

getting dinner at a congressional reception to cut costs, but my colleague does. The only inconvenience for him is that his office doesn't have a kitchen, so he stocks his office annex with a crock pot, an electric griddle, a microwave, a toaster, and a refrigerator. He told CBS News:

You can put some frozen chicken in with some bouillon, some vegetables. Let it simmer all day, and you are ready to rock and roll.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy is not ready to rock and roll as long as Congress refuses to pay the government's bills. American small businesses are not ready to rock and roll when the markets worry that we will default and not pay the bills that we have already incurred. The American people are not ready to rock and roll when they don't know when the government will reopen to provide them with the services that they have already paid for but are not receiving.

The House of Representatives is not a campsite. It is embarrassing that Americans have been kicked out of Yosemite and national parks across the country; yet Members sleep in their offices that taxpayers foot the bill for.

As bad as this government shutdown is, however, the debate over the debt ceiling is taking this dysfunction nuclear. A default would bring on an economic catastrophe that would cost Americans who have been prudent with their money, paying their debts and investing in their 401(k)s, billions of dollars in lost value in their investments, in their homes, in their jobs, and in increased lending rates.

Every American in this country knows that every Member of the House of Representatives makes four times the amount of money than they do. We are paid to come up with solutions for the American people, not to sabotage their 401(k)s.

This is what Warren Buffett said last week about trying to use the debt ceiling as a political ploy:

It should be like nuclear bombs, basically too horrible to use.

In military terms, it is known as MAD, mutually assured destruction. Some on the other side of the aisle seem intent on pushing the button and sending our economy into a nuclear winter. Debt ceiling deniers have now emerged, espousing the belief that the debt ceiling is a figment of our imagination, that it is a part of a liberal agenda to get them to the negotiating table: We are not going to default, there is no default. Or: We shouldn't accept this as the date beyond which we can't go without what they call default. We can go a long time. We can go indefinitely without hitting default, says another.

Mr. Speaker, a reckless faction of your party is not only holding your caucus hostage; it is holding the American people and the global economy hostage. Calling the dealings with this faction as "negotiating" is absurd. The reality is there is no negotiating with

this reckless faction, which seems bent on the destruction of the American economy and the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these Members who are sleeping in their offices should be thinking of all of the Americans who will be sleeping in the streets if this reckless Republican faction gets its way.

THE EXTEND NOT CUT SNAP BENEFITS ACT OF 2013

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to rise and address my colleagues.

On November 1, households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, popularly referred to as SNAP, will see their monthly benefits sharply reduced. The temporary benefit boost provided for in the 2009 American Reinvestment and Recovery Act is scheduled to expire next month, leaving many Americans unsure of how they will put food on the table. The November 1 cut will exacerbate the problem of hunger in our Nation and make it much harder for millions of Americans—fathers, mothers, children, veterans, and Active Duty military even—to provide for their loved ones.

The benefit increase passed in the depths of the Great Recession has provided Americans, both directly and indirectly, with substantial benefits. Low-income families who face unemployment and underemployment are provided a critical way to bridge the financial barriers they face. Americans who are employed in adequate-paying jobs are able to remain so because of the boost to the economy; \$9 is added to the GDP for every \$5 in SNAP benefits that the program provides. These cuts will come at a moment when Americans are ill prepared to afford them. The loss of SNAP will not just mean empty tables for Thanksgiving for millions. It will mean, as well, a weaker economy, now even as the effects of our prolonged shutdown and debt ceiling brinkmanship are beginning to erode economic progress. This cut in benefits will simply push the American economy into a vicious cycle which we simply cannot afford at this time.

So I am urging my colleagues to avoid exacerbating the effects of this government shutdown and the potential default of government debts, and I am calling on them to support my bill, H.R. 3108, the Extend Not Cut SNAP Benefits Act, which provides for a 1-year extension of the 13 percent benefits increase contained in the ARRA through the 2014 fiscal year.

I am proud to proclaim 43 cosponsors so far.

In 2011, SNAP lifted 4.7 million Americans above the poverty line, including 2.1 million children. Without an exten-

sion of the 2009 Recovery Act's temporary boost to SNAP, our economy will be the worse, and our children will face a hunger they do not deserve to confront alone. So I urge my colleagues to continue the support of H.R. 3108 and ensure that Americans are not cut off at the worst possible time.

