

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

complete amazement at their lack of ability to remember history accurately.

Thanks to the efforts of Speaker BOEHNER, this House, this Republican leadership, has consistently led. We did what the 111th Congress did not do: We passed a budget to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year.

H.R. 1 was passed under an open rule, with open debate, and truly reflects the will of this House and the people that sent us here with their votes last November. Again, open debate, and it truly reflects the will of the people.

Their message was, and is, get serious about cutting spending and change the culture in Washington so we can get our Nation back on a stable fiscal path. Remove many of the uncertainties facing our families and businesses, both large and small, and we can create an environment for job growth.

Unlike my colleagues across the aisle, we here in government cannot create jobs. The private sector creates jobs.

It has been 48 days since the House Republicans passed this bill, but we have yet to see a bill passed in the Senate to fund the government for the remainder of the year.

Yesterday, House Republicans listened to the will of the constituents who thought it shameful that our Nation's bravest women and men, volunteering to put their lives on the line for our freedom, should have to face prospects of not getting paid during this government shutdown.

With the passage of H.R. 1363, we fund the troops for the remainder of the year, regardless of any prospect of a shutdown, so those men and women fighting in the three theaters now and their families will not have to face the worry about whether they will get paid.

Yet to hear Senator REID's refusal to consider this bill in the Senate, and to hear President Obama threaten to veto this bill is nothing less than shameful. To choose to put politics before our soldiers and their families, to me, is appalling.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President and the Senate majority leader to end this political game and work with us to ensure and provide for the Nation's military families to continue to fund our government.

The fact is discretionary spending has increased over 83 percent under the current administration, and the Senate majority leader and the President are choosing to shut down the government over a less than 2 percent cut in spending.

SHUTTING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT FOR IDEOLOGICAL PURPOSES

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a few moments and put

some of this in perspective. I've been here 18 years now, and I've seen a lot going on in government, and I've had the experience in the State legislature and also in local government before getting here.

This is nothing but a ploy to shut down the government for ideological purposes. It has nothing to do with running the greatest Nation on earth and trying to be a responsible government, trying to teach democracy to countries around the world, that if you copy our system you may have a freer and more open system. This is about shutting down the entire United States Government over use of birth control.

It's also the party that has a history of shutting down government. The last time government was shut down it was shut down by the Republicans. And after they shut it down, what we did, before that, is we enacted taxes to pay off the debt under President Clinton. And guess what? That was a tough vote. Not a single Republican cast a vote for that. That was probably one of the greatest economic votes ever cast in modern Congress because it put the country back on foot. We didn't have a deficit. We removed it because we earmarked those taxes to pay off the debt.

Along came President Bush. The first thing he did was repeal all those taxes. The question was, well, how are you going to pay for this? Oh, no, no. We don't have to pay for this. Well, Mr. President, you are about to go into a war. How are you going to pay for that? We don't have to pay for it, we'll just put it on the credit card.

They came up with a great plan to give senior citizens Medicare drug reimbursements but instead of using the Medicare program, no, they invented another one. They gave the money to the pharmaceutical companies and said, you take care of the poor, charity work. And guess what, it won't cost you anything. Well, it cost us a lot of money. And when asked, how are you going to pay for it? We'll put it on the credit card.

The fact is this huge deficit we got into was driven through by the party now that wants to shut down government, the party that has shut down government in the past, the party that keeps not wanting government to work.

You took an oath of office when you came here, an oath to uphold the Constitution. That Constitution is based on, if you look around this room, the lawgivers, people of history who've done incredibly bold things.

Our Constitution is incredibly bold. There's nothing in that Constitution that says that your job in Congress is to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

□ 1140

And that's exactly what their budget is doing, their strategy is doing, and now the shutdown of government. They're gleeful about it. And it's a very, very sorry state that we have to,

in these modern times, think that the greatest country in the world has to deal with shutting down government. That's the last thing we ever came here to do. It's a sorry state.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) for 3 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, sitting here listening to comments on the other side can be quite instructive; although I might warn my colleagues on the other side that they ought to be careful about the metaphors they use. One of those on the other side got up to criticize Republicans for trying to stop funding of abortions, which means saving babies, and used the unfortunate expression of "don't throw out the baby with the bathwater." It shows how almost obtuse they are with respect to what we're actually talking about.

The distinguished leader on the other side from Maryland quoted Henry Clay. I'd like to quote an outstanding American, his name is STENY HOYER, who said just a couple of years ago here on this floor that if you can't budget, you can't govern. That's why we're in the problem that we're in today, because when they had control of both sides of Capitol Hill and the Presidency, they, for the first time since the Budget Act was passed, intentionally did not pass a budget because they were embarrassed about the numbers.

And what did that lead to? That led to the fact that we didn't pass any of the 13 appropriations bills, which led to the fact that we have to deal with a CR. That's why we're in the mess we are today, because they did not budget. And now they have the effrontery to come out and criticize PAUL RYAN, the Republican leader of the Budget Committee's suggestion that we be serious about budgeting around here and that we understand that we're driving our children into the ground and our grandchildren with debt that cannot be paid, and because we have the courage to bring forth a serious adult proposal on the budget, we are accused of trying to put children on the street and to not allow seniors to be able to eat.

Come on. The American people are smarter than that. They want this House, this Senate, and this President to be adults. And to come here to this floor and to suggest that we're trying to kill Medicare—we're not trying to kill Medicare; we're trying to save Medicare. Every objective review has said it's going broke within 9 years.

But maybe collective amnesia is the way to leadership. I hope not. I hope not, not for me, but for my children and my grandchildren. They deserve better. This country deserves better. We should be required to do better.