

minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to give a 1-minute at this point in time, but the previous speaker is brandnew to the House, and very frankly, he is incorrect, totally, absolutely incorrect. I hope his advice as a physician was far better for his patients than his advice just now in his 1-minute.

The extension of the debt limit has to do with policies that were signed by Ronald Reagan and George Bush, as well as previously adopted policies of this Congress. Not prospective. Not prospective.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman does not want to pay Social Security on March 1, I understand that. He can get up and say that. If he does not want to pay veterans' benefits that are committed and expected, I understand that, and he can get up and say that. But to imply for 1 second that extending the debt limit so that America can pay its bills that is has already incurred is somehow like giving a person that has a gambling disorder additional money is totally, absolutely inaccurate and unfortunate.

REVIEW OF PAST DEBT EXTENSIONS

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

Mr. CHRYSLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH], my neighbor and good friend.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I think it would be good for all of us to review exactly where we have been in debt extensions: Since 1980, H.R. 7428, a debt extension with increases in the import fee. In 1985, H.R. 3721, a debt ceiling increase with an increase in the cigarette tax and expanded benefits for unemployed.

In House Resolution 372, debt extension with a Gramm-Rudman attached. In 1986, debt extension with budget reconciliation, with a large increase in social spending.

In 1987, a long-term debt limit extension with liberal modifications to Gramm-Rudman. It goes on and on. We have tied everything in the past to debt ceilings that we wanted to get a President that did not pay attention. This is going to continue.

APPEAL FOR A CLEAN DEBT LIMIT EXTENSION

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, the previous speaker has been here only 3 years, the same as I, but in the last several months he voted three times to extend the debt limit.

In his budget reconciliation bill, in these budget bills, in these horrendous

bills that the other side put forward to give \$245 billion in tax breaks to the wealthiest and cut Medicare and Medicaid, Mr. Speaker, if we look in those bills, three times my Republican colleagues have already voted to extend the debt limit. So what is the problem? Give us a cleaner CR. Let us increase the debt limit.

The other speakers would say we are spending money prospectively. Brimley School District in the Upper Peninsula is waiting for its \$600,000 impact aid payment it cannot have because the other side will not pass a full, clean CR. They will not pass a debt limit extension. They will just sit on their hands as this school district has to go out and borrow money to stay afloat; while they stand here and say, "We never did this." But my Republican colleagues have done it three times already this year.

Mr. Speaker, let us be honest with the American people. Let us get a clean bill up here. Let us get a clean CR and let us raise the debt limit, as they have already voted to do three times.

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT SANCTIONS AGAINST CASTRO

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today because a most distinguished colleague of ours took the floor earlier this morning and said that he had a meeting with dissidents in Havana, Cuba, last week, and he mentioned a couple of names of dissidents who were opposed to our sanctions against Castro.

Mr. Speaker, it is not fair to mention those names and not mention that in that same meeting, in that same meeting, the most prestigious members of the internal opposition of Cuba came out in favor of sanctions and in favor of our Helms-Burton bill. I think that is only fair to mention.

It is also fair, and I have got the names. I only have 1 minute, so I will submit them into the RECORD. I have the names of those people who got up and told our colleague that they supported sanctions. Also, another most prestigious member, Osvaldo Paya Sardinas, when an aide of our colleague wanted a show of hands, said, "That's an internal intervention into our affairs and if the Congressmen of the United States want to support Cuba, they should support the internal opposition, support democracy, and start getting on the issue or putting pressure on Castro," like we have done on other dictatorships in the past, such as South Africa or Chile.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to set this record straight.

RUSSIAN ROULETTE POLITICS CAN BRING NATION DOWN

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, let us recognize what is going to happen in the next few weeks if this debt limit is not extended. We are going to raise the cost, if the interest rates in this country go up just 1 percent, the average cost of a home mortgage will go up \$1,200. The cost of borrowing by the Federal Government will go up by \$150 billion; more than our entire education budget in the course of the next 7 years.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues are talking about fiddling with the fundamental economic system that this world has developed to pay its bills. What we can have here is the extremism of the Republicans. Not that they want just a balanced budget, which I want; not just a balanced budget scored by CBO, which I want; but, they want their particular version of the balanced budget or else they say they are going to send the entire debt of the United States of America into default.

Mr. Speaker, it is blackmail. It is the kind of Russian roulette politics that brings a nation down, and does not make it greater. We have a Constitution in this country that divides power between the President and the Congress, the House and the Senate. Let that policy of compromise move forward. Do not let one particular group of freshmen Republicans put their extremist views on the people of this country.

MEMBERS' PIQUE OVER TRAVEL OFFICE FIRINGS DOES NOT INCLUDE PRE-CHRISTMAS FIRINGS OF HOUSE EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday about two dozen Republican Members of the House Government Operations Committee told the former members of the travel office how mortified they were, how terrible they felt that they had lost their jobs. Of course, all of them but Mr. Dale have gotten other jobs. Mr. Dale has some serious management problems and some indictable offenses that he is dealing with. But none of these Members raised a pique when 11 people who worked for the Clerk's office were fired before Christmas. One guy had four little children. They do not care what happened to him.

