

not in statute but in rules, and that that was one of the first things that went out the window when we turned control over to the Democrats?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my friend for asking it because it is one of the things that resulted in a 12-year history in this Congress of no increase in taxes. And one of the reasons for that was we required in our rules a super majority to raise taxes. And you are absolutely correct. On that first day there were a lot of rules that changed that determined how the House works. One of the rules that was changed said, no, you don't need a super majority; all you need is a simple majority, which, as you know and as the American people know, means that the majority party can do anything they want in terms of taxes, which was how they were able to pass a budget that includes the largest tax increase in the history of our Nation, nearly \$400 billion in the future.

So I appreciate my good friend's comments and would yield to him if he has another question or comment.

Mr. LAMBORN. Yes. And then I will turn it back over to you.

But you remember the year 2001 in the Georgia legislature. I remember that very well in Colorado. When 9/11 happened, the tragedy involved with that, and then on top of that the subsequent horrendous economic problems that our country had, and each State suffered losses of revenues. We had to look at cutting programs or doing with less. But at the same time, the American public and families had to do with less also.

□ 2045

But then when times were better, we had more, and we can spend more, if necessary.

So I just think that it's unfortunate that we don't have such a balanced budget amendment. But it's good that we had rules, at least up until January, where we took a supermajority before we had a tax increase, and even now we have an opportunity, if we will all only seize upon it, to say, okay, we'll stick with the President's numbers. I think we can do even better than that in terms of saving money for the taxpayers. But let's say we stick with the President's numbers, that would still be a \$23 billion savings over what our friends across the aisle are proposing in these various appropriations bills. And that we would, by going to the President's numbers, we would still be over the rate of inflation in most of the different agencies.

So, I just think it's a tragedy that we're not seizing upon this opportunity. I just expected better when I got sworn into Congress because I had heard talk during the campaign that if the majority party would take power, that they would be more fiscally responsible in different ways. And unfortunately, I haven't seen that fully carried out, and I've been very disappointed.

At this point, I'm going to yield back to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank my friend from Colorado for coming down this evening and sharing his comments and his perspective. It's similar to mine. And the disappointment is shared as well because the American people did expect more. And I think that the numbers that we've seen, Mr. Speaker, and the polls that are out now that demonstrate the impression of the American people of Congress is at its lowest point in decades, that that's reflective of the disappointment that they have in this new majority. So I appreciate your comments.

I do just want to end, Mr. Speaker, by highlighting once again what we believe the solutions are. And there are solutions, and they're positive solutions. And they are solutions that we can embrace together, Republicans and Democrats, who truly desire to be fiscally responsible. And they are incorporated in the Taxpayer Bill of Rights at the Federal level. Again, it means that the Federal Government ought not grow faster than the rate of inflation and the increase in population; that every single dollar that goes into the Social Security trust fund ought to be spent on Social Security; that that money ought to be preserved for individuals who send that money to the Federal Government; that a balanced budget occurs without raising taxes. It's very doable. We have demonstrated it time and time again, that you increase revenue to the Federal Government when you decrease taxes. So, a balanced budget amendment without raising taxes.

And fundamental and fair tax reform. Our tax system is woefully flawed, and it is a system that is crying out for reform, crying out for repair. It's unfair for people all across the spectrum, and demands, indeed demands, fundamental reform.

And finally, a supermajority required for any tax increase, as my friend from Colorado highlighted. We had no tax increase over the 12 years when my party was in charge. And one of the reasons for that was that it required a supermajority to pass a tax increase. And that just makes common sense. If you are going to take more of the hard-earned American taxpayer money, then you ought to do it with significant majorities. Thomas Jefferson, I believe, said that "You ought not make major changes with minor majorities." It's something that I think this majority ought to adhere to.

Mr. Speaker, let me just close by saying that we live in a wonderful and glorious Nation, a Nation that allows us to be elected and to come and represent the finest people on the face of the Earth. I challenge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to endeavor to do that in a way that's responsible, that respects the hard work that they do day in and day out, that respects the importance in the correlation between liberty and freedom, and allow-

ing the American people to keep more of their money. When they're able to keep more money, they're more free, they have greater independence and greater liberty. And by so doing, we adhere to fundamental principles that are uniquely American.

I yield back the balance of my time.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2764, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mrs. LOWEY (during Special Order of Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 2764 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 498, notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate;

An amendment by Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida or Mr. SIREs regarding funding for Cuba Democracy assistance programs, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. WOLF regarding funding for certain assistance programs for Iraq, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. SHAYS regarding funding for Iraq Study Group;

An amendment by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey regarding funding for anti-terrorism programs;

An amendment by Mr. MCCAUL of Texas regarding funding for international narcotics control and law enforcement programs;

An amendment by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey regarding certain reporting requirements related to U.N. employees participating in U.N. peacekeeping missions;

An amendment by Mr. MACK regarding funding for broadcasting to Venezuela;

An amendment by Mr. SHADEGG to strike language designating funds for renewable energy;

An amendment by Mr. SHERMAN regarding funding for the International Development Association;

An amendment by Mr. PAYNE regarding funding for tuberculosis through Child Survival and Health;

An amendment by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas regarding funding for Liberia;

An amendment by Mr. BLUMENAUER regarding funding for Pakistan;

An amendment by Mr. CULBERSON regarding funding for rural water and sanitation projects in East Africa;

An amendment by Mr. SHAYS regarding funding for community assistance programs in Iraq;

An amendment by Mr. FORBES regarding ESF funding for Ethiopia;