Rep. Bordallo, Madeleine Z. [GU]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Brown, Corrine [FL-5]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [MA-7]—9/27/2013
 Rep. Cicilline, David N. [RI-1]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [NY-9]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [MO-1]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Cohen, Steve [TN-9]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [VA-11]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Davis, Danny K. [IL-7]—10/3/2013
 Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [PA-14]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Ellison, Keith [MN-5]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [OH-11]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Green, Al [TX-9]—10/8/2013
 Rep. Green, Gene [TX-29]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [AZ-3]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Honda, Michael M. [CA-17]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Huffman, Jared [CA-2]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [TX-18]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [TX-30]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Langevin, James R. [RI-2]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Lee, Barbara [CA-13]—9/17/2013
 Rep. Lewis, John [GA-5]—9/18/2013
 Rep. McGovern, James P. [MA-2]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Moore, Gwen [WI-4]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [NY-1]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Pingree, Chellie [ME-1]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Pocan, Mark [WI-2]—10/8/2013
 Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [NY-13]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9]—9/27/2013
 Rep. Serrano, José E. [NY-15]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [NH-1]—10/3/2013
 Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [NY-25]—9/27/2013
 Rep. Smith, Adam [WA-9]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Takano, Mark [CA-41]—10/8/2013
 Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [MS-2]—10/8/2013
 Rep. Titus, Dina [NV-1]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Vargas, Juan [CA-51]—9/18/2013
 Rep. Vela, Filemon [TX-34]—10/10/2013
 Rep. Waters, Maxine [CA-43]—9/20/2013
 Rep. Welch, Peter [VT]—10/4/2013
 Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [FL-24]—10/8/2013

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Kurt Gerhard, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign Lord, who binds all people of every nation together as one people, in this era of our country when we are defined by our differences and these

differences cause a great chasm, filled with distrust, to exist between Members of this House and between the branches of this Republic, provide the wisdom to approach this session of the 113th United States Congress with a hermeneutic of generosity toward the motives of those with a differing philosophy of government.

Open the hearts of the men and women elected to represent the American people so that fruitful conversations and compromises will allow this august body to serve the common good.

Help us be mindful of our unity, and bless this country and all nations and people now and forever. This we ask in Your Holy Name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AMERICA DESERVES A DELAY IN OBAMACARE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America is at a crossroads. We have a decision to make. Do we continue down

the path of more government, more spending, more taxes, and more borrowing; or do we stand up and fight for the ideals promoted by those who founded our Nation and drafted our Constitution?

Make no mistake about it, the current government shutdown and the looming debt crisis is the result of this administration and this Senate's refusal to respect and honor the will of the American people. We must stand up for our principles that lead to prosperity for all Americans. Less government, less spending, and the simple idea that delaying ObamaCare for 1 year is fair for all Americans and is worth fighting for.

I urge our House leadership and my colleagues to stand strong and to have what many of my Senate colleagues do not: the courage to oppose any deal that does not defund and delay ObamaCare for all Americans now.

DEFAULT WOULD HAVE PROFOUND IMPACT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, if Congress does not meet its responsibilities, tomorrow the United States Treasury will have \$31 billion in revenues and \$52 billion in obligations. At that point, the United States would default, with a profound impact on the global markets, which are structured on the premise that U.S. Treasury bonds are the safest asset in the world. The stock market will tank, and interest rates will spike.

Earlier this year, House Republicans passed a budget that spent \$800 billion more than it took in. The logical consequence of that is to raise the debt ceiling. For the other side to use America's national credit as leverage is shameful, as shameful as Members protesting the closure of the World War II Memorial when they are the ones who voted to close it.

Austerity and uncertainty kill economic growth. There is not an example in human history where an economy has grown itself out of a recession through austerity. Moving from crisis to crisis, as Congress has done in the last 3 years, has cost the American economy 900,000 jobs.

Enough. Reject austerity. End uncertainty and open the government, and pass a debt limit bill.

OBAMACARE NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME

(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, last night I hosted a teletown hall with constituents across South Carolina's Second Congressional District. Apart from the vast majority

calling for the President and Democrats in the Senate to negotiate with House Republicans to end the shutdown, an overwhelming number of constituents expressed concern about the administration's disastrous ObamaCare roll-out.

During its first week, 9.47 million Americans visited the government Web site, but only 36,000 were able to complete the enrollment due to glitches. Former White House press secretary Robert Gibbs has stated this is "excruciatingly embarrassing for the White House," and he hopes "they fire some people that were in charge of making sure this thing was supposed to work."

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has failed, spending hundreds of millions of dollars. House Republicans have warned that the unaffordable, unsustainable health care law is not ready. The President, himself, has admitted this by delaying key components. Congress must continue to work to replace it with a plan to preserve the doctor-patient relationship.

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

NO MORE DAMAGING TACTICS

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has put this country through a spectacle these past few months; and it was a spectacle that was based on the proposition that it was legitimate to actually have a discussion about whether we had to pay our bills.

Mercifully, we are on the threshold of a bipartisan agreement whereby, number one, the Affordable Care Act will be the law of the land, and the debate in the future is not about its repeal; it is about improving it. It is about facing the challenges of implementation. Number two, we are repudiating as legitimate tactics to get your way, by any faction—it could be Democrats in the future—the use of tactics that do damage, threatening to default on our obligations and shutting down the government and inflicting pain on innocent people.

So this struggle has damaged the institution, but the principles that were at stake are now resolved: one, the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land; two, you cannot use the tactic of shutdown or the tactic of default as a way to get your way on your agenda.

EXCESSIVE GOVERNMENT SPENDING

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we have a problem in the United States of America; that is, we spend too much. Nobody on my