

The CBO is clear in its warning about this program: Some seniors will forgo insurance all together, while others will find barriers to services that might save or improve their lives—both by plans not covering particular services or through such high costs that seniors forgo the care they need.

The bottom line—seniors will pay more for health insurance—much more—than they do today.

Some will get substandard coverage because they can't afford anything better.

Some won't be able to afford a policy at all, so they will forgo coverage and care.

The Republican budget has the wrong priorities.

It focuses on our families and communities for cuts, while doing nothing to root out waste in our tax system—like the tens of billions in subsidies for oil, gas and coal companies, or those that go to giant ethanol corporations.

And it continues the tax cuts for the wealthiest among us as well and even calls for more.

These priorities are all wrong . . . they are dangerous . . . and we must stand up against them.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Republican Budget that will end Medicare as we know it.

Let's make responsible choices so that we can lower the deficit without doing so on the backs of our seniors.

TAKING A BUTTER KNIFE TO SPENDING

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

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, we are now drawing close to a government shutdown.

I have been sitting over here, listening to my colleagues from both sides speak this morning. I want everyone to know; I want the American people to know, and I want the folks in northeast Wisconsin to know that this is not about riders or extreme partisan ideology. It is about spending.

I will tell you that I am surprised at some of the language. A moment ago, one of my colleagues said we wanted to take a chain saw to spending. A few days ago, the President said we wanted to use an ax to cut spending. I will tell you that it's more like a butter knife. We spent in March of this year alone \$189 billion in deficit. Our CR would have cut \$8 billion. So instead of \$189 billion, we would have spent \$181 billion in deficit. That is not a chain saw. That is not an ax. Some Americans have been calling me from home, saying it's not even serious.

It is time that this Congress takes our fiscal situation seriously for the protection of our country, for the protection of our programs, for the protection of our seniors. It is time for this Congress to act and to act now. Yesterday, we offered up a plan to fund our troops at the request of Secretary Gates, and we've been turned down once again.

I call on my colleagues not to wait another day, another hour, another minute. Let's fund this government,

and let's move on to the big task at hand—the next budget—so that we can do what the last Congress failed to do, which is to provide certainty to the American people and certainty to job creators so they will know what is coming ahead tomorrow.

A KABUKI DANCE OVER CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, the Kabuki dance is almost over, and like many of you, I'm wondering if we have lost our senses. By all reports by Leader REID and Speaker BOEHNER, they are very close. It's not about money. Do you know what it's about? It's about contraceptive pills. I can't believe that we are sitting here today, about to shut down the government, over contraceptive pills—because that's what it's all about.

□ 1120

It's all about defunding one organization, Planned Parenthood, that provides explicitly and only services around contraceptive pills, breast cancer screenings, STD screenings, and cervical cancer screenings. Not one dime goes for abortion services. In fact, the services provided under family planning have to be excluded completely. Different locations, different service providers, different staff. And on top of it, it's all audited. So not one dime for abortions. This is only for family planning services.

So in the end we're going to go to the American people and say, yes, we shut down the government, we told all our men and women serving in faraway places, trying to keep the world free, and keep it free for us, and keep terrorists at bay, we are going to tell them, no, you are not going to get paid for a while because we didn't want to fund contraceptive pills for women who are poor in this country.

The women who access Planned Parenthood, and one in five women accesses Planned Parenthood at some time in her life, the average income is \$33,000 a year. These are women who can't access health care for reproductive services because they're working in jobs where they don't have health insurance. And we're saying shut down the government. Shut down the government. Don't pay our men and women serving overseas. Close down the national parks. Make sure none of our exports get to their destinations. Don't let any more small business loans be offered. Just shut it down, because we don't want to make contraceptive pills available to women in this country. It's absolutely shameful.

This is a message to Speaker BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, this is your opportunity for a profile in courage. This is your opportunity to say to your caucus and to the American people, I am not going to allow this country to be shut down over contraceptive pills.

