again brought to the brink. We must be clear on what exactly the debt limit is and what it is not. Increasing the debt limit does not increase the Federal debt. It does not give a blank check to our government to spend all it wants. Increasing the debt limit will simply allow the Federal Government to pay bills that Congress has already accrued.

Some of the payments that the Federal Government must make are interest payments on Treasury bonds, Social Security and Medicare benefits, military Active Duty pay, retirement and VA benefits. If the Tea Party refuses to allow the government to honor these financial obligations that are so

dear to many Americans, to our family members, to people in our communities, then investors will likely lose faith in the government and demand higher interest rates for Treasury bonds. We cannot allow our country to become a deadbeat Nation that doesn't pay its bills.

Let's move beyond these silly, partisan games. We have the American economy at stake here. And more importantly, we have the economic livelihood of every American in our hand. The full faith and credit of the United States should not be up for negotiation. It is time for Congress to raise the debt limit—like they have in the past so many times before—and for Republicans to end their losing game of brinksmanship and realize that they are damaging American lives every day.

Let's do more for the hardworking taxpayers in our country that make our country great.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for his observations and for his historical analysis, pointing out that raising the debt ceiling is something that has consistently occurred throughout the last century here in America.

I want to enter into the RECORD a White House correspondence that reads, in part, as follows:

> This country now possesses the strongest credit in the world. The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

Mr. Speaker, this letter is dated November 16, 1983, and those words were written by then-President Ronald Reagan to Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker: The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result.

Ronald Reagan raised the debt ceiling 18 times during his two terms; and yet our good friends on the other side of the aisle want to come here and lecture President Obama as if he is being irresponsible, when the paragon of conservative Presidential leadership recognized the necessity on 18 occasions—and as memorialized in this correspondence—of raising the debt ceiling.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 16, 1983.

Hon. HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR HOWARD: This letter is to ask for your help and support, and that of your colleagues, in the passage of an increase in the limit on the public debt.

As Secretary Regan has told you, the Treasury's cash balances have reached a dangerously low point. Henceforth, the Treasury Department cannot guarantee that the Federal Government will have sufficient cash on any one day to meet all of its mandated expenses, and thus the United States could be forced to default on its obligations for the first time in its history.

This country now possesses the strongest credit in the world. The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and on the value of the dollar in exchange markets. The Nation can ill afford to allow such a result. The risks, the costs, the disruptions, and the incalculable damage lead me to but one conclusion: the Senate must pass this legislation before the Congress adjourns.

I want to thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent problem and for your assistance in passing an extension of the debt ceiling.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN.

We are pleased that we have been joined by the distinguished gentlelady from Columbus, Ohio, who has conducted herself with such intelligence and grace in her 10 months here in the United States Congress, and we are proud to call her a member of this freshman class.

I yield now to Representative JOYCE BEATTY.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES, and to Mr. HORSFORD.

It is an honor for me to stand here on this floor with you as a colleague in our freshman class. But first let me thank you for your leadership, and also to Congresswoman MARSHA FUDGE from my great State of Ohio, as president of the Congressional Black Caucus.

As I stand here tonight, I am reminded of the words of Martin Luther King when he said:

> The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in a time of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

□ 2115

Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this time of challenge and controversy to express my strong concern over Republicans' failure to immediately raise our country's debt limit. The failure to act is threatening an imminent default on our Nation's financial obligation.

Raising the debt limit does not grow our deficit. Instead, it allows the Treasury to pay for what this Congress has already spent.

What are the facts? Since 1917, the debt limit has been raised 103 times. In recent history, it has been raised 45 times. As you have heard my colleague state, 18 times during Ronald Reagan's Presidency.

In 273 years since our country's founding we have never defaulted on our financial obligation. Yes, never. But if Republicans refuse to increase the debt limit by October 17, the Secretary of the Treasury has indicated very clearly that we won't be able to pay our outstanding debts on time. Quite frankly, this is unthinkable.

The ''full faith and credit'' clause of the United States Constitution directs that the United States will pay all its debts in full and on time every time.

America's full faith and credit has been the basis for our global economic superiority for at least 100 years. Like ordinary Americans, if the Federal Government does not pay its bills on time, then when it comes time to borrow in the future, the interest rates we pay will be much higher. If the debt limit is not raised, Americans will feel the impact immediately, both directly and indirectly.

Who loses? Payments owed to our soldiers and veterans for their services will be delayed. Nearly 4 million disabled veterans receive monthly payments in recognition of their sacrifice. If we default, they will not receive their benefits on November 1. In my home, the great State of Ohio, 1,183 veterans receive disability compensation. It would be unthinkable for us to fail to pay them, and the benefits that they have earned for their services.

Who loses? If the debt ceiling is not raised more than $36 million, Social Security recipients will not receive their earned benefits. In Ohio, over 2 million residents rely on Social Security to make ends meet. A default in our obligations would force them to choose between paying their rent or buying groceries. It is not a choice that Congress should force on our constituents to make.

Americans will also see a sharp spike in interest rates offered on home mortgages, credit cards, car payments, and student loans. The spike will have an immediate, devastating negative impact on our Nation's housing recovery, which has been a driving force in recent economic growth.

If Americans default, the average homeowner will pay an extra $100 a month in increased interest rates. This will cost families $36,000 over the life of a typically 30-year home loan.

As the stock market reacts to the most significant defaults in modern history, you can expect steep drops in your IRAs and your 401Ks.

Just last week, the Secretary of the Treasury reported that if our Nation were to default on our debts, the consequences would be ''catastrophic''—yes, catastrophic—''with many private sector analysts believing that it would lead to events of the magnitude of late 2008 or worse.''

We are still recovering from the worst recession in 80 years. We simply cannot afford to go backward, to go to double-digit unemployment, declining housing values, the financial markets declining, and a climate of economic uncertainty for businesses.

Americans deserve swift action. I implore House Republican leadership to bring to the floor a bill which will raise the debt limit so the Treasury can continue to pay all of its bills on time.

And lastly, I turn to the other imminent crisis: reopening the Federal Government.

Throughout this hour, you have heard my colleagues talk about the choices that you force Americans to make when you try to piecemeal our funding. It is worth me repeating to say: it is like having a family and having parents having seven children, and

decide that you are only going to feed three of them and watch the other four children starve before your eyes.

We stand on this floor as Democrats and Republicans every day and we talk about how we care for this America, how we want to provide services, but yet we are making Americans make a choice between NIH funding for children who are cancer patients, who need to be in clinical trial, and we make a decision to pull the funding, Federal funding, in 11 States that they are losing their Head Start grants. The list goes on and on.

This is not the America I know, this is not the America I love. Americans deserve better.

Let's reopen the doors of government, and let's raise our debt ceiling.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlelady from Ohio for her very eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining on the Special Order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

We have also been joined by another distinguished Member of the freshman class, the always nattily dressed representative from the great State of New Jersey, my good friend, Congressman Donald Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Nevada for having this Special Order tonight, and also our tireless and fearless leader, the Honorable MARCIA FUDGE, chairwoman of the CBC.

''Insane,'' ''catastrophic,'' ''chaotic,'' ''a nuclear bomb''—these are just some of the words our top economists and business leaders have used to describe what will happen to our economy if Congress chooses not to pay our bills on time.

The last time we flirted with not paying our bills on time, the economy flew into a tailspin, the markets plummeted, consumer confidence took a nosedive, our credit rating was downgraded, and our economic recovery came to a screeching halt. That was when we only got close to a default. If we actually defaulted, the short-and long-term consequences would be unimaginable.

So, if this is the case, then how did we even get ourselves here again? The answer is simple. An extreme group of the Republican Party, the Tea Party, is so obsessed with defunding the Affordable Care Act that they are even willing to shut down the government and hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage.

Now, what does that mean, the ''full faith and credit?'' Mr. Speaker, when I hear that, it makes me think about what this Nation has meant to the world, about what this Nation has done for its people—the full faith and credit of the United States. I wouldn't want that on my conscience, that I was part of this body when it defaulted, because that is what you will be remembered for. You were here during the darkest time in this Nation's history.

It is irresponsible that a small group would hold the American economy hostage simply because they don't like one Presidential policy, or the man.

The Affordable Care Act is already the law. Even now that the government is closed because of the Republican shutdown, the law is going into effect as we speak.

So I urge my reasonable colleagues on the other side to listen to the American people, because the people in my district are still hurting from the economic recession. They don't need a manufactured crisis on top of it.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, let me now yield to the gentleman from the great State of Nevada, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, my good friend from the silver State, my co-anchor on the CBC Special Order Hour of Power, to close us out for the evening.

Mr. HORSFORD. Let me thank my good friend. I am proud to co-anchor this Special Order hour each week with you, my good friend from the great State of New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), and to all of my colleagues who came out tonight to put a real face to the real issues that are affecting America this day. To our leader, the chairlady of the American Black Caucus, thank you for your steadfast leadership in making sure that all issues are addressed on this floor.

I listened to the other side of the aisle for more than an hour before coming to our Special Order. I tried to make sense of the arguments that they were making tonight. But do you know what? Their piecemeal approach to funding the government makes no sense.

This chart signifies just what a piecemeal approach to government looks like. This chart makes it look like the GOP has approached funding our government like a game of Pac-Man. Well, this isn't a game. There are real lives at stake. It is time for Speaker BOEHNER and the House Republicans to realize it is game over and to work with those of us on the Democratic side in the House and our leadership in the Senate and the President to reopen government.

Americans across the country are already hurting from this Republican-led government shutdown. In my district alone, 11,000 Nevadans have been furloughed, leaving families struggling to pay their bills on time while putting food on the table.

I recently returned from my district and had a town hall with constituents to hear the effects that this government shutdown and the impending debt ceiling would have on the constituents of my district.

One constituent, Fred Waggar, shared his story with me. He is a veteran who now works for the VA. He is worried that on October 25 he will not get his paycheck as a medical services coordinator for the VA. Then on November 1, he may not get his check and the benefits that he is entitled to as a veteran.

Fred said he is living paycheck to paycheck, so what is he going to do come November 1 when the rent is due, when the utility bills come due, when it is time to put food on his table, because Republicans are now determined to hold the full faith and credit of the United States hostage because Speaker BOEHNER is too busy catering to a fringe of radicals in his caucus?

□ 2130

I also have received tweets from our #cbctalks from constituents in my district. Kevin Hooks, who is the president of the Las Vegas Urban League, says that with the impending debt ceiling not being lifted, if the Women, Infants, and Children program that the Urban League administers closes, 200 families per day will lose health services and 15 employees will be furloughed. He goes on to say that the child care subsidy would affect upwards of 225 children per day, and some 60 employees will be furloughed.

Shaundell Newsome with the Urban Chamber says that Nevada businesses are being impacted by the government shutdown. It is killing small businesses. Open it.

The fear is real.

And then I got a question from the Clark County Black Caucus asking—or saying that their members are nervous that they won't receive Social Security or unemployment checks on the first of the month; what should I tell them?

Well, I stand here, my colleagues and I, along with 196 House Democrats, in support of a clean debt ceiling increase that insures that the full faith and credit of the United States of America is protected and avoids a Republican default. Our constituents have already suffered enough from this shutdown. We need to be representing the people's interest, not punishing them. Refusing to raise the debt ceiling carries serious implications, as all of my colleagues have discussed tonight.

For an already fragile economy, if we allow the Republicans to default on our debt, middle class American families and the poor would be forced to pay higher interest rates for mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and credit cards. Veterans will be affected; disability benefits will not come on time. Is this any way to send a message to our veterans?

So we call on our colleagues tonight, you have left the building, but we are here and we will stay and work as long as it takes to ensure that our obligations are met, that the government is reopened, and that we meet our obligations to pay our bills.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, let's reopen the government, raise the debt ceiling, and get back to doing the business of the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, brinksmanship makes for poor politics, and defaulting on America's debts will make for a poor national economy and a poor global image. It should not be understated how devastating defaulting on the debt ceiling would be for America's growing economy. A default as a result of political games would be even more embarrassing.

Most games have winners and losers, but if the political games being employed by the Republican party cause a default on America's financial obligations, everyone loses. To be clear, this is not a game. The consequences on the American economy, our country's global image, and the lives of all Americans will be very real.

The Republican government shutdown has illuminated the party's willingness to put politics before people. If the Republican political brinkmanship causes a default on America's obligations, it will demonstrate their willingness to torpedo a growing American economy. This brinksmanship must end and we must raise the debt ceiling and continue advancing policies that have and will continue to allow our economy to grow.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of illness.

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official foreign travel.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on October 10, 2013, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 91: Making continuing appropriations for death gratuities and related survivor benefits for survivors of deceased military service members of the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3291. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft bill entitled, ''To provide for the issuance of coins to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3292. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Cathay Pacific Airways Limited (Cathay Limited) of Hong Kong, pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3293. A letter from the Delegated Authority of the Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting a report on for-profit institution's revenues from Title IV and non-Title IV sources as provided by the institution in its audited financial statements in the July 1, 2011, to the June 30, 2012 reporting period; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3294. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Regulatory Guide 2.4, Review of Experiments for Research Reactors received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3295. A letter from the Speaker, Parliament of Albania, transmitting a letter wishing the United State a Happy Independence Day from the Parliament of Albania; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3296. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; America's Cup Aerobatic Box, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2013-0741] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3297. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Grain-Shipment and Grain-Shipment Assist Vessels, Columbia and Willamette Rivers [Docket Number: USCG-2013-0010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3298. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Rules of Practice in Air Safety Proceedings [Docket No.: NTSB-GC-2011-0001] received September 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3299. A letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — VA Acquisition Regulation: Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Veteran-Owned Small Business Status Protests (RIN: 2900-AM92) received September 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3300. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the annual report of the Administration's processing of continuing disability reviews for FY 2011; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII,

Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER): introduced a resolution (H. Res. 382) supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week, October 23, 2013 through October 31, 2013; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 and resolutions of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 523: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 685: Mr. LEWIS and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1173: Mr. HOLT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1695: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1750: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 1803: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1992: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 2101: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2695: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2720: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2925: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 3040: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 3111: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 3121: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 3154: Mr. MESSER and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 3169: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 3179: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 3181: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 3211: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 3229: Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3279: Mr. BARTON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. DUFFY, and Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 3284: Mr. DOGGETT.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013 No. 145

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, hear the prayers of all Your people everywhere, great and small alike, rich and poor together. May all people called by Your name humble themselves and pray, seeking Your face and turning from evil.

Lord, You have promised that You will hear the prayers of those who fervently seek You, forgiving our sins and healing our Nation. Inspire our lawmakers who believe in You to also pray. May their intercession bring them a tallness of stature that will enable them to see above the walls of partisan division in order to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 211, S. 1569.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211, S. 1569, a bill to ensure the complete and timely payment of the obligations of the United States Government until December 31, 2014.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5 o'clock today the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Andrea Wood to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois and the nomination of Madeline Haikala to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

At 5:30 there will be a rollcall vote on the Haikala nomination. The Wood nomination is expected to be confirmed in another way.

LEADERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. President, constructive good-faith negotiations continue between the Republican leader and me. I am very optimistic that we will reach an agreement that is reasonable in nature this week to reopen the government, pay the Nation's bills, and begin long-term negotiations to put our country on sound fiscal footing.

I deeply appreciate my friend the minority leader for his diligent efforts to come to an agreement. The Republican leader and I will keep Members informed as negotiations continue.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me echo the remarks of my good friend, the majority leader. We have had an opportunity over the last couple of days to have some very constructive exchanges of views about how to move forward. Those discussions continue, and I share his optimism that we are going to get a result that will be acceptable to both sides.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for such time as I may consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we now find ourselves, amazingly, in day 14 of a government shutdown—a shutdown that was brought to us by the Republicans in the House. They are sitting on a bill we sent them to open the government and they refuse to take it up.

My colleague, the Senator from Connecticut, served over there and I served over there, and we always had an opportunity to use the rules in some way

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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to get a vote on a bill that was passed by the Senate. But the House, not wanting to have such a vote, has made it pretty much impossible for our colleagues over there, Democrats and moderate Republicans, to actually vote to keep this government open.

I listened very carefully to Majority Leader REID and Minority Leader MCCONNELL, and I have hopes, as I expressed them yesterday, that we will be able to reach an agreement both on the shutdown and on the debt ceiling. But the fact we are struggling, the fact that people all over the world are looking at us as if we are some kind of dysfunctional country, the fact that we have about 1 million Federal employees not getting their checks, not knowing where the next meal is going to come from, the fact we have more than 2 million workers who work for private-sector contractors who don't know when or how they are going to get paid, is something we should all take note of, and we should listen to those who say this is ridiculous. This is self-inflicted.

