

to yield any more time, but I do agree at least in that respect.

Mr. Speaker, what I want to talk about this morning for the probably 3 minutes that I have remaining is football, good, old National Football League football.

I think it is particularly appropriate, since the Superbowl was just on Sunday, to remind my colleagues that it was in 1961 that Mr. Pete Rozelle came to the U.S. Congress and he asked this Congress to give a specific benefit not only to the NFL but also to the NBA, to the NHL, and to major league baseball, with an exemption from antitrust laws that would allow them to bundle all of their broadcasting rights and take them from each city and put them in one package and sell them.

This resulted in a bill called the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961. It was passed in the House, it was passed in the Senate, it was signed into law by the President. I can assure you this was not something instigated by the House and Senate, I can assure you it was instigated by the NFL and other pro leagues.

What did they ask for? What was it they were asking for? What would they get in return? They said if they got this, it would allow them to be financially stable. What they would do in return is they would protect communities and they would protect fans.

I would ask the question, Mr. Speaker, do you think that fans and communities have, in fact, been protected over the past 35 years by the NFL, or in fact, have they taken this market power that came as the result of the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961 and have they used it as a bludgeon to exploit, extort, and legally blackmail cities to compete against each other in order to not lose their franchise?

The 1961 act, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was followed by the 1966 act, and the 1966 act is the act of Congress that specifically, and Mr. Speaker, I see I am out of time, but I want to take more time later to explain the problem we have here to my colleagues, and then to ask for their support for the Fan Freedom and Community Protection Act that now has 40 cosponsors in the House, and to support that.

SUBSTITUTION OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to substitute my name for that of the next Democrat who is up.

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

There was no objection.

URGING REPUBLICAN MEMBERS TO SIGN DISCHARGE PETITION TO AVOID GOVERNMENTAL DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, before my colleague, the gentleman from Cleveland, OH [Mr. HOKE] leaves, I appreciate his comments about governmental default. I would just offer the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] the opportunity to come down here in the well and join over 150 Members.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOGGETT. No, I will not yield. Mr. Speaker, we do not need any more of this crybaby nonsense around here. The question that I was asking the gentleman from Ohio is, that in the event that he feels, and I do commend him for his comments on default, he feels as strongly about it as he said, then I would ask him to come down and join the over 150 Members of this House who have already signed on a discharge petition so that today, if we could get a few more signatures, we could vote to avoid this problem of default and go ahead and resolve the debt limit right now.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman wishes to respond to that, I would be glad to yield to him briefly to do that.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman, no, I will not join. I will tell him why I will not. Because that particular piece of legislation gives another \$500 billion of additional extension on the debt ceiling, a half a trillion dollars. I think that is absolutely dead wrong. It is the kind of license that he and the other lovers of big government in this Congress on the other side that are now in the minority want. I refuse it. I reject it.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, that is interesting to hear, since it was a limit that was already in the Republican reconciliation bill. You have already voted to do that two or three times here. But now you feel a need to have a crowbar to hijack the Government, to pressure the President, to threaten the future of this country by waiting until a few days before we enter the first default in the 200-plus-year history of this country. It is that kind of political shenanigans that the people of this country are rejecting.

Mr. Speaker, I heard on the way over here this morning that there was another low in the temperature in Embarrassment, MN. They had gotten down to minus 40 or minus 50. That may be a low in terms of the temperature, but you know, I have not seen a low like we have here in this House this morning.

Just look around. You will not find many Members on the floor. Why is that? Because after a 5- or 6-day weekend that we just celebrated, the Republican leadership does not have one piece of legislation on this floor for the Congress to act on today. They think work is not only a four-letter word, but a dirty four-letter word. What is this

Congress doing, if here, even before the lunch hour, we cannot get about working and dealing with the critical problems that this country faces?

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, all the news from the north end of this country is not cold news, because I see a report here from the State of Oregon. Our distinguished colleague here in the House, the gentleman from Oregon, Congressman RON WYDEN, is now Senator RON WYDEN, because the people of Oregon had an opportunity to consider this proposal to let Medicare wither on the vine, to consider the proposal to have unilateral disarmament on our environment, to consider the mistaken priorities of this House Republican leadership, and they voted "no," and in favor of sending a Democrat to the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, last week the Senate came within one vote, one vote, of passing the very kind of adjustment in the debt limit to protect the full faith and credit of this country, the same type that I asked the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] to come down here and sign, along with over 150 Democrats, to not threaten the creditworthiness of our country. One vote. And now Senator RON WYDEN will be over there to cast a vote for fiscal responsibility.

I commend and congratulate him, Mr. Speaker, but I particularly commend the people of Oregon for speaking out against this extremist agenda and doing what they have the power to do, and that is hold their public officials accountable, and replace a Republican with a Democrat, and a very progressive and responsible Democrat, to do something about the tragic circumstances which this extremist agenda has placed the country in.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOGGETT. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that some Members on the Republican side of the aisle would not walk those 45 feet it would take to sign a discharge petition so we would not default on our debt, so that on March 1 we could pay Social Security recipients their checks, and veterans, and even soldiers serving in Bosnia now will not get paid if we do not do something about this debt problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the gentleman a question. If he and I were in business and we were within 30 days of our company going bankrupt, and we took a 26-day vacation and went to Hawaii and got a paid vacation and said, "We will come back 4 days before our company goes bankrupt," what do you think the stockholders of that company would do to you and me?

