

GUN RIGHTS

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

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, too many people in Washington, D.C. are under the dangerous impression that the Second Amendment is obsolete and unnecessary. If they had their way, only criminals and agents of the State would be armed, while law-abiding Americans would be at their mercy.

While we can stop gun control in Congress, progressives and Washington, D.C. bureaucrats will use every tactic at their disposal to disarm the American public, including banning firearms on public lands.

That is why I have sponsored the Firearms Freedom on Federal Lands Act with Representatives Rob Bishop and Paul Broun. This legislation creates a statutory protection of gun rights, preventing land management agencies from restricting firearms on public lands, as they have done in the past.

The NRA has endorsed this measure, and I hope my colleagues will follow their lead and cosponsor this legislation.

CELEBRATING LIFE OF BARBARA GREENSPUN

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Barbara Greenspun whose recent death marks the end of an era in Nevada. With her sad passing, we have lost a remarkable individual who gave so much of herself to our community.

Together, Hank and Barbara Greenspun poured their heart and soul into the Las Vegas Sun, showing a dedication and commitment that would turn the paper into a leading publication. Then moving from behind the scenes to publisher after Hank's death, Barbara built upon his legacy as the paper earned journalism's most prestigious award, the Pulitzer Prize.

Known for her grace and generous spirit, Barbara also committed herself to a number of important causes, including higher education and women's health that touched the lives of so many. While she will be truly missed, her legacy will live on through her remarkable family, the landmark Greenspun building at UNLV, and the continued excellence of the Las Vegas Sun.

CONGRESS IS NOT LISTENING

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, an oft-forgotten dictum in Washington is that to govern is to choose. It is to choose between the dizzying array of wants,

wishes, and needs of the American people, while constrained by the Constitution, fiscal, and political realities of the day.

Sadly, the leadership of the majority of this House have punted on choosing anything. They have ignored fiscal realities, our present condition, and the constitutional limits on our authority, and simply enacted whatever they could twist enough arms to pass. This majority has made promises it cannot keep with money it does not have. It has not made hard choices; it has not governed. No place is this more evident than in the Speaker's refusal to pass a budget this year, the most basic fiscal document our Nation has.

The budget is the foundation of all the taxing and spending that the Federal Government does. It constrains the appropriators and sets the boundaries for the spending debate. In choosing not to pass a budget, the Speaker is failing in her responsibility to govern this House and our Nation.

The American people, though, are not standing idly by. They are suggesting difficult choices for the Speaker through the YouCut program. To date, the American people have voiced support for over \$60 billion in hard choices.

Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation governed by the people; the people are not being heard. This Congress is not listening.

AMERICAN JOBS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about jobs: where we were, where we are, and where I hope that we will be in the next 10 years.

In the last 3 months of 2008, we lost an average of approximately 650,000 jobs per month. The first quarter of 2009 saw us lose over 700,000 jobs per month. In the first quarter of 2009, our economy shrunk by 6.4 percent.

We have stopped the bleeding. We have added jobs in six of the last 7 months, averaging almost 200,000 jobs, the majority originating in the private sector. If this pace continues, this administration will have added more jobs in 1 year than the previous Bush administration did in 8 years. I repeat, 1 year compared to 8 years. Our economy grew by 3 percent for 3 straight quarters of economic growth, 9 percent in 12 months. After February of 2009, household wealth grew for 10 straight months, regaining nearly 30 percent, \$5 trillion of the \$17.5 trillion of household wealth wiped out during the former Bush administration in its final 18 months.

We have stopped the bleeding. The economic policies of this Congress is investing in America. There is no snap-your-finger fix to our economy.

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PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has passed a budget every year since the Congressional Budget Act took effect in fiscal year 1976. To be completely accurate, there have been times under both Democrats and Republicans when a finished budget was not passed by both Houses. But this is the first time the House of Representatives has simply decided there is too much peril for the American public to see the numbers that they are pursuing, so they are going to stop the game before the coin is even tossed.

We have more than \$13 trillion in debt and a Presidential budget that puts the deficit at \$1.6 trillion and spends \$3.8 trillion. Even Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says this budget is, quote, "unsustainable."

Faced with similar challenges in your personal budget, there would be a talk around the kitchen table and the children's allowances would be cut, along with many other luxuries. It is that discussion that the majority seems unwilling to have under the theory that if they ignore it, it might go away. Unfortunately, the debt will not go away. The pain will be transferred to our children and grandchildren in the hopes that they will have the guts to face reality.

WALL STREET REFORM

(Ms. FUDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, Congress must decide whether to protect the interests of a few deceptive bankers who ruined the industry for others or to protect the hardworking Americans of this Nation.

House Democrats have already decided. We have decided to choose Main Street over Wall Street. We have decided to choose parents who want to provide for their children and for people who are saving for retirement. We have decided, Mr. Speaker, that the American people are more important than the overzealous bankers.

Maintaining the status quo is not the answer. Look at what the current situation has done to America. Eight million jobs were lost without the safeguards to protect Main Street. Millions of homes were taken in foreclosure due to subprime mortgage schemes.

American people deserve and want better. A CNN poll shows 6 out of 10 Americans support Wall Street reform. Republicans have blocked efforts to protect Americans. House Republicans voted unanimously against the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. This act would reform Wall Street, reform executive pay, end taxpayer-funded bailouts, and hold banks

and financial firms accountable to the American taxpayers.

