

spending cuts. But instead, what are we giving the American people? More uncertainty with another short-term extension.

This short-term continuing resolution must stop. The American people need jobs, not misguided plans that undermine the future of our Nation. Unfortunately, the Republican-passed budget would give pink slips to 7,000 American workers. And now, with a continued assault on mortgage relief programs, the Republicans are ready to start handing out foreclosure notices, too.

Let's stop this madness. Let's work together on a budget plan that create jobs, reduces the deficit, and keeps our families in their homes.

THEY JUST DON'T GET IT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, with a \$14 trillion national debt and a \$1.65 trillion deficit this year alone, our Federal Government is facing a fiscal crisis of unprecedented proportions. With the passage of H.R. 1, House Republicans took an important first step toward turning our national government back in the direction of fiscal discipline, defunding ObamaCare, and even restoring the sanctity of life to the center of the Federal budget. But it was rejected by liberals in the Senate. In fact, last week, the Senate majority leader called the Republican budget cuts mean spirited, reckless, and irresponsible, even defending Federal funding for a cowboy poetry festival. Seriously.

Is it reckless and irresponsible to ask for \$61 billion in cuts when the national debt is 230 times that size? The truth is, they just don't get it.

I think it's time to take a stand for taxpayers and for future generations. And I will not vote for the short-term continuing resolution that is coming to the floor of the House today, to make that statement.

Things don't change in Washington until they have to. It's time to pick a fight.

FOOD SAFETY BUDGET CUTS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to make our way through the budget process, we must ensure that all funding reductions we make are done in a responsible manner.

While I strongly agree that we need to get our deficit under control, we cannot do it in a way that undermines public safety and job creation. For example, the Republican long-term CR will cut \$88 million in funding from the Food Safety and Inspection Service. This little-known cut will force food safety inspectors off the job for over 30 days, resulting in shutdowns of plants

across this Nation. The USDA has estimated that such cuts will result in an \$11 billion loss in productivity. Additionally, meat and poultry production is supposed to grow over the next year. If we decrease funding for food safety, there will be fewer inspectors to examine our food and make sure it's acceptable for consumption.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one example of how we need to dissect each cut and the impact that it will have in the real world. I hope this Chamber can come together and make sensible decisions when it comes to reducing our deficit.

WE MUST ACT TODAY

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Since the time President Obama took office in 2009, the price of gasoline has more than doubled, rising from \$1.53 a gallon to \$3.52. America has become more dependent on foreign oil, undermining our national security while forcing hardworking Americans to endure budget-busting gasoline prices.

When you fill up your car, it's not the oil companies you should be blaming; it's the White House. Excessive government regulation, the fact that offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico is all but shut down, and the attempt to end the tax incentives for oil exploration are all factors. The culture of "no" from the executive branch is killing us. Add to that the lack of any action in light of the deteriorating situation in the Middle East, Egypt, and Libya, in particular, and we have a failure of leadership at the top of this country.

Energy is key to our economy. Scores of jobs rely on it. And \$3.50 gasoline is unacceptable.

I call on the President to act today. Call off the EPA. Issue those leases and permits in the gulf. Open America's land for drilling. And quit demonizing the oil and gas industry.

□ 1210

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, to my Republican colleagues, when you say that we have a fiscal house to get in order, you're right; but when your plan is to focus 100 percent of your firepower on 12 percent of the budget, I say you are designing a plan that will fail.

Why is it that we have added \$700 billion to the deficit by extending tax cuts for the top 2 percent?

Why is it that we will cut low-income heating assistance by \$2.5 billion and continue \$55 billion in tax breaks for oil companies when they're selling oil at \$100 a barrel and when they've made \$1 trillion in the past 10 years?

Why is it that we are now having a threat by the Republican majority to say "no" on extending the debt limit, having America default on paying its bills for past obligations incurred under Republican and Democratic administrations, and playing with fire as to the reputation of the American people, despite the clear damage that it will do to the economy, rather than acknowledging that we have an obligation to meet our obligations?

THE ATTITUDE OF "SO BE IT" CANNOT CONTINUE

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, the people of America are asking us: What are we doing? We're going to vote today on another continuing resolution that extends the budget for another couple of weeks. People are asking: What's the matter with all of you? Why can't you just get it done?

They're absolutely right.

Mr. Speaker, the attitude of "so be it" cannot continue. Yes, we all understand that there is a deficit, and we all want to work to stop that; but we also realize that you simply can't just cut, that you have to do it smartly, that you've got to make smart cuts so it doesn't hurt what we are all striving for, which is the creation of jobs. People want jobs, and they want us to get this fiscal house in order.

If you don't want to listen to us, Mr. Speaker, think about the military. Both sides of the aisle have always looked upon the military as something we share in common, and the military is saying a continuing resolution does not work.

THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I've had an opportunity to listen to two of my friends on the Republican side of the aisle. I just need to remind them, when you take a voluntary pay cut, when you subsidize and give tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires, when you prosecute a couple wars to the tune of \$1 trillion that you don't pay for and then when you let Wall Street run amuck without any police on Wall Street and you have a crash, you're going to have major debt.