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I think they would throw out the management of the company. That is exactly what the people of the United States are going to do if we continue to have the kind of shenanigans that have been

going on here. It is time to protect the full faith and credit of this country.

THE DANGERS OF THREATENING DEFAULT

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very dangerous to keep threatening a default of this country. I think the Democrat Members would be well served to look at the real financial situations. No. 1, if Secretary Rubin or the President of the United States default on our debt, and that is, not pay principal, not pay interest, they both should be impeached. What we are talking about is 1½ percent of existing revenues coming into this Government to totally satisfy the interest and principal; so to play these political games, to scare the American people, to try to convince Wall Street that something disastrous is going to happen I think is a very dangerous, a very dangerous commentary, because it does have, what you say does have an effect on people in trying to understand and believe what is actually going to happen.

We talked about a director of a company or a manager or a CEO of a company being fired. If there was a manager of a company that took the actions of Secretary Rubin last June and July, developing the plans on how he is going to come up with additional cash flow to meet those needs, and at the same time proclaim to the Nation that there was going to be a disastrous danger of default, interest rates would be going up across the country.

Let us look at what Mr. Rubin just did the day before yesterday. He sent out a memo to the Veterans Administration, to Social Security, and what he said was if people call in and ask if they are going to get their payments, telling them that there is a problem, we might not have enough money to pay Social Security payments, to pay veterans' payments, to pay civil service retiree payments. What a tremendous disaster, to threaten people, to scare people, when it is absolutely untrue, uncalled for.

What this administration has done so far is they have reached into the trust funds, they have reached into the Federal financing bank, they have reached into the exchange stabilization funds, to the tune of \$20 billion for the Mexican bailout. Now they are reaching in again for another \$3.5 billion, to say that they are going to have additional money to pay this out. They are saying they do not want to go any further, because they think they can blame everything on Republicans now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the ladies and gentlemen of America to take some time to study this budget, to study the reality of the consequences. Fifty percent of the spending of the United States is now in the hands of the President. Article 1, section 8 of the Con-

stitution says that Congress has the control over spending. Congress has control over borrowing. Now the President has taken control over welfare spending. He has said, "No, we are not going to cut that spending." Somehow, if we give a hang for our kids and our grandkids, and for the future economy of this country, we are going to have to somehow have a real, honest balanced budget.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I did not have an opportunity to respond a little earlier to the gentleman, but I wanted to point out that in the Budget Reconciliation Act, in the balanced budget agreement that the President vetoed and that all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted against, and that I did vote for, that did extend the debt ceiling, there was a very good reason for it; because, in fact, in that situation what we did is we balanced the budget of the Federal Government. We actually set the glide path so we could bring back fiscal responsibility and fiscal integrity and fiscal authenticity. But that is something that my colleague, the gentleman from Texas, refused to agree to and would not agree to, and did not agree to.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I think we should mention that the President has now vetoed two debt limit increases. There is not a Member on this floor that has ever voted for a clean debt limit increase. I pause, because is it not sad that they are doing so much political rhetoric, yet all of the debt ceiling increases that have been used over the years have been used over the years to put in the Kemp-Roth, the Gramm-Rudman, the tax increases?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has made some statements.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Excuse me, I think I have the floor.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yielded to the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I have asked for someone to yield to me on the floor during debate and they have not done it. I would like to express some thoughts about some of the thoughts expressed earlier when your side controlled the floor. Unfortunately, it looks like I will not have time to do that, after being interrupted.

THE LOOMING DEFAULT CRISIS

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, it is good that we are here this morning in vigorous debate, and hearing my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan, who serves as the chair of a 130-person panel from the Republican Conference, it is interesting that he would say that we on this side of the aisle are frivolously representing to the American people that this is not a crisis.

I beg to differ with my colleague, and I respect him, Mr. Speaker, but we have strong differences by the very fact that he made a statement that said that if this was to delay tax refund payments, to not allow tax refund payments into the spring or next year, it did not matter to him. So we do have a decided difference about the reality of what is going on today.

I would simply like to draw the American people to not a frivolous discussion that my colleagues have been raising here, but one that is very serious. As I understand, it has been commented on by Wall Street representatives, commented on by individuals outside of the Beltway who truly will feel the impact.

Let me call upon some of their names, Mr. Speaker. Those who live on the margin and receive their Social Security payments, by a default of this Government, they will not receive it. It sounds like I have said this before, but it is the seriousness of this issue. Veterans will not get their money retirees, and our existing military personnel in Bosnia will not get their money. We will be seeing some \$965 million of payments to veterans that have been diminished by all of this.

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We know this, as I see my colleague from New York had the opportunity to chair a Democratic Committee on Banking and Financial Services hearing yesterday. He called upon the Republican chair to have a hearing to get the facts on what a default would cause and what would happen.

Unfortunately, they did not join in this hearing. I think some letter came to Mr. SCHUMER that said, we will do it next week. That puts us some 10 days away from default.

Mr. SCHUMER, I would like to yield to you, if I might, just to provide us with some insight on that hearing.

Mr. SCHUMER. I think the gentleman for yielding to me.

It was a great hearing. One point that came up time and time again, and the gentleman from Michigan is misstating and misleading on this issue, it is true that clean debt ceilings have not come before us. It is also true that when there was a division, both sides agreed what should be done with the debt ceiling.

Not once, not once, I say to the gentleman from Michigan, as when Bush was President and the Democrats had Congress, or Reagan, President, and the Democrats had Congress, did one side say, unless you are doing it our way, we are not going to approve the