

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of deciding the defense authorization legislation that will determine how much we spend for our security. Yet, this bill, what we are talking about, includes tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of dollars for Pakistan.

Pakistan is a country that represses its own people, the Baloch people. We give Pakistan military assistance to fight radical Islam, and they use that money to kill the people of Balochistan and their own Sindhis population. They use that money to destabilize Afghanistan.

We all remember, of course, that this is the same country, Pakistan, that provided safe haven for Osama bin Laden for years, and now, when bin Laden was identified by Dr. Afridi, a courageous Pakistani, the Pakistan Government has him in a dungeon and we are doing nothing to help him.

Why are we acting so stupidly? The Pakistanis are even giving their resources off to Communist China, the Port of Gwadar.

Pakistan is not our friend when they act like this. We need to put our foot down and say: If you are going to act in a hostile way, Pakistan, you are not going to receive 1 red cent of American tax dollars.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 461, 114th Congress, and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following Members to the Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

Mrs. BLACKBURN, Tennessee, Chair  
Mr. PITTS, Pennsylvania  
Mrs. BLACK, Tennessee  
Mr. BUCSHON, Indiana  
Mr. DUFFY, Wisconsin  
Mr. HARRIS, Maryland  
Mrs. HARTZLER, Missouri  
Mrs. LOVE, Utah

#### CRITICAL ISSUES FACING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting day and an interesting week. I was in here listening to the colloquy between Majority Leader MCCARTHY and the minority whip.

I had heard my good friend, a very intelligent, clever, witty friend from Maryland, Mr. HOYER, indicate that Republicans bring us to the brink time and time again, talking about, I guess, the debt ceiling.

Sometimes it is just good to stop from the rhetoric here and the lines

like "bringing us to the brink," and it is really good to look at what the history of the situation is.

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Until Newt Gingrich led with the Contract With America, Republicans recaptured the majority in the House and Senate, for the first time in 40 years, the Democrats kept bringing us to the brink. It didn't matter who was in the White House. The Democratic Congress kept bringing us to the brink, spending more and more money.

We thought it was a great deal of money. They kept bringing us to the brink. It seemed so irresponsible not to be interested in trying to have a more balanced budget. There would be people like Phil Gramm, with the Gramm-Rudman law, that tried to force a balancing.

In fact, I know the President will probably in weeks to come continue the mistaken rhetoric. He is such a nice guy, but he is so often mistaken or whoever puts those mistakes in his teleprompter.

But the fact is that, repeatedly, this requirement that Congress raise the debt ceiling if more debt is to be incurred has been used as a vehicle to get laws passed that tried to rein in the irresponsible spending that has been going on for many decades.

I believe it was Morgenthau, Franklin Roosevelt's Secretary of Treasury, who wrote in 1940: After 8 years, we have spent more money than anyone ever in history, and we have nothing to show for it but more debt. That was quite an admission, that the New Deal was a total failure, and it actually was.

It wasn't until World War II actually ended the Depression in America that we came out of the Great Depression. It was certainly none of the socialist policies that the United States began engaging in.

I know just since I have been here in January of 2005, in 2006, as I recall, we were having debate. Republicans were in the majority. My friends, Mr. Speaker, on the Democratic side of the room over here were repeatedly making the point about how irresponsible it was for Republicans to be spending—I think at the time it was around \$160 billion—more than we were bringing in to the Federal Treasury.

I agreed. Actually, we should have balanced the budget back in 2005 and 2006. We were only \$160 billion, at one point, away from doing that.

I think that was part of the reason the Democrats continued beating up on Republicans for overspending what was coming in, \$160 billion or so.

Little would I ever dream that, after being pummeled verbally by my Democratic friends, as a Republican spending \$160 billion more or so than we had coming in, that those same friends would do the unthinkable and increase that debt in one year more than 10 times the \$160 billion.

You would have thought that perhaps they would remember some of those

things they used to say with such vitriol right here on the House floor about how spending more than \$160 billion more than we were taking in was so irresponsible.

You would have thought they might have remembered some of those because, when you say one thing one year and then you get the majority and you are 10 times worse than what you accused the other side of—more than 10 times worse—some people feel a little sensitive.

We have to be careful because we certainly don't want to violate the House rules on what we say here. But, you know, some people feel guilty when they accuse somebody else of doing something they are 10 times more guilty of.

But, apparently, that guilt didn't exist. If it did, it was short lived and didn't prevent even my friend from Maryland from coming to the floor today and again launching the inappropriate statement that it is Republicans that keep bringing us to the brink.

I realize that it was our own Speaker that went on the Jay Leno show and said that Republicans shut down the government, but, you know, sometimes he is engaged in activity that keeps him from realizing exactly what is going on.

But if you go back and look at the actual RECORD, September 29, September 30 of 2013, the record is very clear. There was one party in Congress that was trying to be responsible, that was trying to rein in spending, that was trying not to shut the government down, was compromising against ourselves repeatedly, and it was the Republican Party.

We didn't get a lot of help across the aisle. In fact, what we had from the other end of the hall here, from Majority Leader REID, was an all-out effort to shut down the government. And that is a fact as to who shut down the government. If anyone bothers to go look, yes, you will see we had a spending bill that gave HARRY REID everything he and the President wanted plus some.

It was hard for a guy like me to vote for that. But, yes, in the initial bill, we defunded ObamaCare. Why wouldn't we? We know. We hear from constituents how bad that is, how they have lost their insurance, lost their doctor, they can't get the medicine they did before. Instead of paying \$105 now they are paying \$100 for prescriptions. We are hearing all those things. So why wouldn't we vote to do what we believe is best for our constituents? We did.

We voted to fund everything they wanted plus some, but defund ObamaCare. Yes, that is what we passed first. HARRY REID would not bring it to the floor for a vote. So we compromised against ourselves because there was no negotiating.

I believe—and, Mr. Speaker, this is just my thought—it sure seemed there was plenty of evidence to show that HARRY REID believed the conventional wisdom here in Washington, that if