You know, it reminds me of getting up and walking out of your house on a beautiful day. You are walking down the street, and, yes, you have a few problems on your mind—life isn't perfect—but you are pretty optimistic; things are pretty good. Suddenly, you pick up a stone from the ground and bash yourself in the head. Honest to God, that is what they have done, these Republicans. They have bashed in the heads of the American public on a beautiful day as we are coming out of a recession, when we know we have our problems, but we also know we can solve them. It doesn't make sense.

Then, as if that isn't enough, they have another stone in their hand called default. So maybe as you are beginning to see the light of day, you hit yourself again and say to the world: America could actually default on its debts, and the full faith and credit of the United States is in question.

Robert C. Byrd, one of the great Senators and historians, always tells us to read the Constitution. In my desk I have a couple of copies, and every once in a while I will look at it. I am not quoting verbatim, but it says the debts of the United States shall not be questioned. Nobody has the right to play with that. Yet we are doing it again because the Republicans are angry. Why are they angry? I believe it is because they lost the Presidential election. I believe it is because they didn't take back the Senate. This is a direct quote from JOHN BOEHNER. He said the American people don't want to shut down the government, but they also don't want ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act. That was his opinion. That is not the truth. The American people don't want to see us shut down the government and threaten default because of a bill that passed almost 4 years ago, a bill that was upheld by the Supreme Court and a law that was heavily debated in the Presidential election. The person who said this—Mitt Romney: On day one, I will repeal ObamaCare—lost the election.

I have been around here a while. I have served with five Presidents, three of whom were Republicans. Lord knows I didn't agree with everything the Republican Presidents wanted, and I didn't even agree with everything the Democratic Presidents wanted. I fought hard and I got annoyed and I worked in elections. I never saw Republicans or Democrats, until today, to be willing to default. Newt Gingrich did lead us to a government shutdown in the 1990s, but we haven't had one since then because it was so painful and awful. I know the grownups are now trying to resolve this. I know our leaders are going to the White House, and hopefully, they will come to an agreement. But the fact that it would take us this long, 3 days before a default and the 14th day of a shutdown, is unbelievable.

A teacher knows the rules when they get a job. They know school starts at 9 a.m., and they dismiss the kids at 3:00. If a teacher says, I don't like the start time and I am coming 2 hours later, they can't have this job because they know they have to show up. The equivalent of that is keeping the doors of government open to the people we represent, not slamming them shut in their face. That is what we have to do when we show up here; that is to keep the government going. Do we have disagreements across and even within parties? Of course we do. But we have a procedure to deal with that. It is called legislating. That is what we do when we have disagreements. It is something called debate—debate the issues, battle them out, have a vote, and pass a bill. The other Chamber does the same. Then the House and the Senate go to a conference committee and argue out the differences. You send that bill to the President—whoever he or she may be—and the President either signs the bill or vetoes it. And if they sign it, it is a law. If they veto it, we have an override. I have been involved in those. But once the bill becomes a law, it is the law, and you carry it out. You don't decide what laws you want to enforce and what laws you don't. That is not the right way. Our founders said: We are a government of laws, not men. Carry out the law. If you don't like the law, try to change it.

Now, the Republicans didn't like the Affordable Care Act—which, by the way, is signing up thousands of people a day as we stand here. In my home State, it has signed up by now tens of thousands, and we have had about 750,000 at least unique visitors to our site. In Kentucky, they are signing up 1,000 a day. Unbelievable, never expected. This is the law that caused the government shutdown. The Republicans stamp their feet. They didn't like it. They didn't care that there was an election about it—none of that. They didn't like it, so they are going to shut down the government.

Now we don't even hear them talking about it. Now they are talking about wanting to cut Medicaid and Social Security and Medicare. That is the new thing they want to do. PAUL RYAN: Let's just forget this one. I guess we can't do anything about it. But let's now cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We have a process to get to conference with the House. On the Budget Committee we have a strong chairman, PATTY MURRAY. She has asked now 21 times to take our budget to conference. TED CRUZ and his friends have objected, and then they have the nerve to say we won't negotiate. We want to negotiate in a conference committee. That is why there is a conference committee. They have stopped it.

The House has decided now. It is too late. We can't do anything about the Affordable Care Act. Then why don't they open up the government? They shut it down. They now admit they can't do anything about it. It has a steady stream of funding, it is beginning to work, and people are going to think: Why do you want to take away the rights I have now, having a preexisting condition, to get health care? Why do you want to stop my child who can now stay on my health care until he is 26 and take away benefits like free trips to the doctor to get immunizations and birth control and health care? They tried to stop women's health care. They gave that up. They tried to stop us from getting cancer screenings, and we said forget it. So they are all over the place.

I have lived long enough to know when I see people who are joyless, unhappy, and angry. That doesn't make for an optimistic country. They have the privilege of being here, even if they are only controlling one branch of the three, the House. It is the White House; the Senate, Democrats; the House, Republicans. They have a privilege, and they have a lot of leverage, but the way they are behaving is unacceptable. As I said, it is a self-inflicted wound.

I never questioned the fact that Republicans, Democrats, and Independents love this country. I never question it. But I have to say, when you start acting like you are committing domestic abuse you have a problem. I love you, dear, but I am shutting down your entire government. I love you, dear, but I am going to default, and you are going to be weak. Something is dreadfully wrong.

I see my colleague from Maryland here. I know Maryland is suffering mightily from this shutdown. He and I both have a lot of Federal employees, but the size of our States are different. As a percentage of the workforce, Maryland and Virginia are really suffering. In California we have tens of thousands of workers furloughed, not getting their pay, and a lot of contractors.

I say to my friend from Maryland, I was trying to figure out how many contractor employees are also impacted.

Even taking away military contractors, because some of them are getting paid and some of them aren't. If you take that all out of the equation, there are still more than 2 million workers in the private sector who are working for Federal contractors.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from the Baltimore Sun.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, Oct. 14, 2013]

THE SHUTDOWN'S FORGOTTEN VICTIMS: GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS

(By Clarissa Olivarez)

In a city where government contracts make up a multi-billion dollar industry, it is surprising that with the exception of a couple of articles that received moderate attention, the mainstream media has largely ignored the impact of the shutdown on federal contractors.

There has never been much sympathy for contractors. On average, we make more money than federal workers because we normally do not have the advantage of affordable health care and/or other benefits offered by the federal government to its direct employees. As a contractor, my colleagues and I work 40 hours a week, and our company bills the government for the services we each provide. On Oct. 1, however, the federal government furloughed many of its employees, which meant that funding for contracts under certain agencies was halted. Once contractors are ordered to stop work by their contracting officer, they must comply and wait patiently at home while Congress and the White House try to find a solution.

While defense contractors are mostly still in business, since their services are considered ''essential,'' there are thousands of others who were sent home without pay for an indefinite period of time. As a technical writer and communications specialist for a small company that supports a non-defense agency, my fate was sealed long before early media reports warned of many more impending furloughs.

When you are sent home from work for over a week, you begin to notice certain things around you that could cause you to lose heart. In my own neighborhood, I have noticed several cars parked in their driveways—cars that never leave in the mornings for work and never leave in the evening for a night on the town. The Metro parking garages are empty. People's morale is diminishing as cabin fever sets in on all sides. And as rumors of the shutdown continuing until the 17th spread like wildfire in a windstorm, my colleagues and I seem to have exhausted every resource.

Many of my co-workers have emailed several government websites only to find an automated reply shoot back at them stating that the government was shut down and there was nobody who could address their concerns. We have written letters to congressmen and spoken with local news anchors, but nothing is being done to help us in our time of need. As contractors, we inhabit a different world, and unlike furloughed federal employees, we will not be reimbursed for the time off we have been forced to take.

Unfortunately, like everyone else, there are many of us who owe student loans and are expected to pay rent. We have to pay for utilities, credit card bills, dog food and any other necessities like food and clothing. To make matters worse, my husband and I had set aside money in our savings account for a vacation later this month. That money is now going toward bills and other unforeseen expenses.

What does all this mean? An article in the Washington Post recently reported that the shutdown could amount to a loss of $200 million a day for local businesses throughout the city. Contractors provide as much of their income to local businesses as their federal counterparts. If it is not enough that we are suffering as a group, our non-existent income will now begin to hurt certain sectors of the economy.

Small businesses within the city have been doing their part to ease the financial burdens of furloughed employees by advertising ''Shutdown Specials'' that would at least partially allow for the small-business sector of the economy to avoid an otherwise severe financial blow. But, with a heavy concentration of federal and non-federal patrons, the shutdown could cripple numerous mom-and-pop establishments as workers save their hard-earned money and guard their savings due to the uncertainty of a future paycheck.

Contractors, especially those contractors who work for small businesses, have been hit hard by this shutdown, and it is important that we do not go unheard. Representatives in Congress need to realize that they have only solved half of the problem by passing a bill to reimburse federal employees for time spent at home. While the government will probably not take ownership of the effects it has produced on contractors, it is critical that they remember that we are an essential part of the federal workforce and many of us are weighed down by similar worries.

I am glad my friend is on the floor, because this was written today:

In a city where government contracts make up a multi-billion dollar industry, it is surprising that with the exception of a couple of articles that receive moderate attention, the mainstream media has largely ignored the impact of the shutdown on federal contractors.

I really wanted to bring this to the attention of my colleague. Would my friend like me to yield to him?

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me say to my friend that she is absolutely right. We have heard from a lot of contractors who employ individuals, from large contractors such as Lockheed to smaller companies that employ 30, 40, 50 people. The range is around 20 to 25 percent of their workforce has been laid off. There is no assurance whatsoever they will ever get paid. There are some contractors who don't know whether they are going to survive; it is that serious. So the private sector direct employment loss as a result of the shutdown is growing every day, and it is having an incredible impact throughout the country in every State.

The Senator mentioned Maryland, which I have the honor of representing along with Senator MIKULSKI. Ten percent of our workforce works directly for the Federal Government. The overwhelming majority of them have been put on furlough. We have estimated the number to be in excess of 125,000 in our State of Maryland. Add the private contractors who are laying off workers as a result of the shutdown.

Last week I stopped by a restaurant right off the Baltimore Beltway to get a sandwich. I know the owner. I asked him how things were going. He said: Terrible. He said: About half of my customers are not here because they are Federal employees that would normally come in during the workday and are not coming in.

The margins are very small for these businesses to be able to remain open. So the direct impact on Federal workers and the direct impact on those who have contract work with the Federal Government and the impact on our economy—it is in every State of the country, but it is particularly in the State I represent—has been devastating.

One more number. The Metro system depends upon the Federal workforce here. They need a fare-box revenue in order to keep the system operating in a moderate way. Their ridership is down 23 percent. Their revenues are down 23 percent. What is the Metro going to do?

The impact of this shutdown has had an incredibly damaging impact on our economy and on families. We have a lot of two-parent households working for the Federal Government both on furlough. So many Federal workers live paycheck to paycheck, and they are now recognizing there might not be any paycheck. How are they supposed to pay their bills?

I spoke to one of my constituents in Maryland who works for a Federal agency. He and his wife have both been furloughed. They just recently bought a home and have a mortgage payment to make. The mortgage company isn't going to say: Sorry the government is shut down; don't pay your mortgage. He has to pay his mortgage. How is he going to be able to do that?

We have hurt people. This shutdown, which should never have happened, has had a huge impact on our economy. The tragedy is for the taxpayers. It is a waste of money, with over $2 billion wasted as a result of this shutdown.

So I thank my colleague for allowing me to interject to underscore the point she has made. She has been on the floor just about every day, and I admire her very much for what she has been saying because she is absolutely right. The damage is clear. We never should have shut down government. We should pay our bills. It is difficult to understand the Republicans' original position that they want to negotiate the end of ObamaCare on a bill that just keeps the lights on in government.

Now we are talking about paying our bills. They are talking again about dealing with some policy issues. If we are going to get into that discussion—which we should not unless we turn the lights on—let's open government and then turn the lights on and then sit down and negotiate. That is what we have to do. We have some major issues we need to deal with, including how we are going to grow the economy, create jobs, have a modern transportation infrastructure. As chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, my colleague fought so hard for a multiyear reauthorization of our surface transportation systems, for modern roads, well-maintained—a modern transportation system.

To Chairman BOXER, we have three major transit initiatives in Maryland that need to move forward. We have to have funding for that. That is how our economy will grow.

Yes, I look forward to sitting down with my Republican colleagues to negotiate a budget for next year but first open government and pay the bills.

Mrs. BOXER. I so appreciate my friend, through the Chair, interjecting his thoughts. I have listened to him and to Senator MIKULSKI throughout this ordeal. The Senator is right. I have been on the floor quite a lot. The reason is clear. We need to make a record so that this never, ever happens again.

There is a reason we had not had a shutdown since the last one when Newt Gingrich and Republicans brought it to us in the 1990s—because it was horrible. They got hurt by it.

We begged them not to go down this road. They went down the road. Why? Because they didn't like the fact that there is an Affordable Care Act. They didn't like it, so they stamped their foot and said: We are shutting down the government because we don't like it. We begged them. We said: That is not going to help your cause. This Affordable Care Act—85 percent of the funds do not come from appropriated funds; they come from a separate stream of funding, and the bill and the law are going forward. They would not listen. Now they have changed their tune and decided it is about cutting Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid. That is their new thing.

My friend is right. It would be so easy to end this. Open the Government, pay our bills, get to the budget negotiations, where we will have Senator MURRAY, Senator SESSIONS, PAUL RYAN, and his counterpart begin regular order.

I want to continue about this contractor employee. What he said is so moving—actually, I think it is a she.

She says:

> As a technical writer and communications specialist for a small company . . . my fate was sealed long before early media reports warned of many more impending furloughs. When you are sent home from work for over a week, you begin to notice certain things around you that could cause you to lose heart. In my own neighborhood—

I say to Senator CARDIN, she is talking about your city of Baltimore.

This contractor writes:

> in my own neighborhood, I have noticed several cars parked in their driveways—cars that never leave in the morning for work and never leave in the evening for a night on the town. The Metro parking garages are empty.

The Senator alluded to that.

> People's morale is diminishing as cabin fever sets in on all sides. And as rumors of the shutdown continuing until the 17th spread like wildfire in a windstorm, my colleagues and I seem to have exhausted every resource.

She says:

> Unfortunately, like everyone else, there are many of us who owe student loans and are expected to pay rent. We have to pay for utilities, credit card bills, dog food and other necessities like food and clothing. To make matters worse, my husband and I—

And this is interesting—

> had set aside money . . . for a vacation. . . . That money is now going toward bills. . . . What does all this mean? An article in The Washington Post recently reported that the shutdown could amount to a loss of $200 million a day for local businesses throughout the city.

Mr. President, $200 million a day for local businesses throughout your city of Baltimore.

She says:

> Contractors, especially those contractors who work for small businesses, have been hit hard by this shutdown.

She explains how they may never be made whole.

Day 14 of a shutdown——

Mr. CARDIN. Could I ask my colleague to yield?

Mrs. BOXER. Yes, I am happy to yield.

Mr. CARDIN. I thank the Chair, and I thank Senator BOXER. She points out the hardship of people not getting a paycheck. Senator BOXER points it out very clearly. Some of these people are the same people who were just furloughed as a result of sequestration, so they already had smaller paychecks because of sequestration.

Let me remind my colleagues that sequestration was put in 2 years ago as a placeholder. I don't know of a single Senator who wanted to see sequestration take effect. It was a placeholder to get to a budget negotiation. What did we do? We passed the budget. We passed the budget almost 7 months ago. We said: Let's negotiate. We knew it was not going to be our budget. We know we have to negotiate with the House to get a budget to get rid of sequestration.

I mention that because once again we have a very simple request today: Open the government and pay our bills. Sit down and negotiate. It is pretty simple. We have not brought forward our policy objectives in this, which is to have a budget that makes sense for this country, that allows growth of employment, invests not only in roads and bridges but energy and research and education so we can build a competitive economy for the 21st century. We want a budget that is balanced on how we reduce spending—not just on what we call our discretionary spending accounts but also as we look at our entitlement spending. We want to see our health care system more efficient. We want to work to make it a more efficient system. We started that with passage of the Affordable Care Act. Now we want to implement that. That will bring about some additional savings.