Mr. Speaker, they were given no justification; just fired so that the House management would not have to pay for the comp time those people had earned by working late hours. That is why. Because we voted to apply private sector laws to the Congress. Because we did,

they did not want it to apply to them and so they fired them before Christmas.

But, Mr. Speaker, not one peep in their defense. Not one peep. What hypocrisy.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FULFILLING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think that once again it is important to explain to the American people really what is going on in this body. The American people have sent us to work. There are millions and millions of citizens every day going to work. They hold in this body a great deal of trust. The responsibility of funding and financing this Nation, of ensuring defense, of presiding over the commerce and making sure that the economy is both healthy and provides opportunity for jobs belongs to this Congress. Yet now we find on January 25 we do not have a budget, primarily because the Republican majority never completed the task of providing the right appropriations bill in early fall of 1995.

We find now that we are discussing not lifting the debt ceiling limit and frivolously bringing this Nation to the brink of economic destruction. We have six former Secretaries of the Treasury who have indicated that, if we do not lift this debt ceiling and default on the full faith and credit of these United States, we will send this Nation into a tailspin that will be comparable to the Depression of the 1930's. Yet, we find that being still raised as a possibility by the leadership of the Republican majority.

My plea is not personally. It is not a personal plea. I will be here to work,

for it is the duty I owe to my constituents and my responsibility is to be here in the U.S. Congress to ensure that we have a budget. My plea is for those Social Security recipients on March 1 who will not get their checks. My plea is for the veterans who will not get their checks on March 1. And my plea, again, is for the Bosnian troops who will not get their checks on March 1.

It is for the working man and woman, who have a variety of credit cards. They might not want all those credit cards, but on each one is an interest amount. That will go up if we do not raise the debt ceiling by a certain period of time. So will the consumer loans, so will the education loans, all of that, the interest will be outrageous.

I do not believe that there has been a great deal of compromise to date. Much of the media reported the fact that the President spent most of the holiday in one-on-one meetings with the Republican majority leadership of the House to discuss saving Medicare, to discuss saving Medicaid, to discuss saving education opportunities for our young people and protecting the environment and to discuss balancing the budget.

Many great leaders have fallen over the last couple of weeks, and most of them were the kind of leaders who said government is not a win/win situation; government is the art of compromise and the ability to work together. Government should not allow diverse interests, singular interests to take over, but it should work toward common ground, focus, funnel your energies toward what is best for all of America.

I stand before this House because I am saddened as a freshman to believe that we have forgotten the Founding Fathers' wisdom, for we would imagine that they did not have the strength of mind to understand that this Nation would be some 200 million citizens plus when only at that time there were some 4 million in a few colonies.

They had a vision by establishing a presidency, the judiciary and these bodies of Congress, both House and Senate. They gave us our special responsibilities, the House being in control of the purse strings, getting through the budget and ensuring that this Nation stood strong with a solid economy.

Yet, I believe that the Republican leadership has forgotten the words and wisdom of our Founding Fathers, and that was that these bodies of government should work together, that we should not overtake each other but, in fact, in our own wisdom and responsibilities, we should each play our role. The President having responsibility for all of this country, and we, as a collective body, representing our constituents, coming together for the best common good.

This has not happened. So my challenge is that we must pass a clean resolution that lifts the debt ceiling to ensure that veterans are paid, to ensure that Social Security payments are made, that the troops who are laying

their life on the line in Bosnia are paid and their families back home are protected and that we never, never, never again shut this Government down. We owe this not only to our working Americans but to all America, because it is a tragedy that we have forgotten the words of our Founding Fathers that we are to work for the common good and together. We must do that.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. There are not many on the floor again. We are not doing anything. Day before yesterday we did a few minor bills. Yesterday we did one conference report that everybody basically agreed with, very few Members disagreed with.

What have we done so far today? Nothing. What are we going to do today? I do not know.

Talk about lunacy. A mental institution, that is what this is. I never saw any place that operates like this. There is one Member, we are supposed to take up a continuing resolution today to continue the operations of the Federal Government that are not funded because the Republicans have not passed the appropriation bills. They have been working behind closed doors, some of them, maybe 5 or 10 of them at the most, not one Democrat, not one member of the public, not one member of the media been working on that bill. Nobody knows what is in it.

I have been told that there is one Democrat, one that just recently got a copy of what he thinks might be the latest version, which has gone through many changes on what they are proposing to do this afternoon to keep the Federal Government open.

It is very easy. All they have to do is come up here with a resolution that is clean and says that the Government shall be funded, those that are not shall be funded continuously for another 30 days, 60 days, up to September 30, anything they want to do. That is all they have to do. And it will pass here overwhelmingly. It will pass the Senate and the President will sign it and we can get out of here. But, no, not the way they are going to do it. It is lunacy.

What they are going to do is come up here with something nobody has seen. I doubt if one Member that is sitting here from the other party can tell me what is in that resolution. The gentleman from Michigan, can you tell me? No. The other gentleman from Michigan? No. None of them can. They cannot tell us. They do not know what is in it. I will yield to them. I want them to tell me what is in that continuing resolution.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VOLKMER. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.