So now they're complaining about a debt that they were instrumental in creating. All right. We've got to pay it, but you've got to get people back to work. The best way to reduce the deficit is to have people working. President Obama has reduced what we're spending in Iraq by \$100 billion. That's real money. You can't just focus on education. You can't just focus on energy efficiency. You've got to focus on tax cuts for oil companies and on tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires.

It's both sides of the ledger. It takes all of us working together to get this under control, and we Democrats intend to do that.

GAS PRICES

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, soaring gas prices are impacting Americans all over the country. With gas costing nearly \$4 a gallon, drivers are having to rethink how they get around. With families and businesses tightening their budgets, rising gas prices are exactly what they don't need exactly when they don't need it.

That's why I am calling on the IRS to increase the gas mileage deduction, like it did in 2005 and 2008, to ease the pain at the pump for taxpayers. Taxpayers want, need and deserve this fair, simple and commonsense solution: for us to tap America's homegrown energy resources right here, right now.

Call the White House. The number is 202-456-1414. Tell them to get with it.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DAVID RICHARD FAHEY, JR.

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a sad duty: to honor the life and service of Private First Class David Richard Fahey, Junior, who was killed in the service of our Nation. He was born only 23 years ago in Norwalk, Connecticut. On February 28, his life was taken from us in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

I never had the honor of meeting David Fahey, but I've read the remembrances of his family and friends as they mourn his passing and celebrate his life. I learned that he was a young man who was blessed with a singular sense of humor—David was always ready to cheer up others with a joke or a prank—and I learned that he was a man of faith who would spend hours comforting friends in need. David Fahey was a man who put the needs of others first, so it is no surprise that he chose to serve his country as a soldier and MP.

Today, on behalf of the people of Connecticut and the Nation, I thank PFC David Richard Fahey, Junior, and I offer our perpetual gratitude for his legacy of service and commitment to the defense of all that we cherish.

JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues to talk again about jobs.

In order to reduce the deficit, everyone in the Nation must work. But how can you work when you do not have a job? My constituents want to work. They are still hurting. Maybe we can't feel the hurt because we have jobs. I am still waiting to hear the Republican plan for jobs.

When are we going to help the people become whole again? They are losing their homes. Whole families are homeless and are not knowing what to do next. Their unemployment benefits have expired, and still they can't find work. Right now, over 50 percent of homeowners in the Miami housing market either owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth or they're within 5 percent of that mark.

Instead of figuring out ways to help, tomorrow Congress will be voting on whether or not to end programs that offer hope to distressed homeowners. We talk about a deficit that took 8 years to create during the Bush administration. It will take us more than 2 years to peel away the layers of 8 years of bad judgment, generous tax exemptions to the rich, two wars, and a failed economy.

How can we cut so deeply, so fast, causing so many people to lose their jobs? If people can't work, they can't save their homes.

Stay on task: jobs, jobs, jobs.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 48, ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS, 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 167 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 167

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 48) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHAFFETZ). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN). During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 167 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.J. Res. 48. Keeping in line with the actions of the minority party and its CRs last year, this rule also provides for 1 hour of debate and a motion to recommit.

We are here again today dealing with the continuing resolution, Mr. Speaker, because H.R. 1 sits idly on the Senate side. As you will recall, H.R. 1 has been the singly most debated piece of legislation that we've had in this body this year. In fact, we considered more amendments on that spending bill in February than on all of the previous spending bills in the last two Congresses combined. Yet, even as the House has worked its will, even as, I think, we on both sides of the aisle identify that as one of the finest hours of this body, it sits in the Senate—unused, unexamined, undebated.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the middle of a debate on spending. It's not that we tax too little in this country. It's that we spend too much.

□ 1220

We're operating with \$1.4 trillion annual operating deficits, \$1.5 trillion, \$1.6 trillion, and now they're saying next year it could be \$1.7 trillion—spending that we do with money that we don't have.

We need to get to the big picture, Mr. Speaker. We need to have this debate about how do we move beyond what was last year's business and get on to what is this year's business. These things that we're working on, this three-week CR, Mr. Speaker, is not the real business. The real business is yet to come. I sit on the Budget Committee. If you want to talk about real business, look at the tough decisions that are coming down the pipe from the Budget Committee. Look at what it's going to take to get this budget back in balance. Look at what it's going to take to restore integrity to our fiscal system. Look at what it's going to take to inspire confidence in our foreign creditors. These are the real issues that we have to discuss, but we can't discuss them, Mr. Speaker, because we are still working on last year's business.

Now, I think we're frustrated on both sides of the aisle that we're still working on last year's business, and candidly, it may come as a surprise to you, Mr. Speaker, but I don't blame a soul on the other side. The other side of this body has been our partner in moving H.R. 1 to the Senate. They've been our partner in making the tough decisions that had to be had, and we had Republican amendments that succeeded and Republican amendments that failed. We had Democratic amendments that succeeded and Democratic amendments