We believe we should pay our bills. We should have the necessary revenue. Our revenue code is full of inequities that hemorrhage revenue. My colleague from California is well aware of the fact that in our Tax Code—I serve on the Senate Finance Committee. I think my colleagues understand that we are now spending more money in our Tax Code than we do in appropriations bills. We spend more money in the Tax Code. That is tax breaks some people get—not everyone. We certainly can review those tax expenditures and close those that are inefficient, which will not only provide more equity in our Tax Code but will provide more revenue to pay our bills and reduce our deficit.

It is that type of negotiation we want to get into, but we cannot do that when the Republicans have put a gun to the head of the U.S. economy. That is what they have done by shutting government and by threatening not to pay the bills. We say very simply, put down the gun. Let's negotiate these issues.

Mrs. BOXER. Absolutely.

Mr. CARDIN. The Senator is absolutely right about the private contractor issue. When you look at 800,000 Federal workers who have been furloughed, that does not include the private contractors, which are clearly going to be an additional hundreds of thousands who are not working today, yes, it is a huge drain on our economy, and there is no reason for this.

For all those reasons, we say very clearly on day 14, day 14 of this shutdown, let's open the government, let's pay our bills, and, yes, let's develop a sensible way to negotiate our budget. Let's not try to threaten the American people and then try to pass an extreme agenda as a result of that.

Through the Chair, I thank Senator BOXER.

Mrs. BOXER. Through the Chair, I thank my friend. This contractor issue is a sleeper issue in a way, as this woman writes in the Baltimore Sun, because if you look at the numbers, you may see more contractor employees affected than Federal employees because even if you take—there are millions of them. Even if you take away, if you look at the statistics, the millions who work for the military and assume they are getting paid, there are still more than 2 million who are contractors to other arms of the government, such as homeland security or border patrol—you name it. It is a sleeper issue.

This woman who is so articulate, Clarissa Olivarez—I hope she knows we are taking her words to heart and putting her words in the RECORD. She is explaining what it feels like to be scared. For what? For nothing. Because they did not like the Affordable Care Act—which they are not going to change. They tried to repeal it 43 times.

Open the government. They are so afraid they will lose the vote, they are not even allowing a vote over there.

They are coming back—my friends in the House—shortly. By the way, imagine, Speaker BOEHNER said go home over the weekend while all this is pending. They were not even in session. Outrageous.

I am going to conclude in about 5 minutes by talking about some of the other impacts of the shutdown.

Mr. President, 93 percent of the employees at the EPA have been furloughed. What do they do? They make sure the air we breathe is safe, the water we drink is safe, and the rivers we swim in are safe. They make sure Superfund sites are being cleaned up, those toxic brews in there, including things such as benzene and arsenic and every other bad thing you can imagine. In my State there is not one single EPA inspector on the ground. I have established that. That is the same in many others. Mr. President, 505 Superfund sites were being cleaned up. Cleanup is suspended. Many children live near those sites. There are many schools near those sites. There are many homes near those sites. They are toxic waste dumps. No cleanup.

Now we find out that 92 percent of workers at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have been furloughed. What is their job? It was created ''to ensure the safe use of radioactive materials.''

I say to every Senator who has a nuclear powerplant in their State, make a little prayer. If something bad happens, we will have to somehow nab all those workers and get them back on the job in time. Earth to my Republican friends: Have you ever heard the word ''Fukushima''? Do you know what I am talking about? Wake up. What are you doing to the American people? You don't like a bill, so you shut down the government. You take all of the watchdogs off the job so people could start dumping waste into the waterways, into the air?

We even have a circumstance in California where pesticides are being imported from other countries. The EPA has to inspect those at the site and make sure they are safe. There are no inspectors. I just told you that. So they are sitting in a warehouse, and our farmers are starting to say: Where are these pesticides? We need them.

This shutdown is mindless. The Army Corps of Engineers manages 12 million acres of public lands, recreation areas that host 370 million visits annually. These recreation areas support local businesses such as resorts, marinas, outfitters, grocery stores, gas stations, hotels—shut down. Last week the Corps closed Lake Mendocino, which is located north of San Francisco. Lake Mendocino hosts half a million visitors annually and visitors spend $12 million at businesses within 30 miles of the lake, supporting 106 jobs and $2.8 million in income. Those small businesses cannot go on like this. They cannot go on like this.

Mr. President, 561 national wildlife refuges are closed because of the shutdown. I say to my friend, Senator CARDIN and I—we are very close friends because we work together daily on these issues. He is the chairman of the committee that oversees water quality, these wildlife refuges. In many parts of the country, hunting season is in full swing. I say to my friend from Oregon—I just found out, but he probably knows this—that on the California-Oregon border, hunters and tourists usually head to Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge for the opening of hunting season. But they have been denied access, which means local businesses are losing much needed revenues. The impact of this is felt with a direct hit to Federal employees, contractor employees, and local businesses. Everyone is suffering. That is why we had a letter that I put in the RECORD yesterday, or the day before, signed by the Chamber of Commerce, the AFL–CIO, and the nonprofit sector. It is so rare, I say to my friends, that we see those three groups coming together.

They are demanding that we open the government. They are demanding a clean debt ceiling so we can pay our bills. They are demanding it, and they represent the broadest base sector of America.

Who is benefiting from this other than people who have a very dark side? That is all I can say. You would have to have a really dark side.

I will give a couple of examples of what is happening. The NTSB, the National Transportation Safety Board—we had a horrible crash in July with Asiana Airlines, flight 214. We don't know exactly why it happened, and the NTSB has been forced to postpone their hearings. These investigations help us to find out how to avoid disasters in the future.

Three weeks ago in Santa Monica, at a little airport, there was a crash that killed four people. Investigation materials were shoved into a vault, and we don't know why it happened. If we knew why it happened, we could save lives.

I remember when I first came to Congress a very long time ago, and I served in the House, there was a terrible crash. They found out it was a very small bolt or a screw that was responsible for the problems, and they grounded every aircraft that had that faulty part and fixed it. That is why these investigations are critical. These investigations are critical so we are able to not only tell the loved ones what happened but to make improvements. It is all shut down.

Another example has to do with the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Last week in San Diego a 2-year-old Annette Estrada was killed when she was crushed by a falling TV. Normally the Consumer Product Safety Commission investigates this heartbreaking incident, find out the problem, and demand it be fixed. Who knows who the next child will be. That is why we have a government—a government of, by, and for the people—to make life better for the American people.

The government is shut down. Open it. Let the people in. It is easy to do. Speaker BOEHNER has a bill. Let them vote over there. Open the government now. People are in danger. There are no winners in a shutdown. It is devastating for workers. It is devastating for small businesses. It is devastating for contractors. It is devastating to our economy, which is just coming out of the worst recession since the Great Depression. What are they thinking over there?

Then they send these little mini-bills. Oh, open this little agency, and open that little agency. I call that government by press release. The heat is on them, so they pass a little mini-bill. Since when does one political party decide which of our communities survive, which ones thrive, which ones die, which people live, which people die, which child is healthy, and which child is not healthy?

There is a community in California where kids are suffering nosebleeds, and they are sick. It turns out that they are very close to an industrial site. I called the EPA. They were going to rush over there and figure it out and stop the pain. They can't go. I don't see a bill over there to open the EPA. They will never send us that.

Mr. CARDIN. Through the Chair, I just have to say to my colleague that she is absolutely right. She is the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee Agency. She has given great examples that show how critically important the Environmental Protection Agency is in protecting public health and protecting our environment. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is important to protect the public safety.

The Senator from California is absolutely right. I want to give another dynamic, and that is jobs. The fact that the EPA is not in full force is hurting economic growth. I will give one example: Harbor Point in downtown Baltimore, which is an RCRA site, which means it was an environmental cleanup site that has a court order on its development requiring the EPA to sign off to make sure the environmental issues are being protected in its development.

Everything is fairly well understood here, and it has gone through a long process. We are now at the point where we are ready to develop this prime spot. It is the most iconic spot in downtown Baltimore. It is going to help our city grow. Our city needs economic growth. It is on hold. Why? Because the EPA does not have its people in the office to be able to review this application in a timely way. That is just one example. The Environmental Protection Agency is critically important for public health. It is critically important for our environment and also for economic growth.

I will give another example: The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau is not at full complement either. We have microbreweries in Maryland that are doing very well. Every time they add a new product, they have to get approval from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. That is on hold. Their economic growth is on hold.

I could give many more examples. Senator BOXER mentioned our refuges.

The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge is located on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It is one of the most beautiful spots in the world. This is hunting season. The Eastern Shore of Maryland depends upon the hunting season for its economy.

I can't tell you how many hotel operators, restaurants, and shopowners depend upon the fall season being in full force with the hunting season, and now we put a real damper—not just the weather we had over the past weekend—but the fact that the government was closed has put a damper on the economy. Actually, it was good weather for hunting. They lost that. They are not going to be able to recover that. It is lost.

As my friend pointed out, our request is pretty simple. Our request is to open the government, pay our bills, and let's sit down and negotiate. The point I hope everyone understands: The funding level we sent over to the House of Representatives is the Republican funding level. We didn't negotiate that number. That is the current fiscal year 2013 number. We didn't negotiate between that number and our budget number that this body passed. We gave up on that and said: Look, it is more important to keep the government open. We have already negotiated.

Bear with me for one more minute. Senator BOXER has given the Baltimore Sun a lot of credit today, and I would like to quote from their editorial because I think it is important to point out.

> Passing a ''clean'' continuing resolution keeping government fully operating at funding levels the GOP has already endorsed is no compromise. It's the status quo. Raising the debt ceiling isn't a concession either—it allows the nation to pay the bills Congress has already incurred and prevents the possibility of a government default, which would hurt the economy, raise borrowing costs and increase the federal deficit.
>
> So when Speaker Boehner lashes out at President Obama for failing to negotiate, one has to ask, what is this thing he describes as negotiation? House Republicans are not merely leveraging their political position—as some dryly claim—they are threatening to do grievous harm to the global economy and the American public.
>
> The gun isn't raised to President Obama's head or to the Senate. The Democrats have no particular stake in passing a continuing resolution or in raising the debt ceiling other than keeping public order and doing what any reasonable person expects Congress to do. No, the gun is raised at the nation as a whole. That's why descriptions like ''ransom'' and ''hostage'' are not mere hyperbole, they are as close as the English language gets to accurately describing the GOP strategy.

I hope we are close to reaching an agreement to open the government. It should never have been closed. A lot of damage and harm has already been done.

We are on a motion to proceed to the debt ceiling. If we were not to pay our bills, that would cause irreparable harm not just to our economy, but to the world economy. That is something we should not be playing around with waiting until the last public minute.

I urge my colleagues to put the interest of this country first. This is a serious matter that affects our economy, America's future, and the global economy. If we turn the global economy into further economic disorder, it is going to have a major impact on the United States, and it will be our fault.

I urge my colleagues to immediately cease this strategy of threatening our economy. Let's open the government, pay our bills, and sit down and negotiate, as we should, a budget agreement which will not be what the Democrats want or the Republicans want, but it will be a compromise, as it should be, between the parties. We owe that to the American people.

Through the Chair, I thank Senator BOXER again for underscoring these points and pointing out the wide impact this has on all parts of our country. We have to end it. I hope we can end it tonight.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for allowing this interlude. I do want to say to my friend, I think it has been very helpful that he and I have been in this conversation because we share the view that these two self-inflicted wounds are outrageous, and we want to make sure that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is very clear and shows the pain, the suffering, the concern, and the insecurities that this dual wound, the potential of a default and an actual government shutdown, are causing. I pray that we are never facing this again.

I am very mindful of the words I use here on the floor so I am not going to say what I think about this exactly the way I would say it if I were talking to my family. There is no reason for it. It makes no sense to do this to a country they say they love. Why hurt the country they say they love?

Why make the country they say they love look like a laughingstock? Why make a President who was going to go to Asia to pitch our economy and investments in our Nation—why make him cancel a trip and have China stand there and say: Well, you can see America just doesn't have it together. If they loved their country, they wouldn't do that.

Some of the comments over there are unbelievable. One of the Republican House Members said: I have never seen us so happy. She is happy? She is happy that millions of people don't know where their next check is coming from? She is happy? She is happy that plane crashes can't be investigated? She is happy that Superfund sites can't be cleaned? She is happy that veterans are scared? She is happy that 65-year-olds and 62-year-olds who are new to Social Security can't get their checks on time? She is happy? She needs to look into her heart. That whole party has to look into its heart. Every once in a while you can see into someone's soul, and you know it when it has happened to you.

I got into a conversation with one colleague, who shall remain nameless. I was so excited. I came home from California, and I saw tens of thousands of my people who were signing up for health insurance that never had it before. I could tell so many beautiful stories. There were people with preexisting conditions, people who had lifetime caps, people who were scared, and little kids whose parents finally were able to save their lives.

There was one incredible woman who wrote an op-ed piece in the Washington Post about this. And you know what my colleague, who shall remain nameless, said? I told him I went to a signup place, and it was exciting. There were so many people who were signing up. We were at a Hispanic community, and everybody had a smile on their face. He said: I was happy to read in one of your papers that two people had their premiums doubled. I stopped and said: You were happy? That made you happy? Look into your soul.

Why are people happy over there? How do they say they love their country, but they don't care if their country defaults on its obligations?

I want to show my colleagues what President Ronald Reagan said about defaulting—not paying our bills—President Ronald Reagan, the beloved President of the Republicans, and many Democrats. He came from my State. He is one of the most popular Presidents in the history of our country. We have airports named after him. We have buildings named after him. Why don't we see what President Reagan said about default? And just know, when he was President, Republicans and Democrats raised the debt ceiling no less than 18 times, I say to my colleagues. Eighteen times we raised the debt ceiling because, yes, we had debt from prior bills and Ronald Reagan said, Send me a debt ceiling increase. Here is what he says:

> The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of a default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and the value of the dollar.

Ronald Reagan, 1983. That is when our economy was much smaller than it is today.

So how does the party of Ronald Reagan now get us to this place where in 3 days we are about to default? I didn't hear one word out of them when they decided to put two wars on the credit card and a huge tax break for billionaires on the credit card and a big medical prescription drug benefit on the credit card—not one word out of them. Oh, vote, vote, vote, vote, vote.

What happened? We had a surplus under Bill Clinton. We had a huge increase in the deficits under George W. Bush. And, by the way, President Obama got handed an enormous deficit which he has cut in half.

So all of this talk about how the Republicans are the party of fiscal responsibility bears scrutiny. There

wasn't one Republican who voted for the budget, I say to my colleagues, that Bill Clinton wanted us to vote for. We did it all with Democratic votes. Then we got not only a balanced budget, but a surplus, and tens of millions of new jobs. George Bush came in, put two wars on the credit card, prescription drug benefit on the credit card, tax breaks to billionaires on the credit card, and the debt was off and running. But not one Republican said: Don't pass a debt ceiling. Not one Republican said: Don't default. What changed? Could it be they don't like this President? Do my colleagues think that has something to do with it? I will let people decide that.

We now know what Ronald Reagan said. He said, in other words, we need to pay our bills. We need to avoid default. There isn't one respected economist who doesn't agree with what Ronald Reagan said in 1983. The cost to taxpayers of default is enormous—billions upon billions of dollars—even the thought of it. We are still paying off what it cost us the last time.

Experts warn us against default. Warren Buffett: ''It ought to be banned as a weapon.'' It, meaning a default, ought to be banned as a weapon. ''It should be like nuclear bombs, basically too horrible to use.''

Warren Buffett knows a thing or two about this economy.

Mark Zandi, who advised JOHN MCCAIN in his Presidential run: ''Breaching the limit would be an economic disaster.''

What would happen to average folks? Mortgage rates could go sky high. Small business, big business couldn't expand. We would go into a recession. And they are happy over there about the prospect. They need to look into their souls.

The president of the World Bank, Jim Kim: ''Please consider politics beyond the Beltway, politics beyond your districts . . . This is not a theoretical impact. It's very real.''

Again, Mark Zandi: ''The dark scenario is so dark I can't imagine it.'' That is what he said.

So we pray now, as our leadership goes to the White House—and they are probably there right now meeting with the President—that they come out of that meeting with a plan—a plan to pay our bills, a plan to reopen government, and a plan to negotiate on anything Republicans and Democrats want to negotiate on. I pray so that this works out. But until it does, I am going to be here every day making the record for future Senators and for the history books that shutting down the government and threatening default, those kinds of weapons should be banned.

It is our job to pay the bills. It is our job to keep the government open, just as it is a pilot's job to fly the plane. He has to show up and fly it. We have to show up, pay the bills, keep the government open, and then negotiate our differences.