Congressional Republicans are making backroom deals with the bankers. It is time for us to protect Main Street.

The same Republicans who deregulated the industry, and opposed reforms, now claim the Wall Street reform bill "allows bailouts." This is false.

Let's give Americans what they deserve—fairness in the financial system.

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, at this time last year, we, for the first time in the 221-year history of our Republic, saw the appropriations process shut down, completely shut down. Never before had that happened. It was difficult to imagine that anything could be done to jeopardize and undermine openness, transparency, and accountability than shutting down the appropriations process.

Well, Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe, but this Democratic majority has gone one step further. Incomprehensible, but they have now decided not to pass a budget at all. Now, in the last 17 months, we have witnessed an 84 percent increase in nondefense discretionary spending. And we all know that a budget is a blueprint and absolutely essential if a majority is going to make any attempt whatsoever to govern.

Well, Mr. Speaker, they have failed in the appropriations process, and now they have failed to come forward with even a budget. Our children and our grandchildren deserve better.

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, a recent Gallup Poll tells us that the American people rank the growing debt in this country as the single most threatening issue to the future of our country's well-being.

When the American public in their homes face a debt crisis, the first thing they do is prepare a budget so they can live within their means and start to reduce their debt burden. But this House, under the Democratic leadership, has chosen to prepare no budget. In fact, for the first time in modern budgetary history, they are telling us there will be no budget here in this House this year.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are crying out for us to get control of our spending. How can we control our spending without a budget? It's a crying shame there is no budget. No wonder we've got issues with jobs.

And by the way, when you're trying to create jobs, why do you shut down a major industry in the gulf and kill tens of thousands of jobs up and down the

gulf coast, stopping drilling in the Gulf of Mexico?

PASS A BUDGET

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today Republicans are on the floor of the House of Representatives speaking out on behalf of the American people that we believe that the leadership of this House of Representatives should bring forth a budget, a budget that would give the American people more confidence in this body. We are at record low numbers of people who have confidence in the leadership of the House of Representatives, the ability to lead this country in a direction that will bring us closer to jobs and addressing the issues of this Nation.

We just got the budget numbers that come in from May, and through May of this year, we have a \$936 billion deficit. Mr. Speaker, the American people understand that we must have a road map, a road map to lead America back to where we become an employer Nation again. Taxing, spending, and unemployment will not lead us that way.

I urge this House leadership, the Democrats, please bring forward a budget where the American people can be part of this debate.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR JOB CREATION POLICIES

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, sales are suffering, the economy remains stagnant, and millions of hardworking Americans are looking for work. Arkansans believe that the recent Obama-Pelosi health care bill, cap-and-trade, and other job-killing tax increases will hurt, not help, our struggling economy.

We should take action to help businesses get on their feet by focusing on job creation as opposed to some of the misplaced priorities. New taxes and health care mandates are harming smaller firms and businesses. The so-called stimulus bill is not creating long-term jobs but is increasing the budget deficit and sending the bill, plus interest, to tomorrow's taxpayers.

Congress must stop growing the tax burden and creating job-killing policies. Tax relief and incentives for small businesses would help all Americans, especially the middle class, and get our economy back on track. The key to this will be fiscal discipline. Now is the time to put a cap on Washington spending and to focus on the economic issues that matter instead of further inflating the national debt.

PUT PEOPLE TO WORK

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, we just heard a very interesting 1-minute presentation that didn't make much sense. We have a world of hurt. People are unemployed. People are going to lose their jobs in local governments and State governments, and teachers are going to be laid off across this Nation. And to simply say we need fiscal discipline doesn't solve this problem.

The Democrats put out, without one Republican vote, an American Recovery Act a little more than a year ago, and it really worked. People did get jobs. Things were done. Infrastructure was built. We need to continue that, and we need to keep people working.

Yes, we need fiscal discipline, and I would be welcoming any idea from the Republicans on how they are going to do that other than simply say there ought to be. Yes, there ought to be, but we need right now to put people to work.

There is a program that's available that will be coming up that will stimulate small businesses. It puts forward major programs for the Small Business Administration to support loans. We also need to support the local governments. Yes, it's going to cost us some money in the short term, but we have a choice: We are either going to put people to work or we are going to have welfare. I want people to work. I want them to be taxpayers.

THE GULF OIL SPILL TRAGEDY

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

Mr. PENCE. The oil spill in the gulf is a widening tragedy of epic proportions. BP must be held accountable for every dime of cost that will affect the families and the environment and the communities of our gulf region. And this administration must be held responsible, responsible for failing to provide the kind of energetic leadership that the American people expect and the law demands.

What's obvious to Americans across the political spectrum is this administration has been a day late since day one. Unable to make this crisis a national priority, we now hear that the President is poised tonight to go to the Oval Office in the midst of explaining the Federal response to this crisis and use it as an opportunity to press for a climate change bill.

The American people don't want this administration to exploit the disaster in the gulf to advance their disastrous energy policies. America needs a new energy policy. But cap-and-trade won't cap that well. This administration should work the problem in the gulf instead of working their liberal environmental agenda.

THE U.S.-MEXICO PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1