An amendment by Mr. KNOLLENBERG regarding funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation;

An amendment by Mr. PITTS regarding funding for HIV/AIDS abstinence prevention programs, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. PRICE of Georgia regarding funding for Israel;

An amendment by Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN regarding funding for the U.N. Development Program;

An amendment by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin regarding notification requirements on Liberia;

An amendment by Mr. SKELTON regarding oversight of Iraq reconstruction;

An amendment by Mr. WEINER regarding military assistance for Egypt;

An amendment by Mr. SMITH of New Jersey or Mr. STUPAK regarding the Mexico City policy on family planning assistance, which shall be debatable for 45 minutes and shall remain in order even if proposing to strike language inserted by amendment;

An amendment by Mrs. LOWEY making changes to section 622, which shall be debatable for 45 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. LAMBORN regarding a prohibition on funds for certain individuals and entities for West Bank and Gaza programs;

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa regarding basing rights in Iraq;

An amendment by Mr. BOUSTANY to strike section 699;

An amendment by Mr. FORTENBERRY regarding foreign military financing funds for Egypt for certain border security efforts;

An amendment by Mr. MCGOVERN limiting assistance for Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, which shall be debatable for 30 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. WEINER limiting funding for Saudi Arabia;

An amendment by Mr. UPTON or Ms. HARMAN regarding use of Energy Star certified light bulbs;

An amendment by Mr. TIERNEY regarding funding for Pakistan;

An amendment by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas regarding health infrastructure in Africa;

An amendment by Mr. GINGREY regarding a prohibition on funds for negotiations related to the visa waiver program;

An amendment by Mr. PENCE regarding a limitation on the use of liquidated assets from an enterprise fund to establish a new foundation or entity;

An amendment by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey limiting the use of funds for international conferences;

An amendment by Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN regarding a prohibition on the use of funds for contributions to the U.N. for the United Nations Human Rights Council;

An amendment by Mr. PRICE of Georgia regarding an across-the-board reduction in funding, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. POE regarding a prohibition on funds to issue visas to citizens of certain countries based on certain extradition policies;

An amendment by Mr. POE or Mr. TANCREDI regarding a prohibition on the use of funds in contravention of 8 U.S.C. 1253;

An amendment by Mr. FLAKE limiting the use of funds to certain non-governmental organizations other than through the competitive bidding process;

An amendment by Mr. KING of Iowa limiting the use of funds for travel by certain House officials to certain countries;

An amendment by Mr. GOODLATTE or Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN regarding a prohibition on the use of funds for the diversity visa program;

An amendment by Mr. PENCE limiting the use of funds for the Palestinian Authority;

An amendment by Mr. PENCE regarding a prohibition on funds for U.S. contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Gaza;

An amendment by Mrs. MUSGRAVE regarding an across-the-board reduction in funding, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. JORDAN of Ohio reducing funds in the bill, which shall be debatable for 20 minutes;

An amendment by Mr. CONAWAY regarding use of reductions made through amendments for deficit reduction;

An amendment by Mr. HENSARLING reducing funds in the bill;

An amendment by Mr. TANCREDI prohibiting funds to enforce certain guidelines regarding relations with Taiwan;

An amendment by Mr. BLUNT prohibiting funds for the International Sea-bed Authority;

An amendment by Mr. SHADEGG prohibiting funds for countries providing assistance to Iran related to nuclear and missile programs;

An amendment by Mr. SHADEGG prohibiting funds for countries providing refined petroleum to Iran;

An amendment by Mr. OBEY regarding earmarks; and

An amendment or amendments by Mrs. LOWEY regarding funding levels.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member named in this request or a designee, or by the Member who caused it to be printed in the RECORD or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

Except as otherwise specified, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an oppo-

nent. An amendment shall be considered to fit the description stated in this request if it addresses in whole or in part the object described.

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

There was no objection.

HIGHEST DEBT IN HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to be on the House floor. And I must say that free speech is a beautiful thing in the United States of America. Our friends on the other side can pretty much say anything they want in this wonderful Chamber in this country, with absolutely no ramifications or connection to the truth at all. And I want to just share with the American people and I want to share with other Members of Congress, Mr. Speaker, and my good friend here from Connecticut, some facts that have been absent over the last hour and really over the last couple of days.

I think it is important to just go back and piece the history together. Over the past 6 years there has been a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and a Republican White House. The gentlemen on the other side, fine men from fine families who have been speaking here, have completely forgotten about the last 6 years. They think that they ran up a high bar tab and that it can be fixed rather easily. The fact of the matter is they ran up, the Republican House, Republican Senate, Republican White House, \$3 trillion in debt, \$3 trillion over the last 6 years.

They just got out of office in January, and here it is June, and they're acting like this is ancient history. Three trillion dollars. They had the debt limit raised five or six times, which means they had to pass legislation out of here that would allow the Department of Treasury to borrow more money. And then 5 months after they're out of office, they come here, Mr. Speaker, and they talk like they've had nothing to do with this.

Now, we saw our friend from Texas earlier hold up the Blue Dog Coalition debt limit sign, over \$8 trillion, almost to \$9 trillion in debt and act like they had nothing to do with it. But the American people recognized in November and asked for a change in government, and they got it.

Let me clear up another fact that has been misrepresented here today and yesterday and over the past couple of weeks. This is their quote, "The Democrats are somehow going to raise taxes. It is the largest tax increase in the history of the United States of America." Not accurate. Not true. I ask the American people, and as I speak and it is written into the CONGRESSIONAL