Thank you so much, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, once again I wish to thank Senator BOXER for her comments and for her strength in coming to the floor and pointing out the danger and harm caused by the government shutdown and the risk of defaulting on our debt.

Let me make it clear: Open government. Keep it open at the level the Republicans had in their budget as we continue to negotiate. We want to negotiate a budget for fiscal year 2014. We want that budget to be fair. We have been trying to do that for 7 months. We are not going to negotiate a budget in the next 48 hours. It is going to take more time than that.

We need to extend the ability to pay our bills. That should be done for a long time—for a longer period of time—because of the predictability here. We don't want to go from crisis to crisis. There should be no concessions for either one of those two issues; that is, opening government or paying our bills.

Let's work back and forth, Democrats and Republicans, on a budget in which there will be give and take. That is what we are encouraging our colleagues to do.

I join Senator BOXER in hoping there is a productive meeting at the White House today. I hope we find a game plan that will allow us to open government and pay our bills in a way in which we can sit down and negotiate the fiscal year 2014 budget, respecting each other's views and doing what our political system always envisioned; that is, true compromise, particularly when we have a House of Representatives controlled by Republicans and a Senate controlled by Democrats.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to continue the series of comments my colleagues have been making about the situation we find ourselves in at this moment, with our government shut down and with the possibility of a default on the payments of our Federal Government. This situation is virtually unprecedented, to be in a situation of near default.

I want to step back from the immediate arguments over what the answer looks like to understand that we have wandered far outside the normal, orderly lines of legislative debate. Legislative debate is like a baseball game. Folks come together, and some want plan A, some want to oppose plan A, and one team wins and one team loses. In this case, we can go back to the health care debate. Some folks wanted a health care plan that would put millions of folks without insurance into insurance and have a number of systematic reforms that would help Americans and to end abuses in the insurance industry. They wanted to create competition between companies so that customers; that is, citizens, could compare policies and thereby get a better deal, and encourage companies to drop their prices.

This debate now goes back quite a while, to 2009, 2010. The side that wanted the improved health care won. The other side normally says, Well, we will be back next year. We will be back with some changes in team members, as in baseball, and we will debate this again.

Instead of calling to have another legislative debate down the line, those who lost asked for the umpire to declare that the losing team had won. This is acceptable; that is, turning to our Supreme Court and asking them if we had violated any of the constitutional provisions that guide our Nation. In this case the answer came back, and the answer was, no, the health care plan was constitutional and it would go forward.

So now the losing team, instead of saying we are going to debate this with the public, we are going to try to get our point of view across and get people elected who support it, said, We are going to hold the crowd hostage and threaten to burn down the stadium. If a person is attending a baseball game, we know that is outside the normal rules of competition. We create these rules in a democracy so we can have an orderly process by which to consider the viewpoints of our constituents and make decisions, but threatening to hold the American people hostage is outside of the rules. Threatening to have our national government default and burn down our economy is outside the rules. Yet that is where we stand today.

Great harm, even as I speak, is coming to our communities across the Nation. This harm may not touch some of the Members of this body who may have the financial foundation to not be particularly concerned about what happens to others. But I would encourage them to go live a few days in a working-class community and find out how this impacts families across our Nation. Not only are those families who work for the government not getting their salaries as well as being furloughed, but they are not then spending their funds in the local community, which creates an impact on all kinds of other groups. It isn't just in that direct employment. We have a situation with, say, those who are affected by food stamps. If the first day of the month comes and food stamps are not available, they don't go to the stores and buy groceries, so the stores are affected. The list goes on and on in all kinds of ways.

In fact, I can turn to my home State of Oregon to demonstrate some things known to me that maybe folks haven't considered. I have here a letter from the Port of Astoria. The Port of Astoria, in order for them to receive oceangoing ships, has to have its slips dredged to a certain depth; otherwise,

those ships can't dock. This letter basically is about how the government shutdown is affecting their ability to dredge and how the inability to dredge may have a profound economic consequence on the community.

The port writes, ''Every year the Port of Astoria is required to dredge to maintain operations.''

They have done that in various ways for the last 23 years. The letter goes on through all kinds of details of the process through which dredging occurs. On the third page, it gets down to this: ''Our biggest issue at this stage is the government shutdown has prevented our consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. . . . '' Without that consultation, they cannot satisfy the ESA requirements of section 7 of the Clean Water Act.

The letter goes on to say:

> This is the only element that is holding us up. . . .

You may think: Well, if they do not dredge on time, what is the big deal? To Astoria it is a very big deal. I continue with the letter:

> If we are not able to dredge soon, this Port and this community could suffer immense economic damages to the tune of 5–6 million dollars of direct economic funds per vessel that fails to dock at the Port of Astoria or 10–12 million dollars of direct economic impact per month.

That is based on the fact that there are a couple major vessels per month.

The letter goes on to say:

> Furthermore, if one vessel strikes the bottom [of the river] the industry and our investors, clients and tenants will be in an uproar and our entire business will be blacklisted on the international trade market.

That would be terrible, to have a ship hit the bottom and have the Port of Astoria completely shut down as a result of the fact that they cannot consult—as they point out, that part of this is their ability to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

That is just one sizable impact for a community. There are thousands of these occurring across the country.

Let me take another example. We have a company in Oregon that produces a particular device that it exports, and it needs an export license to do so; otherwise, it cannot send its items abroad to its customer. Right now it has a big stockpile of a shipment it needs to send out.

Well, they cannot get the export license because the government is shut down. This is creating a big cashflow issue because they cannot receive the funds until they ship the item, which means huge potential damage to the company—in other words, something that may not have been thoroughly thought through.

What about the rural areas in our States? Some will be surprised to find out that you have a lot more government workers per capita in rural areas than in urban areas. Many parts of my State are forested, and the forests are owned either by the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service—it is owned by the national government, in other words. If the folks are not there because the government is shut down, it has a direct impact. In fact, right now, the U.S. Forest Service is issuing directions on how folks who are in the middle of logging have to shut down, skid the logs they have cut, quit felling any more, and basically clean up and clear out—in the middle of an operation. That does not just mean losses for the company that is logging, it also means a loss of saw logs for the sawmill, which means layoffs or a shutdown at the sawmill.

Well, you can start to see how the consequences roll through the economy.

How about the superfund site in the Portland Harbor? There is an intense effort going on to get a plan to be able to clean up that superfund site. Negotiations are underway between the industries that populate that stretch and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Well, it is very important to move forward to meet deadlines. How are you going to move forward if the folks are not at the EPA?

If we go back to a timber company, it is not just the immediate impact, it is the impact a year out, because the folks who are planning the sales for a year out cannot plan those sales if they are shut down or if they are furloughed. They cannot plan those sales. And they have to have teams of biologists and folks evaluate every aspect of every sale to prepare it, put it up for auction. If you cannot put it up for auction, somebody does not buy it, there is no cutting, and then the logging companies and the mills are hurt.

This is not acceptable. What we have is a series of fiscal irresponsibilities by the group within the Senate and the House that has been blocking the budget and appropriations process. Fiscally irresponsible—let me lay that out. It is fiscally irresponsible to block the Budget Committee for the last 6 months from having a conference committee. Yet a small group has come to this floor and repeatedly objected to the conference committee meeting. Without that budget, you cannot have common numbers for the Senate and the House. That blocks the spending bills—known here as appropriations bills—so the spending bills cannot be put together. Or if they are put together, they are based on a different number than the House has, which means those become deadlocked.

That leads to a continuing resolution, which means continuing what we are already doing rather than having a new spending bill. That is a waste of money because it means we are going to keep doing things that we know are not working instead of doing the things we know are working better. That is why you have an annual appropriations or spending process so you can cast aside the things that are not working and do the things that are working. So it is wasteful to block the budget and appropriations process.

Then we have this government shutdown. What does this mean? This means less income because of less economic activity, and it means more expenses because of more safety net responsibilities, which means more deficit and more debt. So this group that is blocking the budget and appropriations process is responsible for increasing the deficit and increasing our debt.

Then let's fast forward to the threat of not paying our bills. I think everyone in America knows, as a family, if you do not pay your bills, your credit score goes down and you have to pay a higher interest rate when you borrow. It is the same with the Federal Government.

There are some in this body who have said: Well, let's make sure we pay our Treasury bonds, make good on our debt obligations, and let's just not pay other obligations. Anyone who has had a credit score knows that no matter what obligation you fail in, it becomes part of your credit score. It raises the interest. You can go for your home loan and say: I have always made my house payment, and they are like: Yes, but you did not pay your utility bill, you did not pay your car payment. That means you are a higher risk. You say: But I have always paid my house bill, always paid my mortgage. It does not matter. It shows that you are stressed and you do not have a consistent exercise of responsibility in paying your bills.

So there is no easy out, despite that my colleagues have come to this floor, this Chamber, and said: It is not a big deal. They are, simply put, wrong. If they had come to the Committee on Banking, they could have heard expert after expert after expert say, essentially: You are wrong. All your bills matter. All your bills affect your credit rating. When your credit rating goes down, your interest rates go up.

It is very expensive for the government, and it is wasted money, money that is buying us nothing—nothing. It is just paying more for the borrowing you have to do.

It is not just government that pays. It is the families who pay. They have to pay higher interest on their mortgage, a higher payment on their home loan, if you will, their home equity loan, a higher payment on their car loan, a higher payment on their business loan. Everyone wastes money because of this group of incredibly irresponsible, fiscally irresponsible Members of the House and Senate who have brought us to this point.

I can see my colleague has come to the floor, and I am sure he has stories from his State, and he has his insights on why this is an unacceptable, irresponsible place we find ourselves. All we really need—all we need is a short-term continuing resolution at this point to reopen government while we negotiate, and we should have a long-term resolution of the default issue because that is something that should never be threatened.

It is Ronald Reagan who said: Do not mess with the good faith and credit of the United States of America. It is time everyone on both sides of the aisle listens to what President Reagan said, because he was right on on this, that that is just a shoot-yourself-in-the foot, self-inflicted wound that does no one in America any good at all.

Let's return to the normal process of understanding there are bounds on the legislative debate. If you lose with your perspective in a legislative battle, you can come back again next time around. You can come back the next year, you can come back 2 years later, you can come back 3 months later if the votes shift. You can propose amendments. But you do not—you do not—hold the crowd hostage. You do not threaten to burn down the stadium. You do not hold the American people hostage. And you do not threaten to burn down our economy and our international standing by proposing that we not pay our bills.

Thank you very much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Oregon for speaking so forcefully and ably about the real-life stories in his State—stories of people affected very directly by the shutdown and the prospect of the greatest Nation in the history of the world failing to pay its bills on time. As powerfully as he spoke, so did our colleagues from California and Maryland, emphasizing again the evidence of how deep and broad the cumulative effect is of the shutdown.

I had occasion to speak to people across Connecticut, as I know my colleague, the Acting President pro tempore, has done over the past 10 days. He and I have talked about how Connecticut is affected and about the individuals there who have borne the burden of this shutdown. As in Oregon and California and Maryland, there are real-life stories of people who have been affected not just temporarily but lastingly and enduringly.

I had occasion over the last 48 or 24 hours to talk with many of them out of the glare of the public eye—privately, candidly—and I want to tell some of their stories today, beginning with a meeting I had this morning in East Hartford at VFW Post 2083, at the invitation of my good friend CDR John Hollis of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a group he helped to invite—veterans of conflicts ranging from Korea, to Iraq, to Vietnam, to Afghanistan—all ages, all races, religions—more than 20 of those veterans telling me their stories and imparting to me their message: Get the job done. Reach a bipartisan compromise and make sure the government opens and end the shutdown and pays its bills on time, as befits the United States of America, for which they fought, the Nation they served and sacrificed to keep free.

I was drawn by young men such as Micah Welintukonis, Jordan Massa, Michael Scavetta, David Alexander, veterans of the most recent conflict in Afghanistan; and John Hollis, Ed Dettore, Lester Yarmiel, Richard Kennedy, Mel Huston, Lucius Miles, who have fought in previous wars.

As a matter of fact, Micah Welintukonis has recently returned from Walter Reed, where he had to undergo the latest round of surgery to his arm, which was severely wounded in Afghanistan in combat there. That wound led him to receive the Purple Heart. He was there with his wife Camilla and his three children to talk to me about his fear that he will be denied benefits and compensation that he is due, he deserves, and needs—the disability claim that he may apply for.

Of course, Jordan Massa is also a Purple Heart recipient as a result of a wound that he likewise received in combat. He waited for 2 years to receive approval of his disability claim, only to learn on October 1 that he will very likely have to wait longer because of the VA furloughing so many of its employees.

Others who came to this meeting: Mike Scavetta from Wethersfield—a veteran who served in an Air Force military police unit deployed to Afghanistan, who needs the GI bill, which he credits as reconnecting him to a civil society after his return. He has applied for a higher disability rating with the Department of Veterans Affairs based on his continued experience of post-traumatic stress.

Jake Demaskiewicz in Rocky Hill, who has served not only in the Army in Operation Enduring Freedom, but on his return now in a nonprofit organization, is assisting other veterans. Thirty percent of his paycheck comes from the VA's vocational rehabilitation program, and he receives disability payments.

These payments, compensation claims will run out at the end of October, and the delays are present even now, discouraging and failing these brave combat veterans who have endured so much for our Nation—the Nation that now has shut down these services because of a small fringe of extremist ideologues in one House of this Congress, one branch of this government, who have succeeded in paralyzing the process.

There are many other impacts on veterans in the denial of programs that are so important, many of which I have mentioned on the floor, such as the Education Call Center, personal interviews at regional offices, education and vocational counseling, outreach programs, including at military facilities and VetSuccess on Campus.

These programs and benefits and claims cannot be sustained by a piecemeal allocation of money. The claims need to be verified by going to other agencies such as the IRS. The labor training programs need to be provided by the Department of Labor. Opening one agency is no substitute for a comprehensive approach to serve these veterans and the people of the United States, whether it is Head Start children who depend on that program, or seniors who depend on nutritional services.

Over these past 2 weeks, I have spoken to home buyers whose loans cannot be processed by government agencies or by banks, business owners whose borrowing cannot be approved, potential victims of health threats who cannot be protected by the FDA or the CDC. There are researchers at the NIH and at places such as Yale who cannot continue their vital work to learn of new treatments, of advances in medicine that can help save people's lives and prevent suffering, and medical school applicants and Ph.D. candidates whose financial aid is in jeopardy and who cannot even, many of them, travel with government support to interview for their next possible assignment and study.

These ramifications are not limited to veterans. They affect our economy at its core. I warned about the effect on job growth and economic recovery and now it is visible, literally visible in the businesses and offices and places of employ throughout Connecticut.

Just yesterday in the Connecticut Post there was this story. The picture is of Robin Imbrogno. This picture of Robin Imbrogno from the Connecticut Post in yesterday's newspaper is of her at a meeting with her staff, preparing for their work. Their office in Seymour, CT, provides human resource services for businesses from California to Maine, across the country, to more than 150 business clients.

It begins:

> Robin Imbrogno pulled her staff together after work on Thursday for an update. How, she asked, has the federal government's partial shutdown impacted business at her company, the Human Resources Consulting Group. ''Even more ways than I'd thought,'' she said moments later.

I am going to quote the article.

> At the company's office in downtown Seymour, the staff of about 30 was having trouble carrying out a host of tasks for their more than 150 clients located from California to Maine: For one, they can't access [the central source of information in the government.] For another, they can't finish background checks or file equal employment opportunity reports. Most vexingly, perhaps, they got more phone calls than ever on Monday complaining that paychecks hadn't arrived in people's mailboxes across America—even though the U.S. Postal Service is supposed to be fully staffed.

Their report is about new businesses that cannot open, retail businesses that cannot go into business because they cannot ''procure the necessary business license.''

As Robin said, ''It wasn't a fun phone call.''

There is evidence of this effect on employment in businesses across this country, across the State of Connecticut. This relatively modest-size business in Seymore, CT, the Human Resources Consulting Group, founded and headed by Robin Imbrogno, is just one of many across the country.

Her reports about the effects on jobs—we are talking jobs—is a wake-up call for this body. It is a wake-up call for not only the Congress but for everyone in positions of leadership, because this effect will be enduring.

In the same article from the Connecticut Post, it talks about the SBA not providing loans to small businesses: $150,000 worth of loans every day in one Congressional district in Connecticut alone. Eight companies slated to get SBA-backed loans from a private nonprofit organization will not receive them because of this shutdown.

