

trick. We have the President saying he would veto it immediately. And for us to not give the pay to men and women like this who are putting their life in harm's way causes great shame on this Nation.

□ 1100

TWO AMERICAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, that was great rhetoric but not reality. Thank God when the Architect built this Capitol, he put a top on it that attracts lightning rods; otherwise, who knows what would happen in front of us.

The budget that was put up yesterday talked about defense, but it also had one other element in it. That was restricting the District of Columbia from using funds for low-income women to get family planning or abortions.

If you really wanted to take care of the troops, you would fund a spending proposal that took care of the troops and you wouldn't add a rider to it that you know that no human being who cared about women's choice would vote for. You eliminate a great percentage of your possible supporters. If the troops are number one and number one only, you don't put something on with DC abortion rights on it because that eliminates part of your constituency.

Now, one of the previous speakers talked about this too, the one that was back into Led Zeppelin. I haven't figured that one out yet. But it was something about Planned Parenthood. Why is Planned Parenthood an issue? Because the Republican majority made it an issue. They put in their budget that there will be no funding for Planned Parenthood, a specific organization. Not any organization that does family planning, not any organization that might provide abortions, but Planned Parenthood. And that is a sticking point in the negotiations.

It is wrong to single out a single organization that helps women with their family planning and that does give low-income women opportunities to get tests for HIV/AIDS and for breast cancer and for all other types of women's health issues. The Republicans have made that an issue, and they made it such an issue that they wouldn't have a clean CR proposal yesterday.

Mr. HOYER offered a proposal. He said, Let's just continue the budget for a week at its current spending plans. No cuts, true. They could come later. That was resoundingly rejected because they wanted to go forward with their extreme social policy, and that's what matters to them. They can hide behind what they want.

The fact is there are two America's today. I read about it when I was a young person. Michael Harrington wrote a book decades ago called "The Other America." It was about an Amer-

ica that didn't get the support that it needed—Appalachia, poor people, regular folks that didn't get what they needed and didn't have the opportunity that this country should give everybody. The two Americas are the upper 1 percent that aren't going to be paying more taxes and the other 99 percent that do.

One gentleman said the Democrats want everybody to pay more taxes. No, not everybody; just the millionaires. And they wouldn't go along with that, because the millionaires are the party that control the Republicans. That's what they're about. They won't fund—put a tax proposal on that will tax millionaires because they want the middle class to pay more. Their budget blueprint that's going to come out lowers the overall rate to 25 percent—even more for millionaires.

And the billionaires, they're not watching today, Mr. Speaker, because they've got their lobbyists working for them. They came here in December and they took the estate tax from a million dollar exemption to a \$5 million exemption. And they took the rate that really mattered to them from 55 to 35 percent so they can pass that wealth on and continue the differences in America.

Two Americas: The upper 1 percent that the majority party represents, and the other 99 percent that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, let's get abortion out of the debate. Let's protect our troops. Let's keep this government moving.

OUR NATION'S DEBT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS) for 3 minutes.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I find it shameful that Washington has run up trillion dollar deficits for the last 3 years and yet there are those that seek to portray Republicans' modest, commonsense spending cuts as extreme. It is time for government to tighten its belts and balance its budgets just like families do every day across Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District.

I refuse to allow our Nation to continue borrowing money from China for reckless government spending and then send the bill to our children and grandchildren.

Americans deserve the truth. The choices that we make now on spending are not easy, but they are necessary. We cannot continue to spend money that we do not have. My constituents did not send me to Washington to ignore problems nor offer excuses. They did send me here to solve the problems and not kick the can down the road further.

Our Nation is not in debt because Americans are taxed too little. We are in debt because government spends too much. We must address our Nation's debt crisis and spending addiction, and we must do it now.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) for 3 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand up for the middle class, the working poor, and the poor of this great Nation. They deserve honesty and a fair shake from their government.