CUT FEDERAL SPENDING

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to a textbook case, I believe, of self-induced amnesia this morning from my liberal colleagues. But the American people spoke in November, and I heard the mandate: Cut Federal spending so that more resources can be left in the hands of American families and small businesses so that they can save and invest in order to grow jobs.

I responded to their mandate by voting for billions in cuts. Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle refused to receive the message, but the message is still true.

Let's put the budget issue into a little perspective. It actually is quite simple. They didn't pass the budget when they had control, and now we have to clean up the mess. My liberal Democrat friends want to shut down government in order to maintain their overspending status quo, even at the expense of not sending paychecks to our courageous troops and their families at home.

On the other hand, I and my Republican colleagues want to keep the government open, pay our troops, and respond to the people's demands for cuts in spending and a return to the blessings of freedom.

Our Republican leadership has worked and negotiated with the other side in order to keep the government open, while cutting deficit spending, but it has been to no avail. The Democrats won't give up less than one-half of 1 percent spending in order to keep the government running on a trimmed-down budget and pay our troops. The argument has come down to the size and scope of the spending. And President Obama, Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, and the Senate Democrats, like a stubborn mule, refuse to move in the direction of their masters, the Constitution and the American people who are telling us to cut spending.

It's time for them to start listening to the American people. It can't be just about the next election; it must be about the next generation.

PAY THE MILITARY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, we are here because the last Congress did not do its job and for the first time since 1974 didn't have a budget. So we're having to do last year's work in addition to this year's work. And in the meantime, we look around at who is actually being hurt. And there were many of us that were inquiring over the last month, all right, if there is a shutdown, is the military going to be paid?

Well, we find out the military is essential, the military will be working in

the event there is a shutdown. But then as recent as last week, we find out they definitely will not be paid until after a shutdown is over. They will get paid for sure, but it will be after a shutdown. But they will be working.

In talking to many people on active duty, I find that things haven't changed a great deal since 30 years ago when I was in the Army. There are lots of people in our military that are having to live paycheck to paycheck. They don't get paid all that much. But they are standing between us and harm to this Nation, even its very existence.

There are those who want to take this out. At the end of last week, Congressman JACK KINGSTON, JOHN CARTER, STEVE KING, MICHELE BACHMANN, a number of people involved, we wanted to ensure that if the Democrats say we don't care—for example, gee, providing Federal tax dollars to fund abortion in the District of Columbia is more important than anything else. We wanted a vehicle to make sure our military gets paid on time so while they are out in harm's way, they don't have to worry about it.

We filed a bill the end of last week, and it's H.R. 1297. I contacted Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON's office and JIM INHOFE's office, and they had it filed the first of the week. Down there it's Senate bill 724. Now we are told, well, gee, there is a procedural problem, because even though in the first two paragraphs each one starts with, "to appropriate, to appropriate," later in the bill, very short, three pages, it says, "make available funding." That can easily be remedied by a manager's amendment to change to "shall appropriate." Easily handled.

A rule was passed this week that this could be brought to the floor within 24 hours. That part is waived. There is no reason that the military cannot be paid on time. That can be wiped away from their concerns. But our leadership was good enough last week to say we are taking care of it. We are going to make sure it's taken care of.

The best solution is what was done yesterday. The military is fully paid through the end of the year. That's the best way to go. It makes sure there is no glitches at all. But if our Democratic friends down the Hall are going to stand in the way of having the military funded for the rest of the year, then we need to bring this bill, H.R. 1297, to the floor today and make sure our military does not have to worry: your pay, your allowances will be taken care of on time.

Our military that are out in harm's way, as we heard about Marcus Luttrell and other heroes, they're taken care of. Your families back home get your paycheck. They're cared for. That's the responsible thing to do. Secretary Bob Gates said, "As a historian, it occurred to me that the smart thing to do for a government was always to pay the guys with the guns first." That is a smart thing to do. Let's take care of the people that are taking care of this country's protection.