There are other individuals. I cannot share all of their stories, but just a few. Mary Brady in Durham is trying to buy a home. She cannot do it because she is unable to verify Social Security numbers and income with the Internal Revenue Service; Jesse Pannell, who contacted my office because the buyer of his home in Union, CT, cannot process a loan from the USDA because the USDA employees are furloughed and there is no one to process his buyer's application.

In the city of New Haven, which I visited over the weekend, urban renewal is halted because of the shutdown. This city relies on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to proceed with foreclosure actions on developers. Those developers are subject to foreclosure actions when they fail to maintain their property, when that property becomes a blight on the neighborhood. But, of course, HUD employees are furloughed and they are not at their desks to help the city of New Haven.

This ripple effect spans the State and the country. It goes from loans to a physical therapy company, a car wash, a catering company, a dental firm, small businesses that populate Main Street. As much as we focus on the markets, on Wall Street, we are talking about Main Street in jeopardy because of this shutdown. These are real-life tragedies. There are real consequences to real people, real harm and hardship in real lives. This body has to listen to them, as I did, and as I have done over the past couple of weeks.

Behind all of this real harm to real people is the prospect of an even more horrendous possible harm resulting from this Nation failing to pay its bills on time. The havoc and chaos that would result, the calamity and catastrophe across the globe, the lasting impact on our Nation, on our credibility as a world power, simply is unthinkable and unimaginable.

How would we face our children if we were to allow this Nation to go into default? How would this generation explain itself to the next and the one after? Every generation enters into a compact in America that we will leave this Nation better than we found it, just as the World War II generation fought to preserve freedom and democracy and gave of itself in combat and then came back to build the interstates and desegregate our schools and put a man on the Moon. In peace as well as war, our veterans are coming back eager and ready to contribute to this country.

The men I just mentioned and met with in East Hartford at VFW Post 283, veterans across Connecticut, veterans across the country, expect more from this government and are eager to leave this Nation greater than it was left to them, and there are millions of other Americans who also are contributing and giving back in their own ways and who are committed to following that model of courage and dedication that has characterized previous generations. How do we face the next generation if we allow this great Nation to fail to fulfill its most basic obligation that every family meets—paying its bills on time.

It is often said America always does the right thing, after it tries everything else. I know I am paraphrasing, not quoting directly. Winston Churchill said democracy is the worst of all possible governments, except for all the others.

We do not have the luxury today of trying everything else before America does the right thing. We do not have the luxury of failing democracy and failing to pay our bills on time. We must meet this challenge and follow the example of those veterans and millions of other courageous Americans who have said to all of us, as they did to me this morning: Get the job done. Make sure the Government of the United States serves the people and pays its bills on time.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I will be speaking later this afternoon with regard to the judges, but I have heard a number of people, including the distinguished senior Senator from Connecticut and others on the floor, speaking about the effect of the shutdown. I appreciate my colleagues who come and give real-world statements of how what is happening here impacts their constituents.

I was just in Vermont and had the opportunity to talk with people, many of whom I have known for years, about how they are being effected by the shutdown. These are hard-working people who work for our government. They have skills our government needs. They are being furloughed through no fault of their own.

They said: I know I am getting paid less in the government, but I have a skill and the country has done so much for me and my family, it is a way to give back, but I am not going to tell my children to do that. They are well educated. I am not going to tell them to do that, to get treated this way.

What is going to happen is we are going to have a lot of these furloughed people who will say the heck with it. They will leave government service. These are experts in our intelligence services, the Department of Defense, medical research, and other areas. What will happen when we try to replace them? We will be scrambling around, hiring contractors, paying a lot more for people without the skills and experience.

The private sector is being impacted. I have used the example of a person who has a microbrewery in Vermont. He put a lot of money and effort into a seasonal brew and was prepared to go with it during what we call the leaf-peeping season, the fall foliage season, in Vermont, but he needs an approval stamp from the Department of Agriculture, but the people who would give him the approval he needs have been furloughed.

There are a number of people who may need a passport for an emergency, a family member is abroad and ill and somebody has to get on a plane. A lot passports get issued in St. Albans, Vermont, but the employees at the passport office are not allowed to go to work and get their job done.

Those who have questions of the IRS that they need for their businesses, normally they could call them, but the IRS is closed.

In another area—and someone in the press asked me about this a few moments ago—what about the court system. Our Federal court system is facing some very serious problems. If there is a criminal case, because of our speedy trial rules, that goes to the head of the line. We also have, since Gideon v. Wainwright, the fact that criminal defendants are entitled to counsel. But the counsel might not be there. Defenders' offices might have to furlough staff.

Courts can't keep asking the same lawyers to just volunteer their time; maybe they will get paid and maybe they will not, and if they do, it is going to be far less than they make otherwise.

What happens is that those criminal cases start backing up. Then if there is a legitimate civil case one wishes to bring, good luck in the Federal courts. They could wait year after year after year to have their case heard. By the time their case makes it in front of a judge, whatever remedy they might have is going to be inadequate because of the delay. Justice delayed is justice denied.

This is happening in our Federal courts as the money runs out because we have not passed a Continuing Resolution to fund our co-equal branch of government. Combined with the funding cuts to the courts due to sequestration and the 93 current Federal district and circuit judgeships that are vacant 39 of which have been deemed judicial emergency vacancies because the caseloads are so high and it is not difficult

to see that our courts need us act. Fortunately, we will have one judge from Illinois and one judge from Alabama confirmed this afternoon—but we have a shortage of judges because of vacancies and because we are having to wait months and months before we are able to vote on uncontroversial nominees, who in the past would have been confirmed within days.

I could give 1,000 examples, but the ripple effect on real Americans is awful. We see a salmonella outbreak in the West. We know our Department of Agriculture inspectors are out there checking—oh, wait a minute, they are not. They are furloughed or many of them are. What do we do there?

As to areas where there are ports, normally busy ports, is shipping coming in and out or is it being slowed because there are suddenly less people?

I know when I talk to the FBI, they tell me about investigations they can't go forward with or can't complete because of furloughs.

We had this horrific bus accident in the South a couple of weeks ago. I cannot imagine the grief those families must feel for those who were lost. What I found shocking was that after the accident our National Transportation Safety Board couldn't send a team down to find out what happened and whether there is anything that can be learned to prevent similar crashes because their investigators are furloughed.

I know the distinguished Presiding Officer has stood and worked hard on this floor, in our caucuses, and with others to get the government back open and to get us to do the right thing. I am preaching to the converted.

I see our deputy leader, the distinguished senior leader from Illinois, who has spoken not only on this floor but in the national media for the need to reopen.

I yield the floor to the distinguished Senator from Illinois. I thank the Senator for what he is doing, as I stopped in to thank our majority leader for standing strongly on this to reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Let me first thank the senior Senator from Vermont and the President pro tempore of the Senate.

I wish to say to the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, it has been my great honor for 15 or 16 years to work with the Senator from Vermont. He is an extraordinary person and an extraordinary leader on one of the most important committees in Congress.

I see Senator BARRASSO on the floor. I have about a 10-minute statement if the Senator's schedule allows. I thank the Senator.

NOMINATION OF ANDREA WOOD

In a short time, a little more than 1 hour, the Senate will come to consider two judicial nominees. I will speak to one of these nominees from the State of Illinois. The other I am sure will be addressed by other Members of the Senate.

I rise to speak in support of the nomination of Andrea Wood to serve on the U.S. District Court in the Northern District Illinois.

Ms. Wood has the qualifications, integrity, and judgment to be an outstanding Federal district court judge. I was proud to recommend Ms. Wood's name to the President of the United States to be considered for this position. I was prouder still when the President concurred in that recommendation. She has my support and the support of my Colleague Senator MARK KIRK to fill the Chicago-based judgeship which was left vacant by the untimely death of Judge Bill Hibbler.

I wish to say a word about Judge Bill Hibbler. Judge Hibbler was one of my earlier appointments, a State judge who became an important asset to the Federal bench in Chicago. His untimely death left an extraordinary vacancy. I was at his memorial service, and the tributes that were paid to him for his life of public service were truly fitting. Ms. Wood now has difficult shoes to fill, and it may be impossible, but I think in her own special way she will make an extraordinary contribution to the court as well.

This vacancy has been designated as a judicial emergency by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and I am pleased the Senate is moving to confirm Ms. Wood today.

Ms. Wood currently serves as a senior trial counsel at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement in Chicago. In this capacity she represents the SEC in complex litigation matters. She is a native of St. Louis, and she received her B.A. from the University of Chicago, where she was selected as one of the student convocation speakers. She received her law degree from Yale, where she served on The Yale Law Journal.

After graduating from law school, Ms. Wood clerked for Judge Diane Wood of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. She then joined the Chicago law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, where she worked on securities, bankruptcies, tax, and other litigation matters.

She joined the SEC in 2004 as a senior attorney in the Division of Enforcement, where she investigated and litigated securities law violations, including fraud, insider trading, and other misconduct. In 2007, she became a senior trial counsel, serving as the lead SEC attorney on litigation matters and coordinating with the U.S. Attorney's Office and other regulators on parallel enforcement actions.

Ms. Wood knows the world of litigation at the highest levels. She has received numerous awards for her work at the SEC, including the Director's Award from the Director of the Division of Enforcement, as well as eight Special Act Awards for her work on individual matters. In addition to her busy government service, Ms. Wood has found time to serve the Chicago community through a variety of charitable causes.

She appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on June 19 and was reported out of the committee on July 18 by a unanimous voice vote. She is an outstanding nominee for the Federal bench, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination when it comes to the floor of the Senate later this afternoon.

I see on the floor the Senator from North Dakota, who has asked permission to speak.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I wish to thank my esteemed colleague from Illinois and take this opportunity to offer some remarks on the debt ceiling and the continuing operations of the government.

I come to the floor to make an appeal for action, action on opening the government and action on addressing the debt ceiling. Of course, that requires bipartisan effort. This is something our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have to work together to accomplish. We have been negotiating, not only our leadership, Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL, but the Members of this body, Republican and Democratic, both sides of the aisle. We have been negotiating and talking about many different ideas, but now we need to come together and find a way to both address the debt ceiling and to reopen the government.

The kinds of ideas we have discussed include a short-term extension of the debt ceiling. Certainly Members on my side of the aisle feel we have to also address the underlying problems that are leading to our growing debt and deficit.

We need savings and reforms as part of addressing that debt ceiling. Also, we have talked about ideas for a continuing resolution to reopen the government, one that follows established law. By that I mean the Budget Control Act, which establishes budgetary caps that need to be kept in place and honored as part of this agreement.

The continuing resolution we have talked about would also include flexibility for agencies to prioritize spending subject to congressional oversight, but we have to have budget discipline. We are spending more than we are taking in. Whether it is a family, whether it is a business, whether it is the Federal Government, that doesn't work. We must exercise budget discipline.

Also, we have talked about ideas that might include addressing the medical device tax, possibly repealing the medical device tax or at least deferring it for 2 years and paying for it with pension smoothing under provisions similar to those in MAP–21. We have looked at and talked about requiring income verification under the Affordable Care Act to avoid fraud, ideas Republicans have put forward. I think there has been broad support for it on the Democratic side of the aisle.

An agreement composed of these kinds of ideas would open government and address the debt ceiling on a short-term basis, but the reality is we need to find savings and reforms to address the underlying problems that are driving our deficit and our debt. As part of a debt ceiling agreement, we need to have savings and reforms that underlie our problem. Our problem is that we are spending more than we take in. We can't raise the debt ceiling for another year and add $1 trillion in debt to the debt that we already have of $17 trillion. It is kind of like going to the bank. When you go to the bank and you talk to the banker, you say: Hey, I want a loan. I want to increase the loan I have, and I want to raise my credit limit.

The banker may be willing to give you the loan, but he is going to say to you: What are you going to do to address the underlying problem, the problem you have that you are spending more than you are taking in? What are you going to do to address that?

If you said to the banker: I am not going to do anything to address it, you might have a hard time getting the loan, right? That is true whether you are a family, that is true whether you are a business, and that should be true for the Federal Government. So let's put the necessary savings and reforms in place.

In his budget, the President identified more than $600 billion in changes and savings and reforms that he could support to mandatory spending programs, and we have talked to him about those time and again. Now is the time to implement those savings and reforms to those mandatory spending programs.

Let me cite an example of one I have been hard at work on for the last 2 years; that is, the farm bill. The farm bill is a mandatory spending program. I am a member of the agriculture committee, and we have worked hard on changes, on improvements, on actually strengthening the farm bill by strengthening crop insurance under the farm bill, which is what our farmers and ranchers want. As we worked through that, at the same time we identified on the order of $25 billion to $30 billion in savings that we can generate by reforming the farm program.

I am a member of the conference committee on the Senate side. The House has now appointed their conferees. We are ready to go and resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions of the farm bill, and we can have a stronger farm program and save billions of dollars.

Those are the kinds of mandatory spending program reforms we need to put in place as part of the debt ceiling agreement. And we need to find a common commitment, a bipartisan commitment, and a commitment on the part of the administration as well as the Congress to do that.

When we talk about addressing the debt ceiling, that is what it really means. It doesn't just mean raising the debt ceiling. It doesn't just mean borrowing more money. It means fixing the problem. So we need to act. We need to address the debt ceiling. We need to get the government open, but we need to have a common commitment, a bipartisan commitment to solving the underlying problems and to getting the reforms and the savings that will ensure we aren't spending more than we are taking in.

Of course, a big part of that is economic growth as well. We understand that. And at the point where we truly come together in a bipartisan way—and I would argue this is that point and this is that time—I think the markets will react, and I think business across this country will react. Businesses large and small will react because the certainty of knowing we truly are dealing with our debt and our deficit will give them the confidence to invest and hire more people, not only bringing people back to work, reducing unemployment, but getting economic growth—economic growth not by raising taxes but, with economic growth, broadening and growing the base and generating revenue to help with our deficit and our debt.

By putting these commonsense reforms, these solutions, these savings in place as part of this debt ceiling agreement—a commitment to doing that on both sides of the aisle—we will help unleash the power of the strongest economy in the world, and that economic growth will be a huge part of solving our deficit and our debt as well. It is vitally important that we do it. It is vitally important that we do it for the strength of our country, to get people back to work, but most of all for our children and for future generations. I don't believe there is anybody here in Congress—in the Senate, in the House—or anywhere else who wants to leave our children with a $17 trillion debt. So let's solve this. We can do it, and now is the time.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, here we are, it is October 14, and the government has been shut down for 2 full weeks. We are about 3 days away from a debt ceiling deadline. I keep hearing rumors that a deal is close. I certainly hope that is true, that we do make some breakthroughs and we get through this impasse, but I have some observations on that, and I thought I might take a moment to set the record straight based on what I have been hearing over the weekend on some of the talk shows and some things that came out over the weekend.

In the last day or so there was talk about Democrats putting ''a new issue'' on the table, that Democrats are now putting sequestration on the table in these talks. Well, I don't know how anyone could think this is a new issue.

In March the Senate approved a budget that replaced sequestration with a mix of entitlement reform and revenue increases.

In April the President put forward a budget that replaced sequestration with again a mix of spending cuts and revenue increases.

Throughout the spring and summer the Appropriations Committee, on which I serve, debated and passed bills that conformed to the budget resolution replacing sequestration. Republicans in the House and Senate have taken part in this debate. Republicans on the Senate Appropriations Committee responded with a letter objecting to our policy of replacing the sequestration cuts.

The House passed its own budget, the Ryan budget, which also takes their position on sequestration. They even made it worse by preventing cuts in the military and taking all the rest out of nondefense discretionary spending. I know that sounds like a big word, but it is spending that comes out of things such as education and social services and health, NIH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and all those other things.

Now, again, we heard a lot of talk by Republicans on the Senate side that we Democrats were violating the Budget Control Act by coming in at a higher level than what sequestration called for. At the same time, the Republicans on the House side violated the Budget Control Act by not taking 50–50. In other words, the Budget Control Act said that if sequestration goes into effect, then the cuts have to be made 50 percent from defense and 50 percent from nondefense. The Ryan budget—what they did in the House—left defense whole and took everything out of—as I said, everything else, mainly out of health, education, labor, and that pot of money.

So I guess you might ask whether both sides violated the Budget Control Act. No. Both sides had their approach on how to deal with the Budget Control Act. The Budget Control Act is not the Ten Commandments written in stone for all eternity. It is a law. And when we have laws around here, periodically, guess what. We change them or modify them, of course.