I'm here to tell the American people the honest truth that the Republican budget of fiscal year 2011 would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail our economic recovery. Their plan, H.R. 1, would cut funding for government programs with the precision of a chain saw.

The Republicans are ignoring the fact that the policies of the 111th Congress and of our President saved America from an economic free fall. These same policies have been responsible for the unemployment rate falling to 8.8 percent last month, a 2-year low. I think last month was the 14th straight month of jobs being created as opposed to jobs being cut.

Instead of funding programs that are helping our economy, these Republicans are poised to shut down the government. Today, every Republican in unison speaks about this shutdown in hushed and somber tones so as not to appear to be gloating. But they really don't care about you, the middle class, and they don't care about how a shutdown will affect you. And they all, in unison, cast blame on HARRY REID. He's going to be the whipping boy that we hear on FOX News tonight.

Mr. Speaker, a recent study found that more than 40 percent of House freshmen are millionaires. They have net worths of up to \$40 million. And some of these freshmen, who have yet to become millionaires—they're wannabes—but they enjoy a median estimated wealth for these House freshman of \$570,000 each. In contrast, according to the U.S. census, the median estimated wealth for the average American is \$120,000. It's a big contrast.

Instead of funding problems that are helping our economy, they're poised to shut down the government. Today, for minorities, the median estimated wealth is \$27,000. And what the Republicans are doing is trying to get us out of this budget turmoil that we're in on the backs of the middle class and the poor. It's wrong.

□ 1110

POLITICS AS USUAL IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 3 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity today to send a message that this Congress is serious about cutting spending, creating jobs and keeping the government operating. We can and we must do all three. It is

important to note, however, how we arrived at this point.

The last Congress was the first since the modern budget process was instituted that neglected to pass a budget despite the Democrats having complete control of the Federal Government. The inaction of the last Congress certainly did not excuse work on our part in this Congress. Instead, it made our responsibility all the more critical, and Mr. Speaker, this House has met that responsibility.

Through an unprecedented and lengthy debate 2 months ago, the House deliberated and ultimately passed a resolution, cutting \$61 billion in Federal spending. In March, the House passed and sent to the Senate two short-term funding bills that cut a total of \$10 billion and kept the government functioning. Yesterday, again, this Chamber sent to the Senate a bill to avoid a shutdown and to ensure that our men and women in uniform will be paid through the end of the fiscal year. The response from the Senate has been consistent—deafening silence.

Despite their agreement on the two short-term measures, the Senate has not sent a single bill or a single plan for this year's budget to the House. They have a responsibility to act now, and I call on them to pass H.R. 1363 to continue cutting Federal spending and to keep the government open.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is not merely about passing any budget; it is about passing a responsible one. Budgets, despite their countless line items and technical language, fundamentally reflect our priorities and our values as a nation.

Over the past 3 years, the administration and the previous Congress have added \$5 trillion to our national debt, bringing the total to over \$14 trillion. Trillions are being spent each year to feed our spending addiction, with nearly 42 cents of every dollar being mortgaged against our children's future. Perhaps the most sobering fact is that, after July 27, every cent the government spends through the rest of the year will be borrowed. This is money that will have to be repaid by our children and grandchildren long after we are gone. We can no longer saddle the next generation with the bill for today's good intentions.

Mr. Speaker, with America now engaged in three conflicts in the Middle East, with seniors worried about Social Security payments and with Federal services in the balance, shutting down the government sends the wrong message at a critical time—but so does continuing the spending binge that has plagued Washington for far too long. Both must be achieved and we must do so now.

Mr. Speaker, this House has acted. Four times we have passed resolutions to keep the government functioning and to cut out-of-control spending. The overwhelming mandate from the American people last November was that the status quo cannot continue, and we

have answered. Just yesterday, while the Senate and this administration have stalled and delayed, we again passed a resolution that would have cut spending and would have met our responsibilities without interruption.

This Chamber has acted, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the Senate and the administration will answer the call.