□ 1130

THE PENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, isn't it a shame, I tell my friend who just spoke, that his colleagues objected to a unanimous consent request yesterday which would have taken care of the problem he raises today.

There's not a person on this floor that doesn't want to make sure that our men and women in harm's way and in uniform ready to be put in harm's way are paid on time. But we're playing a political game here, a game of gotcha, a game of my way or the highway, not a game of coming together from all over the country and trying to make laws for our country that require compromise.

Henry Clay, one of the first Speakers of this House, from the State of Kentucky, said that if you can't compromise, you cannot govern. That's why we are on the brink of shutting down government.

We asked for a unanimous consent. I'm going to tell you we're going to ask for another unanimous consent that will accomplish exactly what the gentleman from Texas wanted to accomplish. I hope that none of you object. I hope that all of you will say, yes, enough of these games. Let's do what Republicans and Democrats have historically done when they've reached an impasse at this time. They said, well, we'll keep things in place and we'll create a bridge across which we can all pass to get to compromise, to get to an agreement. That's what the American people expect us to do.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that to some in this Chamber, shutting down the government is an ideological game or a way of making a point. That's why they've included in this bill to fund the troops some of their social agenda. That's why they want to shut down the government, because they want to force the President to do something he has told the American people he would not do.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, when the Democrats were in charge of the House and the Senate and we disagreed with George Bush, we did not shut down the government. We said, Mr. President, we understand you disagree with this so we can't do it. Not, because you won't do it, Mr. President, we're going to shut down the government. That's what's happening here.

It's not about dollars and cents and, very frankly, it's not about funding the military. That's the image that's being created because we are all sympathetic and committed to funding our men and women in harm's way. That's the right thing to do. It's the moral thing to do. It's what we ought to be doing. And I hope when I ask for a unanimous consent to do that today that, unlike yesterday, the Republicans will not object.

I want every Member to be aware of the consequences for millions of Americans of shutting down government. A shutdown would put our economic recovery, our housing market, and paychecks at risk. And yes, every person listening to me will be affected in one way or another.

It's the wrong thing to do. Who said it was the wrong thing to do? Speaker JOHN BOEHNER, who said it would cost more to shut down the government than to keep it running. He is absolutely right.

Goldman Sachs has estimated that, and I quote, "If a shutdown lasted more than a few days, it should shave 0.2 percent off the growth of the gross domestic product for every week it continued."

What's that mean? It means jobs.

Now, we've been here for 90 days. We're in our fourth month with no jobs legislation.

Goldman Sachs went on to say, "When the government shut down for 20 days in late 1995," said James O'Sullivan, chief economist, "the Nation's economic growth was slowed by as much as a percentage point." That means jobs.

This is a very inefficient political tactic and prank to play on the American people. As CQ reports, business leaders also understand that averting a shutdown is crucial to our economic recovery. That is why, again, I hope you agree to my unanimous consent to keep the government open while we continue to negotiate, while we continue to try to get to an agreement.

Congressional Quarterly also points out that "In the event of a shutdown, the Small Business Administration would not guarantee loans for business working capital, real estate investment, or job creation activities." It makes no sense to shut down the government.

And my friends, when they say, oh, well, the Democrats in the Senate, let me tell you why the Democrats in the Senate can't move things forward, because they can't get 60 votes. Why can't they get 60 votes? Because the Republican leader of the United States Senate will not let any of his Republicans join the 53 Democrats in the Senate to get to 60.

Ladies and gentlemen, we ought not to shut down this government, and I urge my colleagues to approve a unanimous consent request that I will make a little later today.

AVOID THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS) for 3 minutes.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my colleagues, and call on Senator REID to pass a bill to avoid the government shutdown.

I've been sitting here listening to my colleagues across the aisle, and I am in