So the Budget Control Act was passed, the supercommittee was set up, it didn't hit its goals, so sequestration went into effect. Now that we have seen the disastrous consequences of sequestration for this year, those on my side of the aisle said: Well, look, it is time to get rid of sequestration, and let's make our decisions as legislators on how we want to spend the taxpayers' money and how we might want to raise revenues.

The Republicans on the House side—I don't say they violated anything,

they just did their own thing. They said: To heck with the Budget Control Act. We don't want to take any money out of defense. We will leave that whole and take it out of everything else.

That would have been the proper time for the House and Senate Budget Committees to get together in a conference so they could work out their differences. But 19 times we have come to the floor to ask to go to conference on the budget, and 19 times the Republicans have refused to let us go to conference to even talk about it. So sequestration is the biggest difference between these two budgets.

I might add, with regard to the budget Mr. RYAN came up with in the House, the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, a Republican, called it ''unworkable,'' for whatever that is worth.

Nonetheless, sequestration is the biggest difference between our two budgets. Again, that is why we asked to go to conference time and time again. So sequestration is not some kind of new issue. It is the issue of the year. It will be the issue of next year. Do we blindly cut everything? Sequestration is a blind cut of everything, even programs everyone here might agree are worthwhile and should be funded. But that is what we are elected to do. We are elected to make those kind of choices and work them out in a conference committee.

If you think sequestration is some kind of a new issue, I guess it is only a new issue if your memory is only 2 weeks long. If you know what has been going on for this year, sequestration is the major difference.

Two weeks ago Senate Democrats compromised in an attempt to keep the government open. How did we do that? We agreed to keep the government open for 6 weeks—at that time, until November 15—at the current levels, which included the sequestration cuts. It was not in our budget, but we agreed, to give us time before Christmas to go to conference and work out the differences. We passed it at the same level which was included in the continuing resolution passed by the House of Representatives. We agreed to compromise our level down to the House level for 6 weeks to keep the government open. We passed it and sent it over to the House. It has been sitting there ever since. Speaker BOEHNER will not permit it to come to the floor for a vote. Why? Perhaps he knows if he brings it up for a vote, it will pass and the President will sign it.

Instead, they began this by saying we had to change ObamaCare. We had to make changes in the Affordable Care Act—which has nothing to do with this budget, by the way. That didn't work. So now they have shifted to a whole bunch of other demands. And we have never really gone to conference. What the Republicans are now saying is we should give up a whole year. Forget about the budget resolution we passed here, and agree to what they passed in the House for the next year without even going to conference.

So first the Republicans in the House won't agree to negotiate on the budget unless we agree to their top priority—no revenue increases. Then Republicans insist upon shutting down the government to stop ObamaCare. Now this weekend Republicans have been saying they won't agree to reopen government or lift the debt ceiling until Democrats agree to the total spending level in the Ryan budget. This is truly unprecedented.

We heard over and over Republicans wanted the Democrats to produce a budget. We did. Now they are doing everything in their power to avoid discussing our budget. But what is truly incredible is that Republicans want the world to believe Democrats agreeing to a compromise for 6 weeks was an agreement to give up our entire budget for the whole next year. I don't know why the press is playing into this. They seem to be saying it is tit for tat. It is one side; it is the other.

No, it is not. We agreed to 6 weeks. Now the House says that we must agree to it for 1 year. That was never part of our budget we sent to the House. So that is not a compromise.

I will happily vote for a bill that extends the current level for 6 weeks or so. We have already voted for that. The House wanted 10 weeks. But I think a debate over whether to keep or change sequestration for the year—which is the entire debate between the Senate and the House budget resolution—is too important to be used as a bargaining chip for basic government operations.

I didn't watch the Sunday shows. I rarely ever do. I have better things to do on Sunday. But I couldn't help but read the paper this morning, and there was a statement in the paper made by the senior Senator from Arizona. I guess he was on a talk show, and they were quoting him.

Senator MCCAIN said: I guess we could go lower in the polls. Right now we are down to blood relatives and paid staffers.

That is kind of cute. And I am quoting the newspapers, so I don't know if he said it this way or not. He said: But we have got to turn this around and the Democrats had better help us.

What does that mean? They are the ones that shut the government down. As I said, there is a bill before the House right now. If the Speaker would put it on the floor, it would open the government. We passed that here. We helped them. We agreed to their level for 6 weeks. How much more help do they need?

The more I read about this in the print and watch the news programs, the more it becomes clear to me there is an attitude being pushed by the Republicans that if they agree to reopen the government and if they agree to extend the debt limit, they are doing us Democrats a favor. Read between the lines. It is like they are doing us a big favor to do this. Therefore, we have to give them all these concessions because they are doing us a favor.

I tell my Republican friends, they are not doing us Democrats a favor whatsoever. If they agree to reopen the government and extend the debt limit, they are doing the Nation a favor, not the Democrats. So get that out of your head that somehow, because you are willing to do that, we have to give concessions on something else. We can talk about concessions, and we can talk about sequestration and other budgets when we go to conference—if they will let us go to conference. Nineteen times they have opposed us going to conference. But talking about concessions now as a means of reopening government or extending the debt limit—that shouldn't even be a part of the equation. Somehow the press continues to report this as a legitimate demand on the part of Republicans; that if we want to open the government, then they get to demand certain concessions. Why is that legitimate? The legitimate thing is to reopen the government. It is very simple.

Other people have come to the floor to talk about the impact of sequestration, and I thought I would just take a moment again—I did the other day, I will do it again today, and I will continue to do this—to alert people as to what another year of sequestration would mean for programs which come under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, which I have been privileged to chair or be the ranking member of since 1989. Here is what would happen next year if we continued sequestration: Some 177,000 fewer children will get Head Start services. Maybe that is not your kid or my grandkids. Everybody here has plenty of money. But it affects a lot of low-income families in this country.

And 1.3 million fewer students would get title I education assistance—no kids of anybody in this body or the House, none of our grandkids. We have plenty of money. But low-income families all across this country, in urban areas as well as rural, get title I assistance.

And 760,000 fewer households will receive heating or cooling assistance under what we call LIHEAP, Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program. Again, it won't affect anybody in this body, it won't affect anybody in the House, and probably none of our families. But it will affect 760,000 households with an elderly person without much money, maybe just living off a Social Security check and nothing else.

Special education programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. We fund a portion which goes out to the States. By sequestration, the less money we put out will mean 9,000 special education staff will be cut from classrooms. Maybe the

States will come up with the money. Maybe local taxpayers will come up with the money. I am just saying, under sequestration we will not be paying for 9,000 special education teachers and staff.

Sequestration next year means $291 million less for child care subsidies for working families. These are families that go to work every day, and many are single parents. These are low-paying jobs, and the only way they can go to work is to have some kind of child care subsidy, and $291 million will be taken out of that. Again, it won't affect anybody here.

Two billion dollars less for the National Institutes of Health. That is 1,300 fewer research grants next year. Which one of those grants will lead to breakthrough discoveries in medicine and cures?

We have a fraud and abuse program in Medicare. It recovers $7.90 for every $1 we appropriate. A lot of that comes because of overcharges from drug companies. We have seen cases in Wisconsin and a number of other States with huge settlements because the drug companies were overcharging. For every $1 that we put in, we recover $7.90. Because of the cut, because of sequestration, we will lose about $2.7 billion next year in funds that we would assume we would get back. Aside from that, drug companies know we won't have enough cops on the beat, and that will be an excuse for them to just start overcharging again.

So those are just a few of the things that will happen if we continue sequestration. There are probably some on the other side who just don't care. For example, one Member of the House Republican caucus asked Representative BACHMANN about the government shut down, and she said: We are very excited. It is exactly what we wanted, and we got it.

Then there is Representative CULBERSON who reportedly said: It is wonderful. We are 100 percent united.

What are they excited about? They are excited about the government shutdown. They are probably excited about sequestration. They are excited about hundreds of thousands of low-income kids not getting Head Start. They are excited about low-income families not getting heating and cooling assistance. They are excited that special education teachers will be cut. They are excited about this. This is their vision of America.

The tea party had some big gathering here in Washington the last few days. I happened to be reading about it. There was one woman there talking to reporters. She said we need to go back to the late 1800s in this country when we grew our own vegetables.

I thought to myself, fine. If you want to, you can do that. There is nothing restricting her from going out and living without electricity or running water, health care. She can go find a cabin someplace in the woods, I suppose, have a little plot of land, grow her vegetables, do her own canning. You can do that, if you like.

But why does she insist that we all want to do that? I don't think a lot of people want to go back to the late 1800s in this country. Think of what life was like then: child labor, people working 60, 70 hours a week, no minimum wage, no Social Security, no Medicare, no education for a lot of low-income kids. If you had money, you were fine. Disease was rampant—polio, measles, smallpox. That was the late 1800s. That is what the tea party wants. They want to go back to that. They keep up this hue and cry about that; things have just gotten out of hand.

Things have not gotten out of hand. We are a big country. We are a big nation—powerful, big. We have a lot of economic assets, but we have a lot of human assets too. We have to take care not just of the economic assets but our human assets as well. There are no economic assets without human assets. We need to invest in our people and not listen to those who want to turn the clock back to the 1800s. That is what sequestration would start to do. It would start to turn the clock back—oh, maybe not to the 1800s—I don't want to exaggerate—but certainly before the Great Society and certainly, probably, even before the New Deal. They do want to get rid of Social Security. They do want to get rid of Medicare.

I guess Grover Norquist, who is sort of their patron saint, said: We want to reduce the size of government so small we can drown it in the bathtub. That is what they want. That is their vision of America. That is their vision of our future.

I am hoping we do reach some agreements and we can get out of this. But the Republicans have dug themselves in this hole, not us. Now they say they want us to help them. We already have. We passed a bill and sent it to the House to open the government. We now have before us, as we did on Saturday, a bill to extend the debt limit without strings attached until December 2014. Every single Republican voted against even going to that bill to even discuss it on Saturday. I opened the newspapers on Sunday to read about it, and there is very little talk about that. Is there something I missed? Did we not have a vote here on Saturday on a motion to proceed to raising the debt limit for 1 year—just to go to the bill so we can discuss it? People could offer amendments. Every single Republican voted against even going to that bill, even discussing it.

We have thrown plenty of lifelines out there. If what the senior Senator from Arizona meant by ''help'' is that we have to give up on everything in terms of our budget, sequestration, all that other stuff, that is nonsense. I made a counterproposal. I said if they are going to keep putting all that stuff on there as conditions, we ought to start putting conditions on it too.

If they want some help, how about raising the minimum wage right now? That would be something we could do. Wouldn't that be neat? If they want to reopen the government and extend the debt ceiling, let's raise the minimum wage right now for people in this country. I would put that on the table right now. I would put on the table that we need to put more money into special education to help our local taxpayers and more money, certainly, into early childhood education. Maybe those are the things we ought to put on the table, saying: If you want help, agree to these things. I will not go there. But if they continue to push this idea, if the Republicans continue to push this idea that somehow we have to capitulate on everything else, then I think we just throw these things on the table and say: OK, you want us to agree to that? You agree to this. We will have a little tit-for-tat on that and see how far it goes.

That is why this whole talk about giving up on sequestration and budget matters is a nonstarter. Open the government—very simple. Extend the debt limit—very simple. Then go to conference and talk about this. That is the way out of this. That is the real, adult, democratic—with a small ''d''—way out of this mess. I call upon the Republicans not to do us a favor. Do the country a favor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, in just 3 days, barring some action by Congress, the Treasury Department of the United States will run out of options for preventing default on this Nation's debts for the first time in our history, setting off a chain of economic events that will be felt around the world and by every family and business and State and community in our country.

We have heard a great deal on this floor the last few days about how we arrived at this point and who is to blame. There is a lot of concern and consternation about exactly who owns this and how we got here. I am not going to spend time today on that. I am going to skip the politics and the drama for now and just talk about the facts and the policy. I just want to talk to Delawareans about what would happen if we actually go over this impending cliff, if we do default, and which of the options for addressing this are viable.

First, let's be clear about what we are talking about.

What is the debt ceiling? Defaulting on our debt by failing to raise the debt ceiling is not the same as cutting up America's credit cards. It is not the same as denying the President the right to sign more checks into the future. Raising the debt ceiling does not give Congress or the President a blank check to spend more money. It allows the United States to borrow more money, yes, but only to pay bills for goods and services already incurred, to meet pledges already made.

We have had some kind of a national debt ceiling since 1917, when Congress

allowed the Treasury Department to issue long-term Liberty bonds to pay for our engagement in the First World War. Over the course of the next two decades, caps were placed on other kinds of debt as well, and finally, in 1939, Congress decided to place a ceiling on the total amount of debt the country could have.

The last time Congress raised the debt ceiling, it was up to $16.99 trillion. Technically, we reached that limit a few months ago—actually on May 19 of this year. The Treasury Department has since been using what it calls ''extraordinary measures'' to keep paying our bills, but, as Secretary Lew has communicated to this Congress over and over in letter and in testimony, in just a few days the Treasury Department will no longer have enough money to keep up. These extraordinary measures will have run out, and in a week or two later we will have come up to zero.

What are the bills we need to raise the ceiling in order to pay? It is the salaries of all Federal employees, including our military; it is Social Security and Medicare payments; it is unemployment benefits, tax refunds, and interest on our sovereign debt. Raising the debt limit allows the Treasury to borrow the money it needs to pay these bills. That is it.

If on any particular day more bills come due than we have cash in our accounts to cover, then the United States of America will default on some or all of its obligations. That day is coming and coming quickly. Frankly, we cannot let it happen.

For decades investors have bought U.S. debt because it was seen as a sure thing, a safe investment. When people buy a Treasury bill, a T-bill, they do so because they know they are going to earn interest on one of the safest investments in the world. American debt is considered unimpeachable. That is what makes the dollar the reserve currency for much of the world, which is something that benefits every American company and community and family in ways that are hard to see but cumulatively powerful—the absolute certainty that we will repay our national debt.

Who are these investors? Who are the folks who buy these T-bills? Some are everyday Americans. A large number of retirees invest in our government bonds because they are such a safe bet. Pension funds and mutual funds invest in government bonds for the same reason. Some investors are the governments of other nations that look at the United States as such a good investment that they tie their financial stability to ours. So when it starts to look as if Congress will not live up to that standard, will not take the steps necessary to pay all of our bills on time and might actually default on some of our debts and transform us into a deadbeat nation, it makes investors really nervous.

Just the talk of defaulting on our debts sends a shockwave through our economy and through the markets. For proof we need only look back to August of 2001, when Congress last brought the Nation to the brink of default. Although we didn't cross the line, just the talk of it, the mere possibility that we might for the first time default had an array of consequences.

First, it slowed job growth and led to an increase in part-time employment.

Second, consumer confidence in our economy fell. The Consumer Confidence Index—the index of consumer confidence—is a reliable indicator of Americans' willingness to spend money and fuel our economic growth. We want consumers buying products at their local stores and keeping people employed, right? The index was already on the pessimistic side of the line when this last crisis began but has fallen substantially since the government shutdown. Instability and uncertainty reduces consumer confidence and takes money out of our economy.

Third, the yield of our Treasury bills had to increase in order to prop up demand. As U.S. debt becomes perceived as a riskier investment, we have to incentivize investors by increasing what we will pay them. That means taxpayers will have to pay more over time in order to compensate. The debate in 2011 will cost American taxpayers an additional $19 billion over the next decade. Again, just the debate as we ran up to the possibility of default in 2011 added $19 billion in debt service costs to the bonds that were issued in the days and months after.

Fourth, the credit rating agency Standard & Poor's—one of the big three—lowered the credit rating of the United States, causing markets to drop more than 5 percent in a single day and 17 percent over the course of that crisis. It was one of the worst declines in the equities markets in history, and it was only because we talked about defaulting.

Just threatening to default is terrible for our economy in all these four different ways.

Financial analysts across the world have said Congress is already causing potentially lasting damage to the strength of the dollar just by repeatedly threatening to default. Said one:

> There is a negative confidence shock rippling through the economy, and foreign investors have taken fright at developments in Washington.

Said another:

> A U.S. government default is not a zero-probability event now. Although it remains very unlikely, a low-probability high-impact event like this is naturally making investors cautious.

So we simply cannot afford this talk. We cannot let our Nation default.

What happens if we do? What would actually happen if we get to the end of this week and have not resolved this crisis? I am encouraged by rumors of some resolution. I am encouraged that there are negotiations and conversations going on. But I think we need to look in a clear-eyed way at what would happen if default should happen to occur.