MEDICARE VOUCHER PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) for 4 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my complete disapproval for the way this House is being run by the Republican majority.

To put it bluntly, the majority is neglecting its duty to address the biggest issues facing this country—creating jobs and implementing a fair and sensible budget that makes investments in our people while bringing down the deficit.

For example, to date, this majority has not brought to the floor a single piece of legislation to help create jobs. Instead, we've seen bill after bill that would actually increase joblessness, including their omnibus spending bill, H.R. 1, which would cut nearly three-quarters of a million American jobs.

While it is clear that we must take aggressive action to bring down the Federal deficit, it shouldn't come at the expense of guaranteeing health care to our seniors. Yet that's exactly the case with the new Republican budget proposal, which uses our deficit as an excuse to achieve their long-held goal of ending Medicare as we know it today.

Medicare has been a very successful program to ensure seniors have guaranteed access to affordable, quality care. It has its problems, to be sure, and they must be addressed, but we should not throw the baby out with the bath water. Before deciding to essentially junk Medicare, as the Republican budget would do, let's go back in time a little.

Before Medicare, seniors were the most likely group to be uninsured. Barely 14 percent of them had health insurance coverage at all. Before Medicare, almost one-third of all seniors were in poverty, and countless others would have been if not for the large sacrifices borne by their families. Before Medicare, seniors needed to make a false choice—go to the doctor and pay out of pocket or put food on the table and pay the bills. It also wasn't for seniors' lack of interest in being insured; it was because insurance companies simply had little interest in insuring a group of people they deemed too expensive to cover.

Let's be honest. The older you get, the more likely you are to need health care. We are not a cohort that insurance companies are exactly fighting each other to cover.

It is clear that Medicare has been absolutely critical in providing access to

quality care at an affordable cost for seniors. It is responsible for helping lift so many of our parents and grandparents out of poverty, giving them peace of mind after a lifetime of work. It has also freed up their children as well, giving them the opportunity to invest in the future of their own children instead of having to worry about whether or not their parents are going to get the health care they need.

It is a remarkable success story, one that has helped Americans prosper, but this Republican budget proposal announced this week essentially throws it out the window.

First, it reopens the doughnut hole for today's Medicare beneficiaries, like for Beverly, from Morro Bay, who, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, no longer has to worry about how she will afford her important prescription medications if she reaches the doughnut hole again this year. Their plan will roll back the new preventative screenings and wellness checkups that the law provided for with no co-pays at all. Their plan would roll back important cost-containing and quality-improving measures from the program, and it repeals resources in place to reduce fraud and abuse, making this program more costly and less solvent.

But the centerpiece of the Republican proposal is the plan to privatize this critical program and end Medicare as we know it.

Let's be crystal clear: This isn't a reform. It isn't a tweak. It isn't a natural progression. It is nothing more than the end of the very program which, right now, guarantees health care coverage for America's seniors.

Medicare is much like Social Security, which guarantees a pension for seniors regardless of the twists and the turns of the market and our economy. Medicare guarantees health care coverage for our seniors. It guarantees it. But the Ryan budget bill ends that by turning Medicare into a voucher program with no guarantee of coverage—none at all. Instead, each senior would get a set amount of money to purchase a private insurance policy at an amount not high enough to start with and less each succeeding year. In fact, each year, the voucher would cover less and less.

These are the important factors of this budget, which is why we cannot accept it. We must save Medicare.

Who'll pay the rest of the cost of this care? If you guessed "my grandmother or my grandfather" you'd be right.

And this is how the Ryan budget "saves" money.

It saves the federal government money by shifting the cost directly onto seniors.

In fact, while the government would save about \$600 per beneficiary, the cost to the senior would jump by an estimated \$12,500 a year in premiums, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket expenses—and that amount is expected to grow over time.

That estimate is about double the average annual out-of-pocket cost for a senior in Medicare today.