For starters, we don't really know. The situation has never been this bad before this, and the United States has never defaulted on its debt.

Here is what the managing director of the International Monetary Fund said this weekend:

> If there is that degree of disruption, that lack of certainty, that lack of trust in the U.S. signature, it would mean massive disruption the world over, and we would be at risk of tipping yet again into global recession.

We simply cannot afford that.

Let me share another quote from history, from President Ronald Reagan, who back in 1983 had this to say about the potential threat of default and its impact on our economy:

> The full consequences of a default—or even the serious prospect of a default—by the United States are impossible to predict and awesome to contemplate. Denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and the value of the dollar.

As it was true back in 1983, so it is true again today. The comments from the head of the IMF and from a whole array of economists and bankers this past week remind us of the simple and enduring truth that the modern era has been one where the dollar has been the reserve currency for the world, and the strength of the American market has been critical to the strength of the American nation, our communities, and our economy. Frankly, to put that at risk over short-term political differences is reckless indeed.

What we know is we will wake up this coming Friday with about $30 billion in the Federal Government's account, according to Treasury Secretary Lew. What we don't know is how long it will last. The moment we can't pay one of our bills, we will default. That is what is known as X date. The government will still collect revenue, but it won't be enough to keep pace with our daily bills.

Over the last year, the government collected $7.5 billion a day and spent an average of $9.7 billion a day. That means we come up about $2.2 billion short on our bills every day if we are not borrowing enough to make up the difference.

Analysts at the Bipartisan Policy Center suggest that we will run out of cash—hitting the X date—roughly on October 22. To be clear, part of why we don't know exactly what date this would occur is because money flows into the Federal Treasury at uneven rates, and it flows out at uneven rates.

Let's look at a few of the bills that are about to come due in the next few weeks. On October 23, $12 billion in Social Security benefits are due; on October 28, $3 billion in Federal salaries would go unpaid. On October 30, $2 billion in Medicaid payments are due; on October 31, $6 billion in interest payments on our sovereign debt are due; on November 1, $58 billion in Medicare,

Social Security, and SSI payments, as well as veterans' benefits and military pay.

Those are just the major bills. There are thousands, even millions, of smaller payments that are due from every agency and entity of the Federal Government that go up and down day in and day out and where our failure to pay in a timely fashion, while technically not defaulting on our sovereign debt, would put into question our ability and willingness as a government to pay our bills when due.

With what we have left, we will not be able to pay them all, and we will be in violation of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which says that the debt of the United States of America shall not be questioned.

If we have not raised the debt ceiling by this Thursday, we are likely to see disturbing losses in global markets. We have already started to see them as uncertainty takes over and volatility begins to spread. Investors are already pulling money out of our T-bills. If 2011 is an indication, stock prices will soon begin to drop in the absence of some progress toward a resolution.

Deutsche Bank, one of the world's most prominent investment banks, predicted the S&P 500 index will fall by a staggering 45 percent if we default. We heard loudly and clearly when we met with the credit ratings agencies after the 2011 incident that they would almost certainly downgrade the credit rating of the United States, which would reduce demand for Treasurys, particularly among investment funds that are required to hold a large number of AAA-rated securities.

With the Nation pressed against its debt ceiling and future interest payments uncertain, investors will be hesitant to buy more T-bills. The toxicity of U.S. debt may spread to Treasury notes and bonds, and investors will almost certainly demand higher yields, which will cost our country significantly more over time. This is exactly what happened in 2011 when we flirted with default.

Right now, the dollar is the world's reserve currency. Instead of keeping their money in cash, other nations buy our debt in order to get interest without risk. America has been a great investment. A default would cause other nations to sell our debt and then sell our dollars, weakening our dollars against foreign currencies, and raising the costs on every single good imported into the United States.

If Treasury interest rates go up just 1 percentage point, it would add over $1 trillion in the next decade to our debt service cost. Anything we saved because of sequestration would be gone, and there is no reason to think that default would cause interest rates to go up by one single point. It could add $2 trillion or $3 trillion to our debt over the next decade. This affects everyone in our community and our country from large to small, from companies to communities to families. When Treasury interest rates go up, your interest rates go up. Mortgage rates, auto loans, student loans, business loans—they all go up, and they would go up fast. Default would make it harder for all of us to use credit responsibly. As consumers buy less, business profits would fall, GDP would fall, and the Nation once again would enter a recession. Defaulting on our debt would be an unimaginable drag on the economic health of our country, our community, and families. We cannot let it happen.

Mr. President, I see my colleague Senator MIKULSKI has joined me on the floor. If I might, with her forbearance, I will take a few minutes to review a few points here, and then I will yield to her.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am happy to yield and have the Senator from Delaware continue. He is the newest member of the Appropriations Committee. He has really articulated something everybody needs to understand. I am happy to wait my turn.

Mr. COONS. In conclusion, I will briefly touch on our options. We have all heard on this floor Senators suggest that default is really not that big a deal, that we are not really going to default, that there are other ways around this, and that we need not be scared into making some hurried deal. At the end of the day, several Senators have accused the President of fearmongering and have accused my party of suggesting that default is a major threat to our country and our economy when, in fact, it is not.

Let me briefly touch on the options that have been discussed by other Senators and, frankly, to my surprise. First, some have suggested we can pay our bills not when they are due but when we have the money—sort of on a first-come, first-serve payment approach. Let's say we ran out of money, as I suggested, on the 20th of this month and could not pay our bills on the 21st. By the 23rd we would have enough money so we would pay the bills from the 21st, late, but go delinquent on the bills for the 22nd and 23rd, and so on. This is crazy. Payments would be delinquent and the United States would fall behind on its debt.

This option would only make our situation worse. We would keep adding over $2 billion in debt every single day while going delinquent on our bills to Americans.

The second way forward. Some have suggested we prioritize certain bills but ignore others. The Treasury Department would continue to make payments on our sovereign debt so the Chinese would get paid, but they would avoid or default on lots and lots of other obligations. Which payments would we choose in this body not to make? Social Security? Medicare? Military salaries? Payments for cancer research? Veterans' benefits? Food inspectors? Air traffic controllers? Who goes first and who would we possibly choose? These are the ludicrous choices that have been sent to us by the other Chamber as they have attempted to fund the government in piecemeal slices in the past week.

The Treasury Department makes 100 million individual payments per month, making this option a logistical nightmare. If we prioritize our payments, it is not a question of if we go into recession, it would be a question of when. We would be taking $2.2 billion out of the economy a day—4 percent of our GDP out of our Nation's economy on an annualized basis. This would push us back into recession, we would still be defaulting on our obligations, and the markets and the credit rating agencies would know it.

The other thing that has been suggested is to work around the debt ceiling. There are a whole lot of creative but legally questionable ideas: The minting of a $1 trillion coin, avoiding the 14th Amendment, a fire sale of U.S. assets, superpremium Treasurys. Each has pros and cons that I won't go into, but they would face legal scrutiny and would radically increase uncertainty in the market.

There is no better option for us going forward than to reopen the government, pay our national debt on time, raise the debt ceiling, and honor our obligations as a country. That is the fourth and only good option: pay our bills, to prevent default, to put a floor under our economy, to stop these games, and to stop suggesting that there is any way out of this other than doing our jobs, preserving the AAA credit rating of this country, and making this country worthy of global respect again.

In conclusion, I can't believe that Members in this Chamber, who had the chance to avoid default, on Saturday voted in a way that suggested they chose not to. Not only did it rattle me, it rattled the markets. The idea that a sovereign government would have the ability to pay its debts but actively chose not to is unprecedented.

We cannot allow that to happen. We cannot allow this country to become a bad investment. We will not become a deadbeat nation. We need to pay our bills, do the right thing, and avoid default. We need to stop playing games and do right by the American people.

With that, I yield the floor and look forward to the comments from the senior Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I have permission to speak for 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, there is a misguided myth out there—not all myths are misguided, but this myth is—by those who believe that the government shutdown is actually saving us money. I am not going to go into all those details about why that is not true, but I can tell everybody one area where government shutdown is absolutely being negatively impacted in

protecting the taxpayer dollar and fulfilling the mission of the agency—particularly in Social Security, Medicare, veterans' benefits, and some others.

The Presiding Officer was the attorney general and the U.S. attorney of the Ocean State, Rhode Island, so he knows about scammers and schemers and that where there is need, there is greed. Where there are large government programs, they are open to waste and particularly to fraud.

I have been an adamant opponent of fraud, and often that is dismissed with comments such as: Oh, everybody says you are against fraud. But what are we doing about it?

Let me say this: As the chairperson of the Appropriations Committee, I was insistent that at every one of my hearings there be an inspector general testifying. I have an inspector general who advises us appropriators, who actually put money in the Federal checkbook, about how we can stop fraud in our own government. I am the first chairman of that committee ever to institute that process where we take the watchdogs of our Federal spending very seriously.

The watchdogs who protect taxpayers' funds are known as inspectors general. They are independently appointed, independently confirmed, and independently do their job. Look at the inspector general for the IRS who brought a national scandal to our attention.

But guess what. In this shutdown the ability of inspectors general to root out fraud and abuse has been severely compromised. We are not catching criminals who are trying to get a quick buck off the back of taxpayers.

I will give an example: The Social Security administration has furloughed 250 investigators and auditors in the Office of the Inspector General. This is crippling the inspector general's ability to investigate allegations of fraud and to detect improper payments in Social Security.

Just recently headlines have made the news about fraud in West Virginia field offices in Social Security where judges and others who were administering the program—administrative judges—were taking kickbacks. Thanks to law enforcement, and the inspector general, we grabbed that.

There were actually people in Federal prisons who used the Internet and created phony identities to get both taxpayer refunds and also Social Security checks. Thanks to inspectors general being on the job, we were able to nip that in the bud.

Each year the Social Security inspector general receives 135,000 allegations of fraud and abuse. Last year the inspector general at the Social Security Administration saved the program $500 million—a half billion dollars was saved in fraud at the Social Security Administration. But instead of pinning medals on people, we have furloughed them. They are sitting at home waiting and itching to be back on the job because they are so proud of what they do.

They believe that Social Security is a sacred trust, and anybody who tries to scheme or scam the system, they are going to come after.

During the normal operations, the Social Security inspector general saves $9 for every $1 spent in oversight.

Let's look at some of the other agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture. Every minute of this shutdown taxpayer dollars are being lost to fraud. When we look at the Department of Agriculture, we see that last year their inspector general investigated 331 possible frauds. They conducted 76 audits. Guess what it resulted in: 800 indictments resulting from people trying to scam various aspects of the Department of Agriculture, including food stamp fraud. Of the 800 indictments, they got 538 convictions. Guess what. They saved our Federal Government $1.5 billion. I said $1.5 billion, 800 indictments, and 540 convictions.

The Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Agriculture is on furlough. A minimum number of investigators are on the job. All of the Department of Agriculture inspector general audit staff is furloughed. That is not a wise use of the taxpayer dollars.

Let's go to the VA. The VA Inspector General's Office has furloughed 70 percent of its staff. The VA operates the largest integrated hospital system in the country, including 152 hospitals and 1,000 clinics. It also operates a mortgage program and an educational voucher program. It operates a disability claims and survivor benefit program. Their inspector general routinely audits this complex system. What do they look for? Possible criminal activity. They look for fraud. They make sure there is no misconduct by senior VA officials, and they are doing their job, but they have been furloughed.

We also have the General Services Administration, which is essentially the real estate arm of the Federal Government. It plays a crucial role. Guess what. Last year they handled 450 cases. They got 3,000 hotline complaints about possible fraud. Their staff is on furlough. So they are not looking out for fraud in real estate, automobile leasing, technology, gaming the system, and furniture. Their cases range from bribery to embezzlement, to kickback schemes. Most—99 percent—of our GSA employees are honest. So are our contractors. But guess what. In just 6 months alone, from October 2012 to March of 2013, they were able to crack down and recover over $100 million in schemes and scams.

Look at what I have outlined already: a couple billion dollars, including Social Security, Agriculture, GSA. They are on the job.

I could go to agency after agency. Guess what. The very agency that involves us and advises us is the Government Accountability Office. That is Congress's watchdog. That is where we ask for studies on how we can do a better job and where they identify programs that are dated, duplicative or dysfunctional—dated, duplicative or dysfunctional. If they are dated, goodbye to them. If they are dysfunctional, reform or goodbye. Dysfunctional—dated, dysfunctional, and duplicative, that is our mantra on the Appropriations Committee. We are the guardians of the purse, but we need our tool. The Government Accountability Office, which we rely on, has furloughed 98 percent of its staff.

I could elaborate on agency after agency, but what I wish to show is just this: The consequences of shutdown are affecting people. If they are not on the job, they are not doing the job.

The job of our inspectors general offices—they are independent. They are supposed to come with incredible fiscal background. They are investigators. They are auditors. They are people who have to know how to find a problem, see if it is criminal or civil, whether we can get our money back, so we can make sure it doesn't happen again. Those people want to work. They love their job. It is a calling to them, and we need to call them and say: You are back to work.

So let's reopen government. Let's find a way. Let's fund government at a level that makes sure it can function the way it should. Let's also pay our debts. I do not want our T-bills to become junk bonds. I do not want our T-bills to be so shaky in terms of our ability to pay them back that they arrive at junk bond status. So let's get rid of junk politics and junk talking points. Let's get those clunkers off the road. Let's get America rolling again, pay our bills, honor our T-bills. Let's get government working and let America be America again.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ANDREA R. WOOD TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

NOMINATION OF MADELINE HUGHES HAIKALA TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Andrea R. Wood, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Madeline Hughes Haikala, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30

minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know it is several minutes past 5. I doubt very much if we will use the 30 minutes. We will probably be able to yield back time so the vote can be at 5:30, although I am not making that request at this point.

Listening to the distinguished chair of the Appropriations Committee, the senior Senator from Maryland, I had to agree with everything she was saying. This is the fourteenth day of the government shutdown, and by refusing to pass a clean continuing resolution to fund the operations of the Federal government, Republicans continue to threaten the critical functioning of all three branches of government.

With this ongoing shutdown of the entire Federal government, a handful of ideologues in the House of Representatives are holding the entire judicial system hostage and this threatens our entire democracy.

One critical problem is that we have more than 90 judicial vacancies, including 39 that have been designated as emergency vacancies due to high caseloads by the non-partisan Administrative Office of the Courts.

While we will vote to confirm two additional judges today, we are moving far too slowly and are not keeping pace with the urgent needs of our Federal judiciary. We must do better.

Both of the district court nominees we are voting on today have been nominated to fill vacancies that were named judicial emergencies by the nonpartisan Administrative Office of the Courts. Andrea Wood is nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Since 2004, Ms. Wood has served in the Division of Enforcement of the Securities and Exchange Commission, currently as a senior trial counsel and previously as a senior attorney. Before joining the SEC, she spent 5 years in private practice as an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Following law school, Ms. Wood served as a law clerk for Judge Diane P. Wood of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Ms. Wood earned her B.A., with honors, from the University of Chicago, and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she served as articles editor of the Yale Law Journal. She has the bipartisan support of her home State Senators, Senator DURBIN and Senator KIRK. Her nomination was approved by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote with no opposition to her confirmation expressed more than 2 months ago.

Madeline Haikala is nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, where she has served as a magistrate judge since 2012. Prior to her appointment, she worked at the Birmingham law firm of Lightfoot, Franklin, & White for 22 years, first as an associate and subsequently as a partner. In addition, Judge Haikala has taught for approximately 7 years as an adjunct professor at the Cumberland School of Law.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Judge Haikala well qualified to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, its highest rating. Judge Haikala also has the strong support of both of her Republican home State Senators, Senator SHELBY and Senator SESSIONS. Like the other nomination we are voting on today, Judge Haikala's nomination was approved by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote with no opposition to her confirmation expressed more than 2 months ago.

While I am pleased that we are finally getting to vote on these nominees, there remain far too many judicial vacancies. Because of the government shutdown, we have been unable to hold hearings, process, and approve nominees in the Judiciary Committee for the last two weeks. It does our country a serious injustice when we fail to provide our Federal courts with the resources it needs. Let us end this shutdown now so we can do what we were elected to do and carry out business on behalf of the American people.

Let me tell my colleagues another thing that has happened. This afternoon, I got a call from the chief judge of the District of Vermont, the Federal district court. She wanted me to know they are going to run out of funds on Thursday. She is very worried about the growing opiate crisis in Vermont. If the courts run out of money, they are not going to be able to monitor and test those awaiting trials in serious drug trafficking cases.

Judge Reiss made it very clear that we are going to hear this from courts all over the country. We forget there are things our courts have to do and should do to keep the Presiding Officer safer and me safer, as well as everybody else. But we are saying, sorry, we are having this little political snit and we are not going to give you the money.

I have always been proud of being a member of the Vermont bar. I have been proud of that membership during the time I was in private practice and during the time I was a prosecutor, but throughout it all, we always relied on the courts to do their work. We expected that if after Gideon v. Wainwright it was necessary to appoint counsel for a criminal defendant, the counsel would be there. We expected that if one had a case they wanted heard, there would be a court that could hear it. That is not going to happen. We are going to have criminal cases that are going to get backed up because we don't have the personnel there, and behind those criminal cases are going to be people—Republicans, Democrats, Independents—who are going to have legitimate civil cases that they need to bring to court to be resolved and they are not going to be heard for years and years and years.

Some of the handful of ideologues who are holding up our ability to fund the government go down and have a disturbing and disgraceful rally on the Mall, where they ridicule the President of the United States. They distort their own roles in how they closed down the government, and then they try to use brave veterans as pawns, do they know what they are doing to the image of the United States?

I see the distinguished Senator from Illinois on the floor. One of these judges is from his state. I don't know if he wishes to speak.

I would say once more, all Americans who rely on our court and our judicial system know our system of justice is facing a great danger not because of anything the courts have done but because of a small group of ideologues in the House of Representatives who are holding this budget hostage.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent to yield back all remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Andrea R. Wood, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Madeline Hughes Haikala, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama?

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Further, if present and voting. the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 90, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 217 Ex.]

YEAS—90

Ayotte	Flake	Murkowski
Baldwin	Franken	Murphy
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murray
Baucus	Grassley	Nelson
Begich	Hagan	Paul
Bennet	Harkin	Portman
Blumenthal	Hatch	Pryor
Blunt	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reid
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Brown	Hirono	Roberts
Cantwell	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Cardin	Johanns	Sanders
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schatz
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Chambliss	Kaine	Scott
Chiesa	King	Sessions
Coats	Kirk	Shaheen
Cochran	Klobuchar	Shelby
Collins	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Levin	Toomey
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Cruz	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCain	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Mikulski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Vitter
Coburn	McCaskill	
Graham	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Vermont.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we know this has been a difficult time for everyone, and Senator MCCONNELL and I have been working diligently over the last few days trying to arrive at the culmination of efforts that have been ongoing for quite some time now. We have made tremendous progress. We are not there yet, but tremendous progress, and everyone just needs to be patient.

We will have no more votes tonight. We hope, with good fortune and the support of all of you, recognizing how hard this is for everybody, that perhaps tomorrow will be a bright day. We are not there yet, but we hope we will be.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if I may echo the remarks of the majority leader, we had a good day yesterday. We had another good day today. I think it is safe to say we have made substantial progress, and we look forward to making more progress in the near future.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would just close by saying this: We are doing our best to make everybody happy, but everyone knows we are not going to be able to do that. So, everybody understand that we are doing the very best we can with all of the frailties we have as people and legislators.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1306

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1306, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 15, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, Senators be permitted to speak therein for up 10 minutes each, and that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:11 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 14, 2013:

THE JUDICIARY

ANDREA R. WOOD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

MADELINE HUGHES HAIKALA, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER MOYER

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Mr. Christopher Moyer's 55th birthday. May the years ahead be blessed with good health, strong family, prosperity, and peace.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ''OAKLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPUBLICANS''

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ''Oakland University College Republicans'' of Michigan, who like so many organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Democracy that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number; a Democracy that seeks equality in liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today, the roots of which are solid stock and American made; they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American organization.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION, AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, H.J. Res 80 would provide sequester-level funding for a limited number of federal programs that serve Native American Tribes. I support ensuring that the federal government plays a strong role in addressing the needs of tribal communities and I voted against H.J. Res 80 because it doesn't do that. It provides less than 50% of funding that tribes receive from the federal government and omits a number of important programs.

This legislation is merely the latest iteration of the Republican piecemeal funding strategy they hope can provide cover from the fallout of their ongoing reckless shutdown. It is not part of any serious effort to reopen the government. It is time to end this shutdown and get to work making necessary tough budget decisions.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ''UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN-DEARBORN COLLEGE REPUBLICANS''

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ''University of Michigan-Dearborn College Republicans'' of Michigan, who like so many organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-root organization.

END THE USE OF THE DEROGATORY NAME ''REDSKIN'' AS THE NAME OF WASHINGTON'S NFL FRANCHISE

HON. ENI F. H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I submit to my colleagues and some 181 million sports fans all over America who love the game of football just as much as I do having played football for four years in high school, that the time has come to end the use of the derogatory name ''redskin'' as the name of Washington's NFL franchise.

Again and again, Mr. Speaker this issue has arisen and it will not go away. With all due respect Mr. Speaker, I call upon the 32 football club owners of the National Football League and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, to end the use of the derogatory word ''redskin'' as the name of Washington's football franchise. Mr. Speaker, the National Football League and Commissioner Goodell cannot just casually pass the responsibility to Mr. Dan Snyder, the owner of the Washington franchise. The Washington Football franchise is worth about $1.6 billion dollars, the third most valuable franchise in the NFL. The NFL has a responsibility to take steps to address the derogatory name because the NFL is also a beneficiary and receives a fair percentage of the proceeds from television broadcasts and merchandise sales from all 32 NFL franchises.

I want to thank President Barack Obama for weighing in on this issue just last week and I hope NFL Commissioner Goodell will seriously pursue this matter. If Commissioner Goodell feels that if the name were offending one person, we should listen, listen to the leaders of the National Congress of American Indians the oldest and largest organization which Native American Indians that represents the vast majority of some 5.2 million Native American Indians today.

I also want to thank Mr. Ray Halbritter, leader of the Oneida Indian Nation, Ms. Suzan Harjo a member of the Cheyenne and Hodugee Muscogee tribes, Ms. Amanda Blackhorse from the Navajo Nation, former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell and members of our Native American Congressional Caucus for raising this issue of not using this derogatory racial slur the word ''redskin''.

Again, it is time for NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and the NFL to do the right thing and take steps to end the use of a derogatory name for the NFL franchise in our nation's capital.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TROY AREA TEA PARTY

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Troy Area Tea Party of Oakland County, Michigan, who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

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Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today, the roots of which are solid stock and American made; they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF DR. CLAUDE ROBERT PLATTE

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Dr. Claude Robert Platte, a man who dedicated his life in service of his family, community and nation. Dr. Platte grew up in Fort Worth, Texas where he attended James E. Guinn elementary and graduated from Fort Worth's historic I.M. Terrell High School. Mr. Platte went on to Tuskegee Institute where he received a Degree in Mechanical engineering with a Minor in Aeronautics.

Dr. Platte joined the military where he was assigned to the 301st Fighter Squadron. Dr. Platte served as primary flight instructor, training over 400 blacks to solo and fly PT13s, PT17s and PT19s. The pilots he trained amassed an unmatched military record as fighter pilots. He broke racial and educational barriers in the military as the first black officer to be trained and commissioned in the newly reopened Air Force Pilot Training Program. He was trained at Randolph Field AFB Texas. He retired from the Air Force with the rank of Captain in 1965 after 18 years of service.

After his military service, Dr. Platte continued his work in the community as a Member of Guardianship Services, an organization that supplies court appointed guardians for people in need, and the Knights of St. Peter Claver Court 89, a Catholic organization that provides community services nationwide.

He was Founder of the DFW Tuskegee Airmen Chapter established in May 2005 to provide educational assistance to youth. Dr. Platte along with other Original Tuskegee Airmen traveled around the world sharing their story with children, inspiring them to reach their goals. In 2008 the Claude R. Platte Future Pilots Flight School was established to continue the legacy of all of the Tuskegee Airmen by teaching different aspects of aviation which includes flying, building, designing and maintaining aircraft to the youth.

Dr. Claude R. Platte received several honors for his service. He received the Good Conduct Medal and Service in The European War Medal while in the military. On February 23, 2006 he received an Honorary Doctorate in Public Service from Tuskegee University. On March 29, 2007 he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by the President of the United States for his service to the country as an Original Tuskegee Airmen.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in honor and remembrance of Dr. Claude Robert Platte whose kind spirit and dedicated service touched many lives. He is survived by his wife Erma Bonner Platte; stepson Alfred M. Williams; Marie Platte Godsey; cousins, Edwina Higgins and Lois Platte, Nathaniel George Hagler, Dr. Nathaniel G. and Royace Hagler, Jr. and the Rev. Gaylan Hagler; nieces Alyssa Godsey, Ginger Platte, Attral and Arwa Platte, Jr., Gary Platte; sister in law Johanna McCully Bonner; and a host of great nieces, great nephews, other relatives and friends. I offer my condolences and deepest sympathy to his wife and family. May he rest in peace.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RATTLE WITH US TEA PARTY

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Rattle with Us Tea Party of Plymouth, Michigan who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

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Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding two missed votes on October 12, 2013. Had I been present for rollcall 545, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding certain provisions of the Senate amendment to H.R. 2642 relating to the Secretary of Agriculture's administration of tariff-rate quotas for raw and refined sugar offered by Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for rollcall 546, on the motion to instruct conferees offered by Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota to H.R. 2609, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act, I would have voted "nay."

IN SUPPORT OF THE LAKES AREA TEA PARTY

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Lakes Area Tea Party of Commerce, Michigan who like so many grassroot organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

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Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN PIECEMEAL BILLS TO FUND THE GOVERNMENT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I continue to oppose the Republican piecemeal bills to fund the government. While I support funding the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service (IHS), the bill provides less than 50% of the funding that Tribes receive from the Federal Government. Native American tribes and families will not have services restored for the USDA's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, HUD's Native American Housing Block Grant, law enforcement programs under the Violence Against Women Act, and other critical education and environmental programs across the government that this legislation does not fund. I continue to stand ready to vote for a clean continuing resolution to end the Republican Shutdown and fund the entire Federal Government.

IN SUPPORT OF THE INDEPENDENCE TEA PARTY OF WATERFORD, MICHIGAN

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Independence Tea Party of Waterford, Michigan who like so many grassroot organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall 546 on the Peterson Motion to Instruct on H.R. 2642, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013, my vote was incorrectly recorded as "aye." I intended to vote "nay."

IN SUPPORT OF THE "SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE REPUBLICANS" OF MICHIGAN

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "Schoolcraft College Republicans" of Michigan, who like so many organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMPLETION OF THE GERALD E. NAFTLAY MUNICIPAL COMPLEX IN OAK PARK, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the leaders and residents of Oak Park, Michigan as they celebrate the completion of their city's new City Hall and the renovation of its community campus.

With its village charter approved in 1927, Oak Park was created from a 5.5 square mile part of southwestern Royal Oak Township in Oakland County as a community determined to make a bright future for its residents. From early in its existence, residents of Oak Park were bound by a strong pride for their community and gave freely of their time and energy to ensure its success. While the residents of Oak Park struggled with many of the same challenges that affected our entire nation during the Great Depression, they rose to overcome those obstacles and incorporated as a city in 1945. After its incorporation, Oak Park quickly grew during the post World War II boom—becoming a home to America's growing middle class and small businesses.

The City of Oak Park is a community that embodies the incredible diversity of the Southeast Michigan region and has a rich history that had added so much to the Greater Detroit area. Many middle class families moved to Oak Park in the booming 1950s and opened up businesses, and many, like Koepplinger's Bakery, grew to develop regional notoriety. Over the decades, Oak Park has held true to the dreams of its founders—a tight-knit community where families would raise their children, entrepreneurs can start their own businesses and a place that its residents are proud to call their home.

As a city that has focused on providing its residents with a high quality-of-life, the completion of the Gerald E. Naftaly Municipal Complex will ensure that Oak Park is able to continue providing top-quality service to its residents. Named after former Mayor Jerry Naftaly, who served in office for twenty years and was elected as a City Councilman for fourteen years prior to his tenure as mayor, the renovated community campus will provide residents with expanded public safety services, expanded library access and a modernized community center. The expansion, in addition to the new City Hall facilities, also includes upgrades to Oak Park's Rothstein and Victoria parks. The completion of this project is an impressive milestone in the city's history, one that fully leveraged resources of our federal, state, county and local governments to finish the project approximately $300,000 under budget.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mayor Marian McClellan, City Manager Erik Tungate, the City Council and the residents of Oak Park on the completion of this expanded community campus that will offer them improved service and further enhance their quality-of-life. I have no doubt they must be proud of this achievement and I wish them success as they continue to strengthen their city for future generations.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ''RETAKE OUR GOV.'' GROUP

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ''Retake Our Gov'' Group of Livingston County, Michigan, who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

IN SUPPORT OF THE ''TEA PARTY OF WEST OAKLAND COUNTY''

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ''Tea Party of West Oakland County'' in Oakland County, Michigan, who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

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IN SUPPORT OF THE ''SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN 9.12 TEA PARTY''

HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 14, 2013

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the ''Southeast Michigan 9.12

Tea Party of Oakland/Macomb Counties, Michigan, who like so many grass-root organizations throughout our country have diligently educated our citizens on various public issues facing us today. Exercising their Constitutional right to peacefully assemble and in many cases petition their government for a redress of grievances in support of the restoration of liberty, not in restricting it; shrinking our bloated government, not expanding it; who want to reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish costly government programs, not create them; expose the abuses and oppressions of tyrannical dictates; and promote the freedom and independence of our citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Mr. Speaker, these truly American patriots of every cultural, religious and ethnic background have found a common cause in fighting back today's proliferating big government rules and regulations imposed by costly bloated government bureaucracies who are accountable to no one at the expense of individual rights.

They are God-fearing, freedom-loving Americans who desire nothing more than to rein in big government's tendency toward excessive coercion and the insidious spread of government overreach. They question when the validity of laws and morality contradict each other. They desire nothing more than the extension of individual freedom in a Democracy that attaches all possible value to citizens rather than making each citizen a mere agent, a mere number; a Democracy that seeks equality in Liberty rather than in restraint and servitude.

Mr. Speaker, there is a great political awakening taking place in our country today, the roots of which are solid stock and American made; they are visionary individuals who understand the moral foundations of a Constitutional Republic, the benefits of free markets, and individual liberty. May they continue to strive valiantly and dare greatly.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few short minutes to give this testimony in support of a truly American grass-roots organization.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2013 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's record.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 17

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

OCTOBER 23

2:15 p.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine the future of long-term care policy.
SD–562

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7455–S7473

Measures Considered:

Default Prevention Act: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1569, to ensure the complete and timely payment of the obligations of the United States Government until December 31, 2014. **Pages S7455–71**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations: Andrea R. Wood, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Pages S7471–73**

By a unanimous vote of 90 yeas (Vote No. EX. 217), Madeline Hughes Haikala, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama. **Pages S7471–73**

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—217) **Page S7473**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:11 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7473.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: H. Res. 382 was introduced. **Page H6594**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H6594**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Holding to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6571**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:19 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H6573**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H6574**

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and Indian Health Service Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2014: The House passed H.J. Res. 80, making continuing appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Service for fiscal year 2014, by a recorded vote of 233 ayes to 160 noes, Roll No. 548. Consideration of the measure began on Saturday, October 12th. **Pages H6574–79**

Agreed to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair on a point of order sustained against the Kirkpatrick motion to recommit the joint resolution to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 547. **Pages H6576–78**

Rejected the Grayson amendment to the title by a recorded vote of 161 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 549. **Pages H6578–79**

H. Res. 371, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolution, was agreed to on Friday, October 4th.

Recess: The House recessed at 5:18 p.m. and reconvened at 6:20 p.m. **Page H6576**

United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2013: The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass H.R. 3190, to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission. **Pages H6579–80**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H6574.

Senate Referral: S. 812 was held at the desk. **Page H6574**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6577–78, H6578, and H6579. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine small businesses, focusing on the government shutdown, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 15 through October 18, 2013

Senate Chamber

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: October 15, to hold hearings to examine small businesses, focusing on the government shutdown, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 15, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

October 17, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, October 16, Full Committee and Committee on Natural Resources, joint hearing entitled ''As Difficult As Possible: The National Park Service's Implementation of the Government Shutdown'', 9:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senators will be permitted to speak for up to ten minutes each.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 15

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bentivolio, Kerry L., Mich., E1505, E1505, E1506, E1506, E1507, E1507, E1507, E1508, E1